

# **Ladle, spoon and spatula**

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## LANGUAGES

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## ABSTRACT

This paper illustrates and names various spoon-like implements commonly encountered in Indonesian kitchens.

## VERSION HISTORY

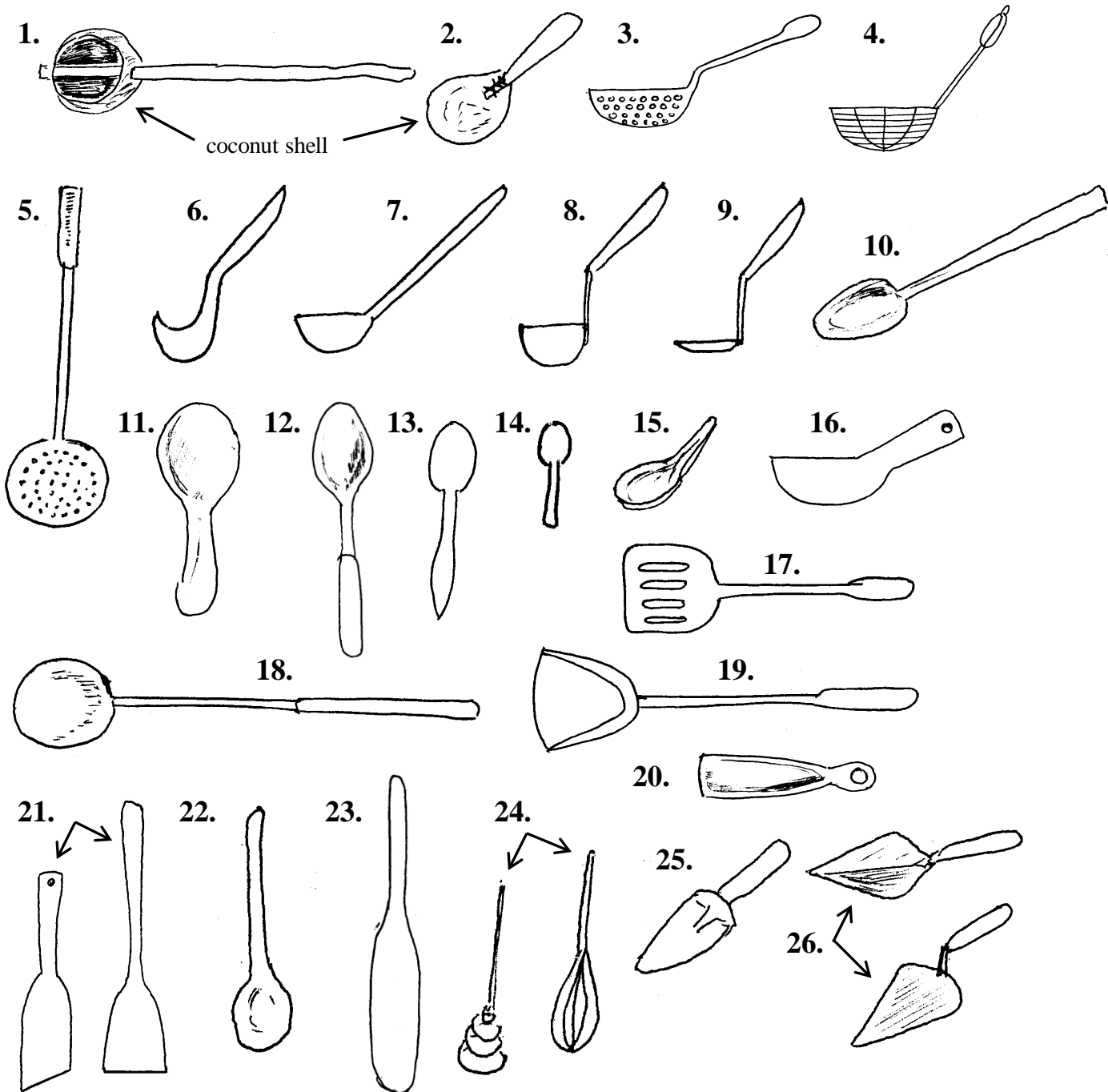
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If you're a non-native speaker of Indonesian, how many of the following utensils can you identify? (Answers below. Hint: many of the names begin with *sendok*...) This is more than just a quiz, however. When compiling a dictionary in Southeast Sulawesi, I needed to know how to gloss local terms for kitchen utensils in both Indonesian and English. I present the following pictorial guide in hope that it may prove useful to other lexicographers (and language learners!) among us.



1. *gayung* = *cibuk*, *cébok* = *ciduk*, *cédok*, *pencédok* = *sibur* = *séndok air* ▪ these terms can all refer to a dipper for water which is made out of a coconut shell supplied with a handle. *Gayung* was a well-recognized term, at least on the island of Sulawesi. *Kamus Besar* provides little help in disambiguating these terms, but there is some suggestion there (and in other sources) that *cedok* / *pencedok* may serve as a generic term for ‘scoop, dipper, ladle’; compare as a verb: *mencedok air dengan gayung*; *mencedok pasir dengan sekop*; *mencedok buih dengan sendok*; *mencedok nasi ke dulang*, etc.

2. *séndok batok* ▪ a kind of spoon, the bowl of which is made from a coconut shell. In models which I have seen, the bowl is shallow. In Bali, I have also seen the term *sendok batok* applied to decorative spoons carved from coconut wood (viz. from the palm trunk), but this appears to be an extended, and perhaps less correct, use of the term *batok*.

3. *sérok mié*, *sérok mi* ▪ scoop for lifting noodles out of the broth in which they were cooked.

4. *sérok kawat* ▪ wire scoop, wire skimmer. Some skimmers have a bowl made of stainless steel mesh, but are less common in Indonesia than the kind of wire skimmer pictured here.

5. *sérok*, *séndok lubang*, *sutil until mengangkat gorengan* ▪ skimmer, used for turning and lifting food items cooked in hot oil.

6. *séndok bubur* ▪ rice porridge ladle; the bowl of the ladle is oblong, wider than it is front-to-back.

7. *séndok bakso* ▪ kind of ladle used for serving soup with meatballs; the bowl is somewhat shallower than with a regular soup ladle, and the handle rises obliquely.

8. *séndok sup* ▪ soup ladle. *Kamus Besar* equates this with *sendok sayur*, but this was not born out by my investigation of department store shelves. Similarly shaped, but defined more by function, a *sendok pangedang* is a ladle used specifically for dipping off hot water; from the verb *mengedang* (stem *kedang*) ‘to pour off (rice water to shorten the cooking time).’

9. *séndok saus* ▪ kind of ladle with a shallow bowl, used for spooning sauce.

10. *séndok dapur* ▪ kitchen spoon, a generic term for large spoons used in cooking.

11. *séndok nasi*, *céntong nasi* ▪ rice serving spoon.

12. *séndok sayur* ▪ serving spoon, as might be used for serving a vegetable or other side dish.

13. *séndok makan* ▪ tablespoon, the common eating utensil throughout Indonesia.

14. *séndok téh* ▪ a small spoon, smaller than a teaspoon, used for stirring tea and coffee.

15. *séndok bébék* ▪ Chinese-style soup spoon. The term *sendok cina* is an alternate (and somewhat derogatory) term for chopsticks, which are more properly referred to as *supit*, *sumpit*.
16. *séndok nasi béngkok* ▪ rice scraper.
17. *séndok goréng lubang* = *sutil*, *sotil* = *sudit*, *sodét* = *spatula* ▪ spatula (Am. Eng.), fish slice (Brit. Eng.), an implement used for flipping and serving food. The English word spatula is ambiguous and if used in your dictionary, should always be further defined. Some people use ‘spatula’ to refer to the item pictured here (a ‘turner’ or ‘flipper’); others use it to refer to a kind of scaper for pots, bowls and plates (called a ‘rubber spatula’ in my dialect); while yet other people, such as my wife, use it to refer to a kind of knife with a broad, flexible blade used for, say, spreading frosting on a cake (a so-called ‘icing spatula’).
18. *séndok wajan* ▪ wok ladle, wok hoak, a kind of long-handled spoon with a shallow bowl. Be careful, as it would seem that by ‘sendok wajan biasa’ most Indonesians would understand the wok *spatula* pictured in 19, not the wok *ladle* shown here. However, I have not come across any other, more specific term for this particular utensil.
19. *séndok goréng* = *séndok wajan* = *sutil*, *sotil* = *sudit*, *sodét* = *sudip* ▪ wok spatula, wok chuan, an all-purpose utensil used with wok cooking. The term *sudip* is supported by *Kamus Besar*, but was unknown to my respondents.
20. *séndok sepatu* = *sudip sepatu* ▪ shoe horn. Likewise, the term *sudip sepatu* is supported by *Kamus Besar*, but was unknown to my respondents.
21. *sutil/sotil kayu* = *solét kayu* = *sudip kayu* ▪ wooden spatula. Various lengths and shapes. If more or less also having a bowl, it could be described as a ‘wooden spoon with a flat tip.’
22. *séndok kayu pengaduk* ▪ wooden stir spoon.
23. *pengaduk kayu berbentuk dayung* ▪ wooden stir paddle, various uses. A paddle specifically used for stirring and serving up sago pudding can be called a *pengaduk bubur sagu (papeda)*.
24. *pengaduk telur* = *kocokan telur* = *pengocok adonan* ▪ eggbeater, whisk.
25. *séndok taman*, *sudip tangan* ▪ garden trowel, hand trowel.
26. *séndok témbok*, *séndok turap*, *séndok semén* ▪ masonry trowels of various shapes and sizes, such as mason’s trowel, bucket trowel, concrete finishing trowel, etc.<sup>1</sup> In Indonesian, *sendok tembok* appears to be the more general term. A *sendok turap*, of

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<sup>1</sup> See Wikipedia, s.v. “Masonry trowel,” [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonry\\_trowel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masonry_trowel) (accessed December 28, 2012) for a partial listing.

course, would be a masonry trowel for working with mortar, and a *sendok semen* would be a masonry trowel for working with (applying and/or smoothing) cement.

Finally, I would like to mention two other terms. The primary reference of the Indonesian term *sudu* is a wide bill such as the bill of a duck or goose. By extension, *sudu* also refers to the blade of a fan or turbine and, in at least some contexts, also to spoons, compare for example *Hadiah Sudu Kencana*, the Indonesian translation of ‘Golden Spoon Award’ (an award given to restaurants). Similarly, *camca*, borrowed from Persian *chamcha*, also means ‘spoon,’ but appears to be a regional variant (primarily used in Sumatra). The expressions *camca makan*, *sudu makan* and *sendok makan* are all equivalents, referring to the ordinary tablespoon.

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## **References**

Tim Penyusun Kamus Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa. 1991. *Kamus besar Bahasa Indonesia*, 2nd edn. Jakarta: Balai Pustaka.