

Indonesian Classifiers

Video

Usage

Please notice – In most cases the usage or non usage of a classifier, will not affect the overall meaning of the construction.

Dua ekor kucing = Two cats

Dua kucing – Two cats

Buah	‘fruit’	- for generic objects
Orang	‘person’	- for people
Ekor	‘tail’	- for animals)
Pasang	‘pair’	- for paired items/animals
Bungkus	‘wrap/package’	- for packaged items/merchandise/food
Mangkok	‘bowl’	- for food served in bowl
Cangkir	‘cup’	- for beverages in cups
Piring	‘plate’	- for servings of plates
Biji	‘seed’	- for general (one-hand-able) items
Suap	‘mouth intake’	- for eating, spoon full
Batang	‘trunk’	- for timber, sticks, pencils, cigarettes
Lembar	‘sheet’	- for paper, letter, leaf
Patah	‘portion/break’	- for words
Helai	‘sheet’	- for paper, clothing, fabric, hair, thread, grass, leaf
Potong	‘cut’	- for sliced up or cut up things
Kuncup	‘bud’	- for flowers

<i>Ikat</i>	‘tie’	- for times that are tied, bunch of flowers
<i>Bidang</i>	‘area’	- for land, flat area/surface
<i>Petak</i>	‘square’	- for land
<i>Segumpel</i>	‘heap/bunch’	- for a bunch, a clump/bundle of hair
<i>Pucuk</i>	‘shoot’	- for conical items; bamboo, gun, letter
<i>Bilah</i>	‘long piece’	- for bamboo stems, knives
<i>Kuntum</i>	‘bud’	- for flowers and bulbs
<i>Sisir</i>	‘comb’	- for bananas
<i>Utas</i>	‘strand’	- for string, rope, chain, thread, wrist watch, bracelet
<i>Butir</i>	‘particle’	- for small objects; grain of rice, pearl
<i>Gulung</i>	‘roll’	- for rolled objects; mat
<i>Ruas</i>	‘node’	- for parts between nodes; cane
<i>Rumpun</i>	‘bunch’	- for onions, related people (race)
<i>Keping</i>	‘piece’	- for planks, tiles
<i>Untai</i>	‘strand’	- for chain, rope
<i>Berkas</i>	‘bunch’	- for twigs, branches
<i>Baris</i>	‘line’	- for objects in row
<i>Tangkai</i>	‘stalk’	- for bunch of fruit, coconuts
<i>Lapis</i>	‘layer’	- for layered things
<i>Pawan</i>	‘friend’	- for groups (animals)
<i>Carik</i>	‘tear’	- for paper, letter
<i>Tandan</i>	‘stalk’	- for bunch of fruit, coconuts
<i>Sikat</i>	‘brush’	- for fruit in rows, bananas
<i>Kaki</i>	‘foot’	- for umbrellas
<i>Gemal</i>	‘handful’	- for a bunch of stems of rice, wheat
<i>Gugus</i>	‘group’	- for bunch of fruits
<i>Jambak</i>	‘heap’	- for heap of grains, vegetables on stems
<i>Piak</i>	‘piece’	- for leafy plants; tobacco, betel leaves

Source:

James Neil Sneddon, *Indonesian Reference Grammar*.

Dwi Noverini Djenar, *A Student's Guide to Indonesian Grammar*.

Viktor Krupa, *Category of Nominal Classes in Indonesian and Its Reinterpretation*; https://www.sav.sk/journals/uploads/040214505_Krupa.pdf

Stew M, *Classifiers Dalam Bahasa Indonesia*; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzAlnUr5LsQ>