
FOR YOUR TRAVELS TO THE PHILIPPINES

YOUR FIRST 100 TAGALOG SENTENCES

START SPEAKING FROM DAY 1



2nd Edition

<https://TalkTagalog.com>

YOUR FIRST 100 TAGALOG SENTENCES

Talk From Day 1

2nd Edition

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Your First 100 Tagalog Sentences

Dear Reader,

So, You've Picked Up My Book

Congratulations for picking up one of the most written with TLC (tender, loving care) Tagalog phrasebooks out there in the big, big world.

This book started as a little, fun project for the visitors of my website **TalkTaglog.com**. Over the years, this book has been downloaded literally thousands of times, perhaps because it serves a niche.

This book was written to cut out the noise. It aims to focus on the most widely-used sentences to get you on the street and speaking with native speakers as soon as possible.

By nature, this book is meant to pique your appetite to learn more Tagalog. Hopefully, after this introduction to the Tagalog language, you set out on your own to learn, through free lessons in Talktaglog.com, other websites and resources out there.

There's more than a bunch of phrasebooks out there, but...

As a lifelong phrasebook junkie, avid foreign language learner and traveler, personal experience was invaluable in deciding which 100 sentences a traveler needs to know to get it through the day, especially in a country where no one speaks your native language. I hope you find them useful.

Get Talking

We all have our own language learning styles, but nothing gets you talking in foreign language faster than just getting talking. I encourage you to just go out there, and use the sentences in this book whenever you can.

It doesn't matter if it's just saying "Gusto ko ito." (I want this) while pointing to menu. Just start using the language.

Trust me. 99% of the time, you will earn the deep respect and admiration of a native Tagalog speaker for trying to learn their language, no matter how much you mangle the grammar or pronunciation.

The Secret

The speed you learn a foreign language is proportional to the amount of mistakes you are willing to make.

I hope you enjoy this book as much as I had fun writing it.

Now, go out there and wing it!

Salamat po!

Datu Villanueva

30 August 2020

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What is Tagalog?

Tagalog is the most commonly spoken language of the Philippines. Historians trace the word “Tagalog” from “taga-ilog” or the language of “those near the river.” This was the dialect used by the low-land dwellers in the southern part of the island of Luzon, the most prominent region in the political and economic history of the Philippines in the past centuries.

Tagalog is officially known as and referred to by academic-minded people as “Filipino.” There are a number of people who will claim that Tagalog and Filipino are separate languages. They are partly correct. However, it would require a debate in history and linguistics to properly define one from the other. But to understand the confusion behind this, we have a look at a brief look into their history.

In the 1930’s, the Philippine Constitution declared that there should be a national language which would unify the country. It was decided that Tagalog, the dialect in use in Manila and the nearby provinces, would form the base of a national language that would incorporate words from other provincial dialects. While the issue of crafting a national language by combining other dialects in the Philippines was in the minds of politicians and academics, everyday people never really took notice. People continued to use the Tagalog language however it was really spoken in their homes and streets. For most intents and purposes, Tagalog and Filipino are one and the same. If you ask any person on the streets of Manila what language they are speaking, the most likely answer would simply be “Tagalog.”

In this book, notwithstanding any academic discourse on the issue, we refer to the most commonly spoken language of the Philippines as Tagalog. Most significantly, even speaking amongst themselves, Filipinos refer to the language they use as “Tagalog.”

Tagalog is an Austronesian language, which makes it related to languages like Indonesian (Bahasa-Indones), Malaysian (Bahasa-Malay), Polynesian languages (such as Hawaiian) and even aboriginal Taiwanese. Tagalog has a plethora of loan words, particularly from Spanish and English, due to the long history of Spanish and American colonization of the Philippines. Because Spanish loanwords make a large portion of Tagalog’s vocabulary, one can be misled that it is somehow related to Spanish, but it is in fact in a totally different branch of the linguistic tree.

Don't be surprised though if you find out some of the words in Tagalog are closely linked to Arabic, Sanskrit, Chinese, Japanese and other languages that influenced Tagalog throughout the centuries. Like any modern language, Tagalog is a living tapestry of history and culture, shaped by the lives of tens of millions of people who speak it.

Take note though that Tagalog is not the only language of the Philippines. It is not even the only official language of the Philippines. (The official languages of the Philippines according its constitution are English and Filipino.) While Tagalog is the predominant language spoken in a large part of Philippines there are many other regional dialects. You may have heard of other Philippine dialects such as Cebuano, Bisaya, Ilongo and Ilocano. For a study of these languages, you may consider picking up one of the many reputable books on them. That goes without saying that Tagalog has the most number of native speakers and practically all people of the Philippines can converse and understand it to some degree, even in the most far flung areas of the archipelago.

That being said, Tagalog opens doors to the hearts and minds of the Filipino people. It will be useful whether you are just planning to use it to get locals better on your holiday, impress your business partner, or even find love.

(This article was reprinted from TalkTagalog.com)

A Word or Two About “Po”

One of the most common words used in the Tagalog language is the word “po”.

This short but distinct word denotes deference to the person you are speaking to. This word can be found in the middle or at the end of the sentence, without there being many fixed rules on its placing in the sentence.

To a native Tagalog speaker, not using the word “po”, can almost sound brash. Meanwhile, liberal use of it in the right situation can make your speech sound polite and cultured.

As a foreigner, you’ll be forgiven for not using or misusing the word “po.” However, it is helpful to be aware of the general situations when to use and not to use po.

One should use “po” to an adult whom you don’t know well, or someone higher up in an organizational hierarchy, like your boss. People in uniform, waiters and other service personnel will highly appreciate you using the word “po” when you are speaking to them.

It is not appropriate to use “po” to address children, people at the same age group or younger, or someone lower than you in an organizational hierarchy.

Addressing someone you shouldn’t as “po”, like a school age child, may sound strange or confusing to a native Tagalog speaker.

If in doubt, it is better to use “po,” and if you don’t know where to add it, just tack it on at the end of the main sentence.

In using this phrase book, we added “po” for situations where it is appropriate to use it. But keep in mind that all the sentences in this phrase book will work perfectly fine without it.

When speaking in a situation when the usage of “po” is not needed, such as speaking to a young child or a young subordinate at work, simply remove all the “po” words in the sentences. Like this:

Kaya po bang lakarin? → Kaya \emptyset bang lakarin? → **Kaya bang lakarin?**

Can I get there by walking?

Or this:

Ano po ang pwedeng sakyan papuntang palengke?

What can I ride to get to the market?

→ Ano \emptyset ang pwedeng sakyan papuntang palengke?

→ **Ano ang pwedeng sakyan papuntang palengke?**

Lastly, if you still find it confusing, just cross out all the “po” words. In most if not all cases, the sentences in this book will be perfectly fine without them.

In any case, the word is so prevalent you’ll most likely get the hang of using it if you keep interacting with native speakers.

Cheat your way through it *If you can call it cheating.*

If you don't know how to say a word or phrase in Tagalog, just throw in its equivalent in English.

You'll be surprised how much farther you can go by mixing in English with your Tagalog.

To tell you the straight truth, it is practically impossible to speak Tagalog without English loanwords and phrases if you want to be perceived as a normal person.

Everywhere, from casual conversations to formal communications, a lot of English loanwords and phrases are preferred to their direct Tagalog translations. Direct Tagalog translations to the word you are trying to say might not even exist.

Feel free mix in as much English as needed into your Tagalog. It will sound perfectly natural. Though this might feel like "cheating" your way through the language, it's not "cheating at all."

The quantity of English you add can vary for just substituting a Tagalog word for an English one, to half and half, to it being almost entirely Tagalog with an English word here and there to fill in the gaps.

"How much is this *saging*?"

"*Magkano ang banana na ito?*"

Locals who have been living in the Philippines speaking Tagalog all their lives do it, so should you.

Conversation Basics

It all starts with a “Kamusta?” which means “How are you?” From there, use the sentences below to engage in a friendly conversation. Even if you have to continue in English for the rest of the conversation, having some key sentences in Tagalog is better than none. There’s a world of difference from having 1% Tagalog and 99% English, compared to having 0% Tagalog and 100% Tagalog. Start with the 1%, and it will quickly go up 2%, 3% and much more.

Magandang (umaga / hapon / gabi) po.
Good (morning / afternoon / evening).

Paalam po, mauuna na po ako.
Good bye, I’ll be leaving now.

Ang pangalan ko ay si Tom.
My name is Tom.

Pwede ko po ba malaman ang pangalan ninyo?
Can I have your name?

Nais po kitang ipakilala sa aking (kaibigan), si (name).
I want to introduce you to my (friend), (name).

Asawa	- spouse	Katrabaho	- colleague
Kamaganak	- relative	Kasintahan	- girl or boyfriend
Boss	- boss	Mga magulang	- parents

Patawad po.
Sorry. (asking forgiveness after committing grievance against someone)

Kinagagalak ko pong makilala ka.
Nice to meet you.[\[1\]](#)

Salamat po.
Thank you.

Walang anuman.
You're welcome.

Opo (polite) / Oo (casual)
Yes.

Hindi.
No.

Hanggang sa muli.
Until I see you again.

Take care
Ingat po kayo / Ingat.

Goodbye.
Paalam.

[1] Simply saying “Nice to meet you” as you would in English is perfectly acceptable in casual Tagalog conversation. You might read textbook which will translate this as “Kinagagalak ko pong makilala ka.” This sounds quaintly formal.

Answering Common Questions

Discovering different cultures around the world is one of life's greatest pleasures. However it is not only the differences between them that are worth studying. Discovering what behaviors are common from culture to culture can be just as rewarding. From New York to Tokyo to the streets of Manila, one will find out that the questions a local asks a foreign visitor from a far off land share a lot of similarities.

“Where are you from?” “What bring you here?” or “Do you like our food?” Leverage these commonly asked questions by practicing your replies in advance is a good way to put your foot in the door.

Ako ay (taga-America).

I'm from America. [2]

Maynila - *Manila* Tsina - *China*

Pilipinas - *The Philippines* U.K. - *U.K.*

Nakatira ako sa (place).

I live in/at (place).

Nandito po ako sa Pilipinas para (magbaksyon / magaral / magtrabaho / magnegosyo).

I'm here in The Philippines (for a vacation / to study / to work / for business).

Natuto po ako mag-Tagalog sa sarili kong pagaaral.

I learned to speak Tagalog through self-study.

Pwede po ba makipagkilala?

Can I introduce myself to you?

Pwede ko po ba makuha (cell phone number / email address / address) mo?

Can I have your (cell phone number / email address / address)?

(Isang araw / dalawang linggo / tatlong buwan / apat na taon) na ako rito sa Pilipinas.

I've been in The Philippines for (one day / two weeks / three months / four years).

Babalik ako sa (place) pagkalipas ng (duration).
I'll go back to (place after (duration)).

Masayang-masaya ako rito sa Pilipinas.
I'm very happy here in the Philippines.

Nakakakain na ako ng pagkaing Pilipino. Nakatikim na ako ng (dish).
I've eaten Filipino food. I've tasted (dish).

Adobo - meat cooked in soy
sauce

Lechon - roast pig

Sinigang - tamarind soup

Balut - boiled fertilized duck
egg

Kare-kare - ox tail in peanut sauce

Pancit - noodle dishes

[2] Using the English name for any country or city sounds natural in conversational Tagalog

Getting Around the Language

Learning to get around language difficulties is a force multiplier. Instead of breaking into English or mime when you hit a roadblock, you can continue the conversation in Tagalog. This does wonders to your fluency as it trains your brain to stick to the Tagalog. Perhaps no set of sentences will help you improve your Tagalog overtime than these below.

Marunong po ba kayo (mag-Ingles)?
Can you speak (English)?

mag-Ingles	<i>English</i>	mag-Hapon	<i>Japanese</i>
mag-Tagalog	<i>Tagalog</i>	mag-Koreano	<i>Korean</i>
mag-Espanyol	<i>Spanish</i>	mag-Russo	<i>Russian</i>
mag-Intsik	<i>Chinese</i>	mag-Pranses	<i>French</i>
mag-Bisaya	<i>Bisaya / Cebuano</i>	mag-Ilocano	<i>Ilocano</i>

Pwede niyo po bang bagalan ang pagsalita niyo?
Can you please speak more slowly?

Hindi po kita naiintindihan.
I can't understand you.

Hindi po ako magaling mag-Tagalog.
I don't speak Tagalog very well.

Marunong po ako, pero kaunti lang.
I can know how to, but just a little.

Paano po sabihin sa Tagalog (word/sentence).
How do you say (word/sentence) in Tagalog?

Ano po ang tawag (dito / diyan / sa mga ito / sa mgaiyan) sa Tagalog?
What do you call (this / that / these / those) in Tagalog?

Paano sabihin sa wikang Tagalog ang “(sentence)”?
How do you say “(sentence)” in the Tagalog language?

Pwede po bang paki-ulit ang sinabi po ninyo?
Can you please repeat what you said?

Common Traveler Situations

One of the joys of travel is getting to use the local language. It is an exhilarating experience when, as if by magic, those foreign sounds that come out of your mouth are actually understood by a local. Nevermind that your simple utterances probably sound like a three-year old child. You will be rewarded with a smile and a tacit nod of approval as being one of those foreigners who has taken the effort to learn the language.

Hindi ko po kailangan. Salamat po.

I don't need this. Thanks. (for unwanted porters, unlicensed drivers offering their services at the airport, touts, and similar people)

Saan po ang pinakamalapit na banyo / C.R. dito?

Where is the nearest bathroom here?

Eksuys me po.

Excuse me. (getting someone's attention)

Makiraan lang po.

Excuse me. (for people blocking your way, in an elevator, crowded subway)

Saan ako pwede magpapalit ng pera?

Where can I have money changed?

Pwede mo ba (ako / kami) kunan ng litrato?

Can you take a picture of (me / us)?

Pwede po ba akong makiupo rito?

Can I sit here? (Sitting beside someone)

Mayroon po bang makakainan dito?

Is there a place I can eat here?

Saan po ako makakabili ng SIM card dito?

Where can I buy a SIM card here?

Saan po ako makabili ng load dito?
Where can I top up/put cash into my SIM card?

Pwede po ba ako maki-charge ng cell phone rito?
Can I charge my cell phone here?

May wifi po ba dito? Ano po ang password?
Is there wifi here? What's the password?

Pwede ko po ba makausap ang manager dito?
Can I speak to the manager here?

Huwag po ninyo ako lokohin.
Don't try fool me.

Getting Around Town

Getting from point A to point B can present a lot of difficulties if you can't understand the local language. However, it can also be an adventure. Learning basic phrases in Tagalog will help you navigate anywhere in the Philippines, from the chaotic cities to the idyllic white-sand islands.

Nasaan po ang (place)?
Where is (place)?

Paano po papuntang (place)?
How do I get to (place)?

Pakibaba po ako sa (kanto / palengke / tabi).
Please let me get off at the (corner / market / somewhere at the side nearby).
(Use: when riding a vehicle, such as public transportation)

Saan po rito ang daan papuntang (place)?
Where is the path towards (place)?

Saan po ang sakayan ng (dyip / trisikel / bus / tren) dito?
Where's the (passenger jeepney / tricycle / bus / train) stop/station here?

Ano po ang pwedeng sakyan papuntang (place)?
What can I ride to get to the (place)?

Makiabot po.
Please pass this. (usually used when passing payment from the back of a passenger jeepney)

Para po.
Please stop. (Used when riding public transportation)

Bayad ho. (destination) po. (Isa / dalawa / tatlo).
Here's my payment. I'll get down at (destination). I'm paying for (one / two / three) people.
(Used when riding a passenger jeepney)

Kaya po bang lakarin?
Can I get there by walking?

Mama, dalhin mo po ako sa (airport / hotel na ito / sa pinakamalipt na sakayan ng tren).
Mister, bring me to the (airport / this hotel / the nearest subway or train station).

Palengke	- <i>Market</i>	Beach	- <i>Beach</i>
Airport/Paliparan	- <i>Airport</i>	Simbahan	- <i>Church</i>
Restawrant	- <i>Restaurant</i>	Banyo	- <i>Bathroom</i>
Hotel	- <i>Hotel</i>	Mall	- <i>Mall</i>
Ospital	- <i>Hospital</i>		

Dining Out

The “balut” is a boiled fertilized duck egg with a half-formed duck fetus inside, eaten from the shell. Lip-smacking to some, an exotic curiosity to others. Truly, the Philippines holds gastronomic adventures not for those who are faint of heart. From haute cuisine in glitzy restaurants to the delicacies hawked on the sidewalk, there is much to explore.

Gusto ko (ito / ‘yan).

I want (this / that).

Gusto ko (ito / iyan) at (ito / iyan).

I want (this / that) and (this / that).

May marekomenda po ba kayo?
Can you recommend something?

Merong po ba kayong (food or thing)?
Do you have (food or thing)?

Ayoko ng masyadong (maalat / matamis / mapakla / maasim / maanghang)
I don't like it too (salty / sweet / bitter / sour / spicy)

Pwede po ba humingi ng (tubig / Coke / kape).
Can I ask for some (water / Coke / coffee).

Libre po ba ito?
Is this free?

Saan po ako pwede magbayad?
Where can I pay (for the food I ordered)?

Bawal ako kumain ng (seafood / mani / baboy).
I'm not allowed to eat (seafood / peanuts / pork).

(Vegetarian / Muslim) po ako. Hindi ako kumakain ng (karne / baboy) .
I'm a (vegetarian / Muslim). I don't eat (meat / pork).

May inorder po ako na hindi pa dumarating.
I've ordered something that hasn't arrived yet.

Gusto ko na po magbayad.
I want to pay now.

Salamat po sa napakasarap na (pagkain / almusal / pananghalian / hapunan),
Thanks for the very delicious (food / breakfast / lunch / dinner).

Shopping, Shopping, Shopping

Frequent visitors to informal markets in most places in Southeast Asia (and indeed many places in the world) are all too familiar with bargaining for the price or haggling. Haggling is akin to dance. You go one way, the shopkeeper goes another way. But always, there is a practiced tension between the two.

Take note that haggling is not welcome everywhere. Where the price is displayed it's often taken that it's final, unless you buy in bulk or its an item with a commonly established price (such a cigarettes or bottled water). In any case, it's always good display your sophistication in a shop with a few well-placed Tagalog phrases.

Magkano po (ito / 'yan / mga 'to / mga 'yan)?
How much (is this / is that / are these / are those)?

Gusto ko po tignan (ito / 'yan / mga 'to / mga 'yan).
I want to look at (this / that / these / those).

Magkano po lahat?
How much for everything?

Pwede po bang tumawad?
Can I bargain on the price?

Masyadong mahal.
It's too expensive.

Pwede po bang babaan ang presyo?
Can you lower the price?

Gusto kong bilihin ('to / 'yan / mga 'to / mga 'yan)?
How much (is this / is that / are these / are those)?

Hindi ko siya gusto.
I don't like it.

Pwede po bang pakibalot?
Can you wrap this up?

Meron po ba kayong (mas maliit / mas malaki / ibang kulay^[3])?
Do you have something that's (smaller / larger / of a different color)?

Mas mura	- cheaper	Mas maiksi	- shorter
Mas mahal	- more expensive	Mas mahaba	- longer
Mas sariwa	- more fresh	Mas matibay	- more sturdy

Black	- <i>Itim</i>	Yellow	- <i>Dilaw</i>	Pink	- <i>Pink</i>
White	- <i>Puti</i>	Orange	- <i>Orange</i>	Gold	- <i>Ginto</i>
Red	- <i>Pula</i>	Purple	- <i>Purple</i>	Silver	- <i>Silver</i>
Blue	- <i>Asul</i>	Grey	- <i>Grey</i>	Striped	- <i>may stripes</i>
Green	- <i>Berde</i>	Brown	- <i>Brown</i>	plain	- <i>plain</i>

May (plastik bag / paper bag) po kayo rito?
Do you have a (plastic bag / paper bag) here?

Saan po ako makakabili ng (gulay) rito?
Where can I buy (vegetables) here?

Karne	- <i>meat</i>	Sapatos	- <i>shoes</i>
Inumin	- <i>drinks</i>	Damit	- <i>clothing</i>
Pagkain	- <i>food</i>	Ticket	- <i>ticket</i>
Panregalo	- <i>gift items</i>	Gamot	- <i>medicine</i>
Cell phone	- <i>cell phone</i>		

Bigyan mo po ako ng sukli.
Give me my change.

Wala akong barya.
I don't have loose change.

Pwede ko po ba sukatin?
Can I try it on?

Saan ko po ba ito pwede sukatin?
Where can I try it on?

Tumatanggap ba kay ng (Euro / Dolyares / credit card)?
Do you accept (Euros / Dollars / credit cards)?

[3] In modern casual Tagalog, the English word equivalents for colors, such as purple, grey, brown and all other colors is perfectly acceptable.

Emergencies!

They all thought “It could never happen to me.” until it did. Like travel to any other country, a trip to Philippines has its share of risks. Of course, being prepared and a good dose of common sense can do a lot to help avoid the worst of things.

Saklolo! Saklolo!
Help! Help!

Tawag ka ng (pulis / doctor).
Call (the police / a doctor).

Nawawala po (anak / asawa / mga gamit) ko.
My (child / spouse / things) is missing.

Dalhin mo ako sa (ospital / istasyon ng pulis) .
Bring me to the (hospital / police station).

Ninakaw ang (wallet / phone / pera) ko.
My (wallet / phone / money) was stolen.

Ayoko ng gulo. Hindi po ako lalaban.
I don't want any trouble. I won't fight.

Hindi po totoo 'yan.
That is not true.

Sinaktan niya po (ako / ang asawa ko / ang kaibigan ko) .
He hurt (me / my spouse / my friend).

(Ninakaw / nawala) lahat ng pera ko.
All my money was (stolen / lost).

May emergency ako. Pwede ba ako makitawag sa cell phone mo?
I have an emergency. Can I use your cell phone to make a call?

Masakit po ang dibdib (ko / niya)
(*I'm / He or she is*) *having chest pains.*

Inaatake siya sa puso.
(*I'm / he or she is*) *having a heart attack.*

Nasustroke po (ako / siya).
(*I am / he or she is*) *having a stroke*

Quick Charts

Numbers

1	isa	21	dalawampu't isa / beinte uno
2	dalawa / dos	22	dalwaampu't dalawa / beinte dos
3	tatlo / tres	23	dalwamput't tatlo / beinte tres
4	apat / kwarto	30	tatlumpu / trenta
5	lima / singko	40	apatnapu / kuwarenta
6	anim / sais	50	limampu / singkuwenta
7	pito / siyete	60	aminnapu / sesenta
8	walo / otso	70	pitumpu / setenta
9	siyam / nuwebe	80	walumpu / otsenta
10	sampu / diyos	90	siyamnapu / nobenta
11	labing-isa / onse	100	isang daan / siyento
12	isa	101	isang daan at isa
13	labintatlo / trese	115	isang daan at limampu
14	labing-apat / katorse	180	isang daan at otchenta
15	labinlima / kinse	200	dalawaang daan / dos siyento
16	labing-anim / disisais	300	tatlong daan / tres siyento
17	labimpito / disisyete	1,000	isang libo
18	labingwalo / disiotso	2,103	dalawang libo't isang daan at tatlo
19	labinsiyam / disinuwebe	3,000	tatlong libo / tres mil
20	isa	10,000	sampung libo / dies mil
0	Wala / Sero	1/2	Kalahati

Days of the Week

Monday	- <i>Lunes</i>	Friday	- <i>Biyernes</i>
Tuesday	- <i>Martes</i>	Saturday	- <i>Sabado</i>
Wednesday	- <i>Mierkules</i>	Sunday	- <i>Linggo</i>
Thursday	- <i>Huwebes</i>		

Months

January	- <i>Enero</i>	July	- <i>Hulyo</i>
February	- <i>Pebrero</i>	August	- <i>Agosto</i>
March	- <i>Marso</i>	September	- <i>Septembre</i>
April	- <i>Abril</i>	October	- <i>Oktubre</i>
May	- <i>Mayo</i>	November	- <i>Noviembre</i>
June	- <i>Hunyo</i>	December	- <i>Deциembre</i>

Questions

Who?	- <i>Sino?</i>	How?	- <i>Paano?</i>
What?	- <i>Ano?</i>	How many?	- <i>Ilan?</i>
Where?	- <i>Saan?</i>	How many?	- <i>Gaano karami?</i>
When?	- <i>Kailan?</i>	How much (does it cost)?	- <i>Magkano?</i>
Why?	- <i>Bakit?</i>		

Bonus Section

The Bonus Section contains two articles, **The Dyip: The Philippine Passenger Jeepney** and **How to Cook Adobo**. The *dyip* and *adobo* are two cultural icons anyone interested in the Philippines should know more about.

The Dyip: The Philippine Passenger Jeepney



Dyip (Philippine passenger jeep or jeepney)

The public transportation jeepney, as picture above, or “dyip” as Tagalog speakers would call it is the most ubiquitous form of public transportation in the Philippines. It’s truly unique design is one which cannot be found elsewhere.

After the Second World War, the American armed forces stationed on the islands left lots of military jeepney which they decommissioned. There was an overall scarcity of vehicles, but all the spare military jeepneys around some enterprising Filipinos fitted-out these jeepneys to carrying more passengers. The design proved to be so practical that even when automobiles were no longer scarce, they started manufacturing them as they originally.

Today, one can find jeepney on practically every island in the country, doing everything from taking passengers, hauling up mountains, and taking out families out to beach outings. A jeepney often stands out in the street with its highly-personalized designs, such as miniature horses on the front hood, slogans painted on, or pictures of family members painted on the sides. Sometimes, even the sound of the horn is personalized, often with a recording of taunting laughter replacing the monotone blare of a horn.

In a sense, the jeepney is a microcosm of Philippine culture. Sometimes rowdy, sometimes cramped and sweaty, with elbows and knees everywhere, but always with an element of being sociable. Unlike most modes of transportation, where everyone is seated facing forward, as you would in a car or a plane, in a jeepney all the passengers seated are facing each other, adding to the social element of the trip.

Sometimes, even the act of paying the fare in a jeepney is impossible without the help of others. If you are not seated in the next few seats behind the driver or the 'conductor' seated beside him, to pay for the fare you simple have to outstretch your hand towards the driver and say "*Bayad po*" (meaning "my payment") and where you'll get off (for example, "sa kanto lang" meaning "at the next corner") loud enough for the driver to hear.

The passengers seated closer to the front will pass your money forward until it reaches the driver, sometimes changing hands, three or four times before reaching the front if you are seated all the way at the back. Your change will go through the same process being passed from the driver or conductor seated in front, down a line of passengers before it reaches you.

How to Cook Adobo



Adobo, the most common dish in the Philippines

If lechon (spit-roast pig) is the “king” of Filipino foods, adobo is the “common Filipino.” Every true Filipino knows how to cook adobo. Adobo perhaps is as old as Filipino culture itself. Historians have recorded that even before the Spanish colonists arrived, indigenous Filipinos were well-versed with preparing their food with vinegar and salt. This won't come as a surprise to you if you are familiar with how fast food can spoil in tropical climates.

This cooking method reminded the colonial Spaniards of the dish from their homeland called *adobar*. *Adobar*, which means “to marinate,” is thought to have influenced the dish we know today that all Filipinos know and love.

Filipinos typically cook adobo using either chicken or pork, or a combination of both (called “**chicken-pork adobo**”). Chicken tends to be slightly more common than pork, so chicken adobo what is covered in this article. Besides, it's easier to get chicken adobo right compared to pork adobo.

If you want pork adobo, you can substitute the chicken with the pork cut into two-inch cubes.

Perhaps one of the few skills that can match Filipinos' expertise in taking selfies is their ability to cook. Filipinos sometimes say, "It's okay not to know how to cook, but you should at least know how to cook adobo."

Adobo is a sure win. Adobo is the quintessential home-cooked dish in the Philippines and for the Filipinos diaspora abroad. Remember these words of wisdom:

If you want to win over a Filipina (woman), surprise her with an adobo. Or, as the cliché goes, the best way to a Filipino (man) heart is through his stomach, and it is adobo!

Filipino gatherings are always centered around food. Oftentimes, it will be a potluck party. It's often a good gesture to bring something to add to the table. If you find yourself invited to one of these Filipino gatherings, fear not! Adobo will always be there to save the day.

You don't know how to cook adobo? Don't worry. We will help you with everything you need to know about Tagalog, including cooking recipes. Awesome, huh? Without further ado...

How to cook Chicken Adobo (*Paano magluto ng Adobong Manok?*)

how = *paano*

cook = *luto*

chicken = *manok*

Cooking **chicken adobo** is quick (*mabilis*) and simple (*madali*). One key step is to marinate (*pagbabad*) the chicken to make it more flavorful. If you are pressed for time, feel free to skip this step, but make sure to simmer (*pagpakulo*) the chicken longer than 30 minutes to better infuse the flavors into the meat.

Ingredients

2 lbs. chicken, cut into pieces

Mga Sangkap

2 (dalawang) librang manok, piniraso

2 dried bay leaves	2 (dalawang) tuyong dahon ng laurel
1 cup soy sauce	1 (isang) tasang toyo
4 tablespoons vinegar	4 (apat) na kutsarang suka
5 cloves garlic, crushed	5 (limang) butil ng bawang, dinikdik
3 ½ cups water	3 ½ (tatlo't kalahating) tasang tubig
3 tablespoons cooking oil	3 (tatlong) kutsarang mantika
1 teaspoon sugar	1 (isang) kutsaritang asukal
¼ teaspoon salt (optional)	¼ (isang ikaapat) ng kutsaritang asin (pwedeng wala)

Step-by-step instructions

1. Combine the chicken, soy sauce, and garlic in a large bowl. Mix well.

***Haluin** (combine) ang **manok** (chicken), **toyo** (soy sauce) at **bawang** (garlic) sa malaking **mangkok** (bowl). **Haluin** (mix) ng **mabuti** (well).*

2. Marinate the chicken for at least an hour. The longer the marination time, the better. You may marinate the chicken overnight.

***Ibabad** (marinate) ang manok ng hindi baba sa isang **oras** (hour). Mas mahabang oras ng pagbabad, mas **maigi** (better). Pwede mo ibabad ang manok hanggang kinabukasan.*

3. Heat a pot. Then, pour the cooking oil.

***Painitin** (heat) ang kaldero. Pagkatapos, **ibuhos** (pour) ang **mantika** (oil).*

4. When the oil is hot enough, pan fry the marinated chicken for 2 minutes per side.

Kapag **tama** (enough) na ang **init** (heat) ng mantika, **prituhin** (fry) sa **kawali** (frying pan) ng dalawang **minuto** (minutes) kada **gilid** (side) ng ibinabad na manok.

5. Pour in the remaining marinade, including the garlic. Add water. Bring to a boil.

Ibuhos ang **natitirang** (remaining) binabaran kasama ang bawang. **Magdagdag** (add) ng **tubig** (water). **Hintayin** (bring) na **kumulo** (boil).

6. Add the dried bay leaves. Simmer for 30 minutes or until the chicken gets tender.

Idagdag (add) ang **tuyong** (dried) **dahon** (leaves) ng laurel. **Pakuluan** (simmer) ng tatlumpong minuto o **hanggang** (until) sa **lumambot** (tender) ang manok.

7. Add vinegar. Stir and cook for 10 minutes.

Idagdag ang **suka** (vinegar). **Haluin** (stir) at **lutuin** (cook) ng sampung minuto.

8. Pour in the sugar, and salt. Stir and turn off the heat. Serve hot.

Ibuhos ang **asukal** (sugar) at **asin** (salt). **Haluin** at **patayin** (turn off) ang kalan. **Ihain** (serve) ng **mainit** (hot).

Done? Voila! The famous **chicken adobo**!

Wait. One more step. Don't forget to announce to the host loud enough for others to hear that you cooked this adobo yourself.

“Ako ang nagluto nito.” (I cooked this.)

Watch their jaws drop. You can thank me later.

What to eat with Chicken Adobo

So were you able to cook abodo? Let's dig in. But what should you eat it with? The best partner of chicken adobo is **steamed white rice**. Better yet, try pour the adobo's sauce over a nice hot serving of rice.

Behold! The savory goodness of the salty sauce is a perfect match for the plain sweet starchiness of the rice. All Filipinos know, ***abodo sauce over white rice is simply heavenly!***

(Reprinted from TalkTagalog.com)

Thank You's

Thank you to my wife, Leng-leng, who has always been supportive of me despite the mad ideas I have, such as writing phrasebooks in the wee hours of the morning.

Though I've grown up speaking Tagalog natively, she continues to hand me down lessons in this language.

Most of all, thanks to all the people downloaded or bought this book. Learning a foreign language is not an easy task, especially when many others do not bother to learn to single word of the language at all. My greatest admiration goes out to all of you.

Learn More

Over the years, a lot of the paid and free Tagalog learning resources have sprung up online. While the overall amount of Tagalog learning material is a mere drop compared to the buckets of resources for other more commonly studied languages, like Spanish or French, there's still enough material to keep a dedicated learner occupied for many years.

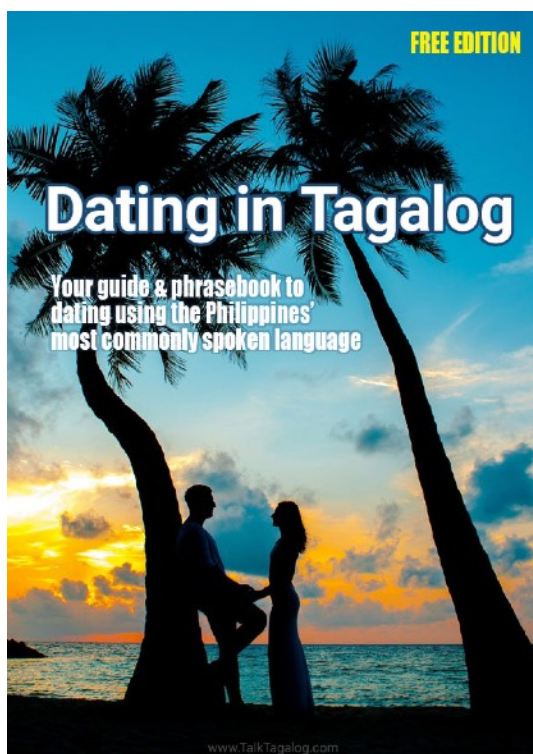
I would mean a big deal to me if you could also check out my website, **Talk Tagalog - Learn Tagalog the Natural Way** (<http://talktagalog.com>)

You'll find lots of cool stuff there. TalkTagalog has all sorts of language exercises, including a podcast, which I think will be most helpful to a serious Tagalog learner.

Hanggang sa muli. Paalam! (Until next time. Bye!)

- Datu Villanueva

Books in this Series



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