

Learn Filipino

Learn Filipino

Book One

Victor Eclar Romero

Illustrations by
Manny Francisco



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Learn Filipino
By Victor Eclar Romero

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To mom
and the memory of dad
with love

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How to get the most out of this book

Welcome to *Learn Filipino*. This book is part of a system for learning Tagalog-based Filipino, the language of the Filipino people. In addition to you, the learner, and this book, the system includes two other components: the sound files on an accompanying CD or the website, www.tagalog1.com, and, finally, a live person to give you live feedback on your learning.

So you want to learn Filipino. Perhaps you want to be able to understand and speak with Filipino relatives and friends. Perhaps you never had the chance to learn the language of your parents. Or you may have other reasons. In any case you are motivated. Now you have this book, access to the sound recordings and a live person to help you learn the language. Here are some suggestions:

- Relax and take your time. Learning Filipino involves work, but it can also be fun. You provide the motivation. We provide a fun approach.
- Work with a live instructor, the CD or the sound files on the accompanying website, www.tagalog1.com. You will get better results with good feedback on your pronunciation.
- Say the sentences out loud. Say them over and over. Repetition is a key to your success.
- As much as possible, speak in complete sentences. We start you with complete sentences from Lesson One.
- Try to study for thirty uninterrupted minutes every day. Expect better results from studying every day than from studying two hours once every two weeks.
- Be persistent. Stay with the program. There are thirty lessons, six milestones, one milestone every five lessons. Each milestone marks the next higher level of capability. If you need to take a break, try to get to the nearest milestone first. Measure yourself periodically against the standards of achievement beginning on page 335.
- Speak Filipino every chance you get. Be brave. It's a mild adventure. If anybody laughs, it's with you, not at you. Ask people to speak slowly. Watch out for slang, which is beyond the scope of this book.
- And, most important, engage the mind. Every time you are asked, "How would you say this in Filipino?" make a genuine attempt to answer. Your effort starts in your mind and, if you follow through, ends with your saying something aloud in Filipino. Expect results when you find yourself doing this.

This book grew out of class handouts in the Tagalog 101–103 courses offered at the Fil-Am Atlanta School in 2002-2004. The students in those classes helped the author learn what works and what does not. Their comments and suggestions greatly improved the book’s contents and style. Many volunteer test readers in various countries read the book draft in 2003-2004 and helped make the book better.

Happy learning! *Mag-Filipino pô tayó!* Let us speak Filipino!

MARAMING SALAMAT PÓ

Josephine Romero · Manny Francisco · Bambi Romero
 Gene Paz · Linda Valenzuela · Lehni Estacio
 Rosie Bray · Zennie Mendoza · Lizette Little · Ming Baldemor
 Mark Sessoms · Francine Dubreuil · Irfan · Jenny Pedigo · Raul Magpoc · Jennifer Stanelle
 Ralph O’Connor · Mia Mallari · Christine Hungeling · Tobias Stanelle · Pilita Mallari · Gloria Apanay
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Allinson Gallery, Fernando Amorsolo’s painting *Planting Rice*
 Lester Demetillo and the U.P. Guitar Ensemble, the music on the CD
 Microsoft Corp., Expedia map of the Philippines
 Omar Olarte, Kawasan Falls, Cebú, bahay kubo
 Segundo Joaquin Romero, rice field, palay drying on road
 Tony Doctor, his paintings *Harana* and *Pandanggo sa Ilaw*
 R.A. Villanueva, Manila traffic, street market, church interior
 Walter White IV, beach on South China sea



Abbreviations and Useful Words

a.f.	actor focus
adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb
conj.	conjunction
excl.	exclusive
expr.	expression
fut.	future
impers.	impersonal
incl.	inclusive
n.	noun
non-pers.	non-personal
o.f.	object focus
pers.	personal
pl.	plural
pred.	predicate
prep.	preposition
pres.	present
pron.	pronoun
pseudo-v.	pseudo-verb
s.	singular
s.b.	somebody
s.t.	something
subj.	subject
v.	verb

aral	lesson
araw	day
at	and
halimbawà	example
hindi	no, not
kausap	the person to whom one is speaking
o	or
oo	yes
pagsásanay	exercise
panag-uri	predicate
pandiwà	verb
panghalip	pronoun
pangungusap	sentence
pang-uri	adjective
salità	word
simunò	subject
ugát	root
usapan	conversation
mga	pronounced “ma-nga”
ng	pronounced “nang”

Lesson headings. From lesson two on, lesson numbers are given in Filipino, with the lesson number in parentheses, e.g., *aral tatló* (3), for lesson three (3).

Syllabication. In the conversations syllables are separated by hyphens to help make reading and pronunciation easier. In the footnotes and vocabulary, syllables are separated by spaces.

Exercises. Answers to exercises are given at the end of each lesson.

Part One Tutorial



Lesson One: Mga pagbatì, Greetings

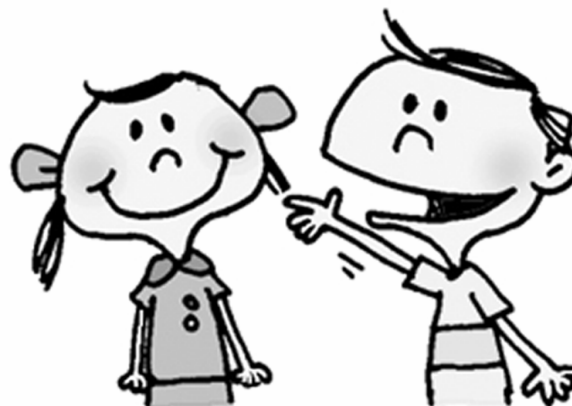
Lesson goals

- § 1. **Lesson goals.** By the end of this *aral* (lesson) you can expect to be able to:
- Greet others and introduce yourself
 - Pronounce vowels and consonants
 - Say *pô, rin, namán*
 - Sing *Bahay Kubo*
- § 2. **Syllables.** To make it easier to read Filipino words in the conversations, we separate syllables with hyphens.

Useful phrases: Greetings and introductions

- § 3. **Listen and speak** Listen to the instructor or recording, then repeat out loud:
- A-ma-do, ku-mus-tá?² Amado, how are you?
 - Ma-bu-ti na-mán, Ne-nè, i-káw, ku-mus-tá ka? Just fine, Nenè, how are you?
 - Ma-bu-ti rin. Fine too.
- * * *

- Kumustá, akó pô si Charina.
- At akó namán pô si Kikò.



¹ **Mga** is pronounced **ma-nga**.

² From Spanish *como está*, how are you? The Spaniards first came in 1521 to what is now the Philippines, then came back in 1565 to set up a colony. Before then, the ancestors of today's Filipinos spoke and wrote languages similar to those in neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia. See Dela Costa, S.J., Horacio. *Readings in Philippine History* (Manila: Bookmark, 1965).

- § 4. **Kumustá.** Say *Kumustá* to greet somebody your age or younger. Say *Kumustá* any time of day. Say it to people you just met. Say it to people you already know. *Kumustá* means both “Hello” and “How are you?”
- § 5. **Mabuti.** Say *mabuti* to say “I’m fine.” *Mabuti* literally means “good,” as in *mabuting bata*, good boy.
- § 6. **Namán.** *Namán* has many meanings. Here it means “considering.” *Mabuti namán* means “fine, considering . . .”
- § 7. **Din and rin.** Say *din* or *rin* to say “too” or “also.” Say *Kumusta rin* to say “Hello to you too.” *Mabuti rin*. I too am fine. *Din* and *rin* are the same word. Say *rin* if the preceding word ends in a vowel; otherwise use *din*.³

Greeting	Comment
a. ku-mus-tá	hello
b. ma-bu-ti	fine
c. na-mán	also
d. rin	also

- § 8. **Pagsásanay 1-1: Exercise.** Somebody says, “How are you?” What would you say?

You hear: Ku-mus-tá.

You say: Ma-bu-ti na-man, ku-mus-tá ka?

* * *

- § 9. **Listen and speak** Listen, then repeat out loud:

-- Ku-mus-tá pô, a-kó pô si Amado. Hello, how are you. I am Amado.

-- Ma-bu-ti na-mán. Ku-mus-tá ka, Amado? Just fine. How are you, Amado?

-- Ma-bu-ti pô na-mán. Fine (, sir / ma'm.)

³ The consonants “d” and “r” are sometimes interchangeable. In the ancient Filipino script called baybayin, the same symbols are used for “d” and “r.”

* * *

§ 10. **Kumustá pô.** Say **Kumustá** *pô* to greet somebody older or somebody you respect.

§ 11. **Pô.** In general, add **pô** when speaking to somebody you respect. Adding **pô** to a sentence is like adding “sir” or “ma’m” in English.

Greeting	Comment
a. Ku-mus-tá	Hello (casual)
b. Ku-mus-tá pô	Hello (formal)
c. Ma-bu-ti	I’m fine (casual)
d. Ma-bu-ti pô	I’m fine (formal)

§ 12. Say **akó si** or **akó pô si**, followed by your name to introduce yourself. *Akó pô si Calóy. Akó si Susan.*

§ 13. **Pagsásanay⁴ 1-2.** Introduce yourself:

Casual	Formal
A-kó si . . . (your name).	A-kó pô si . . . (your name).

§ 14. Say **si** or **siná** in front of the name(s) of a person or persons you are introducing.

Singular	Halimbawà ⁵	Plural	Halimbawà
Si	si Amado si Charina	Si-ná	siná Amado at Nenè siná Kikò at Charina

§ 15. **Pagsásanay 1-3.** Somebody you respect says, “How are you?” What would you say?

You hear: Ku-mus-tá.

You say: Ma-bu-ti pô na-man, ku-mus-tá pô kayó?

* * *

⁴ From now on we label exercises *Pagsasanáy*.

⁵ **Halimbawà**, example

§ 16. **Listen and speak** Listen, then repeat out loud:

-- Ma-gan-dáng u-ma-ga, Nenè. Good morning,
Nenè.

-- Ma-gan-dáng u-ma-ga rin, Amado. Good
morning too, Amado.

* * *

§ 17. **Magandáng umaga**. Say *ma-gan-dang umaga* to say “good morning.”

§ 18. **Pagsásanay 1-4**. Somebody says, “Good morning.” What would you say?

You hear: Ma-gan-dáng u-ma-ga.

You say: Ma-gan-dáng u-ma-ga rin.

* * *

§ 19. **Listen and speak** Listen, then repeat out loud:

-- Ma-gan-dáng ha-pon, Bambi. Good afternoon, Bambi.

-- Ma-gan-dáng ha-pon din, Oliver. Good afternoon
too, Oliver.

* * *

§ 20. **Magandáng hapon**. Say *ma-gan-dang hapon* to say “good afternoon.”

§ 21. **Pagsásanay 1-5**. Somebody says, “Good afternoon.” What would you say?

You hear: Ma-gan-dáng ha-pon.

You say: Ma-gan-dáng ha-pon din.

* * *

-- Magandáng umaga pô, ináy.
-- Magandáng umaga rin,
Charina.



§ 22. **Listen and speak** Listen, then repeat out loud:

-- Ma-gan-dáng ga-bí, Ben. Good evening, Ben.

-- Ma-gan-dáng ga-bí rin, Juliet. Good evening too, Juliet.

* * *

§ 23. **Magandang gabí.** Say *ma-gan-dang gabí* to say “good evening.”

Greeting	Comment
a. Ma-gan-dang u-ma-ga	Good morning
b. Ma-gan-dang ha-pon	Good afternoon
c. Ma-gan-dang ga-bí	Good evening

§ 24. **Pagsásanay 1-6.** Somebody says, “Good evening.” What would you say?

You hear: Ma-gan-dáng ga-bí.

You say: Ma-gan-dáng ga-bí rin.

* * *

§ 25. **Listen and speak** Listen, then repeat out loud:

-- Jennifer, ku-mus-tá. Jennifer, how are you?

-- OK lang, Mike, i-káw, ku-mus-tá ka? Just OK, Mike, how are you?

-- OK rin. OK too.

* * *

§ 26. **Pagsásanay 1-7.** Start a conversation:

You say: Ku-mus-ta, a-kó si _____ (your name).

§ 27. **Pagsásanay 1-8.** Reply to somebody who introduces him/herself:

You hear: Ku-mus-tá, a-kó si _____ (his/her name).

You say: Ma-bu-ti na-mán, a-kó si _____
(your name).

- § 28. **Pagsásanay 1-9.** Start a conversation, using respectful language:

You say: Ku-mus-tá pô, a-kó pô si _____
(your name).

- § 29. **Pagsásanay 1-10.** Reply, using respectful language, to somebody who introduces him/herself:

You hear: Ku-mus-tá, a-kó si _____
(his/her name).

You say: Ma-bu-ti pô na-mán, a-kó pô si _____
(your name).

OK lang akó, ikáw, kumustá ka?



Alphabet and pronunciation

- § 30. **Alphabet.** The modern Filipino alphabet consists of 28 letters: the 26 in the Latin alphabet, the Spanish consonant **ñ** (enye) and the Tagalog consonant **ng**:

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n
ah	ba	se	da	eh	efe	ga	ha	eeh	hota	ka	la	ma	na

ñ	ng	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
enye	nang	oh	pa	ku	ra	sa	ta	uh	ve	wa	ekis	ya	zeta

§ 31. The languages of the pre-Hispanic Filipinos did not have the consonants *c, f, j, q, v, x* and *z*. Even today you may hear many Filipinos pronounce "v" as "b" and "f" as "p." The Spaniards first came in 1521 to what is now the Philippines, then came back in 1565 to establish a colony. Before then, the ancestors of today's Filipinos spoke and wrote languages similar to those in neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia.⁶ Filipino, Bahasa Melayu and Bahasa Indonesia have many words in common, e.g.: *lalaki* (male), *bulan* (moon), *utang* (debt), *puti* (white), among others.

Figure 1-1: Baybayin, the ancient Filipino script

§ 32. **Vowels.** Each Filipino vowel sound consists of only one sound. Compare with English "a" as in "baby, which has two sounds: "bEIbi" or English "o" as in "post": "pOUst" or, finally, English "i" as in "bike": "bAIk." In this sense Filipino vowels are pure like vowels in Spanish or Italian. Pronounce every vowel as a separate sound. There are no diphthongs in Filipino; diphthongs are vowel combinations pronounced as one syllable.

a	ᜀ	i	ᜄ	u	ᜆ
ka	ᜁ	ki	ᜃ	ku	ᜅ
ga	ᜇ	gi	ᜉ	gu	ᜋ
nga	ᜍ	ngi	ᜏ	ngu	ᜑ
ta	ᜓ	ti	᜕	tu	᜗
da	᜔	di	᜖	du	᜘
na	᜚	ni	᜜	nu	᜞
pa	ᜠ	pi	ᜢ	pu	ᜤ
ba	ᜨ	bi	ᜪ	bu	ᜬ
ma	ᜮ	mi	ᜯ	mu	ᜱ
ya	ᜳ	yi	᜵	yu	᜷
la	᜷	li	᜹	lu	᜻
wa	᜽	wi	᜿	wu	᜻
sa	᜾	si	᜿	su	᜿
ha	᜾	hi	᜿	hu	᜿

⁶ See www.bibingka.com/dahon/tagalog/tagalog.htm.

Pronounce	as in English	Example
a	father	ma-gan-dá, beautiful
e	egg	Nenè, a female name
i	each	i-big, want
o	long	to-to-o, true
u	food	ku-ku-nin, will take

§ 33. **Vowels.** The languages of the pre-Hispanic Filipinos only had three vowels: "a, " "e/i" and "o/u." Even today you may hear many Filipinos interchange "e" and "i, " and "o" and "u."

§ 34. **Consonants.** Pronounce consonants as in English with the following considerations:

- "g" is always hard, as in "get, " never as in "gel."
- "c, f, q, v, x" exist only in words adopted from other languages.
- Pronounce adopted words as in their home language.
- All other consonants are pronounced as in English.
- In addition, there is the consonant "ng"; in the alphabet, it comes after "ñ, " which comes after "n."
- More on the pronunciation of "ng" below.

§ 35. **Nga.** To produce the "nga" sound, do the following.

- Say "ring around."
- Say "ring a."
- Say "ing a."
- Say "ng a."
- Say "nga."

§ 36. **Pagsásanay 1-11. Nga.** Practice saying the Filipino consonant "nga" with the following:

a. ang	tang-hál, present, show
b. ing	pi-ging, banquet
c. ong	ba-gong, new
d. ung	tung-kól, about

§ 37. **Pagsásanay 1-12. Nga.** Practice saying the Filipino consonant "nga" with the following:

a. nga	ba-ngâ, claypot
b. ngi	ba-ngin, cliff
c. ngo	ba-ngó, scent
d. ngu	ba-ngûs, milkfish

§ 38. **Pagsásanay 1-13. Nga.** Practice saying the Filipino consonant "nga" with the following words:

a. mga	(pronounced ma-nga , the plural marker for nouns)
b. nang	
c. ng	(pronounced like "nang, " but is a different word)
d. ma-nga-rap	to dream
e. sa-nga	branch
f. nga-yón	now
g. ka-i-la-ngan	need

Vocabulary

§ 39. **Vocabulary.** In this *aral* you met the following words and phrases (excluding the words for pronunciation practice):

a kó, *pron.*, I, ang-case

ay, *marker*, predicate marker

din, *adv.*, also

ga bí, *n.*, evening, night

ha pon, *n.*, afternoon

i káw, *pron.*, you, s., ang-case, before verb

ka, *pron.*, you, s., ang-case, after verb

ka yó, *pron.*, you, pl., ang-case

ku mus tá, hello; how are you

lang, *adv.*, only; short for lamang, only, just

ma bu ti, *adj.*, good, kind

ma gan dá, *adj.*, beautiful

na mán, *adv.*, (various meanings)

pô, *marker*, respect; presence in sentence marks respect on the part of speaker

rin, *adv.*, too, also

si, *marker*, sa-case, personal, s.

u ma ga, n., morning

Review and checklist

§ 40. **Checklist.** In this aral you expected to learn the following skills:

- a. Greet others and introduce yourself
- b. Pronounce vowels and consonants
- c. Say *pō, rin, namán, lang*
- d. Sing *Bahay Kubo*

Congratulations, you've
completed aral (lesson) 1.



Bahay Kubo

Awit Bayang Tagalog
Isinaayos ni Vic Romero

Masayá (Allegro) (M.M. $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 120$)

Chords: G D G E Am

Voice

D G Ba - hay ku - bo, ka - hit mun - ti, Ang ha - la - man do - ñ ay

8 sa - ri - sa - ri: G Sing - ka - más at ta - lóng si - ga - ri - llas at ma - ni, Si G taw, ba -

15 taw, pa - ta - ni. Am Kun - dól, pa - to - la, u - po't ka - la - ba - sa, D At sa -

22 ká may - roón pa: ra - ba - ñós, mus - ta - sa, Si - bu - yás, ka - ma - tis, ba -

28 wang at lu - ya't Sa pa - li - gid - li - gid ay pu - nô ng li - nga!