

## MAIN - words to do with ‘play’

\* Anak-anak itu **bermain** dengan gembira.

*The children **played** happily.*

\* Kami **bermain** badminton.

*We **played** badminton.*

\* Dia pandai **bermain** catur.

*S/he is good at **playing** chess.*

\* Olahraga itu banyak **dimainkan** di negara-negara Asia.

*That sport **is played** a lot in Asian countries.*

\* Mereka suka **permainan** apa? Permainan papan?

*What **games** do they like? Board games?*

\* Dia **pemain** tenis yang terkenal.

*S/he is a well-known tennis **player**.*

### Notes

\* **bermain** (v): to play

[The action of ‘bermain’ is not done to anything, grammatically speaking. Even so, the most common way to say: to play a sport / game / a specific musical instrument is to use ‘bermain’ (e.g. ‘bermain olahraga’, bermain tenis’, ‘bermain catur’, ‘bermain piano’, etc)].

\* **memainkan** (v): to play (something)

[‘memainkan’ is less common than ‘bermain’ in many contexts. But it is the verb of choice in a few very common expressions (e.g., ‘memainkan *peranan* besar /penting’: to play a large/ an important *role*.) Moreover, the word ‘*dimainkan*’ is indispensable to talk about all activities in the passive. For instance: “Sepak takraw *is played* in Southeast Asia” = “Sepak takraw *dimainkan* di Asia Tenggara”.]

\* **permainan** (n): a game.

\* **pemain** (n): a player. [A ‘pemain’ does the action of ‘bermain’.]

**Practice.** Say it in Indonesian. For each word in bold use a MAIN word.

(NB: to ensure natural-sounding choices in the items below, choose “bermain” over “memainkan” when the prompt takes the form: “Someone *plays* [sport/game/ instrument]”).

1. I seldom **play** sport, but I **play** outside with my dog.

2. S/he **plays** computer **games** every day.

3. Who's the best volleyball **player** at the school?
4. Golf can **be played** by young children and old people.
5. After coming home from school she **plays** with her sister.
6. This **game** is usually **played** by two **players**.
7. How long have you **played** guitar?
8. There were three star **players** in that team. [with 'bintang']
9. Is this a traditional **game** in East Java?
10. I'm looking for a musical instrument that is easy to play. [i.e., 'easy to **be played**'].
11. Do you ever **play** basketball?
12. Small children can learn by **playing**. [literally: 'by way of playing']
13. **Is** poker **played** with five or seven cards? [with 'kad']

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