

FILIPINO GRAMMAR FUNDAMENTALS

1. SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Tagalog sentence structure is flexible but primarily follows a Predicate-Subject order, which is different from the English Subject-Predicate order.

A. Predicate-Subject (Standard)

This is the most natural way to speak Tagalog. The "action" or "description" comes first.

- Structure: [Adjective/Noun/Verb] + [Ang-Marker + Subject]
- Examples:
 - Maganda ang babae. (The woman is beautiful.) - Lit: Beautiful the woman.
 - Guro ako. (I am a teacher.) - Lit: Teacher I.
 - Kumain si Juan. (Juan ate.) - Lit: Ate Juan.

B. Subject-Predicate ("Ay" Form)

This structure is more formal and mimics English word order. It uses the inversion marker "ay".

- Structure: [Subject] + ay + [Predicate]
- Examples:
 - Ang babae ay maganda. (The woman is beautiful.)
 - Ako ay guro. (I am a teacher.)
 - Si Juan ay kumain. (Juan ate.)

Note: Native speakers rarely use the "ay" form in casual conversation. Stick to Predicate-Subject for natural speech.

2. PARTICLES (ANG, NG, SA)

These markers tell you the role of a noun in the sentence.

A. Ang (Subject Marker)

Marks the topic or focus of the sentence.

- Ang: Used for common nouns (objects, places, animals).
- Masarap ang pagkain. (The food is delicious.)
- Si / Sina: Used for proper names of people.
- Mabait si Maria. (Maria is kind.)
- Kumain sina Ben at Jerry. (Ben and Jerry ate.)

B. Ng (Object / Possessive Marker)

Marks the object of an actor-focus verb OR shows possession.

- Object Marker:
- Kumain ako ng manok. (I ate chicken.)
- Possession (Of):
- Bahay ng kapatid ko. (House of my sibling / My sibling's house.)
- Ni / Nina: Used for possession with proper names.
- Kotse ni Mark. (Mark's car.)

C. Sa (Location / Direction / Specific Object Marker)

Marks a location, direction, or a specific object (in object-focus sentences).

- Location/Direction:
- Pumunta ako sa tindahan. (I went to the store.)
- Nasa bag sa mesa. (The bag is on the table.)
- Kay / Kina: Used for direction/beneficiary with proper names.
- Ibigay mo ito kay Sarah. (Give this to Sarah.)

Marker Type	Common Noun (Singular)	Common Noun (Plural)	Proper Name (Singular)	Proper Name (Plural)
Topic (Subject)	Ang	Ang mga	Si	Sina
Object/Possessive	Ng	Ng mga	Ni	Nina
Location/Direction	Sa	Sa mga	Kay	Kina

3. LINKERS (NA / -NG)

Linkers connect words to make phrases flow smoothly. They connect modifiers (adjectives) to the words they modify.

A. -ng

Used when the first word ends in a vowel. Attached to the end of the word.

- Maganda (ends in 'a') + babae = Magandang babae (Beautiful woman)
- Bago (ends in 'o') + kotse = Bagong kotse (New car)

B. Na

Used when the first word ends in a consonant (except 'n'). Written as a separate word.

- Maliit (ends in 't') + bahay = Maliit na bahay (Small house)
- Mainit (ends in 't') + kape = Mainit na kape (Hot coffee)

C. -g

Used when the first word ends in the letter 'n'. The 'n' is dropped or merged.

- Ulan + malakas = Ulang malakas (Strong rain)

4. POSSESSION & EXISTENCE (MAY / MAYROON)

Used to say "there is," "there are," or "to have."

A. May

Used immediately before a noun, verb, or adjective.

- May pera ako. (I have money.)
- May tao sa labas. (There is a person outside.)

B. Mayroon

Used when answering questions or when a pronoun/particle comes between the word and the object. It is more formal/emphatic.

- Mayroon ka bang lapis? (Do you have a pencil?)
- Oo, mayroon. (Yes, I have.)
- Mayroon akong aso. (I have a dog.) - Note the linker -g attached to ako.

C. Wala (None / Nothing)

The opposite of May/Mayroon.

- Wala akong pera. (I don't have money.)
- Walang tao. (There is nobody.)

5. QUESTION WORDS REVIEW

Tagalog	English	Example
Ano	What	Ano ito? (What is this?)
Sino	Who	Sino siya? (Who is she?)
Saan	Where (Location)	Saan ka nakatira? (Where do you live?)
Nasaan	Where (Object Location)	Nasaan ang susi? (Where is the key?)
Kailan	When	Kailan ang birthday mo? (When is your birthday?)
Bakit	Why	Bakit ka masaya? (Why are you happy?)
Paano	How (Process)	Paano magluto ng adobo? (How to cook adobo?)
Ilan	How many	Ilan ang kapatid mo? (How many siblings do you have?)
Magkano	How much (Price)	Magkano ito? (How much is this?)

Gaano

How (Degree/Extent)

Gaano kalayo? (How far?)