**How To Read**

Below is a table of the symbols used in "Modified Baybayin" alphabet. This is the most popular form of the script.

**Baybayin Alphabet Reference**

| **Baybayin Symbol** | **Latin Letter** | **Sound** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | **A** | /a/ |
| I | **E / I** | /e/ /i/ |
| O | **O / U** | /o/ /u/ |
| k | **Ca / Ka** | /ca/ /ka/ |
| b | **Ba / Va** | /ba/ /va/ |
| d | **Da** | /da/ |
| p | **Fa / Pa / Pha** | /fa/ /pa/ |
| h | **Ha** | /ha/ |
| g | **Ga** | /ga/ |
| l | **La** | /la/ |
| m | **Ma** | /ma/ |
| n | **Na** | /na/ |
| N | **Nga** | /ŋa/ |
| s | **Sa / Za** | /sa/ /za/ |
| t | **Ta** | /ta/ |
| w | **Wa** | /wa/ |
| y | **Ya** | /ja/ |
| i | **E / I** | /e/ /i/ |
| o | **O / U** | /o/ /u/ |
| + | **Consonant marker** |  |

**Examples**

The first three symbols in the table represent vowels. Tagalog vowels originally only consisted of A, I and O. Then when borrowed words were introduced from Spanish and English, E and U were added and utitilized the same symbol as I and O respectively. These are typically used when a word starts with a vowel, like “ama”, or when there are two consecutive vowels, like “maaari”. See examples below:

| **am** | **a** | **m** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ama | a | ma |

| **maari** | **m** | **a** | **a** | **ri** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| maaari | ma | a | a | ri |

The next fourteen rows show the base symbols for consonants. By default all of the consonant symbols have an “a” after the associated consonant, making them “syllabic”. For example if you wanted to write the word “ba” or “ka” they would both be the symbol associated with the respective consonant without a mark above or below (more on that later). See example below:

| **bk** | **b** | **k** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| baka | ba | ka |

The next two symbols are called "kudlits". A kudlit is added either above or below a consonant symbol to modify which vowel follows. If a kudlit is added above the vowel that follows is either an "i" or an "e". If a kudlit is added above the vowel that follows is either an "o" or a "u".

In the word “filipino” the first three symbols will have kudlits above because they are followed by “i”. The last symbol will have a kudlit below because it is followed by an “o”. See example below:

| **filipino** | **fi** | **li** | **pi** | **no** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Filipino | fi | li | pi | no |

The final symbol in the table is the "krus" kudlit. This again modifies a consonant symbol by making it a standalone consonant. In the word “aking” the symbol for “ng” has a krus kudlit below because it is not followed by a vowel. See example below:

| **akiN+** | **a** | **ki** | **N+** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| aking | a | ki | ng |

**The First Rule of Baybayin**

"Kung anong bigkas, siyang baybay."

Baybayin is a phonetic alphabet meaning, words are written how they sound not nessesarily as they are expressed in the latin alphabet. The most common examples of this are "ng" and "mga". These two words are pronounced "nang" and "manga" and should be expressed as such when written in Baybayin.

| **nN+** | **n** | **N+** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| nang | na | ng |

| **mN** | **m** | **N** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| manga | ma | nga |

**Borrowed words**

There are many words in Tagalog that have been borrowed from other languages. Most notably from Spanish and English. This is why, when transliterating modern Tagalog into Baybayin, many symbols represent two or more letters from the Latin alphabet OR are a combination of symbols to produce a similar sound. Here is a table of the most notabale borrowed sounds and how they are expressed in Baybayin:

| **Baybayin Symbol** | **Original Tagalog** | **Borrowed** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I | **I** | E |
| O | **O** | U |
| k+ | **K** | C |
| b+ | **B** | V |
| p+ | **F** | P / Ph |
| s+ | **S** | Z |
| siy+ | **Siy** | Sh |
| diy+ / d+y+ | **Diy / Dy** | J (Eng) |
| h+ | **H** | J (Spa) |
| kuw+ | **Kuw** | Qu (Spa / Eng) |
| k+ | **K** | Qu (Spa) |