

Common Mistakes

The aim of this section is to assist Australians to improve their Indonesian speaking skills by learning from the common mistakes made by past NAILA contestants.

Pronunciation

Pronunciation was often very good, with some common minor mistakes.

These included:

- 'Flat' pronunciation, which made it sound like the speakers were reading. Try and put some more variation in your tone to make things more interesting.
- Some contestants had lapses in pronunciation of the nasal 'ng' sound, i.e. in 'dengan'. Many participants pronounced this as a hard 'gg' sound – it should be soft as in 'sing'.
- Younger speakers in particular had difficulties with the trilled 'r' sound.
- Speakers should remember that the Indonesian 'u' is pronounced as in 'book'. It is a longer sound than our 'u'.
- Entrants should also remember that 't', 'p', 'k' is pronounced without aspiration in Indonesian, making a dull sound.
- The sound 'a' is a hard sound, as in 'art', not 'apple'.
- Many younger speakers pronounced 'a' as 'e' – for example 'menar' not 'mener'.
- Many participants pronounced 'karena' as 'karina'.
- Often speakers placed the emphasis on the wrong syllables – emphasis should be placed on the second to last or final syllables.
- Many speakers still use English accent for general names and places, for example it should be: Indonesia (In-do-ne-sya), Australia (Aws-tra-li:-ya)
- Participants should use correct Indonesian terminologies for English loan words, for example, 'kebijakan' for policy, 'wisata' for travel



Gestures, body language and props

Generally, contestants would benefit from using more gestures, particularly hand actions. Many applicants also needed to rely less on notes. Speeches could be improved by:

- Using more props, i.e. photos, costumes and objects. This can assist you to recall your main points and helps indicate you understand the meaning of words.
- Increasing eye contact with the camera. This can be difficult but shows confidence and engages your audience.
- Making sure camera is at eye level for a better angle, particularly when using laptops to record.
- Wearing semi-professional attire for videos to demonstrate cultural awareness and competence.
- Being aware of settings and surroundings, such as lighting, excessive background noise that may inhibit the audiences' ability to listen well.

Grammar

Grammar was on the whole excellent!

- The main problem, particularly younger speakers, was ensuring correct word order. For example, '*kelas delapan*' (year eight) rather than '*delapan kelas*' (eight classes).
- Older speakers sometimes had difficulties in forming verbs correctly, particularly using '*men-i*' and '*me-kan*'.

Style

- Some participants could have benefited from using connectors to help the flow of their speech, such as '*kalau begitu*'.
- The judges would have liked to see more explanation and reasons in speeches. For example, instead of merely saying they wished to visit Indonesia, the judges would have liked to know *why* this was the case.
- Many older contestants would have benefited from simplifying their speech so they could focus on delivery including varying the speed and intonation of their speeches.
- Wild Card contestants, particularly singers, would have benefited from explaining their entries (i.e. what inspired them, song meaning, writing process) in Indonesian before or after their song to allow judges to properly gauge the full extent of their language skills.
- Some participants filmed in areas with dark lighting and noisy atmospheres, which made it very difficult for judges to see their faces and hear properly.

