

KELUARGA



Malaysians are very interested in families and family relationships. One of the first questions they usually ask is "How many of you siblings are there." **Berapa orang adik-beradik?** 'How many brothers and sisters do you have (including yourself)?' For example, if you have a sister and two brothers, the answer is **Empat orang**. 'There are four of us (siblings).'

When Malaysians continue to ask, it will be about the family (**keluarga**). They will want to know something about the order of births of you and your siblings. If they ask **Berapa orang adik?**, they are asking about the number of siblings younger than you. The word **adik** is not specified for gender, but just means 'younger brother or sister'. There is no word in Malay that means brother or sister; **adik** means younger brother or sister (unspecified), while **abang** means 'older brother' and **kakak** means 'older sister'. The critical point of interest is who was born first--who is younger, who is older. In fact, the Malay language has elaborate naming systems that encode the order of birth up to seven or eight siblings. We aren't studying that now, but it's worth knowing that this is a critical part of the Malay idea of family and identity.

So we have three kinship (family) terms: **adik, kakak** and **abang**.

We have also studied **emak** 'mother' **bapa** 'father' and **anak** 'child'. Again there is no gender specific word that means daughter or son (except in some recent loanwords not frequently used). Malays are interested in family and descent lines, not gender. So, parenthood and offspring, descent lines are of critical importance, not **gender**. In English it is gender that is specified, in Malay this is secondary. If you want to be explicit, you must add the words that mean 'male' (**lelaki**) or 'female' (**perempuan**). In English it is the opposite. If you want to be explicit about the order of birth, you have to specify older sister, older brother, younger sister, younger brother. The Malay language and the English language deal with similar social worlds

but priorities are different.

At a higher level of relationship, the same principle is followed. We have studied **nenek** 'grandmother', **datuk** 'grandfather' and **cucu** 'grandchild'. Again there is no marking for gender, noword grandson or granddaughter, only grandchild.

Marriage is a different kind of social relationship, not by blood descent but by social contract. We have used words like **isteri** 'wife', **suami** 'husband' and **tunang** fiance/fiancee. Just as in the US, there are other more colloquial words for husband and wife. And like in contemporary America, divorce in Malaysia is not uncommon, so there are many more words that are connected to divorce, former spouses and half-siblings and step-siblings. But right now let's focus on a simpler 1960's world of a nuclear family, with grandparents. We have time to learn more family (kinship) terms; uncles, aunts, cousins, second cousins, nephews, nieces, great-grandchildren, in-laws of various kinds. Later. Not all at once.

An Overview of Family terms

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| Bapa/ ayah | Father, dad | Datuk | Grandfather |
| Emak/ibu | Mother, mum | Cucu | Grandchildren/ grandchild |
| anak | Child/children | Suami | Husband |
| adik | Younger siblings (brothers and sisters) | Isteri | Wife |
| Kakak | Elder sister | Keluarga | family |
| Abang | Elder brother | Adik perempuan *perempuan- female | Younger sister |
| Nenek | Grandmother | Adik lelaki *lelaki-male | Younger brother |

In class, we did an activity where you have to interview your friends about their families. According to the written question prompts given, you were required to ask about:

-umur

-nama

-bekerja di...

-suka makan/ minum apa

-berasal dari

-tinggal

**** If you have trouble constructing questions/ answers using the prompts above, you should refer to the previous posts in the website.**

One example was given in the prompt, **"Ada berapa orang dalam keluarga Cik Jocelyn?"**
[How many people are there in Cik Jocelyn's family?]

That could work as your first question before you proceed to asking more personal questions like the ones below:

(Assuming Cik Jocelyn is interviewing Dustin about his family.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1) Siapa nama ibu Dustin? | [What's your mum's name?] |
| 2) Berapa umur ibu Dustin? | [How old is your mum?] |
| 3) Dia bekerja di mana? | [Where does she work?] |
| 4) Ibu Dustin tinggal di mana? | [Where does your mum live?] |
| 5) Dia suka minum apa? | [What does she like to drink?] |
| 6) Keluarga Dustin berasal dari mana? | [Where is your family originally from?] |

****You could repeat the questions by asking about a different family member from Dustin family.**

You could also ask:

1) Dustin ada adik? Dustin ada kakak? Etc. [Do you have younger siblings? Do you have an elder sister?]

2) Ada berapa orang adik-beradik? [How many siblings do you have?]

* excluding Dustin

Your report should be something similar to this:

Assuming there is a fictional interview carried out between Bart Simpson and Cik Jocelyn.

Keluarga Bart Simpson ada tujuh orang. Ayah Bart bernama Homer. Dia berumur tiga puluh enam tahun. Dia bekerja di Springfield Nuclear Power Plant. Homer suka makan burger dan minum bir. Ibu Bart bernama Marge. Dia berumur tiga puluh empat tahun. Dia tidak bekerja. Marge suka makan mi. Bart ada dua orang adik perempuan **yang** bernama Lisa dan Maggie. Lisa berumur lapan tahun. Umur Maggie satu tahun. Bart berumur sepuluh tahun. Bart suka makan burger dan Lisa suka makan salad. Maggie suka minum susu. Keluarga Bart tinggal di Springfield. Datuk Bart bernama Abraham. Umur datuk Bart lapan puluh tahun. Nama nenek Bart Mona. Umur nenek Bart lima puluh lima tahun. Mereka tinggal di Springfield juga.

A rough translation:

Bart's family has 7 people. The name of Bart's father is Homer. He has the age of 36 years old. He works at the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant. Homer likes to eat burger and drink beer. The name of Bart's mother is Marge. She has the age of 34 years old. She does not work. Marge likes to eat noodles. Bart has two younger sisters who has the name Lisa and Maggie. Lisa is 8 years old. Maggie is 1 year old. Bart is 10 years old. Bart likes to eat burger and Lisa likes to eat salad. Maggie likes to drink milk. Bart's family lives in Springfield. The name of Bart's grandfather is Abraham. He is 80 years old. The name of Bart's grandmother is Mona. She is 55 years old. They live in Springfield too.

**** yang- who, which, that (We shall look at 'yang' in detail in future classes)**

Words we have learned:

1. Meninggal dunia- passed away

E.g. Datuk dia sudah meninggal dunia. *His grandfather has already passed away.*

2. **Datuk** (as a title) or Dato'-**This appear in one of the articles that given, "Datuk Jalaludin Datuk Haji Hassan."**

Dato' is the most common highly regarded title in Malaysia. The wife of a Dato' is a Datin.

A governor who is appointed by the Yang Di Pertuan Agong (the King of Malaysia). The Governors of **Melaka, Penang, Sabah** and **Sarawak** (names of states) can confer the title Datuk, not Dato'.