

BETUL – words to do with ‘correct, true’

* “Pak Yusuf?” “Ya, **betul**.”

*“Are you Pak Yusuf?” “Yes, **that’s right**.”*

* Memang **betul** kita masih kekurangan dokter.

*Yes, it’s **true** we still have a shortage of doctors.*

* Tidak **betul** ada pertemuan rahasia.

*It’s not **true** there was a secret meeting.*

* Fitur ini **membetulkan** ejaan secara otomatis.

*This feature **corrects** the spelling automatically.*

* Kesalahan ejaan Anda akan **dibetulkan** secara otomatis.

*Your spelling mistakes will **be corrected** automatically.*

* Saya **kebetulan** ada di rumah.

*I was at home **by chance**. / I **happened to** be at home.*

* Itu terjadi secara **kebetulan**.

*That happened by chance / as **a chance event**. [‘secara’: literally ‘in the way of a chance’]*

* **Sebetulnya** bukan saya yang mau.

***Actually / In fact** it wasn’t me who wanted it.*

Notes

* **betul** (adj): right, correct, true

[‘betul’ is often used to confirm or admit the truth of an previous statement – or, if you say “*tidak betul*”, to contradict or deny it. The word “betul” is a close synonym of “benar”, but speakers often favour one over the other in various contexts, to express subtle shades of meaning.]

* **membetulkan** (v): to fix (something); to correct (sth.); to adjust (sth.) so that it is correct

* **kebetulan**: by chance, by coincidence [= adverb]; a chance event; a coincidence [= noun]

* **sebetulnya** (adv): actually, in fact [‘Sebetulnya’ is used interchangeably with ‘sebenarnya.’]

Practice. Say it in Indonesian. For each word in bold use a BETUL word. (Be ready to choose between *membetulkan* and *dibetulkan* as needed.)

1. There is information on this webpage which is wrong and needs to **be fixed**.
2. Yes, that report turns out to be **true / correct**.
3. **Actually** the school education system here is quite good.
4. My neighbour **happens to be** Indonesian.
5. Is this just a **coincidence** / a **chance event**?
6. She stopped for a moment (*'sejenak'*) to **adjust** her hijab.
7. "There hasn't been much progress." "That's quite/very **true**. But next year will be better."
8. His back felt better after he **corrected /adjusted** his sitting position [*'posisi'*].
9. My husband and I first met **by chance** [literally: 'in the way of a chance'] at a party.
10. I attend a lot of meetings that are **actually** not important.
11. You're here too! What a coincidence! [literally: 'Very **by chance**'!]
12. No – that information is completely **incorrect / untrue**.
13. The original film is **actually** better than this remake [*'remake'*].