

“pe-” and “peN-” to make nouns (*pemain*, *penulis*, etc)

“pe-” makes a group of nouns that mean: a person who does the action of a “ber-” verb.

Examples:

pemain: a player	[does the action of	bermain: to play]
pekerja: a worker	[” ” ” ”	bekerja: to work]
petani: a farmer	[” ” ” ”	bertani: to farm]
pelajar: a student	[” ” ” ”	belajar: to study]

To form these nouns, we attach “pe-“ directly to the base word: e.g. “*pe+main*”, “*pe+kerja*”, “*pe+tani*.”¹ More examples of these pe- nouns:

pedagang: a trader	[does the action of	berdagang to trade]
penyanyi: a singer	[” ” ” ”	bernyanyi: to sing]
pesepeda: a cyclist	[” ” ” ”	bersepeda: to ride a bicycle]
pejalan (kaki): a pedestrian	[” ” ” ”	berjalan (kaki): to walk]

A special category of “pe-” nouns means: an athlete who does that sport. Most of those words are not linked to a verb at all. Examples of this category:

* *petenis* (tennis player) *pegolf* (golfer) *petinju* (boxer) *pebasket* (basketball player)
* *perenang* (swimmer) *pelari* (runner) *pebulu tangkis* (badminton player)

“peN-” is another suffix that is very similar to “pe-”. It makes many nouns that mean: a person who does the action of a “meN-” verb. Examples:

pembeli: a buyer	[does the action of	membeli: to buy something]
penjual: a seller	[” ” ” ”	menjual: to sell s.th.]
penonton: a spectator	[” ” ” ”	menonton: to watch s.th.]
penulis: a writer	[” ” ” ”	menulis: to write s.th.]
pelukis: a painter	[” ” ” ”	melukis: to paint s.th.]

To form “peN-” nouns, we make the same nasal sound change that we make to form the “meN-” verb. For example: *tulis* → *menulis* + *penulis*; *jual* → *menjual* + *penjual*; *beli* → *membeli* + *pembeli*.

More examples of peN- nouns:

pencuri: a thief	[does the action of	mencuri: to steal s.th.]
pelayan: a waiter	[” ” ” ”	melayani: to serve / attend to s.o.]
pembunuh: a killer, murderer	[” ” ” ”	membunuh: to kill / murder s.o.]
pembantu: a helper, servant	[” ” ” ”	membantu: to help s.o.]
pemilik: an owner	[” ” ” ”	memiliki: to own s.th.]

¹ The form “*pelajar*” is an exception, due to its “l” between “pe-” and “ajar”.

Exercise 1. Insert the correct “pe-” noun into each sentence.

1. Siapa **pemain** catur yang terbaik di Indonesia?

Who is the best chess player in Indonesia?

2. Dulu dia bekerja sebagai _____.

He used to work as a farmer.

3. Kawasan itu belum aman untuk _____.

That area is not safe for cyclists.

4. Banyak _____ di sekolah ini berasal dari luar negeri.

Many of the students at this school come from abroad.

5. Siapa _____ favorit Anda?

Who’s your favourite singer?

6. _____ keliling menjadi pemandangan umum di jalanan Jakarta.

Hawkers (wandering traders) are a common sight in the streets of Jakarta.

7. Ini kawasan khusus _____ .

This is a zone for pedestrians only.

8. Para _____ wanita tersebut menerima gaji yang rendah.

Those female workers receive a low salary.

Exercise 2. Say it using a “peN-” noun plus its matching “meN-” verb.

1. **Dia mengejar dua PENCURI yang MENCURI dompetnya**.

He chased two thieves who stole his wallet.

2. _____.

She’s a well-known writer, although she has only written two novels.

3. _____

The owner of that hotel also owns several restaurants.

4. _____

The newspaper seller only managed to sell ten copies. [‘copies’: *eksemplar*]

5. _____.

The waiters in that restaurant always serve guests politely.

6. _____
Who is the famous painter who painted “Guernica”?
7. _____
There are many buyers from overseas who want to buy Balinese artworks. [‘artworks’: *karya seni*].
8. _____
A domestic helper can help with various chores.
9. _____ yang bersorak saat _____.
A lot of viewers cheered while watching the film.
10. _____.
The police arrested the sadistic killer who had murdered five people.

Exercise 3. Supply the missing segment. For the word in bold font, use a “pe-” or ”peN-” noun.

1. **Sebagian besar PETANI itu** terpaksa menjual lahannya.
Most of those **farmers** were forced to sell their land.
2. Bagaimana caranya _____?
How does one become a professional **writer**?
3. _____ yang memiliki keturunan Afrika.
Many **players** in the French national team have African heritage.
4. Di pasar ini _____.
At this market there are a lot of **sellers** of cheap clothing.
5. Untuk mendapatkan diskon tersebut, Anda _____.
To obtain that discount, you have to show a **student card**.
6. _____ di turnamen tenis tersebut.
There were more than a million **spectators** at that tennis tournament.
7. _____ telah meningkat.
The number of **cyclists and pedestrians** has increased.
8. Dia _____ di Indonesia.
She is the most well-known dangdut **singer** in Indonesia.

9. _____ tinggal di daerah perkotaan.
*Most **buyers** of electric cars live in urban areas.*
10. Jangan percaya padanya -- _____.
Don't trust him – *he's a liar and a **thief**.* ['liar': 'pembongong']
11. Dia seorang _____.
She is a ***trader** at the fish market.*
12. Ada yang berpendapat bahwa istilah “asisten rumah tangga” _____.
Some people think that the term “domestic assistant” *or “domestic **worker**” is more polite than the term “domestic **servant**.”*
13. Kami menyewa rumah ini; _____.
We rent this house; *I've never met the **owner**.*
14. Jika dia tidak bersalah, lalu _____.
If he is innocent, then *who was the actual **killer**?*
15. Pada waktu itu, di Florence dan Roma, _____.
At that time, in Florence and Rome, *there were were some extraordinary **painters**.*
16. _____ sedang mengobrol bersama.
*The three shop assistants [i.e., shop '**servers**'] were chatting together.*

[Answer Key is on next page]

Answer Key

Exercise 1. 2) petani 3) pesepeda 4) pelajar 5) penyanyi 6) pedagang 7) pejalan kaki
8) pekerja

Exercise 2. 2) Dia (adalah) seorang PENULIS terkenal, meskipun dia hanya MENULIS dua novel. 3) PEMILIK hotel itu juga MEMILIKI beberapa restoran. 4) PENJUAL koran itu hanya berhasil MENJUAL sepuluh eksemplar. 5) Para PELAYAN di restoran itu selalu MELAYANI tamu dengan sopan. 6) Siapa(kah) PELUKIS terkenal yang MELUKIS “Guernica”? 7) Ada banyak PEMBELI dari luar negeri yang ingin MEMBELI karya seni Bali. 8) Seorang PEMBANTU rumah tangga dapat MEMBANTU dengan berbagai tugas. 9) Banyak PENONTON yang bersorak saat MENONTON film tersebut. 10) Polisi menangkap PEMBUNUH sadis yang telah MEMBUNUH lima orang.

Exercise 3. 2) Bagaimana caranya *menjadi penulis profesional*? 3) *Banyak pemain di tim nasional Prancis yang memiliki keturunan Afrika.* 4) Di pasar ini *ada banyak penjual pakaian murah.* 5) Untuk mendapatkan diskon tersebut, Anda *harus menunjukkan kartu pelajar.* 6) *Ada lebih dari satu juta penonton di turnamen tenis tersebut.* 7) *Jumlah pesepeda dan pejalan kaki telah meningkat.* 8) *Dia penyanyi dangdut paling terkenal di Indonesia.* 9) *Sebagian besar pembeli mobil listrik tinggal di daerah perkotaan.* 10) Jangan percaya padanya – *dia pembohong dan pencuri.* 11) Dia seorang *pedagang di pasar ikan.* 12) Ada yang berpendapat bahwa istilah “asisten rumah tangga” atau “*pekerja rumah tangga*” lebih sopan daripada istilah “*pembantu rumah tangga*”. 13) Kami menyewa rumah ini; *saya belum pernah bertemu dengan pemiliknya.* 14) Jika dia tidak bersalah, lalu *siapa pembunuh (yang) sebenarnya?* 15) Pada waktu itu, di Florence dan Roma, *terdapat [or ‘ada’] beberapa pelukis yang luar biasa.* 16) *Ketiga pelayan toko sedang mengobrol bersama.*