

# Filipino Grammar

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# 1 Preliminaries

## 1.1 The Filipino Alphabet

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the Alphabet for the Filipino language, this alphabet is composed of 56 scripts and 11 punctuation marks [2]. The 56 scripts are divided into two, the first half being the capital letters of the modern Latin script with the addition of "Ñ" and "Ng"; while the other half is the lower case variants of each letter.

The 11 punctuation marks in the Filipino language are the: *tuldok* (.), *tandang pananong* (?), *tandang padamdam* (!), *kuwit* (,), *kudlit* ('), *gitling* (-), *tutuldok* (:), *tuldok-kuwit* (;), *panipi* ("), *pambukas na panaklong* ((, *pampasarang panaklong* ()), at ang *tutuldok-tuldok* (...)

In mathematical notation, we can represent  $\mathcal{F}$  as the set:

$$\mathcal{F} = \{a, b, \dots, z, \tilde{n}, ng, A, B, C, \dots, Z, \tilde{N}, Ng\} \cup \{., ?, !, ,, ', -, :, ;, ", (, ), \dots\}$$

and the size of  $\mathcal{F}$ ,  $|\mathcal{F}| = 67$ .

We can also introduce subsets the following which are subsets of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

1.  $\mathbb{M} = \{., ?, !, ,, ', -, :, ;, ", (, ), \dots\}$ , the set of punctuation marks
2.  $\mathbb{V} = \{a, e, i, o, u, A, E, I, O, U\}$ , the set of upper and lower case vowels
3.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathcal{F} - (\mathbb{M} \cup \mathbb{V})$ , the set of upper and lower case consonants

### 1.1.1 Remarks on the Digraph: ng/Ng or "en dyi"

Although the letter "Ng" or "ng" is a concatenation of two separate graphemes or symbols in  $\mathcal{F}$  (since  $Ng = N \cdot g$  and  $ng = n \cdot g$ ), the letter "Ng" is officially recognized as a symbol in  $\mathcal{F}$  since it represents a distinct Filipino sound. In particular, it represents the voiced velar nasal sound, or in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), the  $\eta$  sound [1].

For instance, the word "hangin" has 5 letters namely: "h", "a", "ng", "i", "n", since "ng" is pronounced as a velar nasal sound, not as two separate sounds n-g. Take for instance the word "manger" where "ng" is a substring in but is not pronounced as the velar nasal sound. Instead, its pronunciation is 'meɪ ndʒ ər ("meyn-ger"); not 'mæŋ ʒ ər ("mang-ger"), 'mæŋ ər ("mang-er") or 'mæŋər ("manger").

## **1.2 Common Errors**

### **1.2.1 On Spelling**