

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #1

Self Introductions - Basic Greetings in Filipino

CONTENTS

- 2 Filipino
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

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FILIPINO

1. Maria: Kamusta. Ang pangalan ko ay Maria. Ano ang pangalan mo?
2. Grace: Kamusta Maria. Ang pangalan ko ay Grace.
3. Maria: Kinagagalak kong makilala ka.
4. Grace: Ako din.

ENGLISH

1. Maria: Hello. My name is Maria. What's your name?
2. Grace: Hello Maria. My name is Grace.
3. Maria: I am happy to meet you.
4. Grace: Me too.

VOCABULARY

Filipino	English	Class
Ako din.	Me too.	phrase
Kamusta	Hello, How are you?, How?	interjection
ako	I, me	pronoun
Ang pangalan	the name	phrase
ko	my	pronoun
pangalan	name	noun
ay	is (to be, present tense)	verb
kinagagalak	happy	adjective

makilala	to meet, to know	verb
ka	you (singular)	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ako din. "Me too."	Kamusta ka? "How are you?"
Kamusta na ang mga bata? "How are the children?"	Kamusta, Maria. "Hello, Maria."
Ako ay maganda. "I am beautiful."	Ako ay Pilipino. "I'm Filipino."
Ako ay si Maria. "I'm Maria."	Nakatira ako sa New York. "I live in New York."
Hindi ko maalala ang pangalan mo. "I can't remember your name."	Ang pangalan niya ay Erik. "His name is Erik."
Ang pangalan ko ay Miko. "My name is Miko."	Ang pangalan ko ay Maria Santos. "My name is Maria Santos."
Ang pangalan ko ay Maria. "My name is Maria."	Pwede mo bang isulat ang iyong pangalan? "Can you write down your name?"
Naaalala mo ba ang pangalan ko? "Do you remember my name?"	Ano po ang pangalan nila? "What is your name?"
Ang mata ko ay masakit. "My eye hurts."	Ako ay 180 (isang daan at walumpung) sentimetro. "I'm 180 cm tall."

<p>Ang pangalan ko ay Maria Santos.</p> <p>"My name is Maria Santos."</p>	<p>Kinagagalak kong makilala ka.</p> <p>"Nice to meet you."</p>
<p>Gusto ko siyang makilala.</p> <p>"I want to meet him."</p>	<p>Nakilala mo ba siya?</p> <p>"Did you meet her?"</p>
<p>Nakit a ka ni Maria.</p> <p>"Maria saw you."</p>	<p>Nakipag kilala ka ba?</p> <p>"Did you introduce yourself?"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Ay is used as the counterpart of the English "is." But as you can see from the example, "I am Maria" can be put as *Ako ay si Maria*. This sentence does not have "is" in it, but *ay* is placed as a connector only to state the sentence with formality. *Ako ay si Maria* can also be stated as *Ako si Maria*. But in most cases it is used as "is" and when "is" changes to "are."

For example:

Siya ay matutulog na - "She/He is going to sleep."

Ang kotse ay bago. - "The car is new."

With the example below, *Sila* means "they" or "them" and *ay* is used to connect these actors to the action.

For example:

Sila ay pumunta sa bahay. - "They went to the house"

In Filipino, "happy" is **kinagagalak**. This would be used in the phrase, "I am happy to-." Another word for "happy" would be *Masaya*.

For example:

Kinagagalak kong sabihin ang mga resulta. - "I'm happy to announce the results."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Basic Bootcamp Lesson Is How to Ask Somebody their Name

To ask someone their name, just ask *Ano ang pangalan mo?* Literally, this means "What (the) name your?"

Ano means "What."

Ang is a connector or an adjective to point out the main subject of the question/sentence as opposed to *Ng* which is used for the object of the sentence.

Mo means "Your" and try not to confuse it with *Ikaw*, which means "you."

To shorten this sentence you may also say *Anong pangalan mo?*

You can see that *Ano* and *Ang* are made into one word. This is often used by locals to shorten the sentence.

For example:

Ano ang ginagawa mo? OR *Anong ginagawa mo?*
"What are you doing?"

Examples from this Dialogue

Maria: *Kamusta. Ang pangalan ko ay Maria. Ano ang pangalan mo?*
Antonio: *Kamusta Maria. Ang pangalan ko ay Antonio.*

Maria: "Hello. My name is Maria. What's your name?"
Antonio: "Hello Maria. My name is Antonio."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Did You Know?

After being introduced the first time, during latter greetings amongst friends or acquaintances it is common to kiss each other on the cheek or more like tap each others' cheeks. This is common among two women. Men usually have handshakes or hugs.

In a more professional atmosphere, a handshake and a slight nod of the head is appropriate.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #2

Talking Nationality in Filipino

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- 2 Filipino
- 2 English
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FILIPINO

1. Grace: Helo. Ang pangalan ko ay Grace. Pilipina ako.
2. Maria: Helo. Ako ay si Maria. Amerikana ako.

ENGLISH

1. Grace: Hello. My name is Grace. I am Filipino.
2. Maria: Hello, I'm Maria. I'm American.

VOCABULARY

Filipino	English	Class
Pilipino/Pilipina	Filipino (male/female)	noun
Amerikano/Amerikana	American (male/female)	
Helo	hello	interjection
Ang pangalan ko ay-	My name is -	phrase
ako	I, me	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Pilipina ang nanay ko. "My mother is a Filipino."	Amerikana ang kaibigan ko. "My (female) friend is an American."
Helo. Kumusta ka na? "Hello. How have you been?"	Ang pangalan ko ay Rie. "My name is Rie."

Ako ay maganda. "I am beautiful."	Ako ay Pilipino. "I'm Filipino."
Ako ay si Maria. "I'm Maria."	Nakatira ako sa New York. "I live in New York."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Boot Camp Lesson Is to Teach You How to Talk About Nationality

You can also use the verb first rule and say, *Pilipina ako*. (Literal: "Filipino I." Means: "I am Filipino"), in casual conversation rather than the active voice in the first example.

Pilipino/Pilipina is how you say Filipino. Remember that Filipino is a gender-neutral language with the exception of occupation and nationalities. But Filipino or what would usually be male identifications can be used gender neutrally as well.

For example:

Helo. Ako si Maria. Ako ay Pilipino.

We start with a self-introduction ("Hello, my name is Maria"). Then we say our nationality, *Ako ay Pilipino*.

Examples

Filipino	English
<i>Ako ay Pilipino.</i>	"I'm Filipino."
<i>Ako ay Russo.</i>	"I'm Russian."
<i>Siya ay Amerikano.</i>	"He's American."
<i>Siya ay Briton.</i>	"She is British"
<i>Ikaw ba ay Hapon?</i>	"Are you Japanese?"

<i>Ikaw ba ay Intsik?</i>	"Are you Chinese?"
<i>Ang nobya ko ay Franse.</i>	"My girlfriend is French."
<i>Ang nobyo ko ay Italiano.</i>	"My boyfriend is Italian."

Examples from this dialog:

Grace: *Pilipina ako*

Grace: I'm Filipino.

Maria: *Amerikana ako.*

Maria: I'm American.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip

Vacationing in the Philippines is very popular. But when you visit busy cities such as Manila make sure to be extra careful with your surroundings. As much as possible do not act like a tourist or do your homework and know about places you will be visiting. Learning basic Filipino will definitely help you with this.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #3

Useful Phrases for Learning Filipino

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FILIPINO

1. Student: Pasensiya na po. Paano po sabihin ang "Cheese" sa Pilipino?
2. Teacher: Keso.
3. Student: Pasensiya na po. Paki ulit po. Hindi ko naintindihan.
4. Teacher: Keso.
5. Student: Pwede po magsalita kayo ng dahandahan?
6. Teacher: Ke-so.
7. Student: Paki sulat po 'yon sa papel sa Pilipino.

ENGLISH

1. Student: Excuse me, how do you say "Cheese" in Filipino?
2. Teacher: Cheese.
3. Student: I'm sorry, Say it once again, please. I didn't understand.
4. Teacher: Cheese.
5. Student: Can you please speak slowly?
6. Teacher: Che-ese.
7. Student: Please write that down in Filipino on paper.

VOCABULARY

Filipino	English	Class
dahandahan	slow	adjective
salita	to talk	verb
ulit	again, repeat	adjective
sa papel	on the paper	phrase
sulat	write, handwritten	verb
naintindihan	understood	noun
Pasensiya na po.	Excuse me, I'm sorry	phrase
Paano	how	adverb
Sabihin ang	to say	phrase
paki	please	adverb
pwede		verb
'yon	that	pronoun
hindi	no, not, don't, can't	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Dahandahan lang kase delekado sa kalsada na ito.</p> <p>"Please be slower because it's dangerous in this street."</p>	<p>Paki sabi nang dahandahan para maintindihan ko.</p> <p>"Please speak slower so I can understand."</p>
<p>Paki ulit ang sinabi mo.</p> <p>"Please repeat what you said."</p>	<p>Sinulat nya sa papel ang sagot.</p> <p>"She/He wrote the answers on the paper."</p>
<p>Mag sulat ka sa Kapatid mo.</p> <p>"Write to your sister/brother."</p>	<p>Hindi ko naintindihan</p> <p>"I didn't understand."</p>

<p>Pasensiya na sa pagkakamali. "I'm sorry for the mistake."</p>	<p>Pasensiya na po, pwede makitanong ng oras? "Excuse me, may I ask you the time?"</p>
<p>Pano tayo lilipat? "How do we move?"</p>	<p>Pano ito binabasa? "How do you read this?"</p>
<p>Pano sabihin ang tree sa Pilipino? "How do you say tree in Filipino?"</p>	<p>Paki sulat yon sa papel. "Please write that down on paper."</p>
<p>Paki sunda ang kapatid mo. "Please pick up your sister/ brother."</p>	<p>Isang tasang kape, pakiusap. "A cup of coffee, please."</p>
<p>Pwede maki kopya? "Can I copy something?"</p>	<p>Pwede humiram ng telepono? "Can I borrow a telephone?"</p>
<p>Yon ba ay matibay? "Is that sturdy?"</p>	<p>Ano yon? "What is that?"</p>
<p>Hindi ko alam. "I do not know."</p>	<p>Hindi siya tumayo. "He did not stand."</p>
<p>Hindi ko masundan ang sinasabi mo. "I can't follow what you are saying."</p>	<p>Sinabi ko ng "Hindi"! "I said 'No'!"</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Pano

How would be *pano* be used when asking about certain actions? Just like when you say,

"How do you do this?" you would say *Pano ito gawin?*. But when you're asking someone how they are doing, you would say *Kumusta*. It is also the same when you say "How is the new house being built?" it would be *Kumusta ang bagong bahay na tinatayo?*

For Example:

1. *Pano tayo makakarating sa bahay mo?*
"How can we get to your house?"
2. *Kumusta ang pamilya mo?*
"How is your family?"

Paki and Pwede

Paki and *pwede* work the same way. They can be used as a "please" or a "can." If you replace one with the other it will still pick up the same natural flow of the question or sentence. The only difference is that when you use *paki*, you will have to end with a period and with *pwede* you will end with a question mark.

For Example:

1. *Paki bantayan naman yung aso.*
"Please look after the dog."
2. *Pwede bang bantayan yung aso?*
"Can you look after the dog?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Boot Camp Lesson is Using Filipino Phrases to Learn More Filipino

First Phrase:

***Pasensiya na po* or *pasensiya na* ("Excuse me")**

The first word in this sentence means "excuse me," and has the same usage as in English when used in questions. You may or may not use *po* afterwards, but to make it extra formal, we advise that you use it.

Second Phrase:

***Pano sabihin ang _____ sa Pilipino?* ("How do you say in Filipino?")**

Pano sabihin ang literally means "How to say." We can translate *sa Pilipino* as "in Filipino,"

and it refers to the language in our case.

Third Phrase:

***Paki ulit po.* ("Say it once again please.")**

Paki means "Please." Just like the word *pwede* which means "can," this is used when you are asking for something or a favor. *Ulit* means "again" or "repeat."

Literal translation: "Can again please." Without *po* it would be "can again."

Means: "Say it once again please."

After *Paki ulit* you can add the word *mo* for "your" and then add *po* at the end. But if it isn't added and you still have the word *po* at the end, it will still sound as polite.

Fourth Phrase:

***Pwede po mag salita ka ng dahandahan?* ("Can you please speak slowly?")**

Pwede, as we mentioned above means "can," or "is it possible for you to." *Magsalita* comes from the root word *salita* which means "Talk or speak," and it means "will speak."

Literal translation: "Can, please, will speak, you, slowly"

Means: "Can you please speak slowly?"

Fifth Phrase:

***Paki sulat po yon sa papel sa Filipino.* ("Please write that down in Filipino on paper.")**

Sulat means "write," *yon* means "that" or "it" and is short for *iyon*. You can also use the word *yan*, which is short for *iyon* to mean "that." *Sa* is used for many prepositions ("at," "in," "on," etc.) along with being used as a pronoun.

Literal: "Please write that on paper in Filipino."

Means: "Please write that down in Filipino on paper."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Did You Know?

It's well known that you can get by, by just speaking English. But if you want a true insight in to the culture and the local people, speaking and learning these phrases is all you need. Even if you are not as fluent yet, this will only have a positive effect. You will get to learn more about the local community or even enjoy places more if you know how to speak Filipino.

English is the language used in the education system of the Philippines. This means that English is the main language, and there are particular subjects to study Filipino.

The percentage that English and Filipino is used may differ from school to school. Some might encourage an "Only English" speaking policies at schools, while others might be more loose.

The level of fluency may differ from person to person. But typically Filipinos are capable of understanding the language, but some may have a harder time responding in English than others.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #4

Counting from 1-100 in Filipino

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FILIPINO

1. Isa,at,dalawa,at,tatlo,
2. At,apat,at,lima,at,anim
3. At,pitoat,at,walo,at,siyam,at,sampu

ENGLISH

1. One, and, two, and, three
2. And, four, and, five, and, six
3. And, seven, and, eight, and, nine, and, ten.

VOCABULARY

Filipino	English	Class
isa	one	numeral
dalawa	two	numeral
tatlo	three	numeral
apat	four	numeral
lima	five	numeral
anim	six	numeral
pito	seven	numeral
walo	eight	numeral
siyam	nine	numeral
sampu	ten	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Isa lang ang anak nila. "They only have one child."</p>	<p>Pwede pahingi ng isang cape. "Can I have one coffee please."</p>
<p>1 (isang) buwan. "For 1 month."</p>	<p>Piso ang isa. "PhP1 per piece."</p>
<p>Dalawang tiket hanggang Maynila. "Two tickets to Manila please."</p>	<p>Gusto ko bumili ng tatlong libro. "I want to buy three books."</p>
<p>Ika-tatlo ng. "It's three o'clock."</p>	<p>Mananatili ako sa Maynila sa loob ng apat na araw. "I'll stay in Manila for four days."</p>
<p>Mayroon apat na upuan sa kuwarto. "There are four chairs in the room."</p>	<p>Naghintay siya sa airport ng limang oras. "He waited five hours in the airport."</p>
<p>Anim na minuto nalang hanggang mag umpisa ang konsiyerto. "There are six minutes left till the beginning of the concert."</p>	<p>Tumira siya sa Maynila ng pitong taon. "He lived in Manila for seven years."</p>
<p>Ang tiket sa sinehan ay walong piso. "The ticket to a movie theater is eight pesos."</p>	<p>Nakapunta na siya sa Pilipinas ng siyam na beses. "He's been to the Philippines nine times."</p>
<p>Gusto ko ng sampung mangga "I would like ten mangoes!"</p>	<p>Ako ay nagsimula ng trabaho ng ika-sampung. "I start work at ten o'clock."</p>

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Numbers From Eleven to Twenty

11-19 can be formed by combining the prefix *labing* with numbers 1-9

Here are some examples:

Filipino	"English"
<i>labing-isa na taon</i>	"eleven years"
<i>Labing-dalawa na kotse</i>	"twelve cars"
<i>Labing-anim na taon</i>	"sixteen years old"
<i>Dalawampu na tao</i>	"twenty people"

The Multiples of Ten

With the tens you simply put different coordinations of *-apu* in the end.

20=*dalawampu*,

30=*tatlompu*,

40=*apatnapu*,

50=*limampu*,

60=*animnapu*,

70=*pitompu*,

80=*walompu*,

90=*siyampu*

Other Compound Numbers

We form other compound numbers in the same way we form the English numerals, that is, by placing numbers from one to nine after twenty, thirty, forty, fifty...ninety. In between we add *at* which means "and."

For Example:

1. "twenty-four stories"
dalampu at apat na storya

2. "forty-five minutes"
apatnapu at limang minuto
3. "eighty-six percent"
walompulu at anim na persiyento

When you orally pronounce these numbers you can shorten them by saying *dalamput't* or *walompulu't*.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of The Lesson is Filipino Numerals

It isn't as hard to understand the basics of the numbers, since Filipino has similar rules to English when it comes to double digit numerals.

But what needs a little more attention than English numerals is the use of *na* and *ng* at the end of the numbers. These are used when numbers and items are used together. With the example above, *labing isa na taon* where you can see *na* which connects *labing isa* and *taon* means "years." When you speak you can shorten it and say *labing isang taon*.

For Example:

1. *sang tiket*
"one ticket"
2. *tatlong tao*
"three people"
3. *apatnapung taon*
"forty years"

When using ordinal English in numbers you put "th" at the end of the number. In Filipino you simply apply *pang* at the front of the cardinal numbers.

Filipino Cardinal	English Cardinal	Filipino Ordinal	English Ordinal
<i>apatnapu</i>	forty	<i>Pang apatnapu</i>	fortieth
<i>Isang daan</i>	hundred	<i>Pang isang daan</i>	hundredth

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Did You Know?

In actual local usage and everyday use of numbers in the Philippines, Spanish, English and Filipino are used. And surprisingly the bigger the number gets, the more common it is for people to use either Spanish or English. This is because the bigger the number gets the wordier and longer it becomes when spoken Filipino.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp #5 Counting from 100 - 1,000,000 in Filipino

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FILIPINO

1. A: isang daan
2. B: dalawang daan
3. A: tatlong daan
4. B: apat-na-daan
5. A: limang daan
6. B: anim-na-raan
7. A: pitong daan
8. B: walong daan
9. A: siyam-na-raan
10. B: isang libo
11. A: limang libo
12. B: sampung libo
13. A: limampung libo
14. B: isandaang libo
15. A: isang milyon

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: one hundred
2. B: two hundred
3. A: three hundred
4. B: four hundred
5. A: five hundred
6. B: six hundred
7. A: seven hundred
8. B: eight hundred
9. A: nine hundred
10. B: one thousand
11. A: five thousand
12. B: ten thousand
13. A: fifty thousand
14. B: one hundred thousand
15. A: one million

VOCABULARY

Filipino	English	Class
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Isang daan	one hundred	noun
isandaang libo	one hundred thousand	numeral
limampung libo	fifty thousand	numeral
sampung libo	ten thousand	noun
limang libo	five thousand	noun
Isang libo	one thousand	noun
Siyam na raan	nine hundred	numeral
Walong daan	eight hundred	noun
Pitong daan	seven hundred	noun
Anim na raan	six hundred	numeral
Limang daan	five hundred	noun
Apat na raan	four hundred	numeral
Tatlong daan	three hundred	noun
Dalawang daan	two hundred	noun
isang milyon	one million	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Siya ay nabuhay nang isang daang taon.</p> <p>"He has lived one hundred years."</p>	<p>isandaang libo na tao ang pumunta sa pyesta kagabi.</p> <p>"There were one hundred thousand people who went to the festival last night."</p>
<p>Naka renta ako ng bahay sa halagang limampung libo.</p> <p>"I was able to rent a house for the price of fifty thousand."</p>	<p>Kailangan ko ng sampung libong peso para maglakbay sa ibang bansa.</p> <p>"I need ten thousand pesos to be able to go travel to another country."</p>

<p>Ang sweldo ko kahapon ay limang libo.</p> <p>"My salary yesterday was five thousand."</p>	<p>Nakakita ako nang isang libong piso.</p> <p>"I found one thousand pesos!"</p>
<p>Ang antigo na yon ay siyam na raang taon na ang tanda.</p> <p>"The antique was nine hundred years old."</p>	<p>Nakagamit ako ng walong daang piso sa isang araw.</p> <p>"I spent eight hundred pesos in one day."</p>
<p>Ang maleta ay pitong daang piso.</p> <p>"The bag cost seven hundred pesos."</p>	<p>Paki palit ang anim na raan na dolyar ko sa peso.</p> <p>"Please change my six hundred dollars into peso."</p>
<p>Merong limang daang empleyado na nagtatrabaho sa kompaniya namin.</p> <p>"There are five hundred employees working in our company."</p>	<p>Pinahiram niya ako nang apat na daan.</p> <p>"He lent four hundred pesos to me."</p>
<p>Ang lungsod na ito ay tatlong daang taon na.</p> <p>"This city is three hundred years old."</p>	<p>Marami ba ang dalawang daang piso?</p> <p>"Is two hundred Pesos a lot?"</p>

Mahigit isang milyon na tao ang naka intay sa airport.

"There were over one million people waiting at the airport."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Sero is the word for "zero." This does not indicate "nothing" or "none" in English, but *wala* is used for "none."

Milyon is "million."

For example: *Isang milyon* is "one million." *Tatlong milyon at sampung libo* is "Three million

ten thousand."

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to read Numbers Bigger than 100 in Filipino

To learn numbers in Filipino, you will first need to memorize the numbers one to ten. Then look into the rules that are applied in higher numbers explained in previous bootcamps. The bigger numbers are mentioned before the smaller ones so there is a clear logical order to it.

100

"One hundred" in Filipino is *isang daan*. Just as in double digits, you will only apply *at* at the end, and say the rest of the numbers.

<i>isang daan</i>	one hundred
<i>dalawang daan</i>	two hundred
<i>tatlong daan</i>	three hundred
<i>apat-na-daan</i>	four hundred
<i>limang daan</i>	five hundred
<i>anim-na-raan</i>	six hundred
<i>pitong daan</i>	seven hundred
<i>walong daan</i>	eight hundred
<i>siyam-na-raan</i>	nine hundred

1,000

"A thousand" in Filipino is *isang libo*. The rest of the rules apply to the thousands as well.

<i>isang libo</i>	one thousand
<i>dalawang libo</i>	two thousand
<i>tatlong libo</i>	three thousand
<i>apat na libo</i>	four thousand

<i>limang libo</i>	five thousand
<i>anim na libo</i>	six thousand
<i>pitong libo</i>	seven thousand
<i>walong libo</i>	eight thousand
<i>siyam na libo</i>	nine thousand
<i>sampung libo</i>	ten thousand

<i>dalwampung libo</i>	twenty thousand
<i>tatlumpung libo</i>	thirty thousand
<i>apatnapung libo</i>	forty thousand
<i>limampung libo</i>	fifty thousand
<i>animnapung libo</i>	sixty thousand
<i>pitumpung libo</i>	seventy thousand
<i>walumpung libo</i>	eighty thousand
<i>siyamnapung libo</i>	ninety thousand
<i>isandaang libo</i>	one hundred thousand
<i>isang milyon</i>	one million

No matter how high the number goes, the same rule applies. Thousands, hundreds, tens. For example, "one thousand six hundred eighty six" would be:

Isang libo anim na daan walompu at anim

You will only put *at* before you say the last digit.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Did You Know?

Eating out in the Philippines is very cheap. The highest it can go is around 400 pesos per person, and the lowest is around 40 pesos. There are many options and different cuisines can be enjoyed. Since homecooked meals are also an important part of Filipino cuisine, eating at home is also another option, and this may by far be the cheapest way to enjoy food in the country.

LESSON NOTES

All About #1

Top 5 Reasons to Study Filipino

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2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the History of Filipino

Linguistics and History

Filipino is one of the official languages of the Philippines, and the other is English. Filipino is a mixture of several foreign languages including Spanish and Malay. The language is commonly used in Manila, the capital of the country and as a first or second language for other parts the country.

Filipino is constructed from eight different languages in the Philippines, but heavily bases its sentence construction on Tagalog, which is the common language in the capital. Though the differences are mild and can barely be detected, certain vocabulary in Filipino that is derived from foreign languages such as Spanish is translated or adopted in Tagalog in a strict manner. But clear differentiation between the two languages is vague and commonly used together.

The mixture of several languages in Filipino comes from its historical relationship with foreign countries such as Spain and the United States. The people of the Philippines, since it was a Spanish colony for over 300 years, were taught to speak the language, and also experienced the spread of Roman Catholicism. Many customs and traditions are still maintained by modern Filipino culture and Roman Catholicism still maintains to be the most popular religion.

Since the end of the Spanish-American war, English has been taught to the people in the country, thus becoming of the two official languages. English is usually used in professional and industrial environments, whereas Filipino or other dialects are used in the household.

About the Philippines: Culture

Geographically located in Southeast Asia, the Philippines consists of three major islands: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. There are around 120 to 175 dialects, but the official languages are English and Filipino.

The country consists of different cultures and is a melting pot of various Asian and Western influences. Because of the mix of oriental and western thought and culture, the Philippines holds a unique position. The Filipinos generally maintain conservative beliefs due to their high regard for religion (whether Christian, Islam, or other religions) and close cultural relations with other Southeast Asian countries, but they are well adapted to modern Western thought due to the influence of the West early in its history. These aspects make the country highly receptive to both Asian and Western visitors.

Writing System and Pronunciation

In writing and pronunciation, Filipino follows the *Abakada* alphabet (A, B, K, D, E, G, H, I, L, M, N, Ñ, Ng, O, P, R, S, T, U, W, Y), meaning it has a very similar pattern to the English alphabet, but it lacks the letters C, F, J, Q, V, X, Z. After revisions and modernization, the alphabet now includes the unique letters *N*, the Spanish *Ñ*, and the Tagalog *NG*.

One example that includes *ng* is the word *Kambing* ("Goat") where the *Ng* is pronounced the same way as the "ng" in "King" in English. By contrast, the word *Ngayon* ("Today," "Now") maintaining the Tagalog *Ng*.

Why It Is Important: The Top Five Reasons to Learn this Language Are...

Number 5: Learning a different language is fun! There's nothing like learning about a different culture and language and improving yourself by taking a trip to a new destination.

Number 4: The Philippines is affordable to visit, or to live in! Whether you're on vacation or you're there to live, the Philippines is very cheap.

Number 3: You can bond with the locals! If you familiarize yourself and use the local language to communicate with locals, it will definitely give a better experience and perspective when visiting the country. Filipinos are usually more accommodating and intrigued when you make an effort to understand their culture.

Number 2: It broadens your knowledge of the country's history. As mentioned before, there are many Spanish and English words in Filipino, and this reflects in the country's history. Naturally, Filipino culture itself reflects and has been significantly influenced and shaped by these events. It is interesting to see how the culture develops and has adopted other cultures.

Number 1: Filipinos are known to be some of the warmest people in the world. They are friendly and cheerful and known to be very family-oriented. Why wouldn't you want to experience a new bond with the Filipino culture?

LESSON NOTES

All About #2

Cracking the Filipino Writing System

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Filipino Writing System

Alphabet

The Filipino language has 5 vowels, *A, E, I, O, U* and 15 consonants, *B, K, D, G, H, L, M, N, NG, P, R, S, T, W, Y*

The Filipino alphabet, also known as *Abakada*, consists of same letters as the English Alphabet but excludes *C, F, J, Q, V, X, Z* and includes *Ñ* and *NG*.

Though the *Abakada* alphabet is the first system that the Filipino language was based upon, and the adoption of the English language in Filipino itself has allowed the system to adjust and apply a more modern version of the alphabet, which includes all of the initially excluded letters in *Abakada*: *C, F, J, Q, V, X, Z*.

Filipino is written the way it is spoken, which helps when learning the language. For example, words such as "Radio" would be written as *Radyo* and pronounced the same way.

Ñ and Ng

The *Ng* is pronounced as it would be in the word "Thing," but often times come with a vowel afterwards. As an example, the word *Hinga* ("breath," "breathe") and *Ngayon* ("Today," "Now").

The *Ñ* in *Abakada* derives from the Spanish language and is pronounced as *énye*. The *Ñ* is mostly only used towards names that derive from the Spanish language. Examples are *Malacañang* Palace or *Parañaque* City.

Learning Other Languages

Filipino has many loanwords from Spanish, English, Malay, and Chamorro (which is spoken in Guam and Micronesia).

So let's take a look at some examples of loanwords in Filipino from different languages.

Spanish

Kumusta: This would probably be the most famous loanword from Spanish which also has the same meaning as the original word "Como estast. (How are you?)

Oras: This comes from the word "Horas" which means time or hour. EX: "*Ano oras na?*" "What time is it?"

Edukasyon: Comes from "Educacion" in Spanish meaning "Education." School in Filipino is "*Eskwela*" which also comes from "Escuela"

Swerte: Comes from "Suerte" from Spanish.

Spanish numbers are still used to this day in the Philippines. Often they are used in telling the time and in negotiations or money usage.

Like the example above, often the loanwords from Spanish are pronounced the same way as in Filipino but the spelling rules are changed to adopt to the Filipino spelling rules.

English

Basketbol - "Basketball"

Nars - "Nurse"

Direk - "Director"

Biswal - "Visual"

Istampid - "Stampede"

A similar pattern can be seen in loanwords from English as with Spanish; you can see that they are exactly the same but only vary in spelling and pronunciation. Vocabulary related to technology and science often consists of loanwords from English or completely uses English.

The loanwords themselves are written using both English spelling and/or Filipino spelling.

Chamarro

Apelyido: comes from the word "Apiyidu" in Chamarro which means "Family Name."

Araw: comes from "Atdao" in Chamarro means "Sun."

Asawa: comes from "Asagua" meaning "wife" or "husband."

Gamot: comes from "Amot" meaning "medicine."

Tulay: comes from "tolai" meaning "bridge."

Unlike Spanish and English, these loanwords are less identical to its loanwords, but they still sound the same and have similar spellings.

Malay

Ako: "Aku" in Malay means "I." This is one of the most useful words in Filipino.

Mura: "Murah" means "cheap." "Mahal" also comes from "Mahal" in Malay which means

"expensive." In Filipino, this can also mean "love."

Sarap: "Sedap" means "delicious" in Malay. In Filipino, "Masarap" means "delicious" and "Sarap" may be used as "taste" or "flavor."

Halaga: comes from "Harga" which means "price."

Buwan: "comes from "Bulan" meaning "moon" or "month."

These are only a few examples of many loanwords from different languages. Along with the language loanwords there are also many cultural similarities with the Philippines and these countries.

LESSON NOTES

All About #3

Painless Filipino Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Filipino Grammar

Learning grammar by using the terms and systems of grammar itself can always be a tricky part of learning another language. To make things smooth and easier to digest, we'll explain systems and rules using very basic grammatical terms and simple word or sentence examples.

We will divide this chapter into parts, from nouns, verbs, and pronouns to help you better understand the language, thereby giving you a overall summary of the grammatical system of Filipino.

Noun and Root Words

Filipino nouns can be easily learned and remembered, because most root words are used as nouns. The root word itself remains as the basis of the word, and it is modified with markers to change its function into verbs or adjectives.

For Example: *Bato* (Rock). *Ba+Bato=Babato* (To throw)

Verbs

The same way verbs are conjugated in English through passive, present, and future, Filipino also uses a similar function.

For example:

"I ate bread." = *Kumain ako ng tinapay.*

"I am eating bread." = *Kumakain ako ng tinapay.*

"I will eat bread." = *Kakain ako ng tinapay.*

As you can see, the root word for Eat is *Kain* depending on the tense. The word *Kain* is modified in different ways. *Kumain*, *Kumakain*, and *Kakain*.

Markers

Markers are words that come before a noun to indicate the purpose of the noun in the sentence.

Ang and *Ng* (*Nang*)

Ang is used with the focus words in the sentence and *Ng* is used with the relational words.

Example: With the sentence, *Ang ganda ng babae* ("The lady is beautiful"), the focus is the

beauty so put *Ang* before *Ganda* ("Beauty"/"Beautiful") and put *ng* before *Babae* ("lady").

Sentence Structure

Sentence structure in Filipino is as simple, as you will have the verb in the beginning then the pronoun and noun.

For example:

Maliligo ako. (Literal translation: "Shower I"; meaning: "I will take a shower.")

Gigising ako nang maaga. (Literally: "Wake up I early"; meaning: "I will wake up early.")

Though this is the basic way of constructing sentences in Filipino, you can also construct in a similar way to English.

For example:

Ako ay maliligo. (Literally: "I is take a shower."; meaning: "I will take a shower.")

Ako ay gigising ng maaga. (Literally: "I is wake up early."; meaning: "I will wake up early.")

When you are learning Filipino as a English speaker, this may be a more familiar way of understanding sentence structure. But the first example of "verb+noun" is still much simpler. It is also more natural to use conversationally. This second example is more for very formal or even only written material. It would be very unnatural to use it in conversations.

Gender, Plural

The easiest part to figure out in Filipino is that words don't change by gender or the number of persons (in singular or plural).

LESSON NOTES

All About #4

Filipino Pronunciation Made Easy

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Filipino Pronunciation

With the familiarity and similarity of Filipino writing and pronunciation to the English alphabet, Filipino is a rather simple language to pronounce. There are only a few special notes about pronunciation and exceptions.

The Filipino alphabet *Abakada* consists of five vowels and fifteen consonants.

The Five Vowels

-A

The Filipino letter *-a* is pronounced like the [a] in "car."

-E

The Filipino letter *-e* is pronounced like the [e] in "get."

-I

The Filipino letter *-i* is pronounced like the [i] in "ski" or "tea."

-O

The Filipino letter *-o* is pronounced [o] in "toe."

-U

The Norwegian letter *-u* is pronounced like the [u] in "flu."

If you get the hang of these, Filipino pronunciation won't be very difficult.

Consonants

Some unique aspects of Filipino pronunciation:

Ñ

This comes from the Spanish *Ñ*, also known as *enye*. When pronounced, it's easier to think that it is a set with *N+Y*. For example, *Piñata* sounds like *Pinyata*. *Piña* is also Filipino for "pineapple."

NG

This is pronounced the same way as the last two letters of "sing" or "song." What can be

different from English pronunciations and which is often very tricky for learners is that it can come as the first, middle or last syllable of the word. For example, *Ngipin* ("tooth") or *Langit* ("Heaven").

-R

You roll your tongue against the palate (roof of your mouth) to make the sound. It is very similar to the Spanish R.

These top three are the most notable ones.

Other consonants are more or less pronounced the same way they are in English. Overall, consonants in Filipino are more accented or are pronounced with more exaggeration as compared to English.

LESSON NOTES

All About #5 Top 5 Must-Know Phrases for Learning Filipino

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Must Know Filipino Phrases

Here we'll introduce five phrases in Filipino that will take you a long way and help you out in a variety of situations!

Hello/Mabuhay ("Hello")

It is common for Filipinos to use the English word "Hello" in greeting others. To use *Hello* in Filipino it is more natural to indicate the time of the day by using *Magandang Umaga* ("Good Morning"), *Magandang Hapon* ("Good Afternoon"), and *Magandang Gabi* ("Good Evening").

Kamusta ("How are you?")

Kamusta is a loanword from the word "Como estas?" in Spanish. It also has the same meaning of "How are you?"

For Example:

A: *Kamusta?* ("Hi/How are you?")

B: *Mabuti naman. Ikaw, kamusta?* ("I'm good. How are you?")

Salamat ("Thank you")

It's as important as in any language to show gratitude and gratefulness in Filipino. *Salamat* is an important phrase to understand. And *Maraming Salamat* means, "Thank you very much."

It is also common to say *Salamat nalang* which means, "Just thank you" to indicate that you are still appreciative of the offering.

Wag nalang ("No, thank you")

Wag by definition means "Do not" and *lang* from *Nalang* means "only." When combined with a word, it becomes *nalang* and *Wag Nalang* together means "No, thank you." *Salamat nalang* can also mean "No, Thank you" as it can be literally translated as "Thank you only."

Pasensya na ("I'm sorry")

Pasensya by itself means "patience" in Filipino. *na* is often attached to other phrase such as *Halika na* ("come here"), to indicate your need for the former word or action.

Opo/Po ("Yes")

When speaking to show respect or to the elderly, it is common to use *Opo* as opposed to *Oo* which both means "Yes."

Po is also used to indicate this, but is attached at the end of a sentence or answer, especially in greetings.

Filipino culture puts importance on showing respect to people who are older than you, especially to parents and grandparents. This is shown in this very often-used phrase.

All of the phrases above can be used with *po* to indicate formality or respect, depending on who you are talking to.

For Example:

A: *Kumain ka na?*

B: *Opo.*

A: *Kamusta ka?*

B: *Mahusay, po.*

LESSON NOTES

All About #6

Can You Answer These Questions About the Philippines?

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is a Quiz!

Quiz

Here are some things you have to know about the Philippines! Test your knowledge of the Philippines.

1. In which part of the Philippines is Manila located?

1. The North
2. The South
3. The South-East

Correct answer: 3. The North

The island of Luzon is the North of the Philippines. It's where its capital Manila is located.

In the Northern part of Luzon, there are locations such as Baguio that have chilly climates compared to other parts of the Philippines. Manila is the capital for economy, politics and media in the country.

The language spoken is Tagalog/Filipino and English. There are no other dialects spoken but as it is the capital, naturally it is a melting pot of different people from different areas of the country.

2. We'll give the names of three people. One is a famous playwright, another is a politician, and the third is a sports star. Match the name with their profession.

Nick Joaquin Playwright

Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. Politician

Manny Pacquiao Athlete

Correct answers:

Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was a Filipino politician and was a strong influence in reconstructing Filipino politics by abolishing the Marcos Regime that was led by Ferdinand Marcos. He was later assassinated in the airport, which was later named the Ninoy Aquino International airport after him.

His wife Corazon Aquino became the successor to Ferdinand Marcos and led the People

Power Revolution in 1986.

Manny Paquiao is a Filipino boxer who won ten world titles in four different weights. The Boxing Writers Association of America also named him the "Fighter of the Decade."

He has become a national figure, also serving as a congressman for his hometown of South Cotabato and later as the congressman for his wife's hometown of Sarangani province.

Nick Joaquin is a Filipino playwright, journalist, and writer. He became famous for his short stories and novels in English. He was also honored as a National artist for literature.

His famous writings are *The Woman who had Two Navels* which explores the theme of heritage and legacy, while circulating around events post World War Two. Other works consist of journalistic pieces such as *La Naval de Manila and Other Essays*, which explores the influence of Spanish colonialism in Philippine culture.

3. Which are the most popular travel destinations in the Philippines?

1. Metro Manila, Boracay, Baguio
2. Samar, Davao, Bicol
3. Iligan, Lucena, and Basilan

Correct Answer: 1. Metro Manila, Boracay, Baguio

As the capital of the Philippines, **Manila** is the most visited city in the country. It's also the most populated, and takes up thirteen percent of the country's population. It is the center of the country's business, economy, and entertainment. Makati City is considered to be home to all of these.

Metro Manila is also famous for its numerous shopping malls, and it also has one of the top 10 largest shopping centers in Asia, the Mall of Asia.

Manila City is home to multiple national symbols. It has the National Museum of the Filipino People along with the Rizal Park, where the Rizal Monument is located, in honor to the country's National Hero, Jose Rizal.

Boracay, as mentioned before, is one of the most famous tropical island destinations in the country. Located in Western Visayas, its geographical location makes it ideal for windsurfing and kite boarding. Other activities on Boracay include snorkeling and scuba diving because of its clear waters, and lying on its famous white sand beaches.

Baguio is located on the island of Luzon north of Manila. It is famous for its historical significance and chilly subtropical climate. Tourists often enjoy visiting Baguio in contrast to the humid warm weather of the South.

4. The Philippines is the world's largest exporter in...

1. Fruit
2. Electronics
3. Spices

Correct Answer: 1. Fruits

The Philippines is known for its export of fruits, including coconuts, pineapple, mangos, and bananas. Banana exports alone makes Php250 million in export revenue. Mangoes make up over 39 percent of Japanese imports.

Perspective Check

The Philippines's geographic area is 300,000 square kilometers—close to that of the state of Arizona in the U.S.

Surprising Facts and Myths about Filipino Culture

1. Food

Filipinos eat everything with rice. The types of meat they mostly consume are beef, chicken, and pork. There are a lot of seafood dishes as well, and many Filipino foods contain richly flavored sauces.

There are many myths about eating particular foods during particular times in Filipino culture. For example, it is believed that if you eat nuts, you will become intelligent. Another myth is that if you eat mangoes or something sour at night, your parents will fall ill.

2. Culture

Filipino culture is highly influenced by Roman Catholicism and Spanish culture. Yet while it maintains its conservative roots from these influences, it also keeps a very open-minded perspective on different cultures. Filipinos are very courteous and warm people.

Paglililihi

This is a belief in the Philippines where a pregnant woman's cravings for a particular food will influence her child's physical characteristics.

People who believe in this will surely allege that the mother of a "crab child" feasted on crabs when she was in the stage of *paglililihi*. In fact, in the Philippines, claims like *pinaglihi sa palaka, sa luya, sa dwende...* ("conceived of frog, of ginger, of dwarf...), or even *...sa sama ng loob*

("..of ill feelings") are very common. However, thanks to the advancements in medical science, the many myths about *paglilíhí* are gradually being dispelled.

3. Society

Because of historical events, Filipinos are a mixture of Spanish, Chinese and some Japanese heritage. In recent years there have been many Korean immigrants to the country because of the strength of its English education.

A myth concerning society, can be found in social statuses. It is believed that the fairer or whiter someone's skin is, the richer or more successful they are. Social standards of physical appearances are also heavily dependent on how fair a person's skin is.

Another myth about the country is that the island of Mindanao is one of the most dangerous places, but Davao City is one of the safest places to visit.

4. Mythical creatures

There is a myth that there are dwarfs or *dwende* that live in certain deserted places. It is believed that there are good and bad *dwendes*, and if you are going to pass by a certain deserted place that is believed to be inhabited by these creatures, you have to be careful to not disturb them.

5. Language

The majority of Filipinos are either bilingual or trilingual, speaking English, Filipino, and dialects from their province.

There is a myth that Filipinos all speak Spanish. Though it was taught at schools in past decades, and the Filipino language has many loanwords and cultural similarities to Spanish, since it is not taught at school anymore, not a lot of Filipinos speak the language fluently.

LESSON NOTES

All About #7 Filipino Cuisine

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Filipino Cuisine

Rice cultivation was taught to Filipinos during the Chinese migration in 3200 BC. This has been a core of Filipino cuisine to this day. Many Chinese dishes were brought to the country and have been passed on, and have become entirely Filipino dishes in themselves. These include fried rice, spring rolls, and tofu. Other influences have also come from neighbor Asian countries, and of course the Spanish.

Filipino food has distinct bold flavorings in its dishes. It is a combination of sweet, sour, and salty. Two out of three are usually combined to make a contrasting flavor. For example, sweet and sour sauces are very popular. Mangoes, which provide the sweetness, are usually dipped into salt.

Popular Dishes

Filipino dishes always contain rice. Dishes are usually presented as a single course as opposed to having multiple courses.

Street food is the best way to enjoy local Filipino food. Food stands or merchants who go around in the mornings or early afternoon sell *Taho* (Tofu with sweet sauce and tapioca pearls) for a quick snack, or fishballs and squidballs that you can dip in sweet and chili sauce.

Filipinos also enjoy many foreign cuisines including Chinese and Japanese, because of the influence of these countries, and are very open to trying out new things and eventually adapting them to their own tastes, and creating a hybrid between them.

Seasonal Dishes

Because there are only summer and rainy seasons in the country, what would be considered as seasonal dishes are special dishes that are reserved for the holidays such as Christmas, Noche Buena. Filipinos celebrate these occasions as the biggest festivities on their calendars, and prepare for them weeks beforehand.

Bibingka is a type of rice cake made with coconut that has a spongy texture and *Puto Bumbong* is also made out of rice and steamed in bamboo tubes. These are considered to be Christmas cakes. People usually eat these after the Midnight Mass before they start enjoying their Noche Buena dinner.

Table Etiquette

Table manners consist of very basic and commonly observed etiquette such as not eating before everyone is sitting at the table, not speaking when your mouth is full, and after you eat making sure to place your fork and spoon (forks and spoons are the main utensils used) neatly together on your plate.

The Top 5 Filipino Dishes

Number 5: *Lumpia* (Spring Rolls)

There are two types of *lumpia*: fried and fresh. The filling can differ for every maker but usually consists of vegetables like bean sprouts, carrots and, string beans. They come with different sauces, usually sweet and sour, sweet chili, or vinegar.

Number 4: *Adobo* (Chicken or pork marinated in garlic, soy sauce, vinegar, and pepper)

Adobo means to marinate in Spanish. This technique was used to preserve meat during Spanish times, and then become one of the Philippines' most famous dishes. These days, it is a little different from the original method of Spanish *adobo*.

Number 3: *Sinigang* (Meat or fish cooked in tamarind soup with vegetables in one hot pot)

This dish consists of pork, beef, or fish in a tamarind soup that has a distinct sour but nice flavor. Always a family favorite, ways of preparing and ingredients may differ from family to family and there are distinct differences depending on the region.

Number 2: *Pansit* (Dried noodles sautéed in chicken, pork, shrimp and vegetables)

This is always present at birthday parties. *Pansit* is usually prepared during these occasions to wish the birthday person long life and good health. The Chinese introduced noodles to Filipinos and *pansit* itself comes from the term *Pian / Sit* meaning "something conveniently cooked fast." It's also served at occasions other than birthdays.

Number 1: *Lechon* (Whole roasted pig)

Lechon means roasted suckling pig in Spanish. It is roasted on charcoal and served during holidays, special occasions, and festivals. It's also enjoyed in Latin America and Spain.

Top 5 Foods for the Brave

Number 5: *Isaw*

This is a type of street food. It's chicken or pork intestines, cleaned and grilled on sticks. You eat them by dipping into vinegar with sliced onions. It's also called *pulutan* which is snacks or food that you enjoy while drinking alcohol.

Number 4: *Betamax*

Also a type of street food, it's chicken blood set to dry, then as it becomes solid it's cut into cubes where it eventually looks like a betamax tape. This is also a *pulutan*.

Number 3: *Chicharon Bulaklak*

It's deep fried crispy chicken mesentery or (in culinary terms) crow. *Chicharon* refers to deep fried pork or chicken and *Bulaklak* refers to the mesentery itself. The name comes from its resemblance to a flower or *bulaklak*.

Number 2: Soup Number 5

This is cow testicles and phallus chopped into pieces and cooked with vegetables as a soup. It is believed to have aphrodisiac effects.

Number 1: *Balut*

The most infamous if not the most famous Filipino food is *Balut*. It is fertilized duck eggs. Usually sold by merchants who go around at night shouting *Balut!* You can enjoy it with a pinch of salt. The soup that comes with the egg is as tasty as the *balut* itself. Definitely a must-try when you get a chance.

LESSON NOTES

All About #8

Top 5 Things You Need to Know About Filipino Society

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Things You Need to Know about Filipino Society

Major Cities

Quezon City

The most populated and largest city in Metro Manila. It was the capital city of the country until 1976. The city takes its name from the first Filipino president (Manuel L. Quezon). It is also home to the country's biggest station, and naturally is the center of the television entertainment industry. The country's best universities, the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University are also located here.

Manila City

The capital is home to Malacañang Palace, where the President of the Philippines resides. The national library, museums, and monuments to the country's National Hero Jose Rizal can also be found here. The city comes in as the second most populous city.

Makati City

The seventh largest city in Metro Manila, it is also known to be the financial capital. The headquarters of major companies flourish in the city and the best hotels are also located here. It is in the Southern part of Metro Manila. High-end shopping malls, restaurants, and nightclubs can also be found, also making it the center of entertainment. Embassies are scattered around the city, including the British, Australian, Japanese and many more.

Family Life

Heavily influenced by Roman Catholic teaching, Filipino family culture still maintains a conservative perspective on family values and morals. Yet, the influence and the adoption of Western culture have also maintained a more liberal perspective in Filipinos. This can also be reflected in interracial marriages. Filipinos are very open-minded in terms of cultural diversity. They are also known to be very family oriented and it is normal for children to reside in their parents' homes even after their academic studies, or marriage.

Work Culture and Economy

The Philippines' economy of today has proved comparatively well-equipped to weather the recent global financial crisis, partly as a result of the efforts over the past few years to control the fiscal deficit, bring down debt ratios, and adopt internationally-accepted banking sector capital adequacy standards. The Philippine banking sector—which makes up 80 percent of total financial system resources—had limited direct exposure to distressed financial institutions

overseas, while conservative regulatory policies, including the prohibition of investments in structured products, shielded the insurance sector.

Though not considered among the richest countries in the world, with regard to its GDP, living in the Philippines is inexpensive. The average worker makes around 3,000 US dollars per year.

A significant aspect is that it also relies on emigrant remittances, also known as Overseas Workers, who make up ten percent of the overall GDP.

In professional environments such, English is more commonly used.

The work environment is considered to be an interpersonal one; workers build relationships with their colleagues and because it is considered as a personal relationship too, it is normal to take that bond and do favors for each other.

Politics

The Government of the Philippines is a republic, democratic form of government. In this type of government, the power is in the hands of the people, the majority. The officials are voted in by the people, for the people and given power by the people of the Philippines.

The highest official is the president, and the second highest is the vice president. As a multi-party system, no one party often is able to gain power alone. Current parties can be divided into two groups: the major parties, whose communication is typical of traditional political parties; and minor parties or party-list organizations, who bank on the party-list system to win congressional seats.

The current president is Noynoy Aquino, son of former politician Ninoy Aquino and former president Cory Aquino. He is part of the Liberal Party and has been president since 2010.

Generational Trends

Technology in the Philippines is very up to par with developed countries in Asia or the West. Prices for gadgets are not so different to other countries in the West; they are mostly only accessible to the middle or upper class. But a second-hand market flourishes in the country, which provides a healthy circulation for these items or products to be consumed by many.

LESSON NOTES

All About #9

Top 5 Most Important Dates on the Filipino Calendar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Dates During the Calendar Year

Number 5: Independence Day (June 12th)

This date signifies the Independence of the Philippines from Spain in 1898. It officially became independent from the U.S. on July 4th, 1946. For a while the country celebrated its Independence Day on this date, but it was changed back to June 12th by President Macapagal in 1962. On this day, Filipinos have parades and government officials and politicians often join in, and a speech is made by the president. You can also see the Philippines' flag being displayed in different places including at people's houses. Families celebrate them with simple family gatherings or watching parades.

Number 4: *Todos los Santos* (All Saint's Day, October 30th)

This is also a time for family reunions, where families visit family cemeteries and tombs. They clean and repaint the graves, and this day is also used as a time to bond with family members through games, dancing, and singing.

Number 3: *Mahal na Araw* (Holy Week)

A Roman-Catholic tradition that consists of Palm Sunday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday. Filipinos who practice this tradition attend masses in Church. The most notable days are Good Friday and Easter Sunday. On Good Friday, in some communities or cities the processions include devotees who self-flagellate and sometimes even have themselves nailed to crosses as expressions of penance.

Number 2: New Year's Eve/New Year's

This is another favorite holiday of Filipinos. Like many places around the world, it is celebrated by watching fireworks and with family and a big feast called *Media Noche*. What can be special with the Filipino traditional way of celebrating this holiday is that each household usually buys lot fireworks to light and enjoy on their own. They usually start a couple of hours before new years and save the extreme or best ones for the actual countdown. Rituals done on the moment of the first day of the year, is to make lots of noises not only with fireworks, but with pots and pans and whistles or toy horns known as *torotot*. It is also a saying that if you jump as high as you can when the clock hits midnight, you will grow taller in that year. Polka dot outfits are also worn during this time, to bring prosperity for the year.

Number 1: *Noche Buena* (Christmas/Christmas Eve)

This is the most awaited and celebrated holiday in the country. Celebrations and preparations usually start three months before December. Carols and decorations can already be seen during this time. At midnight on Christmas Eve, the *Noche Buena* feast is prepared and eaten. Presents are usually opened and shared during this time as well, as opposed to other countries where presents are opened on the morning of Christmas.

LESSON NOTES

All About #10

Popular Culture in the Philippines

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Things to Know about Filipino Pop Culture

As popular culture changes quickly and drastically, this lesson focuses on the most recent pop cultures. Please keep in mind, we wrote this lesson in July 2012. In this lesson, we'll focus on the top five pop culture topics in the Philippines.

Popular TV

With the influence of Spanish and Latin American culture, Filipinos enjoy watching telenovelas or TV dramas. Much of the entertainment enjoyed at home revolves around the TV set.

In more modern culture, along with local telenovelas, American, Korean, and Taiwanese TV has also been a boom in the country. A typical local TV series would usually be a local adaptation of Latin American telenovelas such as *Marimar* and *Betty Lafeyah*.

Korean or Taiwanese shows are also imported and usually dubbed for local adaptation.

There are also many talent, singing and dancing based TV shows because Filipinos are avid music and dance fans.

There are two main broadcasters in the Philippines: ABS-CBN and GMA7. Performers and actors are usually under contract with one of these channels and are usually only allowed to appear on one station. For foreign television shows, people turn to cable TV. The foreign shows can be seen on local channels, but tend to be broadcast after the pass of their initial boom.

Popular Filipinos Abroad

There are many famous Filipinos abroad, especially in the entertainment business. Many of them are singers in the music industry such as Charice Pempengco, Lea Salonga, and Arnel Pineda of Journey.

Others are fashion designers like Josie Natori and wedding dress designer Monique Lhullier. There's also the famous boxer Manny Pacquiao.

Popular Music

Filipinos enjoy love ballads that are sung by great singers such as Whitney Houston, Celine Dion. Songs by these artists are also often covered by local artists. Foreign pop music is also popular and Filipinos are up to date with foreign music, especially that from the US. Radio stations are basically divided into different genres: Original Pilipino Music (OPM), pop music, love ballads, and so on.

With local OPM, aside from soul singers, there are many Rock Bands such as Bamboo, Kamikazee, and Parokya ni Edgar. There are also many restaurants and live houses where live music can be enjoyed.

Popular Sports

The most popular sports in the Philippines are basketball and boxing.

There are basketball courts everywhere. There are amateur and professional competitions and matches throughout the year.

The Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) is the oldest basketball league in Asia and second in the world after NBA.

International Pop Culture

The Philippines is usually up to date with Western pop culture, especially with movies and music. Without the need for voice-overs or subtitling, movies are easily imported to the country. Very current pop music is popular, but many Filipinos also still love pop music from the 90s and 80s.

A lot of retail stores, including chain stores like Starbucks, Krispy Kreme, and others have also opened up in large cities in the Philippines.

LESSON NOTES

All About #11

Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Filipino

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Filipino

Entertainment

Entertainment is a good source for both effective and practical and entertaining for language learning. The Internet is a useful source for accessing Filipino entertainment, with free websites such as YouTube. Since there are also many Filipino workers and immigrants in different parts of the world, there are also many Filipino channels on cable TV where you can enjoy Filipino movies, news, and TV shows.

TFC and GMA Pinoy TV are two of the most famous and widespread cable TV channels abroad.

Learning Filipino Online

Tagalog Lang (<http://tagaloglang.com/>)

This website is good not only for learning Filipino, but it also has many materials to understand the language better and its culture as well. There are easy phrases that you can straight away use.

There are also poems and literature so you can get more into the language. It introduces different sides of the Philippines from the food, culture, and music.

Dictionaries

When learning another language, it is important to have a dictionary. But to always have it with you and get yourself used to using it every time you have a question is helpful.

There are also many online translators (**Google Translate and Babylon**, for example) and dictionaries available. Use them carefully though; because web translators can often make mistakes with grammatical structuring, especially when it is sentences you are translating. Make sure to use both physical dictionaries and web translators together.

Another online dictionary source for Filipino is <http://www.bansa.org/>. This is another useful site as it looks for different links online to find the meaning of a word. It gives variations and well-rounded results for your search.

There are many published Filipino dictionaries in stores or sold online. The *Berlitz Filipino*

Phrase Book and Dictionary is also a well reviewed dictionary that can be used both as a dictionary and a phrase book.

It will also be helpful to search for one under "Tagalog-English dictionary" because often Filipino dictionaries are referred to as this, to differentiate it from other Filipino dialects.

Social Networking

There are social networking websites such as Facebook, Friendster, and Multiply where there are a lot of Filipino users. Making friends on these websites can be a good source to make friends with Filipino speakers, but actually learn to write and construct sentences in Filipino as well.

But be careful because sentence structures and word usage in Filipino when it comes to casual talk or "chat talk" can be all over the place. It is also important to keep this in mind to train yourself to differentiate casual, formal, or colloquial language use.

WikiPilipinas

WikiPilipinas (<http://en.wikipilipinas.org/>) is a good online source for anything Filipino, from Filipino figures, to food, to current events. It works just like Wikipedia but is more focused on the Philippines. But be careful, because it also has its downsides like Wikipedia as its sources of information can also be edited by web users. So take the information you consume with a grain of salt or add extra research if you ever need to confirm some information.

LESSON NOTES

All About #12

Top 5 Tips for Avoiding Common Mistakes in Filipino

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Tips to Help Overcome Some Common Errors That Learners of Filipino Mak

Tip 1: Don't be afraid to pronounce with passion

When speaking and learning a new language, pronunciation can be one of the hardest things to overcome. With Filipino, especially for English speakers, it may be a harder hurdle to pass.

In speaking Filipino, the key is to listen carefully for emphasis. Common mistakes non-fluent learners make is the ending of each word. For example, *Hindi ako nagugutom* which means "I am not hungry," non native speakers tend to pronounce the end of each word vaguely and drag them on until they say the next word in the sentence. For example: "Hindi akow naguWguWtoWm."

The end of words that end with the o tends to be come with a "w" sound. Make sure to put clear and decisive pronunciations at the end of your words.

Tip 2: Learn Basic Conjugations

Conjugating words in Filipino can be tricky. Though they are usually repetitions and usually constructed by similar vowels and consonants, it is hard to get a grasp of these rules. It is all about practice and getting the feel of it.

UM verbs

For example with, *Kain* ("eat"), *KUMain* ("ate"), *KUMAkain* ("eating"), and *KAKain* ("will eat"), the word *Kain* can be modified by adding affixes and repetition. Other words can follow this structure, for example: *Takbo* ("run"), *tUMakbo* ("ran"), *TUMAtakbo* ("running"), *TAtakbo* ("will run").

As you can see, some words conjugate the way others do as well. Have a sensitive ear to these things and test them out when you hear new words and try to conjugate them yourself.

These *UM* verbs can be confusing if you do not understand the rules. One mistake that is made a lot is using *kain* as the root word for every other conjugated form.

Kain ka na? is often used to make the statement *Kumain ka na?* (Literally: "Ate you already?" Meaning: "Did you eat?") or *Kakain ka na?* (Literally: "Will eat you already?" Meaning: "Will you eat?")

Mag- Verbs

Another is the *Mag*-verbs. When these types of verbs are conjugated they either come with a *mag* or a *nag*. That's pretty simple.

So, get the basics down and find the words that are either *UM*-verbs or *Mag*-verbs.

For example, *mag* verbs can also be mistaken for *UM* verbs. *Magkain ako* as opposed to *Kakain ako*.

Make sure you know and can differentiate between these two types of verbs. There aren't rules to make certain which verbs go to which section, but you can only master them by using them and learning their feel. But luckily these are these are the two main constructions of verbs in the language.

Tip 3: Sentence Structure

There are other ways construct sentences, one would be more similar to the rules in English such as "I am hungry" would be *Ako ay nagugutom*. But for these structures, it is not only unnatural but these get more complex as the sentence grows longer.

For example, *Ako ay nagugutom kaya gusto ko kumain mamaya*. If you apply the verb-first rule, it can be shorten to *Kakain ako mamaya kasi gutom ako*.

So, don't focus too much on this structure but always refer to the "verb-first rules."

Sentence structure can be complicated when you have to think about grammar, word choice, and pronunciation all together. The key to simplifying these rules is to know that basic Filipino is "Verb first." For example, *Nagugutom ako*. ("I'm hungry.") or *Nahihilo ako* ("I feel dizzy.")

Or in a more general case, you can state the most important part of your information first. For example: *Handa nako* ("I'm ready.") or *Bukas ang celebration* ("The celebration is tomorrow."). In this case, the emphasis is on the information that it is "tomorrow."

Tip 4: Think Only in Filipino

It is common for Filipinos to speak in a mixture of Filipino and English, also known as "Taglish." This is also helpful for Filipino learners to turn to English when in doubt about a phrase or a word in Filipino. Yet, in any case or in any language, this can also make your learning experience rusty and slow. When learning Filipino, try your best to think only in Filipino. Considering both English and Filipino rules will only complicate your thinking process and will not train you to learn to completely speak in Filipino.

This may actually be one of the main reasons that foreigners who visit the country have a hard time learning, because they find themselves speaking in English.

An example is *Gusto ko mag **play** nang basketbol*. (Literally: "Want I to play basketball.")

Meaning "I want to play basketball.) which you could say as *Gusto ko "maglaro" ng basketbol.*

The benefit of using or trying to seek for the Filipino word is that it will simply broaden your vocabulary. By knowing that "play" is *laro*, you can now use this root word and conjugate this and broaden your expressions. To state, "I want to play basketball," you will also learn that "to play" is *MAGLaro*.

Tip 5: Be Aware of Accents and Stresses

The most obvious way to know if you are not as fluent in a language is of course your pronunciation. Filipino is generally not a hard language to learn when learning its pronunciation, considering that it's phonetic in the sense that it is spoken the way it is read. But what is not written are the accent marks and stresses in each word. In many Filipino words, a word can be written the same way, but pronounced differently.

For example, *Samantála* means "meanwhile" whereas *Samantalá* means "take advantage."

As language learners, when learning or pronouncing a new word, we tend to use accents and stress rules in our native language. When you pay attention and consider these accents and stresses, it is a step closer to becoming fluent.

LESSON NOTES

All About #13

Top 5 Phrases Your Filipino Teacher may Never Teach You

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Common Filipino Expressions That You Might Not Learn From a Filipino Teacher

Phrase 1: *Para*. ("Stop /Stop by")

Para is used when you're commuting to indicate to the driver to stop, or stop by a certain place so you can get off at your stop. *para po* is a more kinder way of phrasing this. For example: *Paki para po sa tabi* means "Please stop by the side."

Phrase 2: *Tawad* ("Discount")

This is a useful phrase to use when going shopping in the Philippines. You can usually negotiate prices and get bargain deals at local markets.

For example: "It's 100 pesos." "Can I get a discount?" is: *100 pesos ito. Tawad naman.*

Phrase 3: *Astig* ("Cool")

A slang phrase for "cool" or "amazing." Used when you praise or express amazement about something. Used the same way as English slang like "Cool" or "Dope." *Bumili ako nang bagong kotse. Astig.* is: "I just bought a new car." "Cool."

Phrase Four: *Talaga!?* ("seriously/Really(!)?")

Also got more or less the same usage as in English. Much like English you can use it as a question or for expressing surprise or a statement. Ex: "Buntis ako." "Talaga?" translation: "I'm pregnant." "Really?"/ "It's so hot today." "It really is." translation: "Ang init naman ngayon." "Talaga."

Phrase Five: *Diba* ("Right?")

Used the same way "Right" is used in English as a question or as a rhetorical question. Usually used after a sentence or a statement. It's short for *Hindi Ba(!)?*, which means "isn't it not." *Hindi* means "Not." For example: *Ang ganda nang lugar na ito, diba?* is: "This place looks amazing, does it not?"

LESSON NOTES

All About #14

Top 5 Filipino Classroom Phrases

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Useful Filipino Phrases For the Classroom

Phrase One: *Ano ang ibig sabihin ng _____?* ("What means...?")

This is a phrase that literally translates to "What is the meaning of...?" This is a very useful phrase in the classroom because you can ask your teacher what certain words, ideas, or places, mean in Filipino. You would use this phrase by first stating, *Ano ang ibig sabihin ng...* and then adding the item you want to know.

For Example:

1. *Ano ang ibig sabihin ng kotse?*
Literally: "What is the meaning of *gamit*?"
Translation: "What is the meaning of *kotse*?" (*kotse* means "cars")
2. *Ano ang ibig sabihin ng gamit?*
Literally: "What is the meaning of *gamit*?"
Translation: "What is the meaning of *gamit*?" (*gamit* means "used")
3. *Ano ang ibig sabihin ng kaya?*
Literally, "What is the meaning of *kaya*?"
"What is the meaning of *kaya*?" (*kaya* means "can do")

Phrase Two: *Bukas nyo ang mga libro nyo.* ("Open your books.")

Literally means "Open your (plural) the your (plural) book." It means open your book. *nyo* means yours (Plural). As you can see it is put after *Bukas* ("Open") and *Libro* ("Book") to specify who is supposed to take the action with whose object in this case, "book."

Phrase Three: *Hindi ko maintindihan.* ("I don't understand.")

Literally translates to "Not I understand" but means "I don't understand." You would use this phrase if your teacher explains something or says something that you didn't understand.

Phrase Four: *Paki ulit po* ("Please say it (do it) again.")

Paki ulit po literally translates to "Please again," but means "Please say it again." Or "Please do it again." This is useful when you need something to be repeated to you or if you missed something. You may or may not put *po*, but it's always safe if you do use it.

Phrase Five: *Naintindihan mo?* ("Understood?")

Literally translates as "Understood you?" but means "Did you understand?" It can be used to confirm if you are following or understanding something that has been told. You can use phrases 3 and 4 as a reply.

LESSON NOTES

All About #15

Top 5 Filipino Phrases from the Hosts

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Useful Phrases from Your Hosts

Phrase One: *Una napo ako (kame)*. ("I (We) will be going ahead.")

This phrase means "We will go ahead"; you can use this when you are at a party and this can be used as a goodbye greeting when you are leaving earlier than other guests. By using this phrase instead of simply saying "goodbye," it shows that you feel bad for leaving early and to also show politeness.

Phrase Two: *Mabuti* ("I'm good")

This means "I'm good." You can use it when you are asked how you are. It is semi formal and to make it a little more formal you can simply add *po* making it *Mabuti po*.

Phrase Three: *Saan ang* ("Where is...?")

This phrase means "Where is...?" It is a useful phrase, short, concise, and easy to use, and you normally use it for places you are having difficulty finding. Simply put the place you are looking for after *saan ang*.

Phrase Four: *Tara* ("Let's go")

This is a very casual way of saying "Let's go." You can use this when you are inviting friends to go somewhere, and adds to the inviting and fun mood that's ahead of you.

Phrase Five: *Ingat ka* ("Take care")

This is a casual way of saying "Take care." To make it more casual you can simply just say *Ingat*. This can be used when someone is making their goodbyes both permanently or temporarily. Filipino never forget to say this, and it could be said more often than an actual goodbye.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation #1

The Pronunciation of Consonants in Filipino

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Syllables and Native Consonant Sounds That Make Up the Filipino Language

Introduction

Filipino has 5 vowels: *A, E, I, O, U*; and 15 consonants: *B, K, D, G, H, L, M, N, NG, P, R, S, T, W, Y*. But since English is also incorporated in the country and the Filipino language itself, it has also adopted consonants from the English Alphabet.

Examples of Filipino Words

(*Ba*)(*hay*)

"House"

(*hang*)(*gang*)

"Until"

(*Ma*)(*gan*)(*da*)

"Beautiful"

(*Ma*)(*nga*)(*ngan*)(*ta*)

"Singer"

Consonants

1. [b] as in "bath." *Baboy* for "Pig"
2. [k] as in "kitchen." *Kanto* for "Corner"
3. [d] as in "dog." *Dilim* for "Dark"
4. [g] as in "get." *Gabi* for "Night"
5. [h] as in "hole,." *Hati* for "Half"
6. [l] as in "lamp." *Lapis* for "Pencil"
7. [m] as in "mobile." *Mayo* for "May"

8. [n] as in "none." *Nais* for "Wish"
9. [ɲ] as in "canyon." *Piña* for "Pineapple"
10. [ŋ] as in "sung." *Ngipin* for "Teeth"
11. [p] as in "pig." *Piloto* for "Pilot"
12. [r] as in "run." *Rinig* for "Hear"
13. [s] as in "sun." *Singa* for "Sneeze"
14. [t] as in "tea." *Talo* for "Lose"
15. [w] as in "wave." *Wagas* for "Perfect"
16. [y] as "yes." *Yakap* for "Hug"

The consonant Ñ is also used, but it is more commonly used for names and places that derive from Spanish names.

Other Consonants

1. ***ng***

Pronounced like ng in "sing" or "king."

For Example:

1. *ngayon* ("now")
2. *manganganta* ("singer")

1. ***r***

Pronounced like r is in "ring," but the tongue needs to be rolled more like the Spanish r.

For Example:

1. *rinig* ("hear")
2. *reaksyon* ("reaction")

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation #2

The Pronunciation of Vowels in Filipino

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Filipino Vowels

There are five vowels as we saw in the last lesson ([a], [e], [i], [o], [u]).

1. -A

Pronounced as [a] in "cat," but not to pronounce it as [a] in cape.

For Example:

1. *lapis* ("pencil")
2. *alis* ("leave")

2. -E

Pronounced like [eh] as in "best" or "nest"

For Example:

1. *deretso* ("straight")
2. *respeto* ("respect")

3. -I

Pronounced like [i] as in "fit."

For Example:

1. *hinto* ("pause")
2. *istorbo* ("disturbance")

4. -O

Pronounced like [o] as in "note," or "coat."

For Example:

1. *konti* ("a little")
2. *oo* ("yes")

4. -U

Pronounced like [u] as in "duke," or [oo] in "book."

For Example;

1. *unggoy* ("monkey")
2. *ulan* ("rain")

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation #3

Filipino Accent Marks

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Three different Accent Marks in Filipino

For this lesson we will get into accent marks. Accent marks are marks you put into vowels in a word. By knowing these accent marks we will know vowels to stress or not.

What can be different from other languages is that these accent marks simply indicate stresses and parts to cut short, and it does not change the pronunciations or sounds of these vowels.

There are three types of accent marks in Filipino, *Pahilís* (Acute), *Paiwà* (Grave), and *Pakupyâ* (Circumflex).

What makes Filipino not completely a phonetic sound are these accent marks. They are completely invisible in written Filipino, so for a learner, it is hard to identify these accent marks. These accent marks are only visibly written down on some dictionaries. But they do exist, and Filipino pronunciations are all based on these three accent marks.

***Pahilis* (Acute)** is an accent mark where it identifies which part of the word is to be stressed or accented.

As an example in English:

An **object** is a thing, where as to **object** is an action.

A **subject** may be a person, but to **subject** is a verb.

In English, these bolded parts are the accented parts in these words, this can also be the same in Filipino.

For example:

Báon ("lunch," "allowance") and ***Baón*** ("buried")

Gáling ("came from") and ***Galíng*** ("skill")

Hápon ("afternoon") and ***Hapón*** ("Japanese")

It is less common to put the accent marks in written Filipino, but this doesn't mean that you do not need to consider it. When one is not put in a word, the most common places to have a mark is the second to the last syllable of the word.

Example:

Maligáya ("happy") pronounced *Maligaaaya*

Mabúti ("well") pronounced *Mabuuti*

Íngay ("noise") pronounced *liingay*

Paiwà (Grave) is an accent mark that comes from the word *Hiwa* or *Iwa* meaning to cut. With words that have this accent mark, you will have to cut the word or accent short.

Though it isn't commonly used in English, it is similar to sounds of syllables that are cut short or pronounced quickly. For example, the word "**Hut**" pronounces the "U" sound very quickly.

Example:

Suka ("vomit") and **Sukà** ("vinegar")

Bata ("robe") and **Batà** ("child")

Hangà ("admiring")

Pakupyâ (Circumflex) is an accent mark that is a combination of both *Pahilís* and *Paiwà*. So the syllable would be accented but it is also cut short, with this combination the accent will have a distinct or strong tone and emphasis to it. *Pakupyâ* accent marks are only put on the last syllables of the letter *a*.

Example:

Bumabâ ("To go down")

Simulâ ("start")

Walâ ("none")

These accents help you determine the right accent and pronunciations in Filipino. It will also help you identify a root word and its conjugated version.

With the example of *Pakupyâ* accent marks, it will help you choose a pattern for *an* or *han* affixes in conjugating certain root words.

Example:

Sama ("companion")

You can conjugate this word as **samahan** ("to accompany someone")

Samâ ("mean," "bad")

You can conjugate this word as "**kasamaan**" (evil)

As you can see with the example, when a word is with a *Pakupyâ* accent, it is conjugated

with *an*, but when it is without it is conjugated with a *han*.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation #4

Filipino Regional Accents

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Regional Variations of Filipino Pronunciation Found in North and the South

As explained before there are three main dialects in the Philippines these are Ilokano, Tagalog, and Cebuano. Ilokano being spoken by people in the northern part of the island Luzon, Cebuano (It can also be called Visayan in English, or Bisaya in Filipino) spoken by people in and around the island of Visayas, and Tagalog which can also be referred to as Filipino spoken in the capital Manila.

In this series, we will look into the first to comparing them with Tagalog (Filipino).

Ilokano

Spoken in the northern part of the country, pronunciations are fairly similar to that of Filipino though with minor differences. With the case of Ilokano there are two systems followed, the Spanish and the Tagalog. These are systems that follow the written and spoken system. For example "the Spanish system" follow some spellings in Spanish, with consonants such as "g" and "j" are pronounced as "h."

The vowels in Ilokano are similar to that of Tagalog. As there are two types of Ilokano, the Amianan (northern) and the Abagatan (southern).

The Amianan like Tagalog, has 5 vowels and the only different sound it has from the latter language is the "e" sound. "e" is pronounced "oa" in "coal." Abagatan includes "u" that is called the unrounded u.

Cebuano

This dialect is mainly used by people in the Visaya island and some parts of Mindanao. There is also a slight trait in the Cebuano sounds influenced by Spanish such as the sound of "h" in both "j," "l" are sometimes pronounced as "y," and the same "r" as in Tagalog with the Spanish rolling "r."

Vowels have both sounds of the standard system and the "accented vowel sounds" where each vowel is pronounced longer or with an "h" in the end.

A (ahh) in far, E (ehh) in bled, I (ee) in eel, O (ohh) in obey, U (ooh) in pool.

Consonants in Cebuano are the same as Tagalog with no additional sounds or words.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation #5

Common Filipino Pronunciation Mistakes

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Five Most Common Mistakes People Make When They Pronounce Filipino.

#1: Remember to Trill Your -R's!

One of the most obvious differences in pronouncing the alphabet in English and Filipino is the Rs. If you pronounce your Rs a similar way you trill your Rs in Spanish, you've got it.

#2: Stress

Another common mistake that Filipino learners make is the stress marks in words. Especially in Filipino, without these stress marks in a word can have a completely different meaning. Especially in general, Filipino is pronounced the way they are written but they do not indicate which parts are accented.

For example:

Baba (pronounced: *Ba-ba*) with stressing the first syllable means "chin." But the word *baba* with no stress means "To go down."

It wouldn't be as hard to indicate where the accents are because Filipino is usually exaggerated and clearly spoken, just be sure to pay attention to these stress marks.

#3: Repetition

As we've explained before, there are many Filipino words that have repetitive sounds or vowels. For example the word *nakakaalala* which means, "to be reminded of" is from the root word *alala* which means "remember." It may often be confusing for when these words are read, constructed, and spoken.

The key to avoiding this problem comes when you start to understand and get used to making conjunctions in your sentences or words. With Filipino, when words are conjugated it can be super long, just like the example of *nakakaalala*.

A good way to understand and get used to these conjugations is to divide the words into two parts the "The conjugated parts, and the root word."

With *Nakakaalala*, you can divide them as *Nakaka* and *Alalala*.

Repeating it many times would also be very effective and just making some repeat it a couple of times to learn the write pronunciations and accents.

When repeating it, it is good to note the division mentioned above, and analyze words yourself.

#4: Watch Out for Similar Sounding Words!

There are words that have the same spelling and almost the same pronunciation in Filipino. These words may be completely different sets and are unrelated to each other, so be careful. For example the word *baka* can mean a Carabao and *baka* which sounds more like *bka* means "Maybe."

Though when used in a context even if the pronunciation isn't completely accurate, it can still be understandable, there are still other cases where they can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.

#5: *Diy* and *Siy*

Often words with *diy* in them are pronounced as "J." For example, the word *diyán* which means "there" can be pronounced as "Jan"

Diyos means "god" and can be pronounced as "Jos."

This can also be seen in words with *siy* combination in them, which sounds like "sh."

For example:

Siya means "her/him" can sound as "sha"

Kasiya means "to fit" can sound like "Kasha"

Both *diy* and *siy* words that are given their alternative words are used at random and it is hard to distinctly identify when it is used or not.

These alternative pronunciations can be seen from the adoption of the English alphabet and language, which gives a shorter way of the pronunciation of words with *diy* and *siy*.