

‘-kan’ to express causation (**membersihkan, mengembalikan, etc**)

‘-kan’ is used to make many verbs meaning: to cause something to happen.

Many are based on an adjective. Most mean: to cause something to be [what the adjective says]. Examples:

Lia membersihkan kamarnya.	Lia cleaned her room.	(i.e. she caused it to be <i>bersih</i> : clean)
Polisi membebaskan Hadi.	The police freed Hadi	(i.e. they caused him to be <i>bebas</i> : free)
Dia menyelamatkan anaknya.	She saved her child.	(i.e. she caused it to be <i>selamat</i> : safe)

One special group is based on an adjective that describes a *feeling*. Examples:

Kabar itu mengherankan .	That news was surprising .	[i.e. it causes one to be <i>heran</i> : surprised]
Film ini membosankan .	This film is boring .	[i.e. it causes one to be <i>bosan</i> : bored]
Sikapnya mengecewakan .	His attitude is disappointing .	[i.e. it causes one to be <i>kecewa</i> : disappointed]

Note that we did *not* say (although we could have):

Kabar itu mengherankan KAMI.	That news surprised US.
Film ini membosankan PARA PENONTON.	This film bores THE AUDIENCE.
Sikapnya mengecewakan SAYA.	His attitude disappoints ME.

We just said “Kabar itu *mengherankan*,” etc. So, these *-kan* verbs are used like adjectives. And often they can be translated by English adjectives (such as “surprising”, “boring”, “disappointing”).

Many causative *-kan* verbs are based on an intransitive verb. Most mean: to cause something to do [the action of that verb]. Examples:

Dia mengembalikan buku.	He returned the books.	[i.e. he caused them to <i>kembali</i> : to return]
Dia membangunkan anaknya.	She woke up her child.	[i.e. she caused it to <i>bangun</i> : to wake up]
Saya menghentikan mobil.	I stopped the car.	[i.e. I caused it to <i>berhenti</i> : to stop]

Some are based on a noun. A number mean: to cause something to be [what the noun says]. Examples:

Dia mengorbankan kariernya demi keluarga.	[i.e. she caused it to be a <i>korban</i> : a sacrifice]
She sacrificed her career for her family.	
Kami mencalonkan Pak Gafur sebagai ketua.	[i.e. we caused him to be a <i>calon</i> : a candidate]
We nominated Pak Gafur as chairman	
Mereka merahasiakan pembunuhan itu.	[i.e. they caused them to be a <i>rahasia</i> : a secret]
They kept those killings a secret .	

When the base noun is a place, the most common meaning is: to cause someone to go to that place. Examples:

Mereka ingin menyekolahkan anaknya.	[i.e. to cause it to go to a <i>sekolah</i> : school]
Mr and Mrs Salim want to send their child to school .	
Para mahasiswa itu dipenjarakan .	[i.e. were caused to go to a <i>penjara</i> : a prison]
The university students were imprisoned .	

Exercise 1. Put a *-kan* verb in each space. Use these adjectives as the base words:

aman (secure) **panas** (hot) **bersih** (clean) **selamat** (safe) **kuat** (strong) **bebas** (free)

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| 1. Siapa yang mau membersihkan dapur? | Who's going to <u>clean</u> the kitchen? |
| 2. Ali angkat besi untuk menguatkan badan. | Ali lifts weights to <u>strengthen</u> his body. |
| 3. TNI belum mengamankan daerah itu. | The TNI has not yet <u>secured</u> that area. |
| 4. Para dokter menyelamatkan kedua anak sakit itu. | The doctors <u>saved</u> the two sick children. |
| 5. Dia memanaskan susu untuk anaknya. | She <u>heated</u> some milk for her child. |
| 6. Tentara itu membebaskan para sandera. | The army <u>freed</u> the hostages. |

Exercise 2 Use each 'feeling' adjective to make a *-kan* verb. Then translate the sentence.

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| 1. (bosan) Buku ini agak membosankan . | = This book is rather boring. |
| 2. (heran) Keputusan itu mengherankan . | = That decision is surprising. |
| 3. (senang) Pesta itu cukup menyenangkan . | = That party was quite enjoyable. |
| 4. (sedih) Cerita itu sangat menyedihkan . | = That story is very sad(dening). |
| 5. (kecewa) Nilai ujian Rina mengecewakan . | = Rina's exam marks were disappointing. |
| 6. (curiga) Suara itu mencurigakan . | = That noise is suspicious. |

Exercise 3. Make a *-kan* verb based on the 'bare' verb on the left. Then translate the sentence.

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| 1. Pak Yusuf belum <u>kembali</u> . | Saya harus mengembalikan kemeja itu.
= I have to return that shirt. |
| 2. Saya mau <u>mandi</u> . | Bu Yani memandikan anaknya.
= Bu Yani bathed her child. |
| 3. Anjing itu sudah <u>mati</u> . | Erna mematikan lampu.
= Erna turned off the light. |
| 4. Boleh saya <u>masuk</u> ? | Dia memasukkan kartu di mesin fotokopi.
= S/he inserted a card into the photocopier. |
| 5. Saya kira dia masih <u>hidup</u> . | Tuti menghidupkan mesin cuci.
= Tuti turned on the washing machine. |
| 6. Ari sudah <u>keluar</u> . | Indonesia mengeluarkan koresponden itu.
= Indonesia expelled that correspondent. |
| 7. Dia masih <u>tidur</u> . | Ibu Gah menidurkan anaknya.
= Ibu Gah put her child to bed. |
| 8. Saya <u>bangun</u> jam 8. | Jono membangunkan adiknya.
= Jono woke up his little brother. |
| 9. Dalam perang itu, Perancis <u>kalah</u> . | Tentara Republik mengalahkan Belanda.
= The Republican army defeated the Dutch. |
| 10. Pasien itu cepat <u>sembuh</u> . | Dokter itu menyembuhkan banyak orang desa.
= That doctor cured many villagers. |

11. Bus itu berhenti.

Polisi itu **menghentikan** Maria di jalan.

= The police stopped Maria in the street.

Exercise 4. Put a *-kan* verb in each space. [Use the ‘di-’ form of the verb when necessary.]

penjara (a prison)

sukses (a success)

rumah (a house)

korban (a victim)

gudang (a warehouse)

rahasia (a secret)

sekolah (a school)

calon (a candidate)

1. Mengapa dia tidak **dicalonkan** sebagai Presiden?

Why wasn't she nominated as President?

2. Ali **dipenjarakan** selama 8 tahun.

Ali was imprisoned for 8 years.

3. 8.000 orang yang **dikorbankan** dalam perang itu .

8,000 people were sacrificed in that war.

4. (slogan) Mari kita **menyukkseskan** Pemilu!

Let's make the General Election a success!

5. Mereka tidak mampu **menyekolahkan** anaknya.

They can't afford to send their child to school.

6. Mengapa beras itu **digudangkan** saja?

Why was that rice just stored in a warehouse?

7. Banyak karyawan yang **dirumahkan**.

A lot of employees were laid off.

8. Laporan ini harus **dirahasiakan**.

This report has to be kept confidential.