

Filipino Question Words – Study Guide

Essential WH-Questions with Examples and English Translations

Prepared by: _____

This guide covers the most common Filipino question words, their meanings, and how to use them in everyday conversation. Perfect for beginner to low-intermediate learners.

Introduction

Mabuhay! Welcome to your essential guide to **Filipino Question Words** (mga panghalip pananong).

Asking questions is one of the most important skills in learning a new language. Whether you are asking for directions, getting to know a new friend, or buying food at the market, knowing the right question word is key to clear communication.

In this guide, you will learn the most common Filipino question words, how to use them, and see them in natural, everyday sentences. We have included polite markers like "po" and "opo" in some examples, as using them is standard when speaking to elders, strangers, or people in authority.

Master Table of Question Words

Filipino	English Meaning	Notes
Ano	What	Used for things, events, or abstract concepts.
Sino	Who	Used for people.
Saan	Where	Used for places (locations, directions).
Kailan	When	Used for time (dates, days, future/past events).
Bakit	Why	Used for reasons or explanations.
Paano	How	Used for procedures, manner, or ways.
Magkano	How much	Used for asking prices.
Ilan	How many	Used for counting quantity.
Alin	Which	Used when choosing between options.
Kanino	Whose / To whom	Used for possession or direction.
Kumusta	How is/are...	Used to ask about condition/well-being.

Example Questions & Answers

1. Ano (What)

Used to ask about things, names, or information.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Ano ang pangalan mo?	Maria ang pangalan ko.	What is your name?	My name is Maria.
Ano ang gusto mong kainin?	Gusto ko ng adobo.	What do you want to eat?	I want adobo.
Ano ito?	Regalo 'yan para sa iyo.	What is this?	That is a gift for you.

2. Sino (Who)

Used to ask about people.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Sino ang kasama mo?	Kasama ko ang kapatid ko.	Who is with you?	I am with my sibling.
Sino siya?	Siya si Mr. Cruz, ang titser namin.	Who is he?	He is Mr. Cruz, our teacher.
Sino ang nagluto nito?	Si Nanay ang nagluto.	Who cooked this?	Mom cooked this.

3. Saan (Where)

Used to ask about locations.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Saan ka nakatira?	Nakatira ako sa Manila.	Where do you live?	I live in Manila.
Saan tayo kakain?	Sa Jollibee tayo kumain.	Where shall we eat?	Let's eat at Jollibee.
Saan ang banyo?	Nasa kanan, malapit sa pinto.	Where is the bathroom?	It's on the right, near the door.

4. Kailan (When)

Used to ask about time or dates.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
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Kailan ang birthday mo?	Sa Oktubre ang birthday ko.	When is your birthday?	My birthday is in October.
Kailan ka uuwi?	Uuwi ako bukas.	When are you going home?	I am going home tomorrow.
Kailan ang alis nila?	Sa Linggo ang alis nila. (When is their departure?)	Their departure is on Sunday.	

5. Bakit (Why)

Used to ask for reasons.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Bakit ka masaya?	Kasi nakapasa ako sa exam.	Why are you happy?	Because I passed the exam.
Bakit wala si Ana?	May sakit siya.	Why is Ana not here?	She is sick.
Bakit mahal ito?	Kasi imported ang materyales.	Why is this expensive?	Because the materials are imported.

6. Paano (How)

Used to ask about manner or procedure.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Paano pumunta sa airport?	Sumakay ka ng taxi o bus.	How do you go to the airport?	Take a taxi or a bus.
Paano lutuin ang sinigang?	Pakuluan muna ang karne.	How do you cook sinigang?	Boil the meat first.
Paano mo nalaman?	Sinabi sa akin ni Pedro.	How did you know?	Pedro told me.

7. Magkano (How much)

Used to ask about prices.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Magkano ito?	Limampung peso lang po.	How much is this?	Just fifty pesos, sir/ma'am.
Magkano ang pamasahe?	Dalawampung peso ang bayad.	How much is the fare?	The payment is twenty pesos.
Magkano ang sapatos na iyan?	Mahal, isang libo.	How much are those shoes?	Expensive, one thousand.

8. Ilan (How many)

Used to ask about quantity.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Ilan ang kapatid mo?	Dalawa ang kapatid ko.	How many siblings do you have?	I have two siblings.
Ilan ang bibilhin mo?	Tatlo lang.	How many will you buy?	Just three.
Ilan taon ka na?	Dalawampu't isa na ako.	How old are you?	I am twenty-one.

9. Alin (Which)

Used to ask to choose between options.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Alin ang mas gusto mo, kape o tsaa?	Mas gusto ko ang kape.	Which do you prefer, coffee or tea?	I prefer coffee.
Alin dito ang sa iyo?	Ang asul na bag ang akin.	Which of these is yours?	The blue bag is mine.
Alin ang mas mura?	Ito ang mas mura.	Which is cheaper?	This one is cheaper.

10. Kanino (Whose / To whom)

Used to ask about ownership or direction.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Kanino ang lapis na ito?	Kay Juan 'yan.	Whose pencil is this?	That is Juan's.
Kanino ka sasama?	Sasama ako kay Ate.	With whom will you go?	I will go with Big Sister.
Kanino mo ibibigay ito?	Ibibigay ko ito sa titser.	To whom will you give this?	I will give this to the teacher.

11. Kumusta (How is/are)

Used as a greeting or to ask about condition.

Filipino Question	Filipino Answer	English Question	English Answer
Kumusta ka?	Mabuti naman, salamat.	How are you?	I'm fine, thank you.

Kumusta ang trabaho?	Okay lang, medyo busy.	How is work?	It's okay, a bit busy.
Kumusta ang pamilya mo?	Nasa probinsya sila ngayon.	How is your family?	They are in the province now.

Quick Practice

Instructions: Fill in the blank with the correct Filipino question word (*Ano, Sino, Saan, Kailan, Bakit, Paano, Magkano, Ilan, Alin, Kanino*).

1. _____ ang pangalan ng aso mo? (What is the name of your dog?)
2. _____ ka nakatira? (Where do you live?)
3. _____ ang kasama mong kumain? (Who is your companion eating?)
4. _____ ang kilo ng mangga? (How much is a kilo of mangoes?)
5. _____ ka aalis papuntang Japan? (When are you leaving for Japan?)
6. _____ mo ginawa ang cake na ito? (How did you make this cake?)
7. _____ ka umiiyak? (Why are you crying?)
8. _____ ang mga anak mo? (How many are your children?)
9. _____ ang payong na ito? (Whose umbrella is this?)
10. _____ ang mas masarap, adobo o sinigang? (Which is more delicious, adobo or sinigang?)

Answer Key

1. Ano
2. Saan
3. Sino
4. Magkano
5. Kailan
6. Paano
7. Bakit
8. Ilan
9. Kanino
10. Alin

Summary Cheat Sheet

Question Word	English	Example
Ano	What	Ano ito? (What is this?)
Sino	Who	Sino siya? (Who is he/she?)
Saan	Where	Saan ka pupunta? (Where are you going?)
Kailan	When	Kailan ang party? (When is the party?)
Bakit	Why	Bakit ka tumatawa? (Why are you laughing?)
Paano	How	Paano ito gamitin? (How do use this?)
Magkano	How much	Magkano ito? (How much is this?)
Ilan	How many	Ilan ang aso mo? (How many dogs do you have?)
Alin	Which	Alin ang gusto mo? (Which do you want?)
Kanino	Whose	Kanino ito? (Whose is this?)
Kumusta	How is/are	Kumusta ka? (How are you?)