

Making contrasting statements using *justru* and *malah*

Justru and *malah* are used to make contrasting alternative statements such as, 'how something is instead', 'what should have been done', or stating 'how it really is'.

Let's look at some examples:

Instead of

Bukannya belajar untuk ujian besok, kamu malah main game.

Instead of studying for the exam tomorrow, you are playing computer game.

But actually / on the contrary

Mengamen ondel-ondel bukanlah merendahkan, namun justru melestarikan budaya.

Busking ondel-ondel is not undermining, but actually preserves culture.

Memang rendang ini agak pedas, tapi saya malah suka begini.

This rendang is indeed rather hot, but I actually like it like this.

This is actually...

A: *Itu tidak terlalu pedas?*

B: *Justru ini yang saya suka!*

A: *Isn't that too spicy?*

B: *This is actually how I like it!*

Useful syntax:

Bukannya..., malah...

...bukannya..., namun justru...

...bukannya..., tapi justru...

Memang..., tapi...malah...

Go to the quiz to practise your new knowledge.