

FILIPINO VERBS AND ASPECTS

1. THE FOCUS SYSTEM

Filipino verbs are "focused" on a specific part of the sentence. The focus determines which affix to use and which noun gets the Ang marker.

A. Actor Focus (Subject Focus)

The subject (Ang phrase) is the doer of the action.

- Affixes: Mag-, Um-, Ma-, Mang-
- Example: Kumain si Juan ng mansanas. (Juan ate an apple.)
- Focus: Juan (the eater).

B. Object Focus

The subject (Ang phrase) is the receiver of the action.

- Affixes: -in, i-, -an
- Example: Kinain ni Juan ang mansanas. (The apple was eaten by Juan.)
- Focus: Mansanas (the thing eaten).

2. ASPECTS OF THE VERB (TENSES)

Tagalog verbs don't have "tense" (time) in the strict sense, but "aspect" (state of completion).

1. Infinitive (Pawatas): The base form + affix (e.g., Magluto).
2. Completed (Perpektibo/Past): The action is done (e.g., Nagluto).
3. Uncompleted (Imperpektibo/Present): The action is currently happening or habitual (e.g., Nagluluto).
4. Contemplated (Kontemplatibo/Future): The action has not started yet (e.g., Magluluto).

3. CONJUGATION RULES (ACTOR FOCUS)

A. MAG- Verbs (Deliberate actions)

- Root: Luto (Cook)
- Infinitive: Magluto
- Completed (Past): Nagluto (Change M to N)

- Uncompleted (Present): Nagluluto (Nag + First syllable reduplicated)
- Contemplated (Future): Magluluto (Mag + First syllable reduplicated)

Aspect	Rule	Example (Aral - Study)	Example (Linis - Clean)
Infinitive	Mag + Root	Mag-aral	Maglinis
Past	Nag + Root	Nag-aral	Naglinis
Present	Nag + Rep1 + Root	Nag-aaral	Naglilinis
Future	Mag + Rep1 + Root	Mag-aaral	Maglilinis

B. UM- Verbs (Natural/Bodily actions)

- Root: Kain (Eat)
- Infinitive: Kumain (Infix -um- after first letter, or prefix Um- if vowel start)
- Completed (Past): Kumain (Same as infinitive)
- Uncompleted (Present): Kumakain (-um- + Rep1)
- Contemplated (Future): Kakain (Rep1 + Root)

Aspect	Rule	Example (Inom - Drink)	Example (Sulat - Write)
Infinitive	Um + Root / -um-	Uminom	Sumulat
Past	Um + Root / -um-	Uminom	Sumulat
Present	Um + Rep1 + Root	Umiinom	Sumusulat
Future	Rep1 + Root	Iinom	Susulat

C. MA- Verbs (Ability / State / Involuntary)

- Root: Tulos (Sleep)
- Infinitive: Matulog
- Completed (Past): Natulog (Change M to N)
- Uncompleted (Present): Natutulog (Na + Rep1)
- Contemplated (Future): Matutulog (Ma + Rep1)

D. MANG- Verbs (Professional / Collective / Multiple actions)

- Root: Isda (Fish) -> Mangisda (To go fishing)
- Assimilation: The prefix changes based on the root's first letter.
- Mang-: Vowels, k, g, h (Mang-agaw, Manggingi)
- Man-: d, l, r, s, t (Manligaw, Manood)
- Mam-: b, p (Mamili, Mamigay)

Aspect	Rule	Example (Bili - Buy -> Mamili)
Infinitive	Mang/Man/Mam + Root	Mamili
Past	Nang/Nan/Nam + Root	Namili
Present	Nang + Rep1 + Root	Namimili
Future	Mang + Rep1 + Root	Mamimili

4. COMMON VERBS CHEAT SHEET

English	Root	Affix	Past	Present	Future
To Eat	Kain	Um	Kumain	Kumakain	Kakain
To Drink	Inom	Um	Uminom	Umiinom	Iinom
To Cook	Luto	Mag	Nagluto	Nagluluto	Magluluto
To Study	Aral	Mag	Nag-aral	Nag-aaral	Mag-aaral
To Sleep	Tulog	Ma	Natulog	Natutulog	Matutulog
To Wake Up	Gising	Ma	Nagising	Nagigising	Magigising
To Buy	Bili	Um	Bumili	Bumibili	Bibili
To Write	Sulat	Um	Sumulat	Sumusulat	Susulat
To Read	Basa	Mag	Nagbasa	Nagbabasa	Magbabasa
To Walk	Lakad	Mag	Naglakad	Naglalakad	Maglalakad