

Learning Filipino (Tagalog)

Filipino is the official language of the Philippines. It is spoken by more than 90 million people in the Philippines and at least 7 million elsewhere around the world—including within Filipino communities in at least 100 countries.

Writing System

Roman alphabet

Language Tips

- In Filipino, most letters of the alphabet have only one corresponding sound, making learning to read easy.
- Vowel sounds are not combined in Filipino words. When two vowels appear together, each is pronounced as a separate syllable. For example, *babae* (woman) is pronounced as *ba-ba-e*.
- Filipino uses **affixes**, which are letters that attach to root words. Affixes determine the word's meaning. For example:

will eat *kakain*

is eating *kumakain*

ate *kumain*

- Learning prepositions is easy in Filipino since the language has only two prepositions, *nasa* and *sa*.
- Contractions are commonly used in Filipino. For example:
pula na libro (red book) becomes *pulang libro*
bata na lalaki (young male) becomes *batang lalaki*
- Filipino speakers employ polite speech when conversing with strangers or elders. Use of the word *po* or plural pronouns in speech are common ways to show respect.
- When asking a question that can be answered with 'yes' or 'no,' speakers use the question marker *ba*. Rosetta Stone will teach you how to use this important word in asking questions.
- In addition to learning the Filipino words for numbers, you'll learn the Spanish words for the numbers one through twelve, which are used in telling time.

Language Family

Malayo-Polynesian

Dialect

In the Philippines, Filipino is the most widely spoken and understood dialect. It is the language used in government, schools, and the media. While there are many languages and dialects spoken in the country, more than 96 percent of the population can speak Filipino. This official language of the Philippines is derived from Tagalog, a dialect spoken in the northern part of the country. Filipino also incorporates many English and Spanish words.

Accent

As spoken in Metro Manila