

TAGALOG grammar

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Tagalog Sounds

Introduction

<p style="text-align: center;">MAGTANIM AY DI BIRO</p> <p>Magtanim ay di biro Maghapon nakayuko Di naman makatayo Di naman makaupo</p> <p>Halina, halina mga kaliyag Tayo'y magsipag-unat-unat Magpanibago tayo ng lakas Para sa araw ng bukas</p>	
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TAGALOG has 16 consonant sounds, 5 vowel sounds, and 5 diphthongs. Syllable stress is used to distinguish between words that are otherwise similar. With the exception of the glottal stop ('), all of the sounds are represented by letters in writing. **TAGALOG** is a highly phonetic language. Generally, words are spelled as they are pronounced.

Consonant

The Tagalog consonants are **b, d, k, g, h, l, m, n, ng, p, ('), r, s, t, w,** and **y**. **Ng** represents the velar nasal, and the apostrophe (') represents the glottal stop. The charts below show the articulatory description of the consonant sounds

Sounds/Positions	Labial	Dental	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops, voiceless	p	t	--	k	'
Stops, voiced	b	d	--	g	--
Fricatives, voiceless	--	--	s	--	h
Nasals, voiced	m	n	--	ng	--
Lateral, voiced	--	l	--	--	--
Flap, voiced	--	r	--	--	--
Semi-vowels, voiced	w	--	y	--	--

Click on the audio icon to listen to the consonant sounds in the following pairs of words:

p / b	lapis (pencil)	labis (too much)
t / d	kutkot (scratch)	kudkod (scrape)
k / g	titik (letter)	titig (stare)
k / ' 	balik (return)	bali' (broken)
h / ' 	hipon (shrimp)	'ipon (save)
s / h	sipag (diligence)	hipag (sister-in-law)
m / n	masa (masses)	nasa (desire)
n / ng	nayon (town)	ngayon (now)
n / l	nayon (town)	layon (purpose)
d / r	dilis (kind of fish)	rilis (railroad)
l / r	balat (skin)	barat (stingy)
w / y	wari' (seems)	yari' (finish)

The Glottal Stop

The glottal stop is produced when the glottis (the opening between the vocal chords) is tightly closed, stopping the air coming from the lungs. It contrasts with other consonants in Tagalog as shown by the following examples (click on the audio icons to listen):

bata (bathrobe)	bata' (child)	batay (based on something)
baga (ember)	baga' (lungs)	bagay (object)

The glottal stop is generally not indicated in conventional spelling. Words beginning with a vowel in written form, when pronounced in isolation, actually begin with the glottal stop. A sequence of vowels actually has the glottal intervening between them, as in **aalis** ['a'alís] "will go." When the stop occurs between a consonant and a vowel, conventional spelling represents it with a hyphen, as in **nag-aaral** [nag'a'aral] "studying."

The Consonant Ng

Ng occurs in word-initial, -medial, and -final positions. English also has the consonant **ng**, but it only occurs at the end of words like **sing** and **ring**. On the other hand, in Tagalog **ng** can occur at the beginning, middle, or end of a word. Because English speakers are only accustomed to **ng** in the word-final position, they may have difficulty pronouncing **ng** when it occurs at the beginning or middle of a word. Click on the audio icons to listen to the following examples:

word-initial	word-medial	word-final
ngayon (now)	langit (heaven)	magaling (good)
ngiti (smile)	hangin (air)	singsing (ring)
ngipin (tooth)	bangin (cliff)	kinang (sparkle)

P, T, and K

These consonants are never aspirated in Tagalog, even in word-initial position. Click on the audio icons to listen to the following examples:

Sounds	word-initial	word-medial	word-final
p	ulap (clouds)	lapis (pencil)	palay (rice)
t	guhit (draw)	bata' (child)	tatay (father)
k	balik (return)	bakal (iron)	kamay (hand)

The Consonant R

This sound in Tagalog is a tap. It is produced with the tip of the tongue slightly tapping the alveolar ridge (the area above the teeth or the gum ridge). Click on the audio icons to listen to the following examples:

word-initial	word-medial	word-final
rito (here)	aral (to study)	lugar (place)
roon (there)	pera (money)	andar (to run)
riles (railway)	pero (but)	altar (altar)

The Consonant L

This sound in Tagalog is produced with the tongue flat from the tip to the back with the tip touching the back of the upper teeth. Click on the audio icons to listen to the following examples:

word-initial	word-medial	word-final
langit (heaven)	alay (offering)	bukal (spring)
lupa (earth)	kaluluwa (soul)	sanggol (baby)
limot (forget)	balot (to wrap)	butil (grain)

T, D, N, and S

These sounds in Tagalog are produced with the tongue tip at the back of the upper teeth. Click on the audio icons to listen to the following examples:

Sounds	word-initial	word-medial	word-final
t	tayo (we)	atay (liver)	apat (four)
d	dahon (leaf)	duda (doubt)	tulad (similar)
n	nayon (village)	sana (hoping)	saan (where)
s	sulat (letter)	asin (salt)	landas (path)

Other Tagalog Consonants

The consonants **h**, **b**, **g**, **m**, **y**, and **w** are similar to the corresponding sounds in English. Click on the audio icons to listen to the following examples:

Sounds	word-initial	word-medial	word-final
h	hangin (air)	bahay (house)	---
b	buhay (life)	taba' (fat)	alab (fire)
g	guhit (drawing)	bago (new)	hulog (fall)
m	mula (since)	kamay (hand)	alam (to know)
y	yari (made of)	saya (skirt)	kulay (color)
w	wari (seem)	awa (pity)	ikaw (you)

Vowels

The Tagalog vowels are **i**, **e**, **a**, **o**, and **u**. Generally, these sounds maintain their pronunciation (or phonetic properties) regardless of the sounds around them. Consecutive vowels are generally articulated with a glottal stop intervening between them. The chart here shows the articulatory properties of the vowels:

Tongue Position	Front	Central	Back
High	i	--	u
Mid	e	--	o
Low	--	a	--

The mid vowels **e** and **o** are relatively new additions assimilated from Spanish. Listen to the following pairs of contrastive sounds:

i	e	u	o
misa (mass)	mesa (table)	uso (fad)	oso (bear)

Diphthongs

The Tagalog diphthongs are **iw**, **ay**, **aw**, **oy**, and **uy**. These are complex sounds which are combinations of simple vowels and semi-vowels.

Sound/Position	Front	Central	Back
High	iw	--	uy
Mid	--	--	oy

Low	--	aw, ay	--
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Except for **iw** and **uy**, these diphthongs have their corresponding sounds in English. Listen to the following examples:

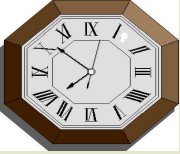

aw	araw (<i>sun/day</i>)
ay	palay (<i>rice</i>)
iw	aliw (<i>amuse</i>)
oy	kahoy (<i>tree</i>)
uy	kasuy (<i>cashew</i>)

Phonics

This section will help you associate letters to their corresponding sounds. We have here more examples of words for each of the sounds discussed in the preceding sections. Click on the links to listen to these Tagalog words.

Vowels

 <p><u>ARAW</u> (<i>sun</i>)</p>	 <p><u>EROPLANO</u> (<i>plane</i>)</p>	 <p><u>ISDA</u> (<i>fish</i>)</p>
---	---	--

 <p><u>ORASAN</u> (<i>clock</i>)</p>	 <p><u>ULAP</u> (<i>cloud</i>)</p>
---	---

Consonants

 <p><u>PULO'</u> (island)</p>	 <p><u>TUTUBL</u> (dragonfly)</p>	 <p><u>KABAYO</u> (horse)</p>	 <p><u>HAYOP</u> (animal)</p>
 <p><u>BULAKLAK</u> (flower)</p>	 <p><u>DAHON</u> (leaf)</p>	 <p><u>GITARA</u> (guitar)</p>	 <p><u>BATA'</u> (child)</p>
 <p><u>MANSANAS</u> (apple)</p>	 <p><u>NAYON</u> (village)</p>	 <p><u>SAGING</u> (banana)</p>	 <p><u>SINGSING</u> (ring)</p>
 <p><u>LOBO</u> (balloon)</p>	 <p><u>REGALO</u> (gift)</p>	 <p><u>WALA/BAWAL</u> (none/not allowed)</p>	 <p><u>PAYONG</u> (umbrella)</p>

Nouns

Introduction

What is a Noun?

A **noun** is a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

Let's talk about the way words are formed in Tagalog. This will help you to understand Tagalog nouns.

There are a lot of root words in Tagalog. A **root word** is simply a basic, core word that can be used to make other words, like an atom, or a building block that is used to make a tower. In Tagalog, most root words function as nouns. It is like the default position: if there are not any extra parts (suffixes, or prefixes etc.) added to the word, then the word is a root and it probably functions as a noun.

Let's look at an example from English to help make this clear. Root words in English are words like *beauty*, *bomb*, *kick* etc.

Take the root word **bomb**. On its own, the word **bomb** can function as a noun as can be seen in the following sentence:

Give me the **bomb**.

(The bomb is a thing I want someone to give to me. Remember the definition of a noun is a person, place or thing.)

Now with this basic root word that functions as a noun, I can further add things to this noun to make it a verb:

We **bombed** them yesterday.

This is basically the same way how Tagalog builds up different words. Root words in Tagalog are words like *ganda* (beauty), *ilong* (nose), and *awit* (song). If I take a root word like *ganda*, and put on a certain addition to this word (in this case **ma-**) I can make *ganda* into an adjective.

ganda (beauty)

ganda + **ma** = **maganda** (beautiful)

All of the long, complicated looking words that we will encounter in Tagalog will have a core, root word embedded in there somewhere. In reading or listening to Tagalog, it is helpful to be able to recognize which part is the root word so you can tell what the basic meaning of the word is. Then by looking at the special markers that have been added to this root word, you can find out just exactly how this root word is being used. That is the basic theme to understanding Tagalog vocabulary and how Tagalog builds words. We will return to this theme again and again.

This is the really important beginning point to understand. The following sections below contain more detailed information about nouns and roots.

More Information on Nouns and Roots

Nouns in Tagalog are either roots or stems(*root + nominalizing affix*). There are also nouns that are borrowed from other languages such as Spanish, English, other Philippine languages, etc.

Noun Roots: Inherent, Adjective, Verb

Most roots in Tagalog can function as nouns, but they may be classified into three types, based on meaning and form.

Inherent noun roots function primarily as nouns, take nominalizing affixes, and occur with pluralizers.

Adjective roots may, likewise, function as nouns and take nominalizing affixes. However, they are not used with pluralizers.

Verb roots may also function as nouns and take nominalizing affixes. They may also be used with pluralizers.

Inherent		Adjective		Verb	
matá	eye	gandá	beauty	takbó	to run
ilóng	nose	talino	intelligence	lakad	to walk
kamay	hand	sipag	industry	sulat	letter
paá	foot	tiyagâ	patience	tawag	call
araw	sun	husay	skill	bantáy	guard
gubat	forest	galíng	talent	sumbóng	complaint
ilog	river	lambót	softness	awit	song
bató	rock	bigát	weight	away	quarrel
bahay	house	kapál	thickness	hatol	judgment
bigás	rice	tigás	hardness	hawak	to hold

Stems and Complex Nouns

There are nouns that are formed by adding *nominalizing affix(es)* to a root word. There are also complex nouns which are formed by combining root words. Some of the more common *nominalizers* and root combinations are shown in the following examples:

Noun	Root(s)	Meaning
kagubatan	gubat	thick forest
kalangitan	langit	skies
kabukiran	bukid	farm/fields
kabaitan	(ma)bait	kindness
kalungkutan	(ma)lungkot	loneliness
kasiyahan	(ma)saya	happiness
pag-awit	(um)awit	act of singing
pagmamahal	(mag)mahal	love
pagkagulat	(ma)gulat	shock
bahay-bata	bahay + bata	house + child = uterus
bukang-liwayway	buka + liwayway	open + sun = dawn

Loan Words

Tagalog has borrowed many important words from English and Spanish. Here are some examples:

Spanish		English	
mesa	mesa (table)	kompyuter	computer
silya	silla (chair)	tren	train
sibuyas	cebollas (onion)	titser	teacher
kabayo	caballo (horse)	syampu	shampoo
edukasyon	educacion (education)	tsok	chalk

Plurality in Tagalog

The Plural Marker **MGA**

In English when we want to indicate that there is more than one of something, we usually add the letter **-s** to the end of the word. For example, the word **cars** (**car + s**) in English means that there is more than one car. But note that adding an **-s** is not the only way that English pluralizes a word. For example, the word **mouse** means there is only one mouse, while the word **mice** means there is more than one mouse. In this case, changes in the structure of the word show plurality.

Regardless of which approach a language takes, the act of indicating that there is more than one of something is called *pluralization*. Tagalog is a language that does not use the letter "s" to pluralize. Instead, Tagalog pluralizes by using the marker **MGA**.

The marker **MGA** is always placed directly before the word that is to be pluralized. For example, the Tagalog word **bato** means a *stone*, but if I want to say that there is more than one *stone* I add the marker **MGA**:

bato 'stone' (singular) **mga bato** 'stones' (plural)

Here are some more examples:

Titser ang mga magulang namin.	Our <i>parents</i> are teachers.
Estudyante sa UP ang mga kasama ko.	My <i>companions</i> are students at UP.
Masaya ang mga bata sa park.	The <i>kids</i> at the park are happy.
Mabait ang mga kapitbahay niya.	Her <i>neighbors</i> are nice.

Dumating ang **mga kamag-anak** ni Fe.

Fe's *relatives* came.

Nandito ang **mga kaklase** ni Raymond.

Raymond's *classmates* are here.

Other Indicators of Plurality

Though the use of **MGA** is the easiest and most common way of expressing plurality, there are other indicators of plurality which make the use of **MGA** redundant. The obvious one is the use of numbers, as in these examples:

May **dalawang kapatid** si Rudy.

Rudy has *two siblings*.

May **limang estudyante** sa klasrum.

There are *five students* in the classroom.

Kakanta ang **tatlong artista**.

The *three actors* are going to sing.

Lilipad ang **sampung ibon** mula sa tore.

The *ten birds* will fly out from the tower.

There are words that inherently express plurality of nouns which make the use of **MGA** unnecessary. Here are some examples:

May **grupo ng aktibista** sa EDSA.

There is *a group of activists* at EDSA.

Bumili kami ng **isang piling ng saging**.

We bought *a bunch of bananas*.

Nagdala siya ng **isang bigkis ng kahoy**.

He brought *a pile of wood*.

Binigyan niya ako ng **isang dosenang rosas**.

He gave me *a dozen roses*.

Noun Modification

Noun modification in Tagalog may be done in a variety of ways. In this section, the most common ways of modifying the noun will be discussed, and examples will be presented.

To modify a noun means to qualify or add some further description to the noun. In grammar, the word **modification** means to limit the meaning of something. Here is one example from English. Let's say that I want to tell someone that I own a car. However, I don't just want to mention that I have a car, but I also want to say something about the car. So I might say that it is an old car. The use of the word *old* is a way of modifying the noun car.

Adjectives/Descriptive Words

In Tagalog, the use of *adjectives* and/or *descriptive words* is one common way of modifying nouns (for more information about adjectives see the Adjectives section in the main grammar page). Tagalog adjectives may be grouped into two types according to their structure: 1) the

ma-adjectives (**ma** + root) ; and 2) the simple adjectives (roots). There are other descriptive words that are not members of either group. These descriptors are often formed by combining *adjectival affix(es)* with root words. Here are some examples of adjectives/descriptive words and sentences where these might be used:

Ma-Adjectives		Simple Adjectives		Other Descriptors	
maganda	<i>beautiful</i>	payat	<i>slim</i>	nakakalito	<i>confusing</i>
masipag	<i>industrious</i>	luma	<i>old</i>	nakakatuwa	<i>amusing</i>
magaling	<i>great</i>	gutom*	<i>hungry</i>	nakakatawa	<i>funny</i>
mainit	<i>hot/warm</i>	pangit	<i>ugly</i>	nakakainis	<i>irritating</i>
malamig	<i>cold</i>	pagod*	<i>tired</i>	nakakapagod	<i>tiring</i>
mahangin	<i>windy</i>	galit*	<i>angry</i>	kahindik-hindik	<i>horrible</i>
malayo	<i>far</i>	bago	<i>new</i>	kaawa-awa	<i>pitiful</i>
malapit	<i>near</i>	buhay*	<i>alive</i>	kagulat-gulat	<i>shocking</i>
matangkad	<i>tall (pers.)</i>	patay	<i>dead</i>	kasiya-siya	<i>entertaining</i>
mabigat	<i>heavy</i>	pikon	<i>touchy</i>	kapana-panabik	<i>exciting</i>

The Linker NA

Using adjectives and/or descriptive words to modify nouns may be done by employing one of two ways: 1) placing the modifier (the word that modifies the noun) before the noun; or 2) placing the modifier after the noun. In either case the linker **NA** should connect the two elements.

The linker **NA** is used to link or hook up the modifier and the noun it is describing. That way you know that the words go together.

The linker **NA** has three forms: 1) **-ng** following a word ending in a vowel; 2) **-g** following a word that ends in the letter *n*; and 3) **na** following a word ending in a consonant. **-Ng** and **-g** are attached directly onto the end of the word, while the third form **na** is written as a separate word.

Here is one example. Let's say that I want to talk about a certain land, and that I also want to state that is a land that is far. So I take the word in Tagalog for land (*bayan*) and I place it next to the word for far (*malayo*). It's up to me whether I put *bayan* first or *malayo* first, so I decide to place *malayo* first.

malayo bayan

However, my job is not yet done. In Tagalog, I need **NA** to link these two words together. Since *malayo* ends in a vowel (*o*), I need to use the **-ng** form of **NA**, and I place the **-ng** directly onto the end of the word *malayo*.

malayong bayan

Now let's say that I want to reverse the word order, and I want to put *bayan* first

bayang malayo

I still need a linker, and because bayan ends in the letter *n*, I take the **-g** form of **NA** and I place the **-g** directly onto the end of the word *bayan*

bayang malayo

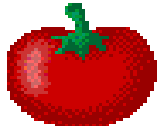

Below are some more examples:

Modifier+Linker+Noun	Noun+Linker+Modifier	Meaning
malay ng bayan	bayang malayo	<i>faraway land</i>
mahang ng panahon	panahong mahangin	<i>windy weather</i>
bag ng kotse	kots ng bago	<i>new car</i>
pangit na pelikula	pelikul ng pangit	<i>trash film</i>
nakakapagod na biyahe	biyah ng nakakapagod	<i>tiring trip</i>
nakakataw ng kuwento	kuwent ng nakakatawa	<i>funny story</i>
kasiya-siy ng palabas	palabas na kasiya-siya	<i>entertaining show</i>

Colors

When colors are used to modify nouns, they function as adjectives. They may also come either before or after the noun(s) being modified. Here are the basic colors in Tagalog, followed by example noun phrases:


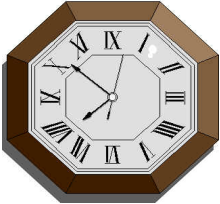
PULA	KULAY-KAHEL	DILAW	LUNTIAN/ BERDE	BUGHAW/ ASUL
KULAY-UBE/ LILA	PUTI	ITIM	KULAY-ABO	KULAY-KAPE

Color+Linker+Noun	COLOR	Noun+Linker+Color
pulang kamatis		kamatis na pula
kulay-kahel na kotse		kotseng kulay-kahel
dilaw na sisiw		sisiw na dilaw

berdeng puno (or luntian)		punong berde (or luntian)
asul na barko (or bughaw)		barkong asul (or bughaw)
kulay-ubeng basuraha (or lila)		basurahang kulay-ube (or lila)
itim na payong		payong na itim
kulay-abong telepono		teleponong kulay-abo
kulay-kapeng kabayo		kabayong kulay-kape

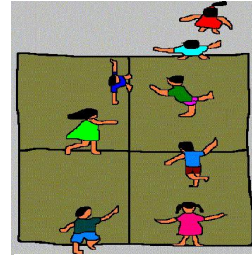
Numbers

When used as modifiers of nouns, numbers behave differently from adjectives in that they can only come **before** the noun being modified. The linker **NA** is still necessary. Here are some examples:

Number + Linker + Noun	Image
<p>limang lobo</p> <p>May limang lobo ako. (I have five balloons.)</p>	
<p>sampung minuto</p> <p>Sampung minuto na lang bago mag-alas otso. (It's only ten minutes before eight o'clock.)</p>	

walong bata

Naglalaro ang walong bata sa kalye.
(The eight kids are playing on the street.)



dalawang singsing

Bumili siya ng dalawang singsing.
(He bought two rings.)



isang milyong dolyar

Nanalo siya ng isang milyong dolyar sa lotto.
(She won a million dollars in the lottery.)



Tagalog Numbers



Roman Numeral	Tagalog	Tagalog (Spanish root)	English
1	isa	uno (uno)	one
2	dalawa	dos (dos)	two
3	tatlo	tres (tres)	three
4	apat	kwatro (cuatro)	four
5	lima	sinko (cinco)	five
6	anim	sais (seis)	six
7	pito	syete (siete)	seven
8	walo	otso (ocho)	eight
9	siyam	nuwebe (nueve)	nine
10	sampu	diyes (diez)	ten
11	labing-isa	onse (once)	eleven
12	labing-dalawa	dose (doce)	twelve


13	labing-tatlo	trese (trece)	thirteen
20	dalawampu	beynte (veinte)	twenty
21	dalawampu't-isa	beynteuno (veinte-uno)	twenty-one
30	tatlumpu	trenta (treinta)	thirty
40	apatnapu	kwarenta (cuarenta)	forty
50	limampu	singkwenta (cinquenta)	fifty
60	animnapu	sisenta (seisenta)	sixty
100	isang daan	siyento (ciento)	hundred
200	dalawang daan	dos siyentos (dos cientos)	two hundred
1,000	isang libo	mil (mil)	one thousand
2,000	dalawang libo	dos mil (dos mil)	two thousand
10,000	sampung libo	dies mil (diez mil)	ten thousand
100,000	isang daang libo	siyento mil (ciento mil)	one hundred thousand
1,000,000	isang milyon	milyon (milion)	one million






Shapes

There are very few words referring to shapes of things in Tagalog. When used as modifiers of nouns, these words may come before or after the noun. Here are some examples:

Shape	Hugis+Linker+Noun	Noun+Linker+Shape	Image
bilog (round)	bilog na globo	globong bilog	
parisukat (square)	hugis-parisukat na days	days na parisukat	

<p>parihaba (<i>rectangle</i>)</p>	<p>parihabang papel</p>	<p>papel na parihaba</p>	
<p>trayanggulo (<i>triangle</i>)</p>	<p>hugis-trayanggulong tulay</p>	<p>tulay na hugis- trayanggulo</p>	

In Tagalog the word **hugis** means *shape*. When **hugis-** is added to the front of a noun this expresses the idea that the noun being modified looks like or is similar in shape to the noun that has hugis attached to it. Here are some examples:

Shape	Shape+Linker+Noun	Noun+Linker+Shape	Image
<p>hugis-tala (<i>star-shaped</i>)</p>	<p>hugis-talang medalya</p>	<p>medalyang hugis-tala</p>	
<p>hugis-peras (<i>pear-shaped</i>)</p>	<p>hugis-peras na bombilya</p>	<p>bombilyang hugis-peras</p>	
<p>hugis-pitsel (<i>shaped liked a pitcher</i>)</p>	<p>hugis-pitsel na tropeyo</p>	<p>tropeyong hugis-pitsel</p>	

Size and Weight

Tagalog speakers use metric and English system terminologies interchangeably to express size and weight measurements accurately. However, Tagalog also has its own terms of measurement that are not according to the English or metric systems (like 'dangaw'- size of a thumb).

Weight / Volume	
Metric System	
gramo	gram
kilo	kilogram
litro	liter
English System	
libra	pound
galon	gallon
Tagalog Measurements	
Container/Instrument	Proximate Measure
balde	pail
bandehado	servicing-plateful
basket	a basketful
baso	a glass
bayong	bagful, contents normally fill a native bag for shopping called bayong
bigkis	a bunch, for bigger objects like firewood, etc.
bilao	winnowing-ful, contents fill a winnowing, standard size of which is about 1- 1/2 ft. in diameter
bilog	appx. 12 oz. bottle
bloke	block, e.g. of ice
bote	bottle
buntol	a bunch, e.g., of fruits
kaing	a big basketful, contents fill a container made of materials such as rattan, bamboo, etc. called kaing
kaldero	pot-ful

kawali	<i>wok-ful</i>
kurot	<i>a pinch</i>
kutsara	<i>a spoonful</i>
kutsarita	<i>teaspoonful</i>
kwatro-kantos	<i>appx. 750 ml bottle</i>
dakot	<i>a handful</i>
dram	<i>barrel</i>
ganta	<i>appx. 1kilo, measured with a square wooden box called ganta</i>
guhit	<i>measurement based on lines (e.g., of the fingers) for volume, and of measuring instruments such as rulers, weighing scales, etc.</i>
lapad	<i>appx. 250 ml bottle</i>
mangkok	<i>a bowl</i>
palanggana	<i>basin</i>
pinggan	<i>a plateful</i>
platito	<i>a saucer</i>
sako	<i>a sackful (e.g., a sack of rice is 50 kilos)</i>
salop	<i>appx. 2 kilos, contents fill a brown bag called salop</i>
sandok	<i>serving-spoonful</i>
tabo	<i>appx. 2 pint-container</i>
tali	<i>a bunch, e.g. of flowers</i>
tasa	<i>a cup</i>

Height/Length/Distance			
Metric System		English System	
sentimetro	<i>centimeter</i>	pulgada	<i>inch</i>
metro	<i>meter</i>	piye	<i>foot</i>

kilometro	kilometer	milya	mile
Tagalog Terms			
dangaw	size of a thumb	baytang	step
dangkal	length between tips of stretched index and thumb	hakbang	pace
dipa	length between outstretched arms from fingertips	tao	measurement based on the number people of average height to scale a building or structure

When used as modifiers of nouns, expressions and units of weights and measurements behave like numerals in that they can only come **before** the noun being modified. Here are a few examples:

Tagalog Terms		Borrowed Terms	
isang tasang kape	a <i>cupful</i> of coffee	anim na gramong ginto	six-gram gold
dalawang bilaong pansit	two- <i>winnowerful</i> noodles	pitong litrong serbesa	seven-liter beer
tatlong kaing na mangga	three- <i>basketful</i> mangoes	walong kilometrong biyahe	eight-kilometer trip
apat na dangkal* na laso	four- dangkal ribbon	siyam na litrong gasolina	nine-liter gasoline
limang dipang** lubid	five- dipa rope	sampung pulgadang pisi	ten- <i>inch</i> string

* **dangkal** = roughly the distance between the tip of one's middle-finger and the tip of his/her thumb, when the two are stretched out.

****dipa** = roughly the distance between the tip of one's middle fingers when both of his/her arms are stretched out (approximately 3 ft or 1 meter)

Markers

Introduction

Key concepts: MARKER and FOCUS

What is a MARKER?

Tagalog **markers** function in much the same way as articles in English. These words come before nouns or noun phrases to indicate their roles in a sentence. They may mark nouns as subject, object, location, direction, etc.

Let's talk about markers in more detail. In Tagalog, it's very important to know what a marker is. **A marker is a word that comes before a noun.** A marker tells you something about the noun that follows it. In Tagalog, markers tell you something about what role the word plays in the sentence.

Let's look at an example of a marker:

Ang bahay

The first word **Ang** is a marker. The second word is **bahay** which means *house*. The marker is connected to the word (or phrase) that comes right after it. This marker will tell you some information about the word *bahay (house)*.

Tagalog groups its words into three broad categories. It's like you have a project that needs to be done and you have three different jobs that need to be done to complete the project. So you contact a temp. agency, and you hire some people to come work for you. Next, you divide the temp. workers into three different groups, and you assign each of the groups one of the jobs that needs to be done. So it is with Tagalog words. Words are chosen to fit into three broad categories that tell you something about the word and what "job" it is doing in the sentence.

Now let's go back to the project example. Let's say that you want to identify the workers. So you give each group a sticker or label that has a color on it. So the first group might all have blue stickers, the second group might have yellow stickers, and the third group might have red stickers. Markers work in almost exactly the same way that stickers or labels do. They tell you which category the word goes into.

Keep in mind though that just as a temp worker is not locked into one job, a Tagalog word is also not locked into one category. Imagine that on the second day of your project you only need two types of tasks done, so you only hire enough people to do the two tasks. Also, a temp worker that did the "blue job" yesterday might be switched to the "yellow job" today. Likewise, this is how Tagalog sentences work. There are three types of words, but a sentence might not use all three, and any single word can take on a different job in a new sentence.

Three categories of Tagalog words

Here are the three general categories (or "jobs") that Tagalog words can belong to. We will learn more about these categories as we go:

1. **Focus words** - the markers that identify these words are called **ANG** markers.
2. **Relational words** - the markers that identify these words are called **NG** markers.
3. **Locative (direction or location) words** - the markers that identify these words are called **SA** markers.

Again, note that a single word can be in any one of the categories depending on how the speaker wants to use it in the sentence. Take for example the word *bahay (house)*. *Bahay* can be a focused word (**ang** bahay), *bahay* can be a relational word (**ng** bahay), or it can be a locative word (**sa** bahay).

The Markers ANG and SI/SINA

A. ANG

The marker **ANG** is one of the markers used to point out the focus of the sentence.

1. **ANG** marks a word as the focus of the sentence except for nouns that are the names of people (like Bob, Sarah, etc.). Below are some examples:

Abogado ang babae .	<i>The woman</i> is a lawyer.
Masaya ang piknik .	<i>The picnic</i> was fun.
Natulog ang bata sa kwarto.	<i>The child</i> slept in the room.
May isang kapatid ang lalaki .	<i>The man</i> has a brother.
Nasa mesa ang kape .	<i>The coffee</i> is on the table.

In each of these sentences the marker **ANG** indicates which word is the focus. For example, in the first sentence, **babae** is the focus of the sentence. We know this because it has **ang** in front of it.

2. **ANG** is a noun definitizer (i.e., it functions like the definite article *the*, as opposed to *a* or *an*, in English), especially in sentences using *pseudo*-verbs. The following examples illustrate the contrast between definite and indefinite noun phrases.

Definite	Gusto ko ang mangga .	I like <i>the mango</i> .
Indefinite	Gusto ko ng mangga .	I like <i>mangoes</i> .
Definite	Kailangan ko ang libro .	I need <i>the book</i> .
Indefinite	Kailangan ko ng libro .	I need <i>a book</i> .

B. SI and SINA

The markers **SI** and **SINA** are used to indicate that the name of a person is the focus of the sentence. We already learned that **ANG** is used to make most words the focus of the sentence. However, **ANG** is not used with personal names like Bob, Mary, Jose, Rita, etc. In order to indicate that a name is the focus, the marker **SI** must be used.

If there is more than one name, e.g. "Phil and Tom", then the marker **SINA** must be used. **SI** comes before a single name while **SINA** precedes two or more names. In sentences where **SINA** comes before a single name, it implies that there are other (unnamed) people who are included in a group with or are in some way associated with the person that is named. In other words,

si **Bill** would mean something like "Bill and company".

Below are some examples:

Singular Nouns	
Estudyante si Rita sa UP.	<i>Rita</i> is a student at UP.
Mabait si Lito .	<i>Lito</i> is nice.
Nag-aaral si Fely sa salas.	<i>Fely</i> is studying in the living room.
May dalawang kotse si Dolly .	<i>Dolly</i> has two cars
Nasa Maynila si Lorna .	<i>Lorna</i> is in Manila.
Plural Nouns	
Estudyante sina Rita at Fe sa UP.	<i>Rita and Fe</i> are students at UP.
Mabait sina Lito at kapatid niya .	<i>Lito and his brother</i> are nice.
Nag-aaral sina Fely .	<i>Fely and company</i> are studying .
May dalawang kotse sina Dolly at Joe .	<i>Dolly and Joe</i> have two cars.
Nasa Maynila sina Lorna .	<i>Lorna and company</i> are in Manila.

The Markers **NG** and **NI/NINA**

A. **NG**

The marker **NG** covers a broad range of meanings, and there is no one exact translation of **NG** in English. In the most general sense, **NG** indicates that there is some type of relationship between the word that follows **NG** and another words in the sentence. The exact meaning of **NG** depends on the situation or context of the sentence.

There is one important thing to note about **NG**: this marker indicates that the word that follows it is not the focus of the sentence. In that sense it is the opposite of the marker **ANG**. It's like **NG** is the "evil twin" of **ANG**. Or if you like Star Trek, you can think of **ANG** as "matter" and **NG** as "anti-matter." If I see a **NG** in front of a word, then I know that word is not in focus. But if I switch the marker **NG** to an **ANG**, suddenly the word is in focus. Let's practice:

Ng house (the house is not in focus)

SWITCH!

Ang house (the house is in focus)

Functions of marker **NG** in Tagalog sentences

The marker **NG** has three major functions in Tagalog. They are outlined in this section.

1. **NG** indicates possession. The possessor noun marked by **NG** comes after the noun possessed. In other words, the word that comes before **NG** is the thing that is possessed or owned. The word that follows **NG** is the possessor or owner. Here are some examples:

bahay ng pamilya Santos	house <i>of the Santos family</i>
kotse ng babae	car <i>of the woman</i>
ang titser ng mga bata	the teacher <i>of the kids</i>
ang hardin ng matandang lalaki	the garden <i>of the old man</i>

2. **NG** marks the direct object of a sentence if the direct object is not the focus.

What is a direct object? A **direct object** is the receiver the action (of the verb). Let's look at a sentence in English:

John hit the wall.

In this sentence **wall** is the direct object. It received the action of the verb. The wall was the thing that was hit.

In Tagalog, **NG** is used to mark the direct object (when the direct object is not focused). However, if the direct object is the focus of the sentence, then **ANG** would mark the direct object. Below are some examples:

Bumili si Ana ng lapis sa tindahan.	Ana bought <i>a pencil</i> at the store.
Nanood sina Pedro ng sine kahapon.	Pedro and friends watched <i>a movie</i> yesterday.
Nagbasa ako ng libro sa laybrari.	I read <i>a book</i> in the library.
Naglinis kami ng bahay noong Linggo.	We cleaned <i>a house</i> last Sunday.

3. **NG** marks the unfocused doer (actor) of the action of the verb.

Let's look at the sentence we used before:

John hit the wall.

In this sentence **John** is the actor or doer of the action. If the actor is not in focus, then **NG** marks the actor. If the actor is in focus, then **ANG** (or **SI**) marks the actor. Below are some examples of **NG** marking the doer of action:

Ibinigay ng titser (Actor) ang libro sa estudyante.	The book was given to the student <i>by the teacher</i> (Actor).
Binigyan ng titser (Actor) ng libro (Direct Object) ang estudyante.	The student was given <i>a book</i> (Direct Object) <i>by the teacher</i> (Actor).
Sinulat ng makata (A) ang tula para sa nanay.	The poem was written <i>by the poet</i> (A) for mother.
Sinulatan ng makata (A) ng tula (D.O.) ang nanay.	Mother was written <i>a poem</i> (D.O.) <i>by the poet</i> (A).

Notice that in some of the above sentences there is more than one word marked by **NG**. Let's take a look at the second sentence:

Binigyan **ng titser** (Actor) **ng libro** (Direct Object) ang estudyante.

Notice that both **titser** (the actor) and **libro** (the direct object) have **NG** in front of them. The focus of the sentence is **estudyante** (it has **ANG** in front of it). Because **titser** is not the focus--it has **NG** in front of it--and because **libro** is not the focus--it too has **NG** in front--we can see that **NG** can mark both the doer of the action and the object that receives the action.

B. **NI** and **NINA**

The markers **NI** and **NINA** mark personal names (e.g., Bob, Jill, etc.) that are not the focus of the sentence.

You remember how **ANG** marks the words that are in focus except for names of people? When personal names are in focus, they are marked by **SI**. In the same way, **NG** marks the words that are not in focus except for personal names. When personal names are not in focus, they are marked by **NI** and **NINA**.

Just as with **ANG** and **NG**, you can think of **NI** as being the opposite of **SI**. It's like **NI** is the "evil twin" of **SI**. If I have a **NI** in front of Bob, then Bob is not the focus. But if I "flick the switch" and change **NI** to **SI**, then (click) I have suddenly made Bob the focus of the sentence.

Functions of markers **NI** and **NINA**

NI marks the name of one person, and **NINA** marks the name of two or more people. These markers basically have some of the functions of the marker **NG**.

1. **NI** and **NINA** indicate possession. The possessor noun comes after the noun possessed. Or in other words, the noun before **NI** is the noun that is possessed or owned. The noun after **NI** is the possessor or owner. Below are some examples:

kaibigan ni Juan	a friend <i>of Juan</i>
kaklase ni Maria	a friend <i>of Maria</i>
ang bahay nina Tina	the house <i>of Tina and family</i>
ang libro nina Fe at Kim	the books <i>of Fe and Kim</i>

2. **NI** and **NINA** mark the unfocussed actor/agent (when the actor/agent is a personal name). Below are some examples:

Binili ni Rita ang damit sa tindahan.	The dress was bought <i>by Rita</i> at the store.
Binigyan ni Jose ng pera si Bob.	Bob was given some money <i>by Jose</i> .
Niluto nina Tony ang isda sa kusina.	The fish was cooked <i>by Tony and company</i> in the kitchen.
Itinapon nina Fred at Melvin ang basura sa labas.	The garbage was thrown outside <i>by Fred and Melvin</i> .

The Markers **SA** and **KAY/KINA**

A. **SA**

There is one more set of markers that goes with nouns: **SA** and **KAY/KINA**. The marker **SA** has many different meanings. In the most general sense, **SA** is a marker that deals with direction and location. It covers the meaning of most prepositions in English.

If we break down the word **preposition**, we see it is made up of the Latin based component **pre** which means "before", and **position** which means "position". So a preposition is a word that is positioned before another word (its like a marker).

For example, in the sentence

Go to the house,

to is a preposition. In English grammar, it is often said that a preposition is anything that a squirrel can do to a tree (it can go through the tree, around the tree, up the tree, down the tree, etc.). Well, in Tagalog, instead of having a whole lot of different prepositions they just have one: **SA**. The marker **SA** is a very broad word that is used anytime the speaker is talking about the location or direction of something. The exact meaning of **SA** depends on the context.

It is important to note that, like **NG**, the words marked by **SA** are not in focus.

Functions of the maker **SA**

1. **SA** marks location. Most prepositional phrases in English indicating some location are expressed in Tagalog as **SA**-phrases. Below are some examples:

May party sa bahay ko sa Sabado.	There's going to be a party <i>at my house</i> on Saturday.
Nakatira ako sa San Juan Village .	I live <i>in San Juan Village</i> .
Nag-aaral si Maya sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas .	Maya studies <i>at the University of the Philippines</i> .

Nagluluto ang nanay **sa kusina**.

Mom is cooking *in the kitchen*.

2. **SA** marks direction. Prepositional phrases in English indicating some direction towards or away from a place, a person, or some other noun are also generally expressed as **SA**-phrases in Tagalog. Below are some examples:

Pumunta sila **sa Zamboanga** noong bakasyon.

They went *to Zamboanga* last vacation.

Umalis siya **sa klase** nang maaga.

He left *(from) the class* early.

Ibinigay niya ang bulaklak **sa nanay**.

He gave the flowers *to mother*.

Kinuha niya ang libro **sa akin**.

He got the book *from me*.

3. **SA** marks the beneficiary of an action. It is equivalent to the English *for*-phrase in the context of doing something for someone/something. Look at the following sentence for example:

I baked a cake **for Bill**.

In this sentence, I let you know that I baked a cake, and I baked it for Bill. Bill benefits from my action of making a cake, so we say that Bill is the beneficiary of the action. In English, the beneficiary of the action is marked by the word *for*. In Tagalog, whenever **SA** marks the beneficiary of an action it always follows the word **PARA** (from Spanish meaning *for*). Below are some examples:

Gumawa siya ng eksamen **para sa klase**.

She made an exam *for the class*.

Naghanda kami ng sorpresa **para sa tatay**.

We prepared a surprise *for dad*.

Bumili si Ana ng regalo **para sa asawa niya**.

Ana bought a gift *for her husband*.

Nagdala si Butch ng laruan **para sa bata**.

Butch brought a toy *for the kid*.

4. **SA** marks a future time expressed as a specific day/date/season. Below are some examples:

May trabaho ako **sa Lunes**.

I have work *on Monday*.

Uuwi si Ellen sa Cebu **sa Pasko**.

Ellen is going home to Cebu *at Christmas*.

Magtatapos siya ng pag-aaral **sa summer**.

She is graduating *in the summer*.

Kaarawan ni Jun **sa Pebrero 16**.

It is Jun's birthday *on February 16*.

B. KAY and KINA

The markers **KAY** and **KINA** take the place of **SA** when the noun being marked is a name of a person (like Bob, Jane, etc.). It occurs in the same way that **SI** and **SINA** replace **ANG**, or **NI** and **NINA** replace **NG** when dealing with personal names. **KAY** marks the name of a person, and **KINA** marks the names of two or more persons. These markers have some of the functions of **SA**.

Functions of the markers KAY and KINA

1. **KAY** and **KINA** mark location. Here are some examples:

Nandoon **kay Rudy** ang libro mo.

Your book is *with Rudy*.

Naroon **kay Tina** ang gamit mo.

Your stuff is *with Tina*.

May salu-salo **kina Aida**.

There's a get-together *at Aida's*.

Nakatira ako **kina Tiya Selma**.

I am staying *at Aunt Selma's*.

2. **KAY** and **KINA** mark direction. Any prepositional phrase that indicates some kind of movement toward or away from someone is expressed using one of these markers. Here are some examples:

Dadalaw ako **kay Lola Sela** bukas.

I am going to visit *Grandmother Sela* tomorrow.

Ibinigay ni Ana ang susi **kay Sally**.

Ana gave the key *to Sally*.

Umalis siya **kina Mrs. Santos**.

He left *(from) Mrs. Santos' place*.

Itinago ni Luz ang libro (mula) **kina Pedro at Juan**.

Luz hid the the book *from Pedro and Juan*.

3. **KAY** and **KINA** mark the beneficiary of an action. Just like **SA**, **KAY/KINA**-phrases are almost equal to English *for*-phrases expressing the idea of an action done for someone. The marker is always preceded by the word **PARA** (from Spanish meaning *for*). Below are some examples:

Gumawa ako ng cake **para kay Kit**.

I baked a cake *for Kit*.

Binili ko ang bulaklak para kay Ida.	I bought the flowers <i>for Ida.</i>
Nagluto ako ng adobo para kina Rita at Carlo.	I cooked adobo <i>for Rita and Carlo.</i>
Itinago ko ang mga sulat para kina Susan.	I kept the letters <i>for Susan and company.</i>

4. **KAY** and **KINA** mark the possessor when it comes before the noun possessed. Structurally, the *possessor*-phrase is used as a *modifier* of the noun possessed. Thus, the linker **NA** (i.e., **-ng** or **na**) is required between the two nouns. This function is limited to spoken discourse in its use. Here are some examples:

kay Mariang kapatid	<i>Maria's</i> brother
kay Bob na kotse	<i>Bob's</i> car
kina Litang hardin	<i>Lita's</i> family's garden
kina Mr. Ramos na bahay	<i>Mr. Ramos'</i> family's house

Putting the pieces together

Now that we have talked about the different types of markers, let's take a close look at how they work.

red=focused word (ang) **blue**=relational word (ng) **green**=location word (sa)

Dinala	ng doktor	ang elepante	sa ospital.
Carried (verb)	the doctor	the elephant	to the hospital.

The sentence above is saying that the doctor carried the elephant to the hospital. The word *elepante* is the focus of the sentence. *Elepante* is the most prominent part of the sentence. Because of the affix in the verb (don't worry, we will explain this later), we know that the focused word (*elephant*) is the one being carried. The marker **sa** let's us know that the elephant was carried to the hospital. *Doktor* is the relational word. Because of the context, the marker **ng** indicates that the *doctor* is the doer of the action (the doctor is the one carrying).

If we switch markers:

Dinala	ang doktor	ng elepante	sa ospital.
Carried (verb)	the doctor	the elephant	to the hospital.

This sentence is now saying that the elephant carried the doctor to the hospital. *Doktor* is now the focus and is being carried to the hospital and the *elepante* is now the relational word and is doing the carrying.


And now for one more switch:

Dinala	ng ospital	ang doktor	sa elepante
Carried	the hospital	the doctor	to the elephant

Here, the hospital carried the doctor to the elephant. In order to fully understand how all this works, we need to understand more about verbs first. However, at this point you can see the way that a marker assigns a word its role in the sentence. If you change the marker, you change the whole meaning of the sentence! Cool huh?

Pronouns

Introduction

<p style="text-align: center;">IKAW</p> <p>Ikaw ang aking panaginip Ikaw ang tibok ng dibdib Pusong umiibig Dinggi't umaawit Tinataghoy ay pag-ibig.</p> <p>Ikaw ang ligaya sa buhay Sa piling mo'y walang kamatayan Puso ko'y nangumpisal Sa birheng dalanginan Na ang pangarap ko'y ikaw.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Harana ni Carlos V. Francisco</p>
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Pronouns make communication easier by avoiding the repetition of names of things or people when one talks or writes about them as subjects.

A **pronoun** is a substitute for a noun. One of the reasons pronouns are used is to add variation and flavor to language. They prevent excessive repetition of nouns.

If we break down the word *pronoun* we can see that it is made up of the Latin based component **PRO** meaning *before* or "in behalf of" and **NOUN** meaning *noun*. Hence, a pronoun is in behalf of or in the place of a noun.

Let's say I was writing the following story:

Bob got off the bus. Then Bob went home. Then Bob ate lunch.

You can see that the story sounds awkward using *Bob* over and over. Instead, I can use pronouns in the place of *Bob* to add some variety to the story:

Bob got off the bus. Then **he** went home, and **he** ate lunch.

In English words like **she, he, her, him, it, these**, etc. are pronouns.

Tagalog also has pronouns that substitute for nouns. Just as there are different markers that indicate if a noun is in focus (**ANG**), not in focus (**NG**), or involved with directions (**SA**), so there is also a pronoun that is in focus, a pronoun that is not focused, and a pronoun that is involved with direction.

ANG-Pronouns

The pronouns in this section are pronouns that are **in focus**. We call this set of pronouns **ANG** pronouns. **ANG** pronouns are used to replace **ANG**-words or **SI/SINA**-words.

The Personal Pronouns

These are used to replace noun phrases that refer to person(s). There is a current trend though, especially among young Tagalog-speakers in the Philippines, of using these pronouns to refer to other animate and inanimate nouns. But this is a colloquial usage, and a Tagalog learner would be advised to try to limit the use of these pronouns to refer only to people.

First person pronouns refer to the person who is doing the speaking (e.g. *I, we*). When there is only one person referred to, the singular form of the pronoun is used (e.g. *I*). When more than one person is referred to the plural form is used (e.g. *we*).

Second person pronouns refer to the person being spoken to (e.g. *you*).

Third person pronouns refer to someone who is neither the speaker, nor the listener, but instead third person pronouns refer to someone who is outside the conversation (e.g. *him, they*).

ANG Personal Pronouns		
Person/Number	Singular	Plural
1st Person	AKO (I)	KAMI** (we-exclusive) TAYO*** (we-inclusive)
2nd Person	IKAW/KA* (you)	KAYO (you all)
3rd Person	SIYA (he/she)	SILA (they)

Let's take a look at how these pronouns work. Below is a sample sentence. The words in this sentence are all in English except for the focused part of the sentence:

Si Jose went to the park. Then *Si Jose* listened to music. Then *Si Jose* climbed a tree.

Now, say that you wrote this sentence, and you feel like you have used *Si Jose* too much. You feel it is becoming too repetitive. So you would like to replace *Si Jose* with a pronoun. First, because Jose is in focus (you know this because of the **SI**), you need to select a pronoun that is a pronoun that is in focus (**ANG** pronoun). All the pronouns in the chart above are focused pronouns. Jose is third person singular, so you would use **SIYA**. Now you substitute **SIYA** for *Si Jose*:

Si Jose went to the park. Then **siya** (he) listened to music. Then **siya** (he) climbed a tree.

***IKAW** and **KA** are both equivalent to the singular **YOU**. **IKAW** is used when it is the first word of the sentence, and **KA** in all other positions.

Here is a dialog where the different *you-singular* forms (**IKAW** and **KA**) are used. Take note of the position of the two forms in sentences.

Jose: Minda, kumusta ka ?	Jose: Minda, how are you?
Minda: Mabuti. Ikaw ?	Minda: Fine. And you?
Jose: Mabuti rin. Saan ka pupunta sa Sabado?	Jose: Fine too. Where are you going on Saturday?
Minda: Pupunta ako sa Laguna.	Minda: I'm going to Laguna.
Jose: Talaga? Sino ang kasama mo?	Jose: Really? Who are you going with?
Minda: Kasama ko sina Fe, George at Dan. Ikaw , gusto mo bang sumama?	Minda: I'm going with Fe, George and Dan. What about you, would you like to come?
Jose: Aba! Siyempre.	Jose: Oh, sure!

There are exceptions to the rule about **KA** and **IKAW**, though. Certain expressions have the pronoun **IKAW** within the sentence and not in the initial position. Here are some of the most common ones:

Kung ako ikaw	If I were you. . . .
Kung ikaw ang tatanungin. . . .	If you were to be asked. . . .
Basta ikaw !	Anything for you!

****KAMI** or *we-exclusive* refers to the speaker and his or her group or people associated with her/him, but it excludes the hearer or the person being spoken to.

*****TAYO** or *we-inclusive* refers to both the speaker and the hearer and possibly other person(s) associated with them in the context of the sentence or discourse.

This can be confusing for people who do not make the distinction between the WE that includes both speaker and hearer and the WE that excludes the hearer.

Here are some examples of **KAMI** and **TAYO**:

Ana: Carla, kumusta ang bakasyon mo?

Ana: Carla, how was your vacation?

Carla: Naku ang saya!

Carla: Oh, it was fun!

Ana: Saan ka pumunta?

Ana: Where did you go?

Carla: Pumunta ako sa Bikol. kasama ang pamilya ko. Bumisita **kami** sa aking lola doon. Nagkita-kita **kami** ng aking mga pinsan at pumunta **kami** sa beach. Umakyat din **kami** sa bundok at natulog **kami** doon ng isang gabi. Masaya talaga ang bakasyon namin.

Carla: I went to Bikol (together) with my family. We visited with our grandmother there. We got together with my cousins, and we went to the beach. We also climbed up the mountain, and we stayed (there) overnight. Our vacation was really fun!

Ana: Mabuti ka pa at nakapagpahinga ng husto noong bakasyon. Sana may mga kamag-anak din ako sa probinsiya para mabisita ko kapag bakasyon.

Ana: Good for you that you were able to really relax during your vacation. I wish I also had relatives in the province, so I could visit with them during vacations.

Carla: Pista sa Bulakan sa Sabado at balak kong pumunta doon kasama ang mga kapatid ko. Gusto mo bang sumama?

Carla: There's going to be the town fiesta of Bulakan this Saturday, and I'm planning to go there with my sisters. Would you like to join us?

Ana: Aba, oo! Saan **tayo** tutuloy doon?

Ana: Oh yes! Where are we going to stay there?

Carla: Nag-iimbita ang Tita Norma ko sa isang salu-salo sa bahay niya. Puwede **tayong** tumuloy doon. Tiyak na maraming pagkain dahil inaasahan niya na maraming bisitang darating. Manonood **tayo** ng parada sa umaga, at sa gabi naman ay pupunta **tayo** sa sayawan. Siguro may mga artistang darating.

Carla: My Aunt Norma is inviting people to a gathering/party at her house. We can stay there. I'm sure there's going to be lots of food because she's expecting a lot of guests. We will watch the parade in the morning, and in the evening, we will go to the dance. Maybe there will be some celebrities there.

Ana: Naku, sana Byernes na ngayon!

Ana: Oh gosh! I wish it were Friday already.

The Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative Pronouns are used to replace nouns or noun phrases that refer to non-humans. These pronouns are always in focus. Although these forms are usually translated as *this/these* and *that/those* in English, they are also equivalent to the pronoun set *it/they*.

These **ANG**-forms are distinguished from each other on the basis of the relative distance of their referent from the speaker, the hearer, or from both speaker and hearer. Here is a chart of the **ANG**-demonstratives:

Relative Distance from Speaker/Hearer	ANG -Demonstrative Pronouns	English Equivalent
near the speaker	ito	this
near the hearer	iyang	that
far from both	iyon	that (over there)

The demonstrative pronouns have two major functions.

1. They substitute for **ANG**-phrases. Here are some examples:

Nalaglag ang baso .	<i>The glass fell.</i>
Nalaglag ito .	<i>It fell.</i>
May ilaw ang silid .	<i>The room has light.</i>
May ilaw iyon .	<i>It has light.</i>
Nasa kusina ang aso .	<i>The dog is in the kitchen.</i>
Nasa kusina iyon .	<i>It is in the kitchen.</i>

A plural noun, however, does not drop the markers that come before it. Instead, only the noun (+ possessive or some modifier following it, if any) is replaced by the pronoun. Here are some examples:

Nalanta ang mga bulaklak .	<i>The flowers withered.</i>
Nalanta ang mga ito .	<i>They withered.</i>
Nawala ang mga libro ko .	<i>My books were lost.</i>
Nawala ang mga iyon .	<i>They were lost.</i>
Binili niya ang mga libro para sa klase .	<i>The books for the class were bought by her.</i>
Binili niya ang mga iyon .	<i>They were bought by her.</i>

2. They are used as pointers to bring attention to a referent noun. In this context, the pronoun may refer to either human or non-human noun. Because it is used for emphasis, it is usually placed at the beginning of the sentence. Here are some examples:

Ito si Noel.	<i>This is Noel.</i>
Iyan ang upuan ko.	<i>That is my seat.</i>
Iyon ang tatay niya.	<i>That is his dad.</i>
Ito ang mga halaman ko.	<i>These are my plants.</i>
Iyan ang mga gamit niya.	<i>Those are his stuff.</i>

Iyon ang mga kaibigan ko.

Those are my friends.

NG-Pronouns

NG-pronouns are used to replace **NG-** or **SI/SINA-** words or phrases. **NG-pronouns** are **not** in focus. This set has the same functions as the **NG-** words or phrases.

The Personal Pronouns

These are used to replace noun phrases that refer to a person or people. There is a current trend though, especially among young Tagalog speakers in the Philippines, of using these pronouns to refer to other animate and inanimate nouns. But this is a colloquial usage, and a Tagalog learner would be advised to try to limit the use of these pronouns to refer only to people.

NG Personal Pronouns		
Person/Number	Singular	Plural
1st Person	KO (my/of me)	NAMIN (our/of us-exclusive) NATIN (our/of us-inclusive)
2nd Person	MO (your/of you)	NINYO (your/of you)
3rd Person	NIYA (his/her/of him/of her)	NILA (their/of them)

The Demonstrative Pronouns

They are used to replace unfocused nouns or noun phrases that refer to non-humans. Although these forms are usually translated as *this/these* and *that/those* in English, they are also equivalent to the pronoun set *it/they*.

These **NG-forms** are distinguished from each other on the basis of the relative distance of their referent from the speaker, the hearer, or from both speaker and hearer. Here is a chart of the **NG-demonstratives**:

Relative Distance from Speaker/Hearer	NG-Demonstrative Pronouns	English Equivalent
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near the speaker	nito	of this
near the hearer	niyan	of that
far from both	niyon	of that (over there)

The major functions of this pronoun set are discussed in this section.

1. **NG-pronouns** indicate possession. The pronoun comes after the noun possessed. Here are some examples:

Kotse ko ito.	<i>This is my car.</i>
Ito ang kotse ko.	<i>This is the car of mine.</i>
Bahay namin iyan.	<i>That is our house.</i>
Iyan ang bahay namin.	<i>That is the house of ours.</i>
Aso nila iyon.	<i>That (over there) is their dog.</i>
Iyon ang aso nila.	<i>That (over there) is the dog of theirs.</i>

2. **NG-pronouns** substitute for *unfocussed agent/actor NG-phrases*. Here are some examples:

Binili nila ang kotse.	<i>The car was bought by them.</i>
Nilinis namin ang bahay kahapon.	<i>The house was cleaned by us yesterday.</i>
Binigyan niya ng kendi ang bata.	<i>The kid was given a candy by him.</i>
Binili ko ang damit para kay Rosa.	<i>The dress was bought by me for Rosa.</i>

3. **NG-pronouns** substitute for *direct object NG-phrases* that are not focused. The direct objects have been replaced with **NG-pronouns**:

Bumili sila nito.	<i>They bought this.</i>
Naglinis kami niyon.	<i>We cleaned that.</i>
Nagbigay siya nito sa bata.	<i>He gave this to the kid.</i>
Bumili ako niyan para kay Rosa.	<i>I bought that for Rosa.</i>

SA-Pronouns

SA-pronouns are used to substitute for **SA-** and **KAY/KINA-phrases**. **SA** pronouns are used to indicate direction or location and they are **not** in focus. This set has the same functions as the **SA-phrases**.

The Personal Pronouns

These are used to replace noun phrases that refer to person(s). There is a current trend though, especially among young Tagalog speakers in the Philippines, of using these pronouns to refer to other animate and inanimate nouns. But this is a colloquial usage, and a Tagalog learner would be advised to try to limit the use of these pronouns to refer only to people.

SA Personal Pronouns		
Person/Number	Singular	Plural
1st Person	AKIN (me/my)	AMIN (us/our) ATIN (us/our)
2nd Person	IYO (you/your)	INYO (you/your)
3rd Person	KANYA (him/his/her)	KANILA (them/their)

The major functions of this pronoun set are discussed in this section.

1. **SA**-pronouns indicate possession. The possessor comes before the noun possessed. Structurally, the *possessor-pronoun* is used as a *modifier* of the noun possessed. Thus, the linker NA (-ng/ na) is required between the pronoun and the noun. Here are some examples:

aking kapatid	<i>my brother</i>
kanyang kotse	<i>her car</i>
aming hardin	<i>our garden</i>
kanilang bahay	<i>their house</i>

2. **SA**-pronouns express location. Here are some examples:

Nasa akin ang libro mo.	Your book is <i>with me</i> .
Nasa kanya ang gamit mo.	Your stuff is <i>with him</i> .
May salu-salo sa amin .	There's a get-together <i>at our place</i> .
Nakatira ako sa kanila .	I am staying <i>at their place</i> .

3. **SA**-pronouns express direction. Any *prepositional phrase* that indicates some kind of

movement toward or away from someone is expressed using one of these markers. Here are some examples:

Dadalaw ako sa iyong bukas.	<i>I am going to visit you tomorrow.</i>
Ibinigay ni Ana ang susi sa kanya .	<i>Ana gave the key to him.</i>
Umalis siya sa kanila .	<i>He left (from) their place.</i>
Itinago ni Luz ang libro (mula) sa atin .	<i>Luz hid the book from us.</i>

4. **SA**-pronouns express the *beneficiary of an action*. Just like **SA** and **KAY/KINA**-phrases, these forms are almost equal to English *for*-phrases expressing the idea of an action done for someone. The marker is always preceded by the word **para**. Here are some examples:

Gumawa ako ng cake para sa atin .	<i>I baked a cake for us.</i>
Binili ko ang bulaklak para sa iyo .	<i>I bought the flowers for you.</i>
Nagluto ako ng adobo para sa kanila .	<i>I cooked adobo for them.</i>
Itinago ko ang mga sulat para sa inyo .	<i>I kept the letters for you (pl.).</i>

The Demonstrative Pronouns

They are used to replace nouns or noun phrases that refer to non-human subjects. Although these forms are usually translated as *this/these* and *that/those* in English, they are also equivalent to the pronoun set *it/they*.

These **SA**-forms are distinguished from each other on the basis of the relative distance of their referent from the speaker, the hearer, or from both speaker and hearer. Here is a chart of the **SA**-demonstratives:

Relative Distance from Speaker/Hearer	SA -Demonstrative Pronouns	English Equivalent
near the speaker	dito/rito	here
near the hearer	diyan/riyan	there
far from both	doon/roon	over there

The major functions of this pronoun set are discussed in this section.

1. **SA**-pronouns indicate *location*. Most *prepositional phrases* in English indicating some location are expressed in Tagalog as **SA**-phrases. Here are some examples:

May parti doon sa Sabado.	<i>There's going to be a party there on Saturday.</i>
Nakatira ako dito .	<i>I live here.</i>
Nag-aaral diyan si Maya	<i>Maya studies there.</i>
Nagluluto ang nanay doon .	<i>Mom is cooking there.</i>

2. **SA**-pronouns indicate *direction*. *Prepositional phrases* in English indicating some direction towards or away from a place or some other noun are also generally expressed as **SA**-phrases in Tagalog. Here are examples:

Pumunta sila dito noong bakasyon.	<i>They came here last vacation.</i>
Umalis siya doon nang maaga.	<i>He left (from) there early.</i>
Binili niya ang bulaklak diyan .	<i>He bought the flowers from there.</i>
Kinuha niya ang libro dito .	<i>He got the book (from here).</i>

3. **SA**-pronouns indicate the *beneficiary of an action*. It is equivalent to the English *for*-phrase in the context of doing something for something. It comes after the word *para* (*for*) in this context. Here are some examples:

Gumawa siya ng eksamen para dito .	<i>She made an exam for this.</i>
Naghandala kami ng sorpresa para doon .	<i>We prepared a surprise for that.</i>
Bumili si Ana ng regalo para diyan .	<i>Ana bought a gift for that.</i>
Nagdala si Butch ng laruan para dito .	<i>Butch brought a toy for this.</i>

Adjectives

Introduction

Leron, Leron Sinta

Leron, leron sinta, buko ng papaya
Dala-dala'y buslo, sisidlan ng bunga
Pagdating sa dulo, nabali ang sanga
Kapus kapalaran humanap ng iba.

Halika na Neneng, tayo'y manampalok
Dalhin mo ang buslo, sisidlan ng hinog
Pagdating sa dulo'y uunda-undayog
Kumapit ka Neneng, baka ka mahulog.

Halika na Neneng at tayo'y magsimba
At iyong isuot ang baro mo't saya
Ang baro mo't sayang **pagkaganda-ganda**
Kayganda ng kulay- berde, puti, pula

Ako'y ibigin mo, lalaking matapang
Ang barrel ko'y pito, ang sundang ko'y siyam
Ang lalakaran ko'y parte ng dinulang
Isang pinggang pansit ang aking kalaban



How do you compliment someone or describe something in Tagalog? How do you compare things? And what do you say when you want to express how great a person is or how beautiful an object is?

This section will help you familiarize yourself with the different forms of **adjectives** which are a necessary part of your daily speech.

An **adjective** describes a noun. It is used to give extra information about a noun. Take for example the sentence "There is a cat." Now what if I want to say something more about the cat? I might say "There is a **fat** cat." The word **fat** is an adjective. It describes the noun *cat*. There are many adjectives in English: *strong, fast, beautiful, thin, fat*, etc.

Tagalog also has adjectives that describe nouns.

Notice that there are three different degrees of an adjective in English. For example: **fast, faster, and fastest**.

There are also three degrees of adjectives in Tagalog: **Neutral, Comparative, and Superlative**. We will discuss all of these different kinds of adjectives.

Neutral Adjective Forms

Neutral Adjectives are the standard, regular type of adjective used in Tagalog. These adjectives may be classified into two kinds according to their structures: *simple adjectives* (root words) and **MA-adjectives** (**MA-** + root word).

In other words, there are some adjectives that by their nature can be adjectives on their own, and nothing needs to be added to make them adjectives. Think for example of the word **slow** in English. This word works naturally as an adjective without any modification, as for example in the sentence "That is a slow cat." These type of adjectives in Tagalog are called simple adjectives (like *payat*, *bansot*, etc.).

On the other hand, there are some words in English that need to be modified before they can be used as an adjective. Take for example the word **beauty**. On its own, it is a noun. But if I want to turn it into an adjective, I have to make some changes in the word. Take for example the sentence: "I saw the beautiful mountain." Here I added the marker or affix **-FUL** onto the word beauty. **-FUL** really just goes back to the English word *full*, so when I say *beautiful*, I am really saying "full of beauty."

There are similar adjectives in Tagalog. Tagalog has a lot of root words that on their own simply function as nouns (e.g., *ganda*, *taba*). If I want to use these words as adjectives, then I have to stick an affix onto the word.

An **AFFIX** is like a little code or marker that is added on to a word. Affixes package into a word extra bits of meaning. There are three kinds of affixes. A **PREFIX** is added to the start of a word, an **INFIX** is added inside a word, and a **SUFFIX** is added on to the end of a word.

In order to make Tagalog root words adjectives, I add the affix **MA** to the beginning of the word. Like English **-FUL**, **MA** essentially means "full of." For example, let's take the root word (noun) **ganda** *beauty*. To make this word an adjective, I add on the **MA**:

ma + ganda = maganda *beautiful* (or literally 'full of beauty')

These type of adjectives are called **MA-adjectives**, and these are the type you will see most often. The **MA** prefix is a tip off to the learner that you have an adjective in front of you.

Here are some more examples:

Simple Adjectives	MA-Adjectives
payat (<i>slim/thin</i>)	mataba (<i>fat</i>)
bansot (<i>short</i>)	matangkad (<i>tall</i>)
mahal (<i>expensive</i>)	masarap (<i>delicious</i>)
mura (<i>cheap</i>)	mayaman (<i>rich</i>)

Adjectives may function as a modifiers of noun(s) or noun phrase(s) or as predicates of adjectival sentences. Here are a few examples:

Noun Modifier	
magandang pelikula	good movie
matalinong bata	smart kid
mabait na kapitbahay	nice neighbor
maliit na kwarto	small room
Predicate of an Adjectival Sentence	
Maganda ang pelikula.	The movie is good.
Matalino ang bata.	The kid is smart.
Mabait si Pina.	Pina is nice.
Maliit ang kwarto ko.	My room is small.

Adjectives in Tagalog can also play the role of what is known as an adverb in English. An **adverb** describes a verb in the same way that an adjective describes a noun. For example, look at the following sentence:

Bob walked to the house.

Let's say we wanted to add something about how Bob walked to the house. We could say:

Bob walked **slowly** to the house.

Slowly is an adverb in this sentence.

Tagalog does not distinguish between adverbs and adjectives. The same forms used as adjectives are also used as adverbs. Here are some examples:

Mabilis tumakbo si Juan.	Juan runs fast.
Mabagal na naglakad si Mario.	Mario walked slowly.
Mahusay na kumanta si Minda.	Minda sang well.
Masayang naglalaro ang mga bata.	The kids are playing happily.

Comparative Adjective Forms

These types of adjectives are used when comparing different things. There are two basic kinds of comparison: equal comparison and unequal comparison.

Equal Comparison

1. There are two common ways of expressing equal comparison. One is by adding the prefix **magkasing-** to the adjective root word. Take for example the root word (noun) **ganda** beauty. To make this word an adjective of equal comparison, I would add **magkasing-** to the front of the word **ganda**:

magkasing + ganda = magkasingganda

Magkasing- words always comes before an **ang-phrase/pronoun**, or in other words, these adjectives always describe (or go with) words that are in focus. Here are some examples:

Magkasingganda ang rosas at ang orkidyas.	<i>Roses and orchids are of the same (degree of) beauty.</i>
Magkasingtalino sina Pedro at Mario.	<i>Pedro and Mario are of the same (degree of) intelligence.</i>
Magkasingtangkad kami.	<i>We are of the same height.</i>
Magkasinggaling sila.	<i>They are of the same (good) skill.</i>

Let's take a close look at the first example:

Magkasingganda **ang** rosas at **ang** orkidyas.

Notice that there are two words that are in focus in this sentence (**rosas** and **orkidyas**). This is because *rosas* and *orkidyas* are truly equal to each other (in the sense of the quality being compared and in prominence). Hence *magkasing-* is used when you are comparing two items that are equal and have the same prominence or importance in the sentence. Neither *orkidyas* or *rosas* stands out over the other.

2. Another way of expressing equal comparison is by adding the prefix **kasing-/sing-** to the adjective root. In a simple sentence, this form always comes before **ng-phrase/pronoun + ang-phrase/pronoun**. In other words, the prefix **kasing-/sing** compares two words. One of these words is in focus, and the other one is **not** in focus. It is as though you hold up one item as the main one that you are talking about; then, you compare that first item to another item that is not the main focus of your discussion.

Kasingganda ng rosas ang orkidyas.	<i>Orchids are as beautiful as roses.</i>
Singtalino ni Mario si Pedro.	<i>Pedro is as intelligent as Mario.</i>
Kasingtaas ko siya.	<i>She is as tall as I am.</i>
Singgaling niya siya.	<i>He is as good as he is.</i>

Let's take a close look at the first example again:

Kasingganda **ng** rosas **ang** orkidyas.

Orkidyas is in focus but **rosas** is not. It is as though I came to give a lecture on orchids, and I hold one up in my hands and say, "Orchids are as beautiful as roses." Both items are of equal beauty, but one item is more relevant or prominent (focused) in my statement. For these circumstances you use the **kasing-/sing** prefix.

Unequal Comparison

When things and/or people being compared share the same quality but not of the same degree, the adjective is preceded by the qualifier **MAS**. In a simple sentence, the **MAS** + *adjective* is followed by the structure **ANG-phrase+(KAYSA)+SA-phrase**. In other words, **MAS** and the adjective are followed by a word that is **in focus**, then by the word **KAYSA**, then by a word that is a **SA-** word. The word that is in focus is the word that has more of the quality; the **SA** word has less of the quality. This is roughly equivalent to the English phrase *more . . . than*. Here are some examples:

Mas maganda ang rosas (kaysa) sa orkidyas.	<i>Roses are more beautiful than orchids.</i>
Mas matalino si Mario (kaysa) kay Pedro.	<i>Mario is more intelligent than Pedro.</i>
Mas matangkad ako kaysa sa kanya.	<i>I am taller than he is.</i>
Mas magaling siya kaysa sa kanya.	<i>She is smarter than he is.</i>

Other functions

These forms may function as modifiers of nouns, as shown by the following examples:

dalawang magkasinggandang bulaklak	<i>two equally beautiful flowers</i>
ang batang kasingtalino ni Pepe	<i>the kid who is as smart as Pepe</i>
taong kasing tangkad ng puno	<i>a person who is as tall as a tree</i>

They may also function as adverbs modifying verbs. Here are a few examples:

Lumakad siya nang mas mabilis.	<i>She walked faster.</i>
Kumanta siya ng mas magaling.	<i>He sang better.</i>

Superlative Adjective Forms

A **Superlative** form is the highest degree of an adjective (think of the word **super**). In English, superlatives are words like *fastest, smartest, greatest*, etc. There are several ways of expressing superlatives in Tagalog. This section will discuss some of the most common forms.

1. Reduplication

The superlative is expressed by repeating the adjective. The two adjectives are connected by the linker **NA** (**na/-ng/-g**). In a simple sentence, this adjective form comes before an **ANG-phrase/pronoun**, or in other words, this adjective describes a noun that is in focus. Here are some examples:

Magandang-maganda ang pelikula.	<i>The movie was very good.</i>
Mabait na mabait ang nanay niya.	<i>Her mom is very nice.</i>
Murang-mura ang kamatis ngayon.	<i>Tomatoes are very cheap these days.</i>
Noun Modifier	
magandang-magandang pelikula	<i>a very good movie</i>
mabait na mabait na tao	<i>a very nice person</i>
murang-murang gulay	<i>very cheap vegetables</i>

2. ANG + Adjective root (+ optional reduplication of the root)

The superlative is expressed by placing **ANG** before the adjective root. The root word may be repeated for emphasis. In a simple sentence, the adjective form comes before a **NG-phrase/pronoun** (the word being described is **not** in focus). Here are some examples:

Ang ganda ng pelikula.	<i>The movie was very good.</i>
Ang ganda-ganda ng pelikula.	
Ang bait niya.	<i>She is very nice.</i>
Ang bait-bait niya.	
Ang mura nito.	<i>These are very cheap.</i>
Ang mura-mura nito.	
Noun Modifier	
ang gandang pelikula	<i>a very good movie</i>
ang ganda-gandang pelikula	
ang bait na kapitbahay	<i>a very nice neighbor</i>
ang bait-bait na kapitbahay	
ang murang gulay	<i>very cheap vegetables</i>
ang mura-murang gulay	

Let's take a look at the first sentence:

Ang ganda ng pelikula.

In this case the *beauty* (**ganda**) is so great that it is considered to be more important than the movie. Hence *ganda* is in focus and not the movie. Instead of saying something like "It was a beautiful movie" (maganda **ang** pelikula), saying "**Ang** ganda ng pelikula!" means something like: "Ah, the beauty of that movie!"

3. The affix **NAPAKA-**

The superlative is expressed by attaching the prefix **napaka-** to the root word. In a simple sentence, this adjective form comes before a **NG-phrase/pronoun** (the thing being described is **not** in focus). Here, like **ANG** superlatives, the adjective is seen to be so great that it eclipses the thing/person being described (e.g., the beauty is more important than the film). Hence, the thing described is **not** in focus. Here are some examples:

Napakaganda ng pelikula.	<i>The movie was very good.</i>
Napakabait ni Mrs. Santos.	<i>Mrs. Santos is very nice.</i>
Napakamura ng kamatis ngayon.	<i>Tomatoes are very cheap these days.</i>
Noun Modifier	
napakagandang pelikula	<i>a very good movie</i>
napakabait na kaibigan	<i>a very good friend</i>
napakamura ng gulay	<i>very cheap vegetables</i>

4. The affix **PAGKA-** + Adjective root (+ optional reduplication of the root)

The superlative is expressed by attaching the prefix **PAGKA-** to the adjective root. The root word may be repeated for emphasis. In a simple sentence, this adjective form comes before a **NG**-phrase/pronoun. Like **NAPAKA**, the adjective is more important than the thing being described. Hence, the thing described is **not** in focus. Here are some examples:

Pagkaganda ng pelikula.	<i>The movie was very good.</i>
Pagkaganda-ganda ng pelikula.	
Pagkabait ni Mrs. Santos.	<i>Mrs. Santos is very nice.</i>
Pagkabait-bait ni Mrs. Santos.	
Pagkamura ng gulay.	<i>The vegetables are very cheap.</i>
Pagkamura-mura ng gulay.	
Noun Modifier	
pagkagandang pelikula	<i>a very good movie</i>
pagkaganda-gandang pelikula	
pagkabait na katrabaho	<i>a very nice colleague</i>
pagkabait-bait na katrabaho	
pagkamurang gulay	<i>very cheap vegetables</i>
pagkamura-murang gulay	

5. Other Expressions

There are other phrases that are used to express superlatives. Some of the more common ones are presented here.

Superlative structure	Examples
Ubod ng + adjective root	Ubod ng talino ang bata. <i>(The kid is very smart.)</i> ubod ng talinong bata <i>(a very smart kid)</i>
Saksakan ng + adjective root	Saksakan ng tamis ang mangga. <i>(The mango is very sweet.)</i> saksakan ng tamis na mangga

Puno ng + adjective root

(a very sweet mango)
Puno ng saya ang salu-salo.
(The party was so much fun.)
puno ng sayang salu-salo
(a very enjoyable party)

Simple Sentences

Introduction

In this section we are going to talk about the structure of Tagalog sentences.

The most common Tagalog sentence structure contains the following elements:

Predicate*	Focus	Complement(s)**
1. Doktor	si Pedro	sa PG Hospital.
(is a) doctor	Pedro	at PG Hospital
2. Mabait	ang prinsipal	sa Science High School.
(is) kind	The principal	at Science High School
3. Sumulat	ako	ng liham kay Maria.
wrote	I	a letter to Maria

Notice that Tagalog does not have an *auxiliary* or *linking verb* (such as *to be* in English).

*Please notice that the use of the term **Predicate** in this section is only a tool to help learners. So that there will be no confusion, it should be understood that Tagalog does not really have either a subject or a predicate of the type that English speakers are accustomed to. Instead, Tagalog has focus. In English, a predicate asserts or says something about the subject of the sentence. Predicates ordinarily have at least one verb. The difficulty in the use of term predicate here becomes clear when it is seen that in the above sentences there is no verb. Also, these sentences have a focus, not a subject (though this is debated, there is some difficulty in equating subject and focus as the same thing). **For our purposes here, a predicate will be that part of a sentence that asserts or says something about the focus.**

To help further narrow the definition of a predicate in Tagalog the following distinction may be helpful: the difference between an adjective that describes the focus, and a predicate that says something about the focus can be seen in the following example:

Ang mabait na prinsipal (translation: "the kind principal")

Here *mabait* is an adjective that describes *prinsipal*. Notice that they are linked together by the linker **NA**. This makes *mabait* and *prinsipal* one package, and in sense this whole string of words

or package is the focus of the sentence. This statement can **not** stand on its own and is **not** a complete sentence (it needs a predicate to go with it).

Mabait ang prinsipal. (translation: "The principal is kind.")

Here, *mabait* is an adjective that is functioning as a predicate. Note that it is not linked to *prinsipal* (there is no **na** or **ng**). When this statement is translated into English you can see that a verb (*is*) is suddenly added to the sentence. This statement can stand on its own as a complete sentence.

****Complements** are optional except when the predicate is a transitive verb or a verb type requiring certain complements (*e.g.*, object, some direction or location). This section will cover some of the basic sentence types following this pattern.

The noun phrases (NPs) following a verbal predicate may be rearranged without changing the meaning of the sentence. In this sense, Tagalog does not have a strict "word order" rule. Generally, the focus comes last but not when it is a pronoun. Pronouns tend to move after the predicate.

The focus does not necessarily have to be a noun. It can also be a nominalized verb, adjective, prepositional phrase, or a full clause.

If you are unsure of the word order, follow these general guidelines:

- (1) PCS = Predicate + Complement(s) + Focus;
- (2) ProNP = Pronouns + Noun Phrases; and
- (3) Shorter Pronouns and/or Particles before longer ones.

Nominal Sentences

These are sentences that have nominal (noun) predicates or some noun form in the predicate position. A beginning student would employ this sentence structure to offer information about one's occupation, nationality, or answer *what*-questions.

Below are some examples where the nominal predicate is underlined:



Titser si Mr. Ramos sa Science High School.
(Mr. Ramos is a teacher at the Science High School.)



Estudyante si Anna sa NIU.
(Anna is a student at NIU.)



Abogado ang babae.
(The woman is a lawyer.)



Amerikano ang lalaki.
(The man is American.)



Aleman sina Baldur at Eva.
(Baldur and Eva are Germans.)



Kartero siya.
(She/He is a postman.)



Empleyado sila sa bangko.
(They are employees at the bank.)



Bahay ko ito.
(This is my house.)



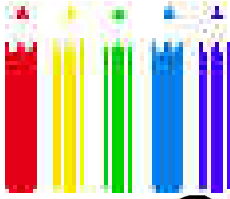
Kabayo niya ito.
(This is her/his horse.)

Adjectival Sentences

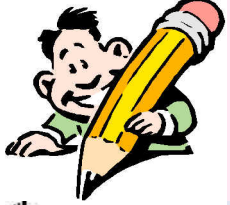
These are sentences that contain adjective(s) or descriptive word(s) in the predicate position. This sentence structure is used to describe someone or something. Here are some examples where the adjectival predicate is italicized:



Makulay ang bahaghari.
(The rainbow is colorful.)



Maikli ang mga krayola.
(The crayons are short.)



Matalino si Dan.
(Dan is intelligent.)



Masaya sina Nora at Boyet.
(Nora and Boyet are happy.)



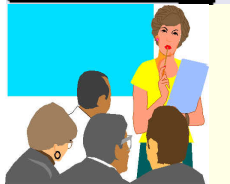
Masarap iyan.
(That is delicious.)



Maganda ang mga iyan.
(Those are beautiful.)



Mabait siya.
(He/She is nice.)



Masipag sila.
(They are hardworking.)

Verbal Sentences

These are sentences that contain a verb or verb form in the predicate position. Some verbs require a complement(s); others do not. The verbal form of the predicate determines the role of the noun(s) following it. Depending on what the marker in the verb is (e.g. **um**, **in**, **an**, etc.) the nouns that follow are marked as being the actor, object, instrument, etc. (For a detailed discussion of the verb forms, go to the grammar section on verbs.)

Active Sentences

These are sentences that have the actor (doer) as the focus. The most common verbal affixes for this type of sentence are **-um-**, **mag-**, and **ma-**. Here are a few examples where the focused actor is italicized, and the verb forms are in bold. All verbs are in the perfective/completed form or "past tense". The verbal affixes are underlined.

<u>Tumakbo</u> si Jose.	(Jose ran.)
<u>Bumili</u> ng kendi <i>ang bata</i>.	(The kid bought a candybar.)
<u>Nag-aral</u> si Lisa sa aklatan.	(Lisa studied in the library.)
<u>Nagluto</u> ng adobo <i>ang nanay</i>.	(Mother cooked adobo.)
<u>Natulong</u> siya sa sofa.	(He slept on the sofa.)
<u>Nakinig</u> <i>ang mga estudyante</i> sa guro.	(The students listened to the teacher.)

The noun phrases (NPs), subject and complement(s), following the verb may be rearranged without changing the meaning of the sentence. Tagalog does not follow a very strict word order in this sense.

If you are unsure, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- 1) PCS = Predicate + Complement(s) + Focus
- 2) ProNP = Pronouns + Noun Phrases; and
- 3) Shorter pronoun(s) and/or particles before longer ones.

Non-active Sentences

There are a number of non-active sentences in Tagalog. The verb takes certain verbal affixes (**um**, **in**, etc.) to mark the focus of the sentence, *i.e.*, either object, location/ beneficiary/ recipient, or instrument. Though a lot of linguistic literatures refer to these structures as "passives", they are not really passive in the true sense of the word, and the use of the term passive is confusing since the English equivalents of these sentences are not necessarily expressed in passive by speakers of English. Most of the time, the focus of a sentence in English is expressed not through markers but through emphatic vocal stress on the words in focus. Below are some examples of "non-active" sentences where the focus is italicized and the verb form in bold, all of which are in the completed or "past" form:

Object-Focus	
<u>Binasa</u> ni Noel <i>ang libro</i>.	(Noel read <i>the book</i> .)
<u>Ininom</u> ni Henry <i>ang kape</i> sa kusina.	(Henry drank <i>the coffee</i> in the kitchen.)
<u>Sinulat</u> niya <i>ang tulang Buhay</i>.	(She wrote <i>the poem Life</i> .)
Beneficiary/Recipient/Location-Focus	
<u>Binilhan</u> ni Fidel ng bulaklak <i>si Imelda</i>.	Fidel bought flowers for <i>Imelda</i> .

Binigyan niya <i>ako</i> ng regalo.	She gave <i>me</i> a gift.
Pinuntahan ng pasyente <i>ang doktor</i> .	The patient went to <i>the doctor</i> .

Instrumental-Focus	
Ipinambili niya ng damit <i>ang pera</i> .	She used <i>the money</i> to buy clothes.
Ipinansulat ni Lita <i>ang lapis</i> .	Lita used <i>the pencil</i> for writing.

Existential Sentences

These are sentences that express the existence of something or the state of having something and are marked by the existential particle **mayroon**. This particle takes the *linker suffix* **-(n)g** when it precedes a noun/noun phrase. In this format, it functions like a modifier just like adjectives modify nouns and is usually shortened to **may**. The existential phrase occupies the predicate position. Here are some examples:

Mayroong kapatid na babae si Rosa. May <i>kapatid na babae</i> si Rosa.	<i>Rosa has a sister.</i>
Mayroong bagong damit si Tina. May <i>bagong damit</i> si Tina.	<i>Tina has a new dress.</i>
Mayroong dalawang libro ang estudyante. May <i>dalawang libro</i> ang estudyante.	<i>The student has two books.</i>
Mayroong tao sa bahay . May <i>tao</i> sa bahay.	<i>There's someone in the house.</i>
Mayroong konsyerto sa plasa mamayang gabi. May <i>konsyerto</i> sa plasa mamayang gabi.	<i>There's going to be a concert at the plaza later tonight.</i>
Mayroon akong lihim . May <i>lihim</i> ako.	<i>I have a secret.</i>
Mayroon siyang trabaho . May <i>trabaho</i> siya.	<i>He/She has a job.</i>

When **mayroon** is followed by a pronoun, it functions like the phrase "to have something." The *linker* **(-ng)** is attached to end of the pronoun (e.g. *ako* + *ng* = *akong*). The pronoun comes directly after **mayroon**.

When the shortened form **may** is used, the pronoun comes after the noun or noun phrase.

The negative equivalent of a **mayroon/may** sentence is marked by the particle **wala** which means "there is not (something)"; "the absence of (something)"; or "not having (something)." Here are the corresponding negative equivalents of the preceding examples:

Walang kapatid na babae si Rosa.	<i>Rosa does not have a sister.</i>
Walang bagong damit si Tina.	<i>Tina does not have a new dress.</i>

Walang libro ang estudyante.	<i>The student does not have a book.</i>
Walang tao sa bahay.	<i>There is no one in the house.</i>
Walang konsyerto sa plasa mamayang gabi.	<i>There is no concert at the plaza tonight.</i>
Wala akong lihim.	<i>I don't have a secret.</i>
Wala siyang trabaho.	<i>He/She doesn't have a job.</i>

Notice again that when a personal pronoun occurs with **wala**, it comes after the negator **wala**, and the linker is attached to it.

Prepositional Sentences

These are sentences with a prepositional phrase in the predicate position. It must be noted, however, that the term *preposition* as used here is not the same as *preposition* in English. In

Tagalog, the main function of a preposition (usually **sa** or **nasa**) is to indicate location or direction. Some Tagalog grammar books refer to these words as location/direction markers.

Here are a few examples:

<i>Nasa bahay</i> si Jose.	<i>Jose is at home.</i>
<i>Nasa opisina</i> si Susan.	<i>Susan is at the office.</i>
<i>Nasa Amerika</i> ang presidente.	<i>The president is in the US.</i>
<i>Nasa kotse</i> ang tatay.	<i>Father is in the car.</i>
<i>Nasa mesa</i> ang pagkain.	<i>The food is on the table.</i>
<i>Nasa dingding</i> ang orasan.	<i>The clock is on the wall.</i>
<i>Nasa ilalim ng upuan</i> ang aso.	<i>The dog is under the chair.</i>
<i>Nasa likod ni Jose</i> ang TV.	<i>The television is behind Jose.</i>
<i>Sa bahay ni Pina</i> ang salu-salo.	<i>The party is at Pina's place.</i>
<i>Sa Batangas beach</i> ang piknik.	<i>The picnic is at Batangas beach.</i>

AY-Sentences

These sentences are referred to as *inverted sentences* in some grammar books, and the word **AY** is referred to as a sentence inversion marker. The word order of this sentence type (Focus + AY + Predicate) is the reverse of the *simple predicative sentence* (Predicate + Subject). Here are some examples :

Sentence	Simple Predicative	Inverted/AY-Sentence
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Nominal	Nars si Eva. (<i>Eva is a nurse.</i>)	Si Eva ay nars. (<i>Eva is a nurse.</i>)
	Estudyante siya sa UP. (<i>She is a student at UP.</i>)	Siya ay estudyante sa UP. (<i>She is a student at UP.</i>)
Adjectival	Mayaman si Jose. (<i>Jose is rich.</i>)	Si Jose ay mayaman. (<i>Jose is rich.</i>)
	Palakaibigan ang bata. (<i>The kid is friendly.</i>)	Ang bata ay palakaibigan. (<i>The kid is friendly.</i>)
Verbal	Nag-aaral ang estudyante sa laybrari. (<i>The student is studying in the library.</i>)	Ang estudyante ay nag-aaral sa laybrari. (<i>The student is studying in the library.</i>)
	Bumili ako ng lapis sa tindahan kahapon. (<i>I bought a pencil from the store yesterday.</i>)	Ako ay bumili ng lapis sa tindahan kahapon. (<i>I bought a pencil from the store yesterday.</i>)
Existential	May konsyerto ang mang-aawit sa Maynila. (<i>The singer has a concert in Manila.</i>)	Ang mang-aawit ay may konsyerto sa Maynila. (<i>The singer has a concert in Manila.</i>)
	May trabaho ang si Ana tuwing Sabado at Linggo. (<i>Ana has work every Saturday and Sunday.</i>)	Si Ana ay may trabaho tuwing Sabado at Linggo. (<i>Ana has work every Saturday and Sunday.</i>)
Prepositional	Nasa ilalim ng upuan ang pusa. (<i>The cat is under the chair.</i>)	Ang pusa ay nasa ilalim ng upuan. (<i>The cat is under the chair.</i>)
	Nasa Amerika si Noel. (<i>Noel is in the US.</i>)	Si Noel ay nasa Amerika. (<i>Noel is in the US.</i>)

Focusless Sentences

The following set of sentences in Tagalog may be viewed as focusless, *i.e.*, **ang** phrases (focused phrases) do not necessarily occur in this set of sentences.

Gusto sentences are usually focusless when the word *gusto* is followed by an actor focus verb.

Gusto kong kumain.
Kumain is an actor focus* verb.

* Ordinarily an actor focus verb would have the actor of the verb be in focus. However, notice that in this sentence the actor (kong) is not in focus. This is because of the rule that states that a sentence with *gusto* can never have an actor that is in focus.

Other actor focus verbs include those verbs with affix **mag-**, **um**, and **ma**.

Gusto sentences are also focusless when they are followed by a *ng* phrase and by another *ng* phrase (*ng* + object).

Gusto ko ng mansanas. I like apples.

Phenomenal Sentences may consist of a group of verbs and adjectives stating certain acts of nature or natural phenomena. The verb may occur without any complement (predicate). Usually adverbial or locative complements follow these adjectives or verbs. To form a Phenomenal sentence the *-um* affix is added on to nouns of natural phenomena.

araw (sun) -umaraw (sun shining)
Umaaraw. The sun is shining.

ambon (drizzle)- umambon (drizzling)
Umambon. It is drizzling.

These verbs inflect for aspect.

Completed: **Umaraw. It was sunny.**

Incompleted: **Umaaraw. It is sunny.**

Contemplated: **Aaraw. It will be sunny.**

Ma- adjectives referring to natural phenomena such as the following are also focusless. They are followed by adverbial or locative complements.

Dilim –darkness
Madilim sa bahay. *It is dark in the house.*

Ginaw – cold
Malamig sa labas. *It is cold outside.*

Init – heat
Mainit ngayon. *It is hot now.*

Liwanag – brightness or light
Maliwanag sa loob. *It is bright inside.*

Ka marks a recently completed action of the verb. *Ka* sentences are also focusless. *Ka* verbs are followed by the adverbial particle **lang**. The recently completed aspect is formed by the affix **ka** followed by the reduplication of the first consonant vowel or first vowel of the verb base.

Kain – *kakakain ko lang. I just ate.*

Aral – *kaaaral lang niya. He just studied.*

Laro – *kalalaro lang ng bata. The child just played.*

These sentences occur with nouns indicating time or seasonal events followed by adverbs of time.

Bukas na. *Tomorrow instead.*

Lunes kahapon. *Yesterday was Monday.*

Pasko sa Disyembre. *Christmas will be in December.*

Disyembre sa susunod na buwan. *It is December next month.*

Nobyembre ngayon. *It is November now.*

Exclamation sentences that are introduced by *kay*, *anong*, and *anong pagka* do not have any words that are marked as being in focus.

Kay buti nila! How good they are!

Anong ganda ng bundok! How beautiful is the mountain.

Anong pagka – expresses the strongest exclamation when prefixed to the adjective root, and the root word is repeated.

Anong pagkaganda-ganda ng babae!

Kay, anong, and *napaka* all seem to be similar to the exclamation that uses the focus marker **ang**. For example:

Ang ganda ng babae! How beautiful the woman is!

Ang laki ng bahay! How big the house is!

Despite the fact that *kay, anong,* and *napaka* do not have any words marked as in focus, they could perhaps be seen as alternative ways of conveying the same sense as the exclamations that use **ang**.

Exclamatory sentences can also use interjections or one word construction, usually a noun or verb.

Interjections:	Nouns:	Verbs:
Nakupu! - My God!	Sunog! Fire!	Layas! Go!
Ay! Oh!	Magnanakaw! Thief!	Labas! Go out!
Aray! Ouch!		

The prefix *napaka-* expresses an intensified sentence. It is also followed by a word base, usually adjective.

Napakatapang niya! How brave he is!

Napakaganda ni Nicole. How beautiful Nicole is.

May/Mayroon (there is) or **wala** (negative of may) sentences are often used to express the existence or absences of the noun that follows.

May tao sa bahay. *There is someone in the house.*

Mayroon klase bukas. *There's class tomorrow.*

May sentences may occur with or without complements. They also become focus

less when followed by actor focus verbs (*-um, mag-*, and *ma*)

Walang tao. *There's no one.*

(There is also a linker **-ng** in **wala**)

May tumatakbo sa labas. *There is someone running outside.*

With **goal focused verbs** (verbs with affix *I-, -in, -an*) following *may, mayroon, or wala*, actor-topics appear in the sentences.

May kakainin ako. *I have something to eat.*

(-in verb) (actor-topic)

Walang gagawin si Ben. *Ben does not have anything to do.*

Negation

Introduction

Introduction

<p> Pag-ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa ni Andres Bonifacio</p> <p>Aling pag-ibig pa ang hihigit kaya Sa pagkadalisay at pagkadakila Gaya ng pag-ibig sa tinubuang lupa Aling pag-ibig pa? Wala na nga, wala.</p> <p>Walang mahalagang hindi inihandog Ng may pusong wagas sa bayang nagkupkop Dugo, yaman, dunong, katiisa't pagod</p>	
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<p>Buhay ma'y abuting magkalagot-lagot.</p> <p>Ipagkahandog-handog ng buong pag-ibig Hanggang sa may dugo't ubusing itigis Kung sa pagtatanggol buhay ang kapalit Ito'y kapalaran at tunay na langit.</p>	
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Negation in Tagalog is achieved by using either the negative **HINDI** ("not" or "no") or **WALA** ("there is none" or "nothing"). This section will focus on the use of these *negators* in simple sentences.

On this page are a few stanzas of a poem written by Andres Bonifacio, the Father of Philippine Revolution. Take note of the usage of negators.

The Negator **HINDI**

HINDI is generally used to negate nominal (NOM), adjectival (ADJ), and verbal (VBL) sentences. This is done by placing **HINDI** before the predicate, the structure being:

Negative (HINDI)	+ Predicate	+ Subject	+ Complement(s)
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Here are some examples illustrating this structure:

NOM	Hindi Amerikano ang bisita.	<i>The visitor is not an American.</i>
NOM	Hindi abogado and lalaki.	<i>The man is not a lawyer.</i>
ADJ	Hindi maganda ang panahon.	<i>The weather is not good.</i>
ADJ	Hindi malayo ang bahay ko sa opisina.	<i>My house is not far from the office.</i>
VBL	Hindi umuwi si Rey kahapon.	<i>Rey did not come home yesterday.</i>
VBL	Hindi nag-aral para sa eksamen si Art.	<i>Art did not study for the exam.</i>

When the *subject* or *object* or both are *pronouns*, they come immediately after the negator. If there are two or more pronouns, the shorter *pro-form* precedes the longer one(s). Otherwise, the complement(s) comes before the subject. Here are some examples:

NOM	Hindi siya Amerikano.	<i>He/She is not an American.</i>
NOM	Hindi siya abogado.	<i>He is not a lawyer.</i>
ADJ	Hindi ito maganda.	<i>This is not good.</i>
ADJ	Hindi ito malayo sa opisina.	<i>This is not far from the office.</i>
VBL	Hindi siya umuwi kahapon.	<i>He did not come home yesterday.</i>
VBL	Hindi siya nag-aral nito.	<i>He did not study this.</i>

The Negator WALA

WALA is generally used to negate existential and prepositional sentences. They imply the non-existence or absence of someone or something. This is done by using the negator **WALA** in place of the existential particle **MAY/MAYROON** or in place of the "preposition" **NASA**. In the case of the prepositional sentence, it more complex than this, but for our purpose, this should do for now.

EXISTENTIAL SENTENCES	
<i>Walang tao sa bahay.</i>	<i>There's nobody home.</i>
<i>Walang pera si Josie.</i>	<i>Josie has no money.</i>
<i>Walang klase ngayon.</i>	<i>There is no class today.</i>
<i>Wala akong panahon para mag-aral.</i>	<i>I don't have time to study.</i>
PREPOSITIONAL SENTENCES	
<i>Wala sa klase si Noel kanina.</i>	<i>Noel was not in class earlier today.</i>
<i>Wala sa kwarto ang libro mo.</i>	<i>Your book is not in the room.</i>
<i>Wala sa akin ang susi.</i>	<i>I don't have the key (with me).</i>
<i>Wala rito si Lina.</i>	<i>Lina is not here.</i>

Questions I

Introduction

DITO BA?

Dito **ba** ang dapat kong kalagyan na isang sulok kong hiram sa ilalim ng araw?

Dito **ba** ang daigdig ko ngayon?
Bakit ibang-iba sa daigdig ko noon?
Dito **ba** ang hinahanap kong wala sa panahon?



Sunday Morning
by Fernando Amorsolo

This section will discuss some of the most commonly used question forms. If you are interested in other question forms that are not found on this page, you may go to another page called Questions II.

YES-NO Questions

This type of question in Tagalog is easily identifiable because it is marked by the particle **BA**, referred to by many grammar books as the yes-no question marker. It also has a rising intonation just like question patterns in English.

The Particle BA

The particle **BA** usually comes after the first element of a sentence. **BA** works about the same as a question mark. It lets the speaker know that you are asking a question. Please note that **BA** is only used for questions that must have a yes or no answer.

1) In a *simple predicative sentence*, it comes after the predicate. Here are some examples:

Doktor si Pedro sa PGH. Doktor ba si Pedro sa PGH?	<i>Pedro is a doctor at PGH.</i> <i>Is Pedro a doctor at PGH?</i>
Mabait si Maria. Mabait ba si Maria?	<i>Maria is kind.</i> <i>Is Maria kind?</i>
Pupunta si Tess sa Cebu bukas. si Tess sa Cebu bukas?	Pupunta ba <i>Tess is going to Cebu tomorrow.</i> <i>Is Tess going to Cebu tomorrow?</i>

2) In an *AY-sentence*, it comes after the focus. Here are some examples:

Si Pedro ay doktor sa PGH. Si Pedro ba ay doktor sa PGH?	<i>Pedro is a doctor at PGH.</i> <i>Is Pedro a doctor at PGH?</i>
Si Maria ay mabait. Si Maria ba ay mabait?	<i>Maria is kind.</i> <i>Is Maria kind?</i>
Si Tess ay pupunta sa Cebu bukas. Si Tess ba ay pupunta sa Cebu bukas?	<i>Tess is going to Cebu tomorrow.</i> <i>Is Tess going to Cebu tomorrow?</i>

3) In an *emphatic sentence*, **BA** comes after an emphasized element (such as location, time indicator, or direction). Here are some examples:

Bukas, pupunta si Tess sa Cebu.
Bukas *ba* pupunta si Tess sa Cebu?

Tomorrow, Tess is going to Cebu.
Is it tomorrow that Tess goes to Cebu?

Sa Linggo, si Mila ay darating.
Sa Linggo *ba* darating si Mila?

On Sunday, Mila arrives.
Is it on Sunday that Mila arrives?

The exceptions to this rule include sentences that contain the pronoun **KA** and enclitics such as **NA**, **PA**, **NAMAN**, etc.

Tag questions

Tag questions in Tagalog are expressed by the phrase "**hindi ba?**" (or its shortened form "**di ba?**"). Its closest equivalent in English is "Is it not?" Here are some examples:

Estudyante ka sa NIU, *'di ba?*

You are a student at NIU, aren't you?

Maganda ang pelikula, *hindi ba?*

The movie was good, wasn't it?

Tumira ka sa Banaue, *hindi ba?*

You lived in Banaue, didn't you?

Nasa Hawaii si Ruth, *hindi ba?*

Ruth is in Hawaii, isn't she?

May tanong ka, *'di ba?*

You have a question, don't you?

Sino

This is the Tagalog equivalent of the English word *who*. It is always followed by an **ANG**-clause (a focused clause). The expected response to this question is a sentence that has **ANG**-phrases in both predicate and subject positions (referred to as an *identificational sentence*). Or, phrased differently, the answer to a **SINO** question will have both the subject and the predicate in focus. Let's look at the first example:

Sino ang bagong titser?

Si Ginang Santos (**ang** bagong titser).

Notice that both **Ginang Santos** and **bagong titser** are in focus. The direct answer to the question is **Si Ginang Santos**. The second part is optional, it merely makes the answer more complete. When translating this sentence into English, we see that there is some sort of implied *is* between **Si Ginang Santos** and **ang bagong titser**. The word *is* functions like an equal sign. So, if the two parts of the sentence are equal and if the first part of the sentence is in focus, it seems reasonable that the second part of the sentence would be in focus as well.

When the anticipated response is a plural noun, the question word used by many speakers is **sinu-sino**. Or in other words, if only one person is being asked about, the word **sino** is used. If more than one person is being asked about then **sinu-sino** is used. Here are some examples:

Sino ang bagong titser?

Who is the new teacher?

Si Ginang Santos (ang bagong titser).	<i>Mrs. Santos (is the new teacher).</i>
Sino ang kasama mo sa Bacolod? Si Robert (ang kasama ko sa Bacolod).	<i>Who went with you to Bacolod? Robert (went to Bacolod with me).</i>
Sino ang nagluto ng pansit? Ang nanay ni Fe (ang nagluto ng pansit).	<i>Who cooked the pansit? Fe's mom (cooked the pansit).</i>
Sino ang magdadala ng radyo? Si Noel (ang magdadala ng radyo).	<i>Who is going to bring a radio? Noel (is going to bring a radio).</i>
Sinu-sino ang sasama sa Sagada? Kaming lahat (ang sasama sa Sagada).	<i>Who are going (with me) to Sagada? All of us (are going to Sagada).</i>
Sinu-sino ang taga-Maynila rito? Si Lita, si Fe at ako (ang taga-Maynila).	<i>Who are from Manila here? Lita, Fe , and I (are from Manila).</i>

Ano

This is the equivalent of the English word *what*. It is followed by an **ANG**-phrase (phrase that is in focus) and may be answered by a simple nominal, adjectival, or verbal sentence. When the anticipated response is a plural noun-phrase, some speakers use the question word **anu-ano**. In other words, if only one thing is asked about, then the word **ano** is used. If more than one thing is asked about, then **anu-ano** is used. Here are some examples:

Ano ang pangalan mo? Maria (ang pangalan ko).	<i>What is your name? (My name is) Maria.</i>
Ano ang "major" mo? Kasaysayan (ang "major" ko).	<i>What is your major? (My major is) history.</i>
Ano ang ginawa mo noong Sabado? Pumunta ako sa Laguna noong Sabado.	<i>What did you do last Saturday? I went to Laguna last Saturday.</i>
Ano ang pinanood ninyo kahapon? Pinanood namin ang "Ifugaw" kahapon.	<i>What did you watch yesterday? We watched "Ifugaw" yesterday.</i>
Anu-ano ang dala mo? Mga prutas at gulay (ang dala ko).	<i>What do you have there? (I have) fruits and vegetables (here).</i>
Anu-ano ang sinabi ng tatay? Sinabi niya na huwag kang iinom ng alak at umuwi ka ng maaga.	<i>What did Dad say? He said that you should not have liquor and you have to go home early.</i>

Saan

This is the equivalent of the English word *where*. The question is usually answered with the word **SA**. If only one place is asked about, then word **saan** is used. If more than one place is asked about, then **saan-saan** is used. Here are some examples:

Saan ka nakatira? Sa Malate (ako nakatira).	<i>Where do you live? (I live) in Malate.</i>
---	---

Saan ang bayan ng nanay mo?
Sa Ilokos (ang bayan ng nanay ko).

*Where is your mother's town?
(My mother's town is) in Ilokos.*

Saan ka magbabakasyon?
Sa Bikol (ako magbabakasyon).

*Where are you going for a vacation?
(I am going) to Bikol (for a vacation).*

Saan-saan kayo pumunta noong "summer"?
(Pumunta kami) sa Iloilo, sa Bacolod at sa Davao
(noong "summer").

*Where did you go last summer?
(We went) to Iloilo, Bacolod, and Davao (last
summer).*

Saan-saan kayo lumibot sa Amerika?
(Namasyal kami) sa San Francisco, sa Chicago at sa
New York.

*Where did you go in in the US?
(We visited) San Francisco, Chicago and New
York.*

Ilan

This is the Tagalog equivalent of the English interrogative pronoun *how many*. The answers to **ILAN** questions always include numbers or other words that express quantity (how much of something). Here are some examples:

Ilan ang kapatid mo?
Pito (ang kapatid ko).

*How many siblings do you have?
(I have) seven (siblings).*

Ilan ang estudyante ng Tagalog?
Labinlima (ang estudyante ng Tagalog).

*How many Tagalog students are there?
(There are) fifteen (Tagalog students).*

Ilan ang klase mo tuwing Lunes?
Tatlo (ang klase ko tuwing Lunes).

*How many classes do you have on Mondays?
(I have) three (classes on Mondays).*

Ilan ang dumating na bisita kagabi?
Marami(ang dumating na bisita kagabi).

*How many guests came last night?
Many (guests came last night).*

Ilan ang batang naglalaro sa labas?
Iilan lang (ang batang naglalaro sa labas).

*How many kids are playing outside?
(There are) only a number (of kids playing outside).*

Verbal Focus

Introduction

Doon Po Sa Amin

Doon po sa aming
bayan ng San Roque
May **nagkatuwaang**
apat na pulubi
Sumayaw ang pilay,
nanood ang bulag
Kumanta ang pipi,
nakinig ang bingi.



Tagalog has a rather complex verbal system. This verb system is based on the use of affixes. As mentioned previously, an **affix** is like a little marker or code that is placed in a word. An affix can be added to the front of a word (**prefix**), to the end of a word (**suffix**), or in the middle of a word (**infix**). The affix is a way of packaging in some extra information into a word.

For example, English uses affixes in verbs in order to indicate whether the action of the verb happened in the past or the present. Consider the English verb *kick*. If I add the affix **-ed** on to the end of this word:

kick + ed = kicked

I have now indicated that the *kicking* happened in the past. If I added the affix **-ing** on to the word kick,

kick + ing = kicking

you now know that the action is occurring in the present.

Tagalog also uses affixes in a similar way to indicate if an action is completed or not (we will discuss this later). **In addition to this, Tagalog uses affixes to indicate the role of the focus of the sentence.** In other words, affixes are used to let you know what the focus is doing in the sentence. This will take some explaining.

Let's look at the following sentence in English:

The man bit the dog.

As you can see, there are two nouns in this sentence: the **man** and the **dog**. Now, ask yourself, how do you know which one did the biting. Was the man the one who bit the dog? Or was the dog the one who bit the man? Of course, in this case, it was the man that bit the dog. We know this because of the word order. Man comes before dog. What if I reversed this sentence?

The dog bit the man.

Now you know that it was the dog that bit the man.

Some languages do not depend on word order to indicate what role the words play in the sentence. Instead, many languages use little markers to indicate things like which word did the biting and which word got bitten. Let's look at how this works. First let's pretend that the

asterisk symbol * is a little marker that indicates that the word this symbol goes with is the doer of the action of the sentence. Think of * as a little sign that says "Hey! Anytime you see me stuck on a word, you know I'm doing the action!" Now, let's say that the number sign # is a little marker that indicates that the word this symbol goes with receives the action of the verb. If I stick these markers onto my nouns in my previous sentence, this is what I get:

The dog* bit the man#

Now you know that the dog (because of *) bit the man. If I reverse the word order, the meaning of the sentence is still the same.

The man# bit the dog*

This still means that the dog bit the man.

English itself once used markers in this same way instead of relying totally on word order. We lost these markers over time. However, our pronouns still retain the method of changing according to their role in the sentence. For example, **I** and **me** work in the same way that we have discussed above. When I do the action I use the pronoun **I**. When **I** receive the action I use **me**. Compare these sentences:

I bit the dog.

The dog bit **me**.

Tagalog is a language that does **not** use word order to tell you who is doing what in a sentence. Instead, Tagalog uses affixes and markers to tell you this information. By looking at markers on nouns and affixes in verbs, you can tell who is doing the action of the sentence etc. **In the Tagalog system, the marker on the noun tells you which word is in focus, and affixes in the verb tell you what the focus is doing.** It's like a code you must figure out. Let's see how this works:

Here's the sentence we used before:

The man bit the dog.

Now, as we know, the nouns in Tagalog are marked according to whether they are in focus or not:

Ang man bit **ng** dog

In Tagalog man is **tao**, dog is **aso**, and bite is **kagat**:

Kumagat ng aso ang tao

bit dog man

Tao (*man*) is in focus. **Aso** (*dog*) is not in focus. How do I know if the man bit the dog or if the dog bit the man? I look at the verb. In this case the verb is **kumagat**. The **UM** in **kumagat** is a little affix that tells me that the focus of the sentence is doing the action. So I look at the **UM** and

if I see that **tao** (*man*) is in focus (tao has **ang** in front), I know that the focus (the man) did the biting.

I could reverse the markers without changing the meaning:

Kumagat **ang** tao ng aso.

Here the meaning is still the same: the man bit the dog.

In this section, we are going to talk about the major affixes that go with Tagalog verbs. Once you learn these affixes, you can figure out what is going on in a Tagalog sentence. You can also avoid saying the type of things that we non-native speakers tend to say like: the fish caught me, etc. You will rob your listener of the fun times and laughter, but you might save yourself some embarrassment.

Actor-Focus (AF) Verbs

There are three affixes that are used to indicate that the focus of the sentence is doing the action (actor) of the verb. The three affixes are **-UM-**, **MAG-**, and **MA-**. These affixes all have the same function. You can think of them as different ways of saying the same thing. Adding either **-UM-**, **MAG-**, or **MA-** onto a verb will indicate that **the focus of the sentence is doing the action**.

The **-UM-** Verb

This verb is formed by attaching the infix **-UM-** to the verb root. The **-UM-** affix always comes right before the first vowel of the root word. Here are some commonly used **-UM-** verbs, followed by sample sentences, all of which are in the perfective aspect ("past") form.

Root Word	Actor Focus Verb	Sentence
takbo	tumakbo <i>to run</i>	Tumakbo ang bata. <i>The child ran.</i>
bili	bumili <i>to buy</i>	Bumili ng mangga ang babae. <i>The woman bought (some) mangoes.</i>
tawag	tumawag <i>to call</i>	Tumawag si Ana kahapon. <i>Ana called yesterday.</i>
punta	pumunta <i>to go</i>	Pumunta si Pedro sa Maynila. <i>Pedro went to Manila.</i>
alis	umalis <i>to leave</i>	Umalis ako nang maaga. <i>I left early.</i>

Let's look at the second sentence:

Bumili ng mangga **ang** babae.

bought mango woman

The **-UM-** affix tells you that the focus of the sentence did the buying. The focus of the sentence is **babae** (*woman*). You can tell this because *babae* has *ang* in front. This is how you know that it was the woman who bought the mangoes (and not the mangoes that bought the woman!).

The **MAG-** Verb

This verb is formed by attaching the prefix **MAG-** to the verb root. Because **MAG-** is a prefix, it is always attached to the front of the word. When **MAG-** is attached to a root/stem that starts with a vowel, a hyphen (-) is used. Here are some commonly used **MAG-** verbs, followed by sample sentences, all of which are in the perfect aspect ("past") form.

Root Word	Actor Focus Verb	Sentence
luto	magluto <i>to cook</i>	Nagluto ng pansit ang nanay niya. <i>Her mom cooked noodles.</i>
kuwento	magkuwento <i>to tell a story</i>	Nagkwento ang lolo tungkol sa multo. <i>Grandpa told a story about ghosts.</i>
linis	maglinis <i>to clean something</i>	Naglinis ng bahay si Rene. <i>Rene cleaned the house.</i>
laro	maglaro <i>to play</i>	Naglaro sina Paul ng basketball. <i>Paul (and friends) played basketball.</i>
aral	mag-aral <i>to study</i>	Nag-aral kami sa laybrari kagabi. <i>We studied in the library last night.</i>

The **MA-** Verb

MA- verbs do not occur as frequently as the other two actor affixes. There are very few verb roots/stems that take the **MA-** prefix to mark actor focus. Here are some of the more common **MA-**verbs followed by sample sentences, all of which are in the perfect aspect ("past") form.

Root Word	Actor Focus Verb	Sentence
tulog	matulog <i>to sleep</i>	Natulog ang lalaki. <i>The man slept.</i>
ligo	maligo <i>to take a shower/bath</i>	Naligo ang mga bata sa ilog. <i>The children bathed in the river.</i>
nood*	manood <i>to watch something</i>	Nanood ng sine si Mila. <i>Mila watched a movie.</i>
kinig*	makinig <i>to listen</i>	Nakinig siya sa guro. <i>He listened to the teacher.</i>

*These are not simple roots.

Object-Focus (OF) Verbs

There are several affixes that indicate that the focus of the sentence is the object (receiver of the action). The most common ones are discussed in this section, **-IN**, **I-**, **-AN**, and **MA-**. Attaching any of these affixes on to a verb indicates that **the focus of the sentence is the receiver of the action (object)**. Be aware however that **-IN** is the only affix that is used solely to mark the focus as the object. In a sense, it is the prototypical object focus affix. The other affixes can indicate object focus, but they can also be used for different purposes. **I-** may also mark beneficiary- or instrumental-focus, **-AN** locative- or beneficiary-focus, and **MA-** actor-focus. A learner would be advised to memorize the functions of the different affixes. The table of verbs provided in this site should be a helpful introduction.

The **-IN** Verb

The affix **-IN** is the only "real" object-focus affix. That is, an **-IN** verb is always object-focus. When **-IN** is attached to a verb that ends in a vowel, an **H** is needed between it and the affix. Here are some examples, all of which are in the imperative or command form:

Root Word	Object Focus Verb	Sentence
bili	bilhin <i>to buy</i>	Bilhin mo ang sapatos. <i>(You) Buy the (pair of) shoes.</i>
kain	kainin <i>to eat</i>	Kainin mo ang lumpiya. <i>(You) Eat the egg roll.</i>
basa	basahin <i>to read</i>	Basahin mo ang diyaryo mamaya. <i>(You) Read the newspaper later.</i>
luto	lutuin <i>to cook</i>	Lutuin mo ang isda sa kusina. <i>(You) Cook the fish in the kitchen.</i>

Let's take a look at the last example:

Lutuin mo **ang** isda sa kusina.

cook you fish kitchen

The **-IN** affix tells you that the focus is to receive the action of the verb. The focus is **isda** (*fish*), so you know that it is the fish that is to be cooked, and not you (*mo*).

The **I-** Verb

I- verbs are the second most common Object Focus verbs next to **-IN**. **I-** is a prefix, and thus it goes in front of the word. The prefix **I-** is typically used to mark **Object Focus**, but **I-** can also be used to mark beneficiary and instrumental. However, these uses occur less frequently.

Here are a few examples that are in the imperative or command form:

Root Word	Object Focus Verb	Sentence
luto	iluto <i>to cook</i>	Iluto mo ang isda sa kusina. <i>(You) Cook the fish in the kitchen.</i>

sulat	isulat to write	Isulat mo ang pangalan mo sa papel. (You) Write your name on the paper.
tago	itago to keep	Itago mo ang sulat. (You) Keep the letter.
sara	isara to close	Isara mo ang pinto. (You) Close the door.

The -AN Verbs

The **-AN** affix is not used in very many verbs as an object focus marker. There are however a few specific verb roots that use **-AN** for this purpose. A learner would be advised to memorize the verb roots that take this affix to mark object focus. The most common use of **-AN** is to mark location/direction-focus.

-AN is suffix, and thus should be placed at the end of a word. When **-AN** follows a verb root that ends in a vowel, the affix takes the form **-HAN**.

Here are a few examples:

Root	Object F. Verb	Object Focus Sentence	Converted Actor Focus Sentence
bukas	buksan* to open	Buksan mo ang bintana. Open the window.	Magbukas ka ng bintana. Open the window.
takip	takpan* to cover	Takpan mo ang bibig mo. Cover your mouth.	Magtakip ka ng bibig mo. Cover your mouth.
laba	labhan* to wash	Labhan mo ang damit ni Monica. Wash Monica's dress.	Maglaba ka ng damit ni Monica. Wash Monica's dress.

*These verb have undergone other form changes that are not discussed here.

The MA- Verb

There are certain verbs that use **MA-** as an object focus marker. These verbs (**kita**, **pansin**, **alam**, etc.) form a special set of verbs because they are always object focused. They can never be actor focused. In some grammar books, these verbs are said to express abilitative and/or accidental

mode. Thus, these verbs do not have imperative forms (in other words, they can never be used as commands). Membership of this set is not very large, so learners would be advised to memorize the verb roots that take the **MA-** affix to indicate object focus. Here some of the most common **MA-** verbs:

Root	Object Focus Verb	Sentence
kita	makita <i>to see</i>	Nakita ng bata ang titser. <i>The child saw the teacher.</i>
dinig	marinig* <i>to hear</i>	Narinig ni Ana ang boses ni Noel. <i>Ana heard Noel's voice.</i>
pansin	mapansin <i>to notice</i>	Napansin ko ang bagong sapatos ni Maria. <i>I noticed Maria's new shoes.</i>
alam	malaman* <i>to learn/know about smthg.</i>	Nalaman ko ang pangalan niya. <i>I learned his name.</i>

Location/Direction Focus (LDF)

The location/ direction focus is indicated by the affix **-AN/-HAN**. Attaching this affix to verb root indicates that **the focus of the sentence is a location or the direction of the action**. **-AN** is the only affix used to indicate location/direction focus. It might be easier to remember the connection between **-AN** and location if you remember that **-AN** is used generally in the Tagalog language as a location marker. **-AN** is the prototypical location indicator. For example, the Tagalog word for worship is **simba**, but if you add **-AN** to this word to make **simbahan** the meaning becomes *church* (the place where you worship). The word **tinda** means 'to sell,' but if you add **-AN** to this word to make **tindahan** the meaning becomes *store*.

Keep in mind however that ambiguities may arise since **-AN** can also be used to indicate object-focus and beneficiary-focus as well.

-AN is a suffix and is added to the end of the verb. If the verb ends in a vowel, then an **H** is added on to **-AN** to make **-HAN**.

Here are a few examples of location/direction-focus verbs and sentences: The noun/noun phrase in focus is underlined. The corresponding actor-focus sentences are also provided.

Root	Loc./Dir. Focus Verb	Loc./Dir. Focus Sentence	Converted Actor Focus Sentence
punta	puntahan <i>to go (to)</i>	Puntahan mo ang kaibigan mo (sa palengke). <i>(You) Go, see your friend (in the market).</i>	Pumunta ka sa kaibigan mo (sa pelengke). <i>(You) Go, see your friend (in the market).</i>
bigay	bigyan* <i>to give</i>	Bigyan mo ng pera ang kapatid mo. <i>(You) Give your brother some money.</i>	Magbigay ka ng pera sa kapatid mo. <i>(You) Give some money to your brother.</i>
dala	dalhan* <i>to bring</i>	Dalhan mo ng prutas si Maria. <i>(You) Bring some fruits to Maria.</i>	Magdala ka ng prutas kay Maria. <i>(You) Bring some fruits to Maria.</i>
lagay	lagyan <i>to put</i>	Lagyan mo ng bulaklak ang mesa. <i>(You) Put some flowers on the table.</i>	Maglagay ka ng bulaklak sa mesa. <i>(You) Put some flowers on the table.</i>

*These verbs have undergone other form changes not discussed here.

Let's take a look at the second sentence:

Bigyan mo ng pera **ang** kapatid mo.

give you money brother of you

The **AN** on the end of the verb tells you that the focus of the sentence (kapatid mo) is the location or direction where the action of the verb (give) will take place. This location is the part of the sentence that is emphasized. Notice that the other words in the sentence are **not** in focus.

Beneficiary Focus (BF)

There are two affixes that mark the beneficiary focus: **IPAG-** and **-AN**. Attaching any of these affixes to a root indicates that **the focus of the sentence is the noun for whom/which the action is done**. This is different from the object focus. **IPAG** and **-AN** mark the focus as the word that receives the benefit of the action. In English, this word that receives the **benefit** of the action is called the indirect object. Let's take a look at an example in English:

1. Fred gave the car to **Bob**. **BENEFICIARY FOCUSED**

In English, *car* is the direct object and *Bob* is the indirect object. Bob got the benefit from receiving the car. In Tagalog, if the word *Bob* is the word that is in focus, then the sentence would be Beneficiary Focused.

However, if the word **car** in this sentence were the focus, then the sentence would be Object Focused in Tagalog:

2. Fred gave the **car** to Bob. **OBJECT FOCUSED**

As mentioned above, if the benefactor (or indirect object) is the focus then the affix **IPAG** or **-AN** is placed in the verb. If the benefactor is **not** in focus, however, then the benefactor would be marked by **PARA SA** in front.

IPAG- Verbs

IPAG- is the prototypical beneficiary focus verbal affix. Most of the time, this affix is shortened to **I-**, especially when the verb root to which it is attached does not have an **I-** object focus form.

Root	Benefic. F. Verb	Beneficiary F. Sentence	Converted Actor Focus Sentence
luto	ipagluto <i>to cook something for someone</i>	Ipagluto mo ang nanay ng lumpiya. <i>Cook the egg roll for Mother.</i>	Magluto ka ng lumpiya para sa nanay. <i>Cook the egg roll for Mother.</i>
handa	ipaghanda <i>to prepare something for someone</i>	Ipaghanda mo si Lina ng damit. <i>Prepare clothes for Lina.</i>	Maghanda ka ng damit para kay Lina. <i>Prepare clothes for Lina.</i>
laba	ipaglaba <i>to do laundry for someone</i>	Ipaglaba mo ako. <i>Do the laundry for me.</i>	Maglaba ka para sa akin. <i>Do the laundry for me.</i>
hugas	ipaghugas <i>to do the dishes for someone</i>	Ipaghugas mo siya ng mga plato. <i>Do the dishes for her.</i>	Maghugas ka ng mga plato para sa kanya. <i>Do the dishes for here.</i>

-AN Verbs

There are some roots that take the affix **-AN** to form beneficiary focus verbs. Following a word that ends in a vowel, it has the form **-HAN**. These should not be confused with the location/direction focus forms.

Here are some examples of Beneficiary Focus **-AN** verbs and sentences:

Root	Verb	Beneficiary F. Sentence	Converted Actor Focus Sentence
bili	bilhan <i>to buy something for someone</i>	Bilhan mo ang bata ng kendi. <i>Buy the kid a candybar.</i>	Bumili ka ng kendi para sa bata. <i>Buy a candybar for the kid.</i>
kanta	kantahan <i>to sing for someone</i>	Kantahan mo si Noel ng kundiman. <i>Sing Noel a love song.</i>	Kumanta ka ng kundiman para kay Noel. <i>Sing a love song for Noel.</i>
luto	lutuan <i>to cook for someone</i>	Lutuan mo siya ng adobo. <i>Cook adobo for him.</i>	Magluto ka ng adobo para sa kanya. <i>Cook adobo for him.</i>
timpla	timplahan <i>to prepare a drink for someone</i>	Timplahan mo ako ng kape. <i>Prepare coffee for me.</i>	Magtimpla ka ng kape para sa akin. <i>Prepare coffee for me.</i>

Instrumental-Focus (IF) Verbs.

Attaching the affix **IPANG-** to a root word always means that **the focus of the verb is the instrument of the action**. **IPANG-** indicates that the focus of the sentence is a tool that is used to accomplish the action of the verb. Here is an example:

I opened the can with the **can opener**.

In this sentence the can opener was the instrument that was used to open the can.

This affix may also be shortened to **I-**. A beginning learner would be advised to use **IPANG-** so as not to confuse it with other **I-**verbs that express different focuses. **IPANG-** is a prefix and is always placed in the front of the word. Here are some examples:

Root	Instrumental F. Verb	Instrumental Focus Sentence	Converted Actor Focus Sentence
hampas	ipanghampas <i>to use something to hit something</i>	Ipanghampas mo ng langaw ang papel. <i>Use the paper to hit the fly.</i>	Humampas ka ng langaw sa pamamagitan ng papel. <i>Hit the fly with the paper.</i>
linis	ipanlinis* <i>to use something to clean something</i>	Ipanlinis mo ng sahig ang basahan. <i>Use the rag to clean the floor.</i>	Maglinis ka ng sahig sa pamamagitan ng basahan. <i>Clean the floor with the rag.</i>

talop

ipantalop*
to use something to peel
something

Ipantalop mo ng kamote ang kutsilyo.
Use the knife to peel sweet potatoes.

**Magtalop ka
ng kamote sa
pamamagitan
ng kutsilyo.**
Peel the sweet
potatoes with the
knife.

*These form have undergone other morphological changes that are not discussed here.

Note that when the instrument is the focus, it is marked by *ang*, etc. (as is the case with all words in focus). However, if the instrument is not in focus, it is marked by **SA PAMAMAGITAN**, as can be seen in the converted actor focus sentences.

Putting the pieces together

Part A

Let's take a look at some more examples of verbal focus.

P umatay	ng elepante	ang dentista.
Killed (Actor focused)	the elephant	the dentist.

translation: *The dentist killed the elephant.*

This is an actor focused sentence. The **ang** tells you that dentista is the focus, and the **-um-** in **pumatay** tells you that the focus is the actor in the sentence.

Notice that if I switch the markers in this sentence, I change the meaning

P umatay	ang elepante	ng dentista.
Killed (Actor focused)	the elephant	the dentist.

translation: *The elephant killed the dentist.*

Now the elephant is in focus and the affix **-um-** tells you that the elephant is doing the action.

Let's say that you want to keep the focus on the elephant, but you don't want the meaning of your original sentence to change (the dentist killed the elephant). What you need to do is to keep elephant as the focus but make the verb an object focus verb. That way the elephant will still be in focus, but it will still be the one getting killed (and not the one doing the killing).

P inatay	ng dentista	ang elepante.
Killed (Object focused)	the dentist	the elephant.

translation: *The dentist killed the elephant.*

The elephant is the focus, and the **in** in **pinatay** is an object focus affix that tells you that the focus is the one receiving the action of the verb.

Now let's take another look at the first sentence we looked at and the most recent sentence above:

Pumatay ng elepante **ang** dentista. *The dentist killed the elephant.*

Pinatay ng dentista **ang** elepante. *The dentist killed the elephant.*

Notice that the translations of these sentences in English are both the same. If the meaning that I want to convey is that the dentist killed the elephant why would I need two different ways to say the same thing? Why would I ever want to change the focus of my sentence? What difference does it make?

This is good chance to learn more about focus in Tagalog. As has been mentioned, the word that is in focus in Tagalog is the most prominent word in the sentence. You can think of it as being in the spotlight. That this use of focus is very important in Tagalog can be seen from the following:

If I were asked the question:

Who killed the elephant? *Sino ang pumatay ng elepante?*

I would need to answer with the first sentence:

Pumatay ng elepante ang dentista. (Or, using the same format: Ang dentista ang pumatay ng elepante).

You see that because you want to know who did the killing, you must therefore have the word doing the killing in focus.

If I were asked the question:

What did the dentist kill? *Ano ang pinatay ng dentista?*

I would need to answer with the second sentence:

Pinatay ng dentista ang elepante.

Here you are talking about what it was that was killed, therefore the elephant should be in focus.

Q. Sino ang pumatay ng elepante? (<i>Who killed the elephant?</i>)	Q. Ano ang pinatay ng dentista? (<i>What did the dentist kill?</i>)
A. Ang dentista ang pumatay ng elepante. (<i>The dentist killed the elephant.</i>)	A. Pinatay ng dentista ang elepante. (<i>The dentist killed the elephant.</i>)

To answer the question *Sino ang pumatay ng elepante?* with the answer *Pinatay ng dentista ang elepante* is awkward and perhaps even grammatically incorrect. It sounds like you misunderstood the question.

The same is true for answering the question *Ano ang pinatay ng dentista?* with the answer *Ang dentista ang pumatay ng elepante.*

Part B

Let's take a look at a sentence that will be used as an example to show changes in focus. Please note that for the purposes of illustration we have crafted some artificial sentences. Do not expect to hear this kind of sentence outside of laboratory conditions. In addition to the fact that the event in this sentence would be (at least) fairly unlikely to occur in real life, Tagalog verbs tend to shift their meaning a little when they take on a different focus affix. These sentences are merely meant to help demonstrate the way Tagalog focus works.

Actor Focus

This first sentence is an Actor Focus sentence. The bold section in the English translation represents that part of the sentence that the English speaker would emphasize by way of vocal stress. Although it might be structured differently in real life, the format used in this sentence would be a good answer to the question *Who hit the cow for the governor?*

Nag banat	ng baka	ang polis	sa pamamagitan ng guantes	para sa gobernador.
Hit (Actor Focused)	the cow	the policeman	with a glove	for the governor.

translation: *The policeman hit the cow with a glove for the governor.*

Object Focus

Now let's change the focus to Object Focus. You would see a sentence in this focus for a question that asked *What did the police hit?*

Bin anat	ng polis	ang baka	sa pamamagitan ng guantes	para sa gobernador.
Hit (Object Focused)	the policeman	the cow	with a glove	for the governor.

translation: *The policeman hit the cow with a glove for the governor.*

Location/Direction Focus

Now let's change this to Location Focus. This sentence would be a good answer to the question: *Where did the policeman direct his hit?*

Binanat an	ng polis	ang baka	sa pamamagitan ng guantes	para sa gobernador.
Hit (Location Focused)	the policeman	the cow	with a glove	for the governor.

translation: *The policeman hit (on) the cow with a glove for the governor.*

Beneficiary Focus

Now let's change this sentence to Beneficiary Focus. This sentence would be a good answer to the question: *For whom did the policeman hit the cow?* (Or, more commonly nowadays *Who did the policeman hit the cow for?*)

Ipinag banat	ng polis	ng baka	sa pamamagitan ng guantes	ang gobernador.
Hit (Beneficiary Focused)	the policeman	the cow	with a glove	for the governor.

translation: *The policeman hit the cow with a glove for the governor.*

Notice in this sentence that you must tell from context (although admittedly with my sentences it might be hard) that the policeman was the one who hit the cow.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that the policeman hit the governor in this sentence. It sounds that way to the English speaker. But remember that the affix **Ipag-** comes packaged with the idea that the action of the verb is being done for the focus of the sentence.

Instrumental Focus

Now let's change this sentence to Instrumental Focus. This sentence would be a good answer to the question: *What did the policeman hit the cow with?*

Ipinang banat	ng polis	ng baka	ang guantes	para sa gobernador.
Hit (Instrumental Focused)	the policeman	the cow	the glove	for the governor.

translation: *The policeman hit the cow with a glove for the governor.*

Again, please don't make the mistake of translating this sentence as *The policeman of the cow hit the glove for the governor*, or some other horrific thing like that. We know that *ang guantes* comes packaged with the idea of it being used as a tool because of the affix **Ipang-**.

Verbal Aspect

Completed
Incompleted
Contemplated

Introduction

Walang Hanggan

ni Benigno R. Ramos

Nakikipagkamay ang lupa sa langit
sa pamamagitan ng mga bunduking
pagkatarik-tarik;
Hininga ng lupa'y ating **namamasid**
sa nagkakapalang ulap na sa hangin ay
napapabitbit;
Dagat na payapa'y laging may pahatid
sa kaitaasan ng singaw na siyang
nagbabalik;
Ang iyong dalangi'y aking **naririnig**
na dala ng alon, kahit magkalayo kita sa
daigdig.....



Tagalog verbs are concerned with *aspect* rather than *tense*. Tense deals with time. Aspect on the other hand, is a different way of looking at things. Aspect is not concerned with when an event happened (like past, present, or future). Instead, aspect is concerned with whether or not an action has been completed.

To picture the difference, imagine that you are working for a company and that you have been given a specific job to do. Then imagine that there are two different people in the company who want to ask you a question about the job. The first person to ask you a question is the record keeper. He wants to know exactly when you worked on the task you were given. He will ask you if you worked on Friday, or Wednesday, etc. He isn't concerned with anything else. You can imagine that on his T-shirt are big letters that say TENSE.

On the other hand, the other person who asks you a question is your immediate boss. He has a different way of looking at things. He wants to know if you finished the job or not. He doesn't care what day or when you did it. You can imagine that on his T-shirt are big letters that say ASPECT.

Like your boss, Tagalog is concerned with aspect, not tense.

Tagalog verbs have three different aspects:

1. **Completed (or perfective)**, (for translation purposes this is similar to English past tense [e.g. *ran*]).
2. **Incompleted (or imperfective)**, which is similar to English present tense (e.g. *running*).
3. **Contemplated**, which is similar to English future tense (e.g. *will run*).

The **completed aspect** refers to an action that has started and has finished; the **incompleted aspect** refers to an action that has started but has not yet been finished; and the **contemplated aspect** refers to an action that has not started yet.

This page will present the aspectual inflections of the basic verbal focuses.

The stanza of a poem on this page uses some verbs. Listen and take note of their different aspectual forms.

Actor Focus Verbs

This page presents examples of the three most common actor-focus verbs in their infinitive and different aspect forms. Using an **infinitive** form is like shifting your car into neutral. The infinitive form of a verb is put into a timeless (and aspectless) state. It is used to talk about an action in general instead of a specific event. It is used in sentences such as "I like **to dance**." The verb 'to dance' is an infinitive.

A brief explanation on how to form the different aspects is provided for each of the tables below.

The first verbs we will look at are the actor focus **-UM-** verbs that we discussed earlier. Remember how **-UM-** acts as a code or marker that indicates that the doer of the action is the focus of the sentence? The way **-UM-** is placed in the verb (or not placed) indicates if the action is completed, incompleted, or contemplated.

-UM- Verbs				
Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
takbo	tumakbo <i>to run</i>	tumakbo	tumatakbo	tatakbo
lakad	lumakad <i>to walk</i>	lumakad	lumalakad	lalakad
bili	bumili <i>to buy</i>	bumili	bumibili	bibili
alis	umalis <i>to leave</i>	umalis	umaalis	aalis
asa	umasa <i>to hope</i>	umasa	umaasa	aasa

Word formation rules:

Infinitive: Put *-um-* directly before the first vowel of the root word.

takbo + -um- = tumakbo

Completed: Put *-um-* before the first vowel of the root word.
takbo + -um- = tumakbo

Incompleted: (1) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word.*

For example:

The root word is **takbo**

Now the first consonant and vowel of takbo is **ta**. Repeat this first consonant and vowel and place them in front of the root

takbo + ta = tatakbo

(2) Put *-um-* before the first vowel of the stem word.
tatakbo + -um- = tumatakbo

Contemplated: Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word.
takbo + repetition of first (C)V = tatakbo

*Note: when repeating the first consonant and vowel of a verb, if the verb starts with a vowel, simply repeat or duplicate the beginning vowel, and place it on to the front of the root.

alis + a = aalis



MAG- Verbs				
Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
aral	mag-aral <i>to study</i>	nag-aral	nag-aaral	mag-aaral
luto	magluto <i>to cook</i>	nagluto	nagluluto	magluluto
trabaho	magtrabaho <i>to work</i>	nagtrabaho	nagtatrabaho	magtatrabaho
bakasyon	magbakasyon <i>to be on vacation</i>	nagbakasyon	nagbabakasyon	magbabakasyon
laro	maglaro <i>to play</i>	naglaro	naglalaro	maglalaro

Word formation rules:

Infinitive: Put *mag-* in front of the root. Before a vowel, use a hyphen. **aral > mag-aral**

Completed: Take the infinitive, and change *m* (of the affix *mag-*) to *n*. **mag > nag**

Incompleted: (1) Take the infinitive, and change *m* (of the affix *mag-*) to *n*.
 (2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word. **naglaro > naglalaro**

Contemplated: Take the infinitive, and repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word.
maglaro > maglalaro

examples of the most common object-focus verbs in their infinitive and different aspect forms. A brief explanation of how to form the different aspects is also provided for each of the tables.

-IN Verbs				
Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
kain	kainin <i>to eat</i>	kinain	kinakain	kakainin
putol	putulin <i>to cut/break</i>	pinutol	pinuputol	puputulin
basa*	basahin <i>to read something</i>	binasa	binabasa	babasahin
bili*	bilhin <i>to buy something</i>	binili	binibili	bibilhin
luto*	lutuín <i>to cook something</i>	niluto	niluluto	lulutuín

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Attach the affix *-in* to the end of the root word. When adding the affix *-in* to the root, if the root ends in an **o**, the **o** is changed to a **u**. **luto > lutuín**

* Following a vowel *a* or *i*, the affix becomes *-hin*. The final *-i* of the root is usually dropped. **bili > bilhin**

Completed: Insert *-in-* before the first vowel of the root word. **putol > pinutol**

*For root words that begin with *l* or *r*, put *ni-* in front of the root. **luto > niluto**

Incompleted: (1) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root. **putol > puputol**

(2) Insert the *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem. **puputol > pinuputol**

*For stem words that begin with *l* or *r*, put *ni-* in front of the stem.

Contemplated: (1) Take the infinitive. **kainin**

(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **kakainin**

I- Verbs

Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
bigay	ibigay <i>to give</i>	ibinigay	ibinibigay	ibibigay
tapon	itapon <i>to throw away</i>	itinapon	itinatapon	itatapon
sulat	isulat <i>to write something down</i>	isinulat	isinusulat	isusulat
abot	iabot <i>to hand something</i>	iniabot*	iniaabot*	iaabot
labas	ilabas <i>to put/take something outside</i>	inilabas*	inilalabas*	ilalabas

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Put the affix *I-* before the root. **tapon > itapon**

Completed: (1) Take the infinitive. **itapon**

(2) Insert the affix *-in-* after the first consonant of the root. **it**in**apon**

* For root words that start with a vowel, *l* or *r*, change the affix *-in-* to *-ni-*.

Incompleted: (1) Take the infinitive. **itapon**

(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root. **itapon > it**at**apon**

(3) Insert the affix *-in-* after the first consonant of the stem. **it**at**apon > it**in**atapon**

*For stem words that start with a vowel, *l* or *r*, change the affix *-in-* to *-ni-*.

Contemplated: (1) Take the infinitive. **itapon**

(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root. **it**at**apon**

-AN Verbs				
Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
bukas	buksan <i>to open</i>	binuksan	binubuksan	bubuksan
sara	sarhan <i>to close</i>	sinarhan	sinasarhan	sasarhan
takip	takpan <i>to cover</i>	tinakpan	tinatakpan	tatakpan
laba	labhan <i>to wash clothes</i>	linabhan/ nilabhan	linalabhan/ nilalabhan	lalabhan

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Attach the affix *-an* to the root word. **sara > sarhan**

When attached to a root that ends in a vowel, the affix becomes *-han*.
The final vowel of the root is usually dropped.

Completed: (1) Take the infinitive. **sarhan**
(2) Insert *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **sinarhan**

Incompleted: (1) Take the infinitive. **sarhan**
(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **sasarhan**
(3) Insert the affix *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **sinasarhan**

Contemplated: (1) Take the infinitive. **sarhan**
(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **sasarhan**

MA- Verbs				
Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
kita	makita <i>to see</i>	nakita	nakikita	makikita
pansin	mapansin <i>to notice</i>	napansin	napapansin	mapapansin
dinig	marinig <i>to hear</i>	narinig	naririnig	maririnig
alam	malaman <i>to learn</i>	nalaman	nalalaman	malalaman

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Put the affix *ma-* before the root/stem. **kita > makita**

Completed: Take the infinitive, and change the *m* of the affix *ma-* to *n*. **makita > nakita**

Incompleted: (1) Take the infinitive, and change the *m* of the affix *ma-* to *n*. **makita > nakita**
(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word. **nakikita**

Contemplated: (1) Take the infinitive. **makita**
(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word. **makikita**

Location/Direction-Focus Verbs

This page presents examples of the most common location/direction-focus verbs in their infinitive and different aspect forms.

-AN/-HAN Verbs

Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
punta	puntahan <i>to go to a place/visit somebody</i>	pinuntahan	pinupuntahan	pupuntahan
bigay	bigyan <i>to give something to someone</i>	binigyan	binibigyan	bibigyan
dala	dalhan <i>to bring something to someone</i>	dinalhan	dinadalhan	dadalhan
lagay	lagyan <i>to put something someplace</i>	linagyan/ nilagyan	linalagyan/ nilalagyan	lalagyan

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Attach the suffix *-an* to the root word.

Following a root that ends in a vowel, the affix becomes *-han*. **punta > puntahan**
The final vowel of the root is usually dropped.

Completed: (1) Take the infinitive. **puntahan**

(2) Insert the affix *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **pinuntahan**

Incompleted: (1) Take the infinitive. **puntahan**

(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **pupuntahan**

(3) Insert the affix *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **pinupuntahan**

Contemplated: (1) Take the infinitive. **puntahan**

(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **pupuntahan**

Beneficiary-Focus Verbs

This page presents examples of the most common beneficiary-focus verbs in their infinitive and different aspect forms.

IPAG- Verbs

Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
luto	ipagluto <i>to cook for someone</i>	ipinagluto	ipinagluluto	ipagluluto
timpla	ipagtimpla <i>to make a drink for someone</i>	ipinagtimpla	ipinagtitimpla	ipagtitimpla

handa	ipaghanda <i>to prepare something for someone</i>	ipinaghanda	ipinaghahanda	ipaghahanda
hugas	ipaghugas <i>to wash (e.g., dishes) for someone</i>	ipinaghugas	ipinaghuhugas	ipaghuhugas

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Attach the prefix *ipag-* to the root word. **luto** > **ipagluto**

Completed: (1) Take the infinitive. **ipagluto**

(2) Insert the affix *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **ipinagluto**

Incompleted: (1) Take the infinitive. **ipagluto**

(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root. **ipagluluto**

(3) Insert the affix *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **ipagluluto** > **ipinagluluto**

Contemplated: (1) Take the infinitive. **ipagluto**

(2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **ipagluluto**

-AN Verbs

Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
bili	bilhan <i>to buy something for someone</i>	binilhan	binibilhan	bibilhan
kanta	kantahan <i>to sing for someone</i>	kinantahan	kinakantahan	kakantahan
luto	lutuan <i>to cook something for someone</i>	linutuan/ nilutuan	linulutuan/ nilulutuan	lulutuan
timpla	timplahan <i>to prepare a drink for someone</i>	tinimplahan	tinitimplahan	titimplahan

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Attach the suffix *-an* to the root word. **luto** > **lutuan**

Following the vowel *a* or *i*, the affix becomes *-han*. **kanta** > **kantahan**

Some root words drop the final vowel.

Completed: (1) Take the infinitive. **kantahan**

(2) Insert the affix *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **kinantahan**

Incompleted: (1) Take the infinitive. **kantahan**
 (2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **kakantahan**
 (3) Insert the affix *-in-* before the first vowel of the stem word. **kinakantahan**

Contemplated: (1) Take the infinitive. **kantahan**
 (2) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the stem word. **kakantahan**

Instrumental-Focus Verbs

This page presents examples of the most common instrumental-focus verbs in their infinitive and different aspect forms.

IPANG- Verbs

Root	Infinitive	Completed	Incompleted	Contemplated
hampas	ipanghampas <i>to use for hitting</i>	ipinanghampas	ipinanghahampas	ipanghahampas
linis	ipanlinis <i>to use for cleaning</i>	ipinanlinis	ipinanlilinis	ipanlilinis
talop	ipantalop <i>to use for peeling</i>	ipinantalop	ipinantatalop	ipantatalop

Word Formation Rules:

Infinitive: Attach the prefix *ipang-* to the root word. **hampas > ipanghampas**
 *Some words undergo form changes that are not discussed here.

Completed: (1) Take the infinitive. **ipanghampas**
 (2) Insert the affix *-in-* after the first consonant. **ipinanghampas**

Incompleted: (1) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word. **hampas > hahampas**
 (2) Attach the prefix *ipang-* to the stem word. **hahampas > ipanghahampas**
 (3) Insert the affix *-in-* after the first consonant of the stem. **ipinanghahampas**

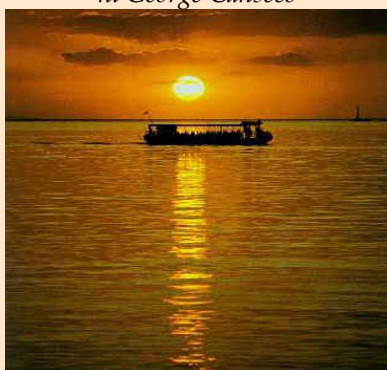
Contemplated: (1) Repeat the first (consonant) and vowel of the root word. **hampas > hahampas**
 (2) Attach the prefix *ipang-* to the stem word. **hahampas > ipanghahampas**

Time Indicators

Introduction

Ngayon at Kailanman

ni George Canseco



Ngayon at **kailanman**, sumpa ko'y iibigin ka
Ngayon at **kailanman**, hindi ka na mag-iisa
Ngayon at **kailanman**, sa hirap o ginhawa pa,
asahang may kasama ka, hirang.
Naroroon ako sinta.
Maaasahan mo tuwina.
Ngayon at **kailanman**.

Dahil kaya sa iyo
nang maitadhanang ako'y isilang sa mundo,
upang sa araw-araw ay siyang makapiling mo,
upang **ngayon** at **kailanman**
ikaw ay mapaglingkuran, hirang.
Bakit labis kitang mahal,
pangalawa sa Maykapal,
higit sa aking buhay?

Sa **bawat araw** ang pag-ibig ko sa iyo liyag
lalong tumatamis, tumitingkad.
Bawat **kahapon** ay daig nitong bawat **ngayon**
na daig ng bawat **bukas**
Ngayon at **kailanman**....

Tagalog verbs are marked for aspect (which focuses on if an event is finished, not yet finished, or yet to be started) rather than tense (which focuses on an event as occurring in the past, present, or future). Therefore, in order to indicate tense in Tagalog, extra words that express information about when an event takes place need to be added to the sentence. These words are called **time indicators**.

The Tagalog Timeline

Here is a timeline of Tagalog and some of the time indicators associated with the different sections or points in time.

NAKARAAN (past)	KASALUKUYAN (present)	HINAHARAP (future)
noon (then / in the past)	ngayon (in the present time)	sa darating na panahon (in the future)
kahapon (yesterday)	ngayon (today)	bukas (tomorrow)
kanina (earlier today)	ngayon (now / at the moment)	mamaya (later today)

Notice that *ngayon* has 3 different meanings that encode three different points in time:

- (1) **Ngayon** indicating the present time, distinguished from the past or the future time;
- (2) **Ngayon** indicating today, distinguished from yesterday and tomorrow; and
- (3) **Ngayon** indicating the point in time at the moment of speaking (now), distinguished from earlier or later in the day.

Further discussion of these indicators are in the specific sections of past, present, and future.

Past Tense Indicators

The past time indicators are associated with the completed aspect of the verbs and, therefore, are closely tied with past tense. This section presents some of the most common expressions that indicate particular points in the past. These time indicators are grouped according to how recent or remote they are in the past based on the Tagalog timeline.

Past within <i>NGAYON</i> (today)	
kanina (earlier)	Nakita ko si Ana kanina. <i>I saw Ana earlier.</i>
kaninang umaga (earlier today in the morning)	Pumasok ako sa klase kaninang umaga. <i>I went to class earlier today in the morning.</i>
kaninang tanghali (earlier today at noon)	Kumain ako sa kapeterya kaninang tanghali. <i>I ate in the cafeteria earlier today at noon.</i>
kaninang hapon (earlier today in the afternoon)	Nag-aral ako sa laybrari kaninang hapon. <i>I studied in the library earlier today in the afternoon.</i>
kanina lang (just a few moments ago)	Nandito si Noel kanina lang. <i>Noel was here a few minutes ago.</i>

Past within <i>KAHAPON</i> (yesterday)	
kahapon (yesterday)	Bumili siya ng libro kahapon. <i>I bought a book yesterday.</i>
kahapon ng umaga (yesterday morning)	Dumating siya mula sa Bikol kahapon ng umaga. <i>She arrived from Bikol yesterday morning.</i>
kahapon ng tanghali (yesterday at noon)	Nagkita kami kahapon ng tanghali. <i>We met yesterday at noon.</i>

kahapon ng hapon (yesterday afternoon)	Umalis siya papuntang L.A. kahapon ng hapon. <i>He left for L.A. yesterday afternoon.</i>
kagabi~kahapon ng gabi (last night)	Tumawag siya kagabi. <i>He called last night.</i>

Past within **KAMAKALAWA (day before yesterday)**

kamakalawa~noong isang araw (the day before yesterday)	Pumunta kami sa Laguna kamakalawa. <i>We went to Laguna the other day.</i>
kamakalawa ng umaga (in the morning of the other day)	Umalis siya kamakalawa ng umaga. <i>He left in the morning of the other day.</i>
kamakalawa ng tanghali (at noon of the other day)	Nag-usap kami kamakalawa ng tanghali. <i>We talked at noon of the other day.</i>
kamakalawa ng hapon (in the afternoon of the other day)	Nagsine kami kamakalawa ng hapon. <i>We watched a movie in the afternoon of the other day.</i>
kamakalawa ng gabi (in the evening/at night the other day)	Nagdisko kami kamakalawa ng gabi. <i>We went to a disco/club the night before last.</i>

Relatively Remote Past - **NOON (then)**

noon (then)	Nakatira kami sa Banawe noon. <i>We lived in Banawe then.</i>
noong + day (last + day of the week)	Pumunta kami sa Cebu noong Sabado. <i>We went to Cebu last Saturday.</i>
noong isang linggo (last week)	Nagbakasyon kami sa Boracay noong isang linggo. <i>We spent our break in Boracay last week.</i>
noong + month (in + month of the year)	Bumisita ako sa lola ko noong Mayo. <i>I visited with my grandmother in May.</i>
noong isang buwan (last month)	Dumalaw si Ana noong isang buwan. <i>Ana came for a visit last month.</i>
noong + year (in + specific year)	Nag-aral ako sa UP noong 1986. <i>I studied in UP in 1986.</i>
noong isang taon (last year)	Nagbiyahe ako sa Mindanao noong isang taon. <i>I traveled in Mindanao last year.</i>
noong + season (last/in/at + specific time of year)	Nakita ko ang mga kapatid ko noong pasko. <i>I saw my brothers and sisters last Christmas.</i> Pumunta ako sa Iloilo noong tag-araw. <i>I went to Iloilo in the summer.</i>
noong unang panahon (once upon a time/long ago)	Noong unang panahon, may nakatirang diwata sa bundok ng Makiling. <i>Once upon a time, there lived a fairy on Mount Makiling.</i>

Present Tense Indicators

Present tense indicators are associated with incomplete and/or progressive events/actions. These indicators are grouped according to the contexts they are closely tied to: simple (present) imperfect and habitual action.

Ngayon is the most common indicator of present tense expressing simple (present) imperfect. It encodes three different sections/points in time:

- (1) **Ngayon** indicating the present time, distinguished from the past or the future time;
- (2) **Ngayon** indicating today, distinguished from yesterday and tomorrow; and
- (3) **Ngayon** indicating the point in time at the moment of speaking (now), distinguished from earlier or later in the day.

ngayon <i>(in the present time)</i>	Mahirap ang buhay ngayon. <i>(Life is hard these days.)</i> Si Joseph Estrada ang presidente ng Pilipinas ngayon. <i>(The current president of the Philippines is Joseph Estrada.)</i> Mataas ang presyo ng gasolina ngayon. <i>(Fuel prices are up these days.)</i>
ngayon <i>(today)</i>	Martes ngayon. <i>(Today is Tuesday.)</i> Darating siya ngayon. <i>(He's coming today.)</i> Araw ng mga patay ngayon. <i>(It's All Souls' Day today.)</i>
ngayon <i>(now / at the moment)</i>	May kumakatok sa pinto ngayon. <i>(There's someone knocking at the door now.)</i> Nag-aaral ako ngayon. <i>(I am studying at the moment.)</i> Nag-aaral tayo ng Tagalog ngayon. <i>(We are studying Tagalog at this moment.)</i>

Habitual actions or events are associated with the following time indicators:

TUWING (every) + specific time	
tuwing Pasko <i>(every Christmas)</i>	Nagdiriwang kami tuwing pasko. <i>(We celebrate every Christmas.)</i>
tuwing Mayo <i>(every month of May)</i>	Pumupunta ako sa Laguna tuwing Mayo. <i>(I go to Laguna each May.)</i>
tuwing Lunes <i>(every Monday)</i>	May klase ako sa Tagalog tuwing Lunes. <i>(I have a Tagalog class every Monday.)</i>
tuwing umaga <i>(every morning)</i>	Tumatakbo ako tuwing umaga. <i>(I run every morning.)</i>
tuwing alas tres ng hapon <i>(every afternoon at three)</i>	May trabaho ako tuwing alas tres ng hapon araw-araw. <i>(I go to work at three in the afternoon everyday.)</i>
tuwing umuulan <i>(everytime it rains)</i>	Masaya ako tuwing umuulan at kapiling ka. <i>(I'm happy everytime it rains, and I'm with you.)</i>

Repetition of time expression

taun-taon (every year)	Pumupunta siya sa Amerika taun-taon. (He goes to the US every year.)
buwan-buwan (every month)	Binibigyan siya ng pera ng tatay niya buwan-buwan. (His father gives him money every month.)
linggo-linggo (every week)	Umuuwi siya sa probinsiya linggo-linggo. (He goes home to the province every week.)
araw-araw (everyday)	Pumapasok siya sa unibersidad araw-araw. (He goes to the university everyday.)
gabi-gabi (every night)	Nag-aaral siya sa laybrari gabi-gabi. (He studies at the library every night.)
oras-oras (every hour)	Umaalis ang bus oras-oras. (The bus leaves every hour.)
minu-minuto (every minute)	May pumupunta sa Seasite minu-minuto. (There are SEAsite visitors every minute.)

BAWAT (each) + general time expression

bawat panahon (each era / generation)	May kanya-kanyang bayani ang bawat panahon. (Every generation has its heroes.)
bawat buwan (each month)	Pumupunta siya sa Maynila bawat buwan. (He goes to Manila each month.)
bawat araw (each day)	Nag-aaral siya sa Seasite bawat araw. (He studies at SEAsite each day.)
bawat oras (each hour)	Ikaw ang iniisip ko bawat oras ng buhay ko. (It's you I think of each hour of my life.)
bawat sandali (each moment)	Alay ko sa iyo ang bawat sandali ng buhay ko. (I offer you each moment of my life.)

Future Tense Indicator

The future time indicators are associated with the contemplated aspect of the verbs and, therefore, are closely tied with future tense. This section presents some of the most common expressions indicating particular points/sections in the future. These time indicators are grouped according to how near or far they are in the future based on the Tagalog timeline.

<i>Future within NGAYON (today)</i>	
mamaya (later)	Mag-aaral ako mamaya. I'm going to study later.
mamayang tanghali (later today iat noon)	Kakain ako sa kapeterya mamayang tanghali. I'm going to eat at the cafeteria at noon today.
mamayang hapon (later today in the afternoon)	Magsisine ako mamayang hapon. I'm going to the movies this afternoon.
mamayang gabi (tonight)	Magbabasa ako mamayang gabi. I'm going to read tonight.
mamaya-maya (in a little while)	Darating na siya mamaya-maya He'll be here in a little while.

Future within BUKAS (tomorrow)

bukas (tomorrow)	Aalis ako bukas. <i>I'm leaving tomorrow.</i>
bukas ng umaga (tomorrow morning)	Darating siya bukas ng umaga. <i>She's arriving tomorrow morning.</i>
bukas ng tanghali (tomorrow at noon)	Magkikita kami bukas ng tanghali. <i>We're meeting at noon tomorrow.</i>
bukas ng hapon (tomorrow afternoon)	Tatawag siya bukas ng hapon. <i>He's going to call tomorrow afternoon.</i>
bukas ng gabi (tomorrow night)	Kakanta siya bukas ng gabi. <i>She is going to sing tomorrow night.</i>

Future within SA MAKALAWA (day after tomorrow)

sa makalawa~sa susunod na araw (the day after tomorrow)	Pupunta kami sa Laguna sa makalawa. <i>We are going to Laguna the day after tomorrow.</i>
sa makalawa ng umaga (in the morning of the day after tomorrow)	Aalis siya sa makalawa ng umaga. <i>He's leaving in the morning of the day after tomorrow.</i>
sa makalawa ng tanghali (at noon of the day after tomorrow)	Mag-uusap kami sa makalawa ng tanghali. <i>We're going to talk at noon of the day after tomorrow.</i>
sa makalawa ng hapon (in the afternoon of the other day)	Magsisine kami sa makalawa ng hapon. <i>We're watching a movie in the afternoon of the day after tomorrow..</i>
sa makalawa ng gabi (in the evening/at night the day after tomorrow)	Magdidisko kami sa makalawa ng gabi. <i>We're going to a disco/club the night after tomorrow.</i>

More Distant Future - SA DARATING NA PANAHELON (in the future)

sa hinaharap~ sa darating na panahon (in the future)	Titira kami sa Banawe sa darating na panahon. <i>We are going to live in Banawe in the future.</i>
sa + day (on + day of the week)	Pupunta kami sa Cebu sa Sabado. <i>We are going to Cebu on Saturday.</i>
sa susunod na linggo (next week)	Magbabakasyon kami sa Boracay sa isang linggo. <i>We are spending our break in Boracay next week.</i>

sa + month (in + month of the year)	Bibisita ako sa lola ko sa Mayo. <i>I will visit with my grandmother in May.</i>
sa susunod na buwan (next month)	Dadalaw si Ana sa isang buwan. <i>Ana will be here for a visit next month.</i>
sa + year (in + specific year)	Mag-aaral ako sa unibersidad sa 2005. <i>I'm going to study at the university in 2005.</i>
sa susunod na taon (next year)	Magbibiyaha ako sa Mindanao sa isang taon. <i>I will travel to Mindanao next year.</i>
sa + season (in + specific time of year)	Makikita ko ang mga kapatid ko sa pasko. <i>I'm going to see my brothers and sisters in Christmas.</i> Pupunta ako sa Iloilo sa tag-araw. <i>I'm going to Iloilo in the summer.</i>

Telling Time

There are a number of ways of telling time in Tagalog. Tagalog speakers can choose to use English numbers, Spanish numbers, or native Tagalog numbers when telling time. Numbers borrowed from Spanish are the most widely used forms in expressing time of day. Among young people, English numbers appear to be the preference. Only in very formal situations, where Tagalog is the specified language of choice (e.g., radio/TV shows, conferences, formal invitations), are Tagalog numbers employed in telling time.

This section presents the common ways of telling time using the different number systems mentioned here.

In order to tell whether a time is in the morning (am) or evening (pm) the following phrases may be added. They are placed immediately after the number (*ala una ng hapon*).

ng umaga **ng tanghali** **ng hapon** **ng gabi**
in the morning (am) *at noon* *in the afternoon (pm)* *in the evening/atnight (pm).*

The use of these phrases is necessary when using the Tagalog numbers.

Using Spanish borrowings

Tagalog numbers

SPANISH

In Spanish, they say...

Ano'ng oras na? (What time is it?)

In Tagalog, we say...

<i>es la una</i>	1:00	ala-una
<i>son las dos</i>	2:00	alas-dos
<i>son las tres</i>	3:00	alas-tres
<i>son las quatro</i>	4:00	alas-kuwatro

<i>son las cinco</i>	5:00	alas-singko
<i>son las seis</i>	6:00	alas-sais
<i>son las siete</i>	7:00	alas-siyete
<i>son las ocho</i>	8:00	alas-otso
<i>son las nueve</i>	9:00	alas-nuwebe
<i>son las diez</i>	10:00	alas-diyes
<i>son las onse</i>	11:00	alas-onse
<i>son las dose</i>	12:00	alas-dose

In Spanish, they also say

Ano'ng oras na?
(What time is it?)

In Tagalog, we also say...

<i>son las dose y cinco</i>	12:05	alas dose singko
<i>son las dose y diez</i>	12:10	alas dose diyes
<i>son las dose y quince</i>	12:15	alas dose kinse
<i>son las dose y media</i>	12:30	alas dose y medya
<i>son las dose quarenta y cinco</i>	12:45	alas dose kwarenta y singko
<i>menos diez para a la una</i>	12:50	menos dyes para ala una

TAGALOG

Ano'ng oras na?

What time is it?

Ika- isa	1:00	Limang minuto makalipas ang ika-isa ng...	1:05
Ikalawa	2:00	Sampung minuto makalipas ang ikalawa ng...	2:10
Ikatlo	3:00	Labinlimang minuto makalipas ang ikatlo ng...	3:15
Ika-apat	4:00	Dalawampung minuto makalipas ang ika-apat ng...	4:20
Ika-lima	5:00	Dalawampu't-limang minuto makalipas ang ika-lima ng... Ika-anim at kalahati ng..../	5:25
Ika-anim	6:00	Tatlumpung minuto makalipas ang anim ng..../ Tatlumpung minuto bago mag-ika-pito ng...	6:30
Ika-pito	7:00	Talumpu't-limang minuto makalipas ang ika-pito ng..../ Dalawampu't-limang minuto bago mag-	7:35

Ika-walo	8:00	ika-walo ng... Apatnapung minuto makalipas ang ika-walo ng.../ Dalawampung minuto bago mag-ika-siyam ng...	8:40
Ika-siyam	9:00	Apatnapu't-limang minuto makalipas ang ika-siyam ng.../ Labinlimang minuto bago mag-ika-sampu ng...	9:45
Ika-sampu	10:00	Limampung minuto makalipas ang ika-sampu ng.../ Sampung minuto bago mag-ika-labing-isa ng... Limampu't-limang minuto makalipas ang	10:50
Ika-labing-isa	11:00	ika-labing-isa ng.../ Limang minuto bago mag-ika-labindalawa ng...	11:55
Ika-labindalawa	12:00	Dalawang minuto makalipas ang ika-labindalawa ng...	12:02

[Days of the Week](#)

[Months of the Year](#)

[Seasons and Holidays](#)

This page presents the vocabulary for particular points in time, days, months, seasons, and some holidays that are widely observed in the Philippines. These words are also used in example sentences. Click on any of the topics at the top of the page.

Mga Araw ng Linggo (*Days of the Week*)

Lunes	Monday	May klase ako tuwing Lunes ng hapon. <i>I have a class on Monday afternoons.</i>
Martes	Tuesday	Nagtatrabaho ako tuwing Martes. <i>I work on Tuesdays.</i>
Miyerkoles	Wednesday	Kaarawan ko sa Miyerkoles. <i>My birthday is on Wednesday.</i>
Huwebes	Thursday	May test kami sa Huwebes. <i>We have a test on Thursday.</i>
Biyernes	Friday	Luluwas ako sa Maynila sa Biyernes. <i>I'm going to Manila on Friday.</i>
Sabado	Saturday	Namimili ako tuwing Sabado. <i>I go shopping on Saturdays.</i>
Linggo	Sunday	Maraming taong pumupunta sa Luneta tuwing Linggo. <i>Many people go to Luneta Park on Sundays.</i>

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Mga Buwan ng Taon (*Months of the Year*)

Enero	January	Sa Enero ang kaarawan ko. <i>My birthday is in January.</i>
Pebrero	February	Pebrero ang Araw ng mga Puso. <i>Valentine's Day is in February.</i>
Marso	March	Nagsisimula ang tag-init sa Pilipinas ng Marso. <i>The hot season in the Philippines begins in March.</i>
Abril	April	Mainit sa Pilipinas sa buwan ng Abril. <i>It's hot in the Philippines during the month of April.</i>
Mayo	May	Ang Santacruzang ay ginaganap sa buwan ng Mayo. <i>Santacruzang takes place in the month of May.</i>
Hunyo	June	Pasukan na uli sa Hunyo. <i>It's schooltime once again in June.</i>
Hulyo	July	Hulyo ang kaarawan ng nanay ko. <i>My mother's birthday is in July.</i>
Agosto	August	Ginaganap ang linggo ng wika ng Agosto. <i>National Language Week is observed in August.</i>
Setyembre	September	May pagdiriwang sa bahay niya sa Setyembre. <i>There's a party at her place in September.</i>
Oktubre	October	Maraming dumarating na bagyo sa Pilipinas sa buwan ng Oktubre. <i>Many typhoons hit the Philippines in the month of October.</i>
Nobyembre	November	Inaalala ng mga Pilipino ang mga yumaong mahal sa buhay sa buwan ng Nobyembre. <i>The Filipinos remember their deceased loved ones in the month of November.</i>
Disyembre	December	Uuwi kami sa Pilipinas sa Disyembre. <i>We're going home to the Philippines in December.</i>

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Mga Panahon at Okasyon (Seasons and Holidays)

Tag-araw	Summer	Magbabakasyon kami sa Banawe sa tag-araw. <i>We are going to spend our vacation in Banawe in the summer.</i>
Tag-ulan	Rainy season	Bumabaha sa amin tuwing tag-ulan. <i>Our town gets flooded during the rainy season.</i>
Taglamig	Winter	Walang Taglamig sa Pilipinas. <i>There's no winter in the Philippines.</i>
Tagsibol	Spring	Maganda ang mga bulaklak sa tagsibol. <i>The flowers are beautiful in the spring.</i>
Tag-init	Hot (Summer) season	Marami ang pumupunta sa Boracay tuwing tag-init. <i>Many people go to Boracay in the summer.</i>
Taglagas	Fall	Maganda ang kulay ng mga puno sa panahon ng taglagas. <i>The trees are beautiful in the fall.</i>
Bagong Taon	New Year	Maingay ang bagong taon sa Pilipinas. <i>The New Year celebration is noisy in the Philippines.</i>
Mahal na Araw	Holy Week	Marami ang nagdadasal sa simbahan tuwing Mahal na Araw. <i>Many people pray in church during Holy Week.</i>
Araw ng mga Patay	All Souls' Day	Pumupunta kami sa sementeryo tuwing Araw ng mga Patay. <i>We go to the cemetery during All Souls' Day.</i>

Imperative Forms

Introduction

Naroon

(ng Yano-Dong Abay at Eric Gancio)

Liparin mo sa ulap,
Sisirin mo sa dagat,
Hukayin mo sa lupa,
Baka naroon ang kalayaan.

Tayo ba'y mga tau-tauhan
sa isang dulang pangkalawakan,
Mga anino ng nakaraan,
Alipin ng kinabukasan?

Tayo ba'y sunud-sunuran
sa takda ng ating kapalaran?
Kaya ba nating paglabanan
ang sumpa ng kasaysayan?



from: Heaney, L. and Regalado J. 1998. *Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rain Forest*. Chicago: The Field Museum.

Commands

Commands or straightforward orders/directions are expressed in Tagalog by using the **infinitive form** of the verb followed by the appropriate **second person pronoun** (e.g., *ka, kayo, mo, ninyo*).

Adding either of the enclitic particles **nga** and **naman** "softens" the command. That is, the particle makes the order sound more like a request.

Here are a few examples representative of the different focus forms of the verb. Take note that the pronoun has to agree with the verbal focus. For example, if the verb is actor focused, then the pronoun must be actor focused (*ka, kayo*).

Actor-Focus Verbs (Infinitive + *ka/kayo*...)

Umupo ka. / Umupo ka nga. / Umupo ka naman.

You (singular) sit down.

-UM- Verb

Kumuha ka ng tubig sa kusina. / Kumuha ka nga ng tubig sa kusina. / Kumuha ka naman ng tubig sa kusina.

You (singular) get water from the kitchen.

MAG- Verb	Magbasa kayo. <i>You (plural) read.</i>
	Mag-aral kayo para sa eksamen bukas. <i>You (plural) study for tomorrow's exam.</i>
MA- Verb	Matulog ka na. <i>You (singular) go to sleep now.</i>
	Makinig kayo sa titser. <i>You (plural) listen to the teacher.</i>

*When enclitics (*na, pa, nga, naman*, etc.) and pronouns are in the same sentence, the word order rule, or the rule for which word comes first in the sentence is shortest to longest. The shortest word comes first, then the next shortest follows, and so on until finally the longest word comes last.



Non-Active Verb Focus (*Infinitive + mo/ninyo...*)

		Lutuin mo ang isda. (or: Lutuin mo nga ang isda. / Lutuin mo naman ang isda.) <i>You (singular) cook the fish.</i>
Object-Focus	-IN Verbs	Basahin ninyo ang libro. (or: Basahin nga ninyo ang libro. / Basahin n'yo nga ang libro.) <i>You (plural) read the book.</i>
	I- Verbs	Ilagay mo ang mga bulaklak sa mesa. (or: Ilagay mo nga ang mga bulaklak sa mesa. Ilagay mo naman ang mga bulaklak sa mesa.) <i>You (singular) put the flowers on the table.</i>
Location/ Direction-Focus	-AN Verbs	Itago ninyo ang mga laruan. <i>You (plural) put away the toys.</i>
	-AN Verbs	Puntahan mo si Maria. <i>You (singular) to Maria.</i>
Beneficiary-Focus	IPAG- Verbs	Daanan ninyo ang Laguna. <i>You (plural) pass by Laguna.</i>
	IPAG- Verbs	Ipagtimpla mo ng kape ang bisita. <i>You (singular) prepare coffee for the guest.</i>
	-AN Verbs	Ipagluto ninyo ako ng adobo. <i>You (plural) cook adobo for me.</i>
Instrumental-Focus	-AN Verbs	Bigyan mo ng lapis ang bata. <i>You (singular) give the child a pencil.</i>
	IPANG- Verbs	Dalhan ninyo ng prutas si lola. <i>You (plural) bring some fruits for lola.</i>
		Ipanlinis ninyo ng sahig ang walis. <i>You (plural) use the broom for cleaning the floor.</i>
		Ipanghalo mo ng sabaw ang kutsara. <i>You (singular) use the spoon to stir the soup.</i>

Requests

Requests are expressed in Tagalog by adding the prefix **PAKI-** to the verb root or verb stem followed by the *second person NG (non focused)-pronoun*, *mo* (you-singular) or *ninyo* (you-plural). The prefix **PAKI-** is similar to the word *please* in English. Adding either of the enclitic particles **nga** and **naman** "softens" the request further. Here are some examples representative of the different derivational verb stems:

PAKI- + Verb Root

Derivational Stem	Request Form	Example
Object-Focus -IN Verbs	dalhin > pakidala	Pakidala mo ang maleta ko. Please carry my luggage.
	lutuin > pakiluto	Pakiluto mo naman ang manok. Please cook the chicken.
Object-Focus I- Verbs	ibigay > pakibigay	Pakibigay mo ang mangga sa bata. Please give the mango to the child.
	ilagay > pakilagay	Pakilagay mo nga ang bulaklak sa mesa. Please put the flowers on the table.
Beneficiary-Focus IPAG-/I- Verbs	ipagtimpla > pakitimpla	Pakitimpla mo ng kape ang bisita. Please prepare coffee for the guest.
	ipagluto > pakiluto	Pakiluto mo nga ng pancit ang mga bata. Please cook noodles for the kids.

*When enclitics and pronouns are in the same sentence, the order rule is shortest---->longest.

PAKI- + Verb Stem

Derivational Stem	Request Form	Example
Location/Direction- Focus -AN Verbs	puntahan > pakipuntahan	Pakipuntahan mo si Maria sa kusina. Please see Maria in the kitchen.
	lapitan > pakilapitan	Pakilapitan mo ang ang bata. Please move closer to the child.
Beneficiary-Focus -AN Verbs	bigyan > pakibigyan	Pakibigyan mo ng tip ang weyter. Please leave a tip for the waiter.
	dalhan > pakidalhan	Pakidalhan mo ng prutas si Lola. Please bring some fruits for Grandmother.

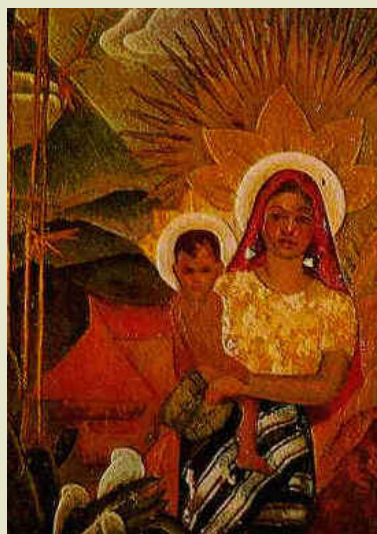
Pseudo-Verbs

Introduction

Sa Ugoy Ng Duyan

Sana'y di magmaliw
ang dati kong araw
Nang munti pang bata
sa piling ni nanay.
Nais kong maulit
ang awit ni inang mahal,
Awit ng pag-ibig
habang ako'y nasa duyan.

Sa aking pagtulog
na labis ang himbing
Ang bantay ko'y tala,
ang tanod ko'y bituin
Sa piling ni nanay
langit ang buhay
Puso kong may dusa,
sabik sa ugoy ng duyan.



Brown Madonna
by Galo B. Ocampo, 1938

Pseudo-verbs indicate some of the modalities (*e.g.*, wants and obligations) expressed by modal verbs in English (*e.g.*, *can*, *may*, *should*). This page presents some of the most common ones grouped according to their focuses.

The word **pseudo** means false, so pseudo-verbs are "false verbs." They are similar to regular verbs, but they behave a little differently. For example, unlike other Tagalog verbs, pseudo-verbs do **not** use markers or affixes to indicate aspect. Nor do pseudo-verbs use affixes to state which part of the sentence is in focus.

Because of this, they are in some ways easy to use. With pseudo-verbs, you just simply use the root word (like **ayaw**) without changing it or modifying it. Because the pseudo-verb is not really a "complete" verb, it often is accompanied by a main or regular Tagalog verb. Take the following English sentence as an example:

I **must** run to the store.

The word **must** would be the equivalent of the pseudo-verb while **run** is the main verb.

At this point we have talked about how pseudo-verbs are both similar and not similar to verbs. Now let's talk more about what pseudo-verbs do, or why they are even included in the sentence at all. Pseudo-verbs are also called **modals**. Using a modal puts the sentence into a different mood. This might be confusing, but hold on for a bit. Using a modal is like shifting your car into a different gear. For example, in what we might think of as a "regular" sentence, a speaker will make a statement in a plain, matter of fact sort of way. Look at the following sentence:

I have a house.

Here the speaker merely states the facts as they are. This type of statement is said to be in the indicative mood, and you can think of this as sort of like having your car in neutral. You do **not** need any modals (pseudo verbs) to state something in a factual way.

On the other hand, if you want to state something that is contrary to fact, then you use a modal (pseudo verb). A modal is a way of saying that something should have happened, or that something should happen. It is contrary to fact. Modals are words like **puwede** (can), **dapat** (must), **gusto** (like), **ayaw** (dislike), **maaari** (might), and **kailangan** (need). Let's use the modal *need* (kailangan) as an example:


I **need** Mary to go to the store.

Note that in this sentence Mary is not actually in the store. Nor is it a fact that she is going to the store. You have merely expressed that you would like to have Mary go to the store. You are wishing for or demanding something that is not actually happening according to the facts of the moment (Mary is not at the store). You really would like for her to go, or need her to go, but she might not go.

Pseudo Verb + NG-Phrase/Pronoun

This set of *pseudo-verbs* requires an agent (actor or doer of the action) that is a *NG-phrase* or a *NG-pronoun*. In other words, in sentences with this set of pseudo-verbs (*gusto, ayaw, kailangan*), the doer of the action is **never** in focus.

In a sentence with a pseudo-verb, the word that comes before the main verb (if there is one) has to have the linker **-NG** as a suffix. The main verb in a sentence with a pseudo-verb is always in the infinitive form. Also note that sentences with pseudo verbs sometimes do not have a focus. The (actor) pronoun always comes after the pseudo-verb.

 **GUSTO** = like; want

Gusto kong manood ng sine.

I want to watch a movie.

Gusto ko ang pansit na niluto mo.

I like the noodles that you prepared.

Gustong matulog ng bata.

The child wants to sleep.

 **AYAW** = do not like; do not want

Ayaw kong pag-isipan ang sinabi mo.

I don't want to think about the things you said.

Ayaw kong sumakay sa eroplano.

I don't like travelling by plane.

Ayaw mag-aral ng estudyante.

The student does not want to study.

Let's take a close look at the following sentence from above:


Ayaw	kong	sumakay	sa eroplano
------	------	---------	-------------

Pseudo-Verb	Actor	Main Verb
-------------	-------	-----------

The word **ayaw** is the pseudo-verb. Notice that this verb is not marked for aspect or focus. You don't have to change it. The pseudo-verb **ayaw** is followed by the actor, which is the non-focused pronoun **kong** (*I*). Remember that the actor in this group of pseudo-verb sentences is always **not in focus**. Next, is the main verb **sumakay** (*ride*). This verb is in the infinitive form. Since pseudo-verbs tend to deal with general statements (such as what one likes or doesn't like, etc.), it sort of puts the sentence into a timeless, aspectless state. So it would make sense that the main verb would be in the infinitive form.

In this case the **-UM-** in **sumakay** is **not** indicating that the actor of the sentence is in focus. This is because of the rule that states that **ayaw** can never have a focused actor (notice that *kong* is unfocused). In fact, this sentence does not have a focus.

Extra Information: The special rule for these pseudo-verbs only affects the actor of the sentence. For example, if you choose to use the "actor focused" infinitive *kumain* in a pseudo-verb sentence, then you are forced to have an object that is **not** in focus e.g. *ayaw kong kumain ng saging*. If, on the other hand, you use the "object focused" infinitive *kainin*, you must have the object be in focus e.g. *ayaw kong kainin ang saging*.

 **KAILANGAN** = have to; must; should

Kailangan kong tapusin ang ginagawa ko.

I have to finish what I'm doing.

Kailangan ko nang umalis.

I have to go now.

Kailangang magluto ng kanin ni Pedro.

Pedro has to cook some rice.

Some More Pseudo-Verbs

There is another set of pseudo-verbs in Tagalog. These are the ones that can come before an agent (*doer of the action*) that is either a *NG-phrase/pronoun* or an *ANG-phrase/pronoun*. In other words, these pseudo-verbs can have the doer of the action as being either in focus or not in focus.

The following are a few examples. Notice that there is a linker (**-ng**) attached to the word that comes before the main verb. And the actor pronoun always comes after the pseudo-verb.

 **PUWEDE** = can; could; may (permission)

Puwede + Object-Focus Agent

Puwedeng dalhin ng kaibigan ko ang radyo.

My friend can bring the radio.

Puwede kong tulungan si Mario.

I can help Mario.


Puwede + Actor-Focus Agent

Puwede magdala ng radyo ang kaibigan ko.

My friend can bring a radio.

Puwede akong tumulong kay Mario.

I can help Mario.

 **MAAARI** = might; may (possibility)

Maaari + Object-Focus Agent

Maaring ibigay ng guro ang libro sa akin.

The teacher might give the book to me.

Maaaring tawagan niya si Tess.

He might call Tess.


Maaari + Actor-Focus Agent

Maaaring magbigay ng libro ang guro sa akin.

The teacher might give me a book.

Maaaring tumawag siya kay Tess.

He might call Tess.

 **DAPAT** = must; should; have to

Dapat + Object-Focus Agent

Dapat isulat ng estudyante ang papel niya.

The student must write his paper.

Dapat kong bilhan ng regalo si Maria.

I have to buy Maria a present.

Dapat + Actor-Focus Agent

Dapat sumulat ng papel niya ang estudyante.

The student must write his paper.

Dapat akong bumili ng regalo para kay Maria.

I have to buy a present for Maria.

Sentence Expansion

Introduction

Kung Kaya Mong Isipin

ni Joey Ayala

Kung kaya mong isipin,
kaya mong gawin.
Isa-isang hakbang lamang
at ika'y makakarating.
Tulad ng puno na galing sa binhi,
ang mga dakilang gawa'y
nagmumula sa guniguni.

Kung nais mo'y maging payapa
sa mundong puno ng digmaan,
buhayin sa sarili ang payapang paraan.
At sa araw-araw na pakikitungo
sa tahanan at lipunan,
buhayin sa sarili ang payapang paraan.



Early Risers

by Hugo C. Yonzon, 1957

This section presents two general ways of expanding the basic sentence through the use of conjunctions: coordinating and subordinating.

A **conjunction** is a certain type of word that is used to add extra thoughts into a sentence (like the word **and** in English). The word **conjunction** comes from Latin: **com** means **together** and **junction** ultimately comes from the Latin word **join**. So the word **conjunction** means "to join together." The following sentence is an example of the use of conjunction in English:

I bought a doughnut

This is my first thought. Now, let's say I want to add on something else to the sentence. To do this I would need to use a conjunction like **and**.

I bought a doughnut **and** danced in the streets.

Coordinating Conjunctions

There are two kinds of conjunctions in Tagalog. The first kind is called a **coordinating conjunction**. This type of conjunction is used to add to a sentence an extra thought that is considered to be of equal importance as the first part of the sentence. For example, in the sentence "I got on the bus and waved to her" both parts of the sentence are of equal importance. It is as important for me to tell you that I got on the bus as it is for me to tell you that I waved to her.

AT (AND)

aso't pusa
dog and cat

kape't gatas
coffee and milk

araw at gabi
day and night

Sumakay ako sa bus **at** kinawayan ko siya.

I got on the bus and waved to her.

Tumahol ang aso **at** natakot ang pusa.

The dog barked, and the cat got scared.

Pumunta ako sa tindahan **at** bumili ng tsokolate.

I went to the store and bought some chocolate.

Note that sometimes **AT** can be abbreviated to 't.

O (OR)

si Aida o si Fe

Aida or Fe

kape o tsaa

coffee or tea

sapatos o tsinelas

shoes or slippers

Mag-aaral ka ba o matutulog?

Are you going to study or sleep?

Umulan man o umaraw, darating ako.

Rain or shine, I will be there.

Puwede tayong kumain sa labas o magpadeliver na lang.

We can eat out or have food delivered.

PERO/NGUNIT/SUBALIT/KAYA LANG (BUT)

Tumawag ako kaninang umaga pero wala ka.

I called this morning, but you were not there.

Masarap ang litson kaya lang nakakataba.

Roasted pig is delicious, but it's fattening.

Inimbita ko siya sa aking kasal ngunit hindi siya dumalo.

I invited him to my wedding, but he didn't show up.

KASI/DAHIL (BECAUSE (OF))

Umutang siya dahil wala siyang pera.

She borrowed some money because she didn't have any.

Umalis na siya kasi ang tagal mo.

She left because you took so long to get here.

Sumaya ang mundo ni kuya dahil sa iyo.

My brother's world brightened up because of you.

Subordinating Conjunctions

The second type of conjunction in Tagalog is the **subordinating conjunction**. This type of conjunction is used to add on extra thoughts that in some way seem to be of less importance or prominence than the main part of the sentence. Sometimes they can be sort of like an afterthought to the first thought.

KUNG (IF)

Papasa ka kung mag-aaral ka ng leksiyon mo.

You'll pass if you study your lessons.

Hindi ko alam kung nagbibiro siya.

I don't know if she's joking.

KAHIT (EVEN THOUGH; ALTHOUGH)

Mahal niya si Steve kahit na sumpungin ito.

She loves Steve even though he's moody.

Pumunta siya sa pagtitipon kahit hindi siya imbitado.

He went to the meeting although he wasn't invited.

UPANG/PARA (SO THAT)

Kumain ka ng gulay upang maging malusog ka.

Eat vegetables so that you'll be healthy.

Awitan mo ang bata para makatulog siya.

Sing to the baby so that she can sleep.

Some Enclitic Particles

Introduction

Kahit Na *ni Dodjie Simon*

Kahit **na** ikaw **pa** ay lumisan,
halik mo'y 'di ko **na** malilimutan.
Lalo **na**'t ikaw **pa lang** ang minahal.
Sa simula't katapusa'y ikaw **lamang**
ang nagbigay kahulugan sa aking buhay.

Kahit **na** ikaw **pa** ay lumimot,
mundo ko'y tutuloy sa pag-ikot.
Ang bituing akala mo'y naglalaho,
iyon **pala**'y sa ulap **lang** nakatago,
katulad ng pag-ibig mong mapaglaro.

'Di **ba** sa simula sinabi mong
walang matitiyak,
Kaya't ligaya habang kapiling mo'y
isiping 'di magwawakas.
'Di kita pipigilan kailanmang
magbago ng isipan.
Habang kapiling ka,
ligaya'y walang hanggan.



Mariang Makiling
by Hugo C. Yonzon, 1974

Enclitic particles are words that are normally optional but when present give emphasis to certain elements in sentences. Just as the word **particle** means a small bit of matter, these words are typically fairly short. These words are not the main part of the sentence and can actually be left out (the word **enclitic** means 'to lean on' in the sense that these words are leaning on other, more important words). However, enclitic particles provide helpful bits of information, and

they make the Tagalog sentence sound more full and natural. Not using enclitic particles makes the language sound awkward and stilted. You can think of enclitic particles as the "spice" of the Tagalog sentence.

The most common particles are presented in this section, grouped into two major classifications: (1) **temporal**--enclitics that generally emphasize things having to do with time or completion of some event or action; and (2) **modal**--enclitics generally emphasizing mood, *e.g.*, surprise, wish, desire, most of which are expressed by modals, such as *can, could, shall, should*, etc. in English.

Temporal Enclitics

Temporal enclitics are used to indicate time. The enclitic particles **PA** and **NA** are the most commonly used temporal enclitics, *i.e.*, they are usually used to indicate if an action has started or not yet started. In addition, these particles may also encode other information in certain contexts.

Another temporal enclitic that is frequently used is **MUNA**, roughly translated as 'a while' or 'first'.

This section outlines some of the general functions of these enclitic particles.

The Particle PA

PA, roughly translated into English as *still*, or *yet*, generally expresses that an event /action has not yet occurred but is expected to happen. Look at the following examples:

Hindi pa ako aalis. Wala pa ang mga kaibigan ko. *I'm not yet leaving. My friends are not here yet.*
Mamayang hapon pa sila darating. *They'll be here later (still) in the afternoon.*

PA may mean other things in limited contexts, usually in an idiomatic expression. Note that even in most of these cases the meaning of **PA** stays fairly close to the core meaning of *still*, or *yet*. The common ones are presented here:

Kanina ka pa?	<i>Have you been waiting long?</i>
Sige pa.	<i>(Some) More.</i>
Kumain ka pa.	<i>Eat some more.</i>
Kumuha ka pa.	<i>Have/Get some more.</i>
Magkuwento ka pa.	<i>Tell us/me more.</i>
Ano pa ang gusto mo?	<i>What else do you want?</i>
Sino pa ang sasama?	<i>Who else is coming?</i>
Saan pa tayo pupunta?	<i>Where (else) are we going?</i>

The Particle NA

NA, roughly translated as *already* or *now*, generally expresses that an event /action has happened, or is happening, and its occurrence was expected. Look at the following examples:

Aalis na ako. Nandito na ang mga kaibigan ko. *I'm leaving now. My friends are here already.*
Dumating na sila galing sa Australia. *They have already arrived from Australia.*

NA also occurs idiomatically. The following examples are the most common expressions:

Halika na.	<i>Let's go.</i>
Mamaya na.	<i>Later.</i> <i>(In response to a statement like "Let's go".)</i>
Sige na.	<i>Come on.</i> <i>(In response to the a statement like "Later".)</i>
Tapos na ako.	<i>I'm done (with my work).</i>
Matutulog na ako.	<i>I'm going to bed now.</i>
Kumain ka na?	<i>Have you eaten (already)?</i>
Aalis ka na?	<i>Are you going now?</i>

Note that Tagalog speakers tend to break down all actions into two categories: started and not yet started. They then use the appropriate enclitic (**NA** or **PA**) to indicate which category the action falls under. Hence, you will need to get used to **PA** and **NA** because you will be hearing them a lot as you learn the language.

The particle MUNA

MUNA generally means *first* or *a while*. It is also used in different idiomatic expressions. Here are some of the most common examples:

Teka muna.	<i>Wait a minute.</i>
Maupo ka muna.	<i>Why don't you have a seat?</i> <i>(In the context of: "Have a seat".)</i>
Kumuha ka muna ng tubig.	<i>Get some water first.</i>
Kumain ka muna bago ka umalis.	<i>Eat first before you leave.</i>

Modal Enclitics

Just as temporal enclitics give some indication about time in a sentence, **modal enclitics** give some indication of the mood of the speaker or of the way the speaker feels about the sentence. For example, the speaker may be stating something in a 'matter of fact' or factual way such as in the sentence: "I have a cat." Or the speaker may state something as a wish or desire such as in the sentence "I wish I had a cat." A speaker may also state something with surprise or extra emphasis, etc. Modal enclitics help express or convey these different moods.

There are a number of **enclitic particles encoding mood**. The more common ones are presented here. The use of these particles is largely idiomatic though some generalizations about their usage may be offered. The examples on this page show their general usage and some of the frequently used idiomatic expressions.

NGA

LANG

PALA

NAMAN

TALAGA

The Particle NGA

It is a way of affirming or giving extra emphasis to a statement. It can emphasize agreement with or confirmation of some statement.

Ana: Ang ganda ng mga bulaklak!

Ana: My! The flowers are beautiful.

Ben: Oo nga.

Ben: Yes, they are.

Ben: Sige na, sumama ka na sa piknik.

Ana: Come on, join us for a picnic.

Ana: Sige na nga.

Ana: Oh, alright.

But NGA can also be used to pose a challenge to a speaker, when the speaker's assertion is somewhat questioned.

Ben: Aakyat ko ang bundok ng Banahaw.

Ben: I'm going to climb Mount Banahaw.

Ana: Sige nga.

Ana: Let's see you do it.

Ana: Simple lang ang solusyon sa problema mo.

Ana: The solution to your problem is very simple.

Ben: Ipaliwanag mo nga.

Ben: Could you explain that please.

It also emphasizes politeness in making requests. Command forms are softened so that they sound like more of a request or an expression of concern rather than direct orders.

Pakibuksan mo nga ang pinto.

Would you please open the door.

Sarhan mo nga ang bintana.

Would you close the window.

Matulog ka nga.

Why don't you get some sleep.

The Particle LANG (shortened form of LAMANG)

It usually means *only*.

Isa lang ang kotse ko.

I only have one car.

Dalawa lang ang kapatid ko.

I only have two siblings.

But it may also mean *just*.

Kararating ko lang.

I just arrived.

Maghintay ka lang.

Just wait.

📌 And here are some everyday idioms:

Sandali lang.	Just a minute.
Di bale na lang.	Nevermind.
Simple lang.	Very simple.
Ikaw lang.	Only you.
Cool ka lang.	Keep cool.

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The Particle PALA

📌 This enclitic expresses surprise. A speaker would use this to indicate that something has just been learned/known, and the information is surprising or unexpected.

Ikaw pala!	Oh, it's you.
Taga-Amerika ka pala!	So you're from the US!
Mali pala ang sinabi ko.	What I said was wrong after all.
Pupunta ka pala sa Hawaii.	So you're going to Hawaii!

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The Particle NAMAN

📌 This emphasizes politeness in making requests. Command forms are softened so that they sound more like a request or an expression of concern rather than direct orders.

Pakiabot naman ng asin.	Would you please pass the salt.
Dalhin mo naman ang bag ko.	Could you carry my bag.
Magpahinga ka naman.	Why don't you get some rest.

It may also indicate that an assertion is true even though it may not be generally viewed as such.

Mabait naman siya.

She's actually nice.

Masipag naman siya.

He's actually hard-working.

And this enclitic may also be used to intensify the degree of a certain quality used to describe someone or something.

Ang bait mo naman.

You're too nice.

Ang ganda naman ng bahay ni Fe.

Fe's house is really beautiful.

When the particle occurs with the enclitic *NA*, it generally means *again* or *once more*.

Magsisine ka na naman!

You're watching a movie again!

Nandito na naman kami.

Here we are again.

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The Particle TALAGA

This generally means *really*.

Ben: Nag-aaral na naman si Pedro sa laybrari.

Ana: Talaga?

Ben: Oo. Masipag talaga siya.

Ben: Pedro is studying in the library again.

Ana: Really?

Ben: He is really hard-working.

Questions II

Introduction

Kapalaran

Bakit kaya ang buhay ng tao
mayroong mayaman, may api sa mundo?
Kapalaran kung hanapin, 'di matagpuan,
at kung minsa'y lumalapit ng 'di mo alam.

Bakit kaya may ligaya't lumbay,
sa pag-ibig may bigo't tagumpay?
'Di malaman, 'di maisip
kung anong kapalaran
ang sa akin ay naghihintay.



Sunday Afternoon
by Jose Blanco, 1980

Bakit

This question may be answered in at least three different ways, the difference being the degree of formality determined by the context or situation.

Just like pseudo-verbs, interrogative pronouns attract (actor) pronouns so that they always come right after the question word.

KASI

This response is most common in conversations. Here are some examples. The elements in parentheses are usually dropped.

Bakit umalis si Pedro?

Why did Pedro leave?

(Umalis si Pedro) kasi may klase siya.

(Pedro left) because he has a class.

Bakit walang klase?

Why is there no class?

(Walang klase) kasi may sakit ang titser.

(There's no class) because the teacher is ill.

Bakit ka pupunta sa Laguna?

Why are you going to Laguna?

(Pupunta ako sa Laguna) kasi bibisita ako sa lola ko.

(I'm going to Laguna) because I'm going to visit with my grandmother.

DAHIL

This is a more formal response, used in both conversational and written form. Here are some examples:

Bakit ka masaya?

Why are you happy?

(Masaya ako) dahil nandito ka.

(I'm happy) because you're here.

Bakit namatay ang halaman?

Why did the plant die?

(Namatay ang halaman) dahil hindi ko nadiligan ng dalawang linggo.

(The plant died) because I didn't water it for two weeks.

Bakit tumaas ang presyo ng mga bilihan?

Why did the price of goods go up?

(Tumaas ang presyo ng mga bilihan) dahil sa krisis sa ekonomiya ng Asya.

(The price of goods went up) because of the economic crisis in Asia.

SAPAGKAT

This is the most formal form of response to *bakit*. It is rarely used in spoken form and is generally associated with literary writing. Here are some examples:

Bakit tayo nagkakamali?

Why do we make mistakes?

Nagkakamali tayo sapagkat tayo ay tao lamang.

We make mistakes because we're only human.

Bakit umiiyak ang langit?

Why are the heavens crying?

Umiiyak ang langit sapagkat tuyo na ang lupa.

The heavens are crying because the land has dried up.

Paano

This question asks for a response that gives an explanation of a process. It should not be confused with the use of the interrogative pronoun *how* in English in contexts like "How are you?".

Pronouns (actor/ doer) always come after the question word.

The following are some examples:

Paano gumawa ng parol?	<i>How do you make a christmas lantern? How does one make a christmas lantern? How to make a christmas lantern</i>
Paano pumunta sa Baclaran mula sa Monumento?	<i>How do you get to Baclaran from Monumento? How does one get to Baclaran from Monumento? How to get to baclaran from Monumento</i>
Paano ka nakapasok sa bahay kagabi?	<i>How did you get into the house last night?</i>
Paano magluto ng adobo si Tinay?	<i>How does Tinay cook adobo?</i>

Gaano

This question calls for a response indicating the extent or degree of some quality. The interrogative pronoun functions almost like an adverb before a modifier, which is always prefixed with **KA-**.

Pronouns (actor) always come after the question word.

Here are some examples:

Gaano karami ang dala mong mangga? <i>How many mangoes did you bring?</i>	Marami. (Plenty.) <i>Kaunti lang. (A few.)</i>
Gaano kadalas ang klase mo sa Tagalog? <i>How frequent/often is your Tagalog class?</i>	Tatlong beses sa isang linggo. <i>Three times a week.</i>
Gaano kalaki ang bahay ni Erap? <i>How large is Erap's house?</i>	Malaking-malaki. <i>Very large.</i>
Gaano kahaba ang pila sa sine? <i>How long is the line for the movie?</i>	Hindi masyadong mahaba. <i>Not very long.</i>
Gaano mo ako kamahal? <i>How much do you love me?</i>	Mahal na mahal kita. <i>I love you very much.</i>

Magkano

This is the "real" *how-much* question calling for an answer that gives the value or price of something.

Here are a few examples:

Magkano ang isang kilong bigas? <i>How much is a kilo of rice?</i>	Trenta pesos. <i>30 pesos.</i>
--	--

Magkano ang perang dala mo?

How much money do you have with you?

Bente pesos.

20 pesos.

Magkano ang kotseng ito?

How much is this car?

Kalahating milyong piso.

.5 M pesos.

**Magkano ang pasahe sa bus mula sa Quezon City
hanggang Makati?**

How much is the bus fare from Quezon City to Makati.

Kinse pesos.

15 pesos.