

SPECIAL OPERATIONS LANGUAGE TRAINING I

TAGALOG



Module 1

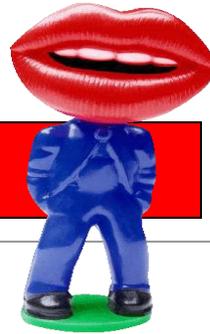
Lesson 1-6

The US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School

Module 1

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Alphabet in context



Lesson Objectives

At the end of this lesson, the students will be able to understand, obtain, and provide information about sound and script in Tagalog. In particular, the students will:

1. Identify the alphabet

- Recognize each letter of the Filipino alphabet
- Identify the Filipino letters by name
- Pronounce the letters' phonetic sounds
- Write the letters on a scratch piece of paper

2. Produce vowel sounds

- Recognize vowels
- Produce vowel sounds
- Produce semi-vowel sounds

4. Produce consonant sounds

- Recognize consonants
- Pronounce aspirated and non-aspirated consonant sounds
- Recognize diphthongs
- Identify consonant clusters

5. Recognize cognates

- Identify cognate words
- Pronounce cognate words
- Write cognate words

7. Syllables

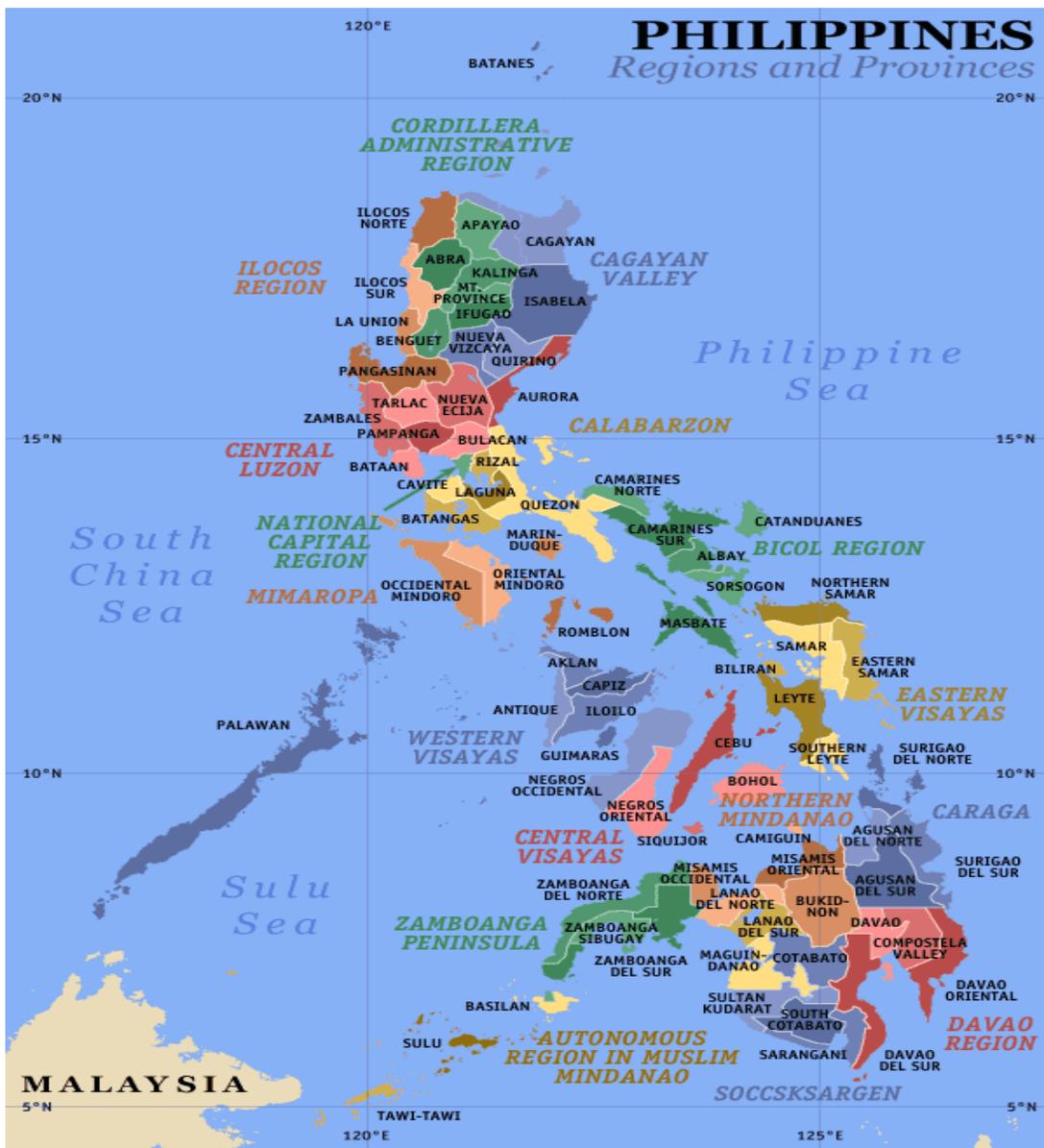
- Identify syllables

8. Sentence and intonation

- Contrast stress and intonation
- Pronounce stress and intonation

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MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES



The Republic of the Philippines is an archipelago of islands in the Southwest Pacific Ocean. It is located between the South China Sea on the West and the Pacific Ocean on the East. There are three main islands, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. In these islands, there are different ethnic groups like Ilokans, Kalinga, Badyaw, Pampagueños, Tagalogs, Bicolanos, Cebuanos, Ilongos, and Moros (Muslims), who are concentrated in the region of Mindanao. Because of this numerous number of ethnic groups who live in different regions, the archipelago has multiple dialects.

The Filipino Alphabet

When the Spaniards discovered the Philippines in 1521, they found that the natives already had a set of characters that formed the alphabet for the local dialects. This alphabet was called Baybayin (pronounced **bye - bye -in**) in Tagalog.

The Baybayin was a system of characters with 14 consonants and 3 vowels. The 3 vowel characters represented **a**, **i**, and **u**. The **i** character was pronounced either "i" or "e" depending on a marking called Kudlit. The **u** character was similarly pronounced "u" or "o," depending on whether the kudlit was placed on top or at the bottom of the character. Interestingly enough, many Filipinos still pronounce (e and i), and (o and u) interchangeably. During the Spanish period however, the Spaniards romanized the Baybayin using their own alphabet, the *abecedario*. Still today, the influence of the Spanish language remains throughout the Filipino language.

In 1937, a national language based on Tagalog was created, and Lope K. Santos created the Abakada, where one sound in the Tagalog language was represented by a letter. The new alphabet was a set of 20 characters: A B K D E G H I L M N NG O P R S T U W Y.

In 1976, the Department of Education Culture and Sports issued a memo that added 11 foreign characters to the Abakada, to enable the alphabet to handle foreign words that had also become common Filipino words. These characters were: **c, ch, f, j, ll, ñ, q, rr, v, x,** and **z**. Confusion arose, however, as to how these characters were to be employed, and thus the new alphabet was never widely used.

In 1987, a saner *Alpabetong Filipino* was created, based on the English alphabet, with two additional characters, **Ñ** and **NG** in the mix. The *Alpabetong Filipino* is now:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N Ñ NG O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Although Filipino became the official language of Philippines, the term Tagalog and Filipino will be used interchangeably throughout this course.





Tip of the Day

The word Tagalog was derived from *taga-ilog*, from *taga* meaning “*native of*” and *ilog* meaning “*river,*” thus, it means “*resident beside the river.*” Since there are no surviving written samples of Tagalog before the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, very little is known about the history of the language. There is speculation, however, among linguists, that the ancestors of the Tagalog originated, along with their Central Philippine cousins, from northeastern Mindanao or eastern Visayas.



IDENTIFY THE ALPHABET

The Filipino alphabet consists of twenty-eight letters, which are read and spelled the same way as in the English alphabet, except **n** (**enye**) and **ng** (**nang**), which are additional characters. Let's take a look at the Filipino alphabet.

Aa



aso
dog

/a/ /a/

Bb



bata
child

/ba/ /b/

Cc



simbahan
church

/ca/ /c/

Dd



damo
grass

/da/ /d/

Ee



elepante
elephant

/e/ /e/

Ff



fawnteyn
fountain

/fa/ /f/

Gg



gwantes
gloves

/ga/ /g/

Hh



hardin
garden

/ha/ /h/

Ii



ibon
bird

/i/ /i/

Jj



dyipney
jeepney

/ja/ /j/

Kk



kabayo
horse

/ka/ /k/

Ll



lamok
mosquito

/la/ /l/

<p>Mm</p>  <p>mais corn</p> <p>/ma/ /m/</p>	<p>Nn</p>  <p>niyog coconut</p> <p>/na/ /n/</p>	<p>Ññ</p>  <p>piña pineapple</p> <p>/nye/ /ñ/</p>	<p>Ngng</p>  <p>ngipin teeth</p> <p>/nga/ /ng/</p>
<p>Oo</p>  <p>orasan watch</p> <p>/ol/ /o/</p>	<p>Pp</p>  <p>prutas fruits</p> <p>/pil/ /p/</p>	<p>Qq</p>  <p>queen kwin</p> <p>/kyul/ /q/</p>	<p>Rr</p>  <p>radyo radio</p> <p>/ral/ /r/</p>
<p>Ss</p>  <p>sayaw dance</p> <p>/sal/ /s/</p>	<p>Tt</p>  <p>tarsius tarsius</p> <p>/tal/ /t/</p>	<p>Uu</p>  <p>unggoy monkey</p> <p>/yu/ /u/</p>	<p>Vv</p>  <p>van van</p> <p>/val/ /v/</p>
<p>Ww</p>  <p>watawat flag</p> <p>/wal/ /w/</p>	<p>Xx</p>  <p>xylophone xylophone</p> <p>/eks/ /x/</p>	<p>Yy</p>  <p>yoyo yoyo</p> <p>/yal/ /y/</p>	<p>Zz</p>  <p>zipper zipper</p> <p>/zil/ /z/</p>

Exercise 1

Pair work. Listen and repeat the Filipino alphabet after the instructor, then practice pronouncing it aloud with each other. Change partners, and practice it with each other once more.

Exercise 2

Pair work. Practice writing the Filipino alphabet characters on the space below, as your instructor pronounces them once more, and then compare your work with your partner.



Tip of the Day

Tagalog 

Tagalog is an Austronesian language with about 57 million speakers in the Philippines, particularly in Manila, central and southern parts of Luzon, and also on the islands of Lubang, Marinduque, and the northern and eastern parts of Mindoro. Tagalog speakers can also be found in many other countries, including Canada, Guam, Midway Islands, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, UK and USA.



The Vowels

As in English, there are five vowel sounds in the Filipino language. Some of the regional dialects have other vowel sounds that are unique to themselves. If you are familiar with the vowel sounds of Spanish or Italian, you already know how to pronounce the Filipino vowels.

The vowels are pronounced as follows:

- a** like the **u** in up and ut (in the majority of English dialects)
- e** like the **e** in end and ed
- i** like the **i** in machine and marine
- o** like the **o** in old and old
- u** like the **u** in ude and **oo** in oon

It is important to remember that the vowels should be pronounced in a very pure, clean way. A vowel should not change while it is being voiced. For example, in English we tend to close our lips to form a **w** sound when we finish the vowel **o**. Words like “go”, “no” and “so” are pronounced to rhyme with “owe”. To avoid this problem, practice saying the vowels one by one, and remember that once you have shaped your mouth for a particular vowel sound, no part of your mouth should move while you are voicing the vowel. Do not move your lips, teeth, tongue or jaw. This is the key to sounding like a real Filipino. Also, the Filipino vowel letters are never combined to create a different vowel sound (except in foreign words). Each vowel indicates a separate syllable. So, the number of vowels in a word matches the number of syllables.

Semi-vowels

A semi-vowel is a consonant that is also used as a vowel. The characters “**w**” and “**y**” are used as semi-vowels in the Filipino language. The following are examples of when they are used as semi-vowels:

Example:

w

wala (*nothing*)
wika (*language*)

y

yaya (*babysitter*)
maybahay (*housewife*)

Exercise 3.

Class work. The following words contain the vowel “a”. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

“a” the sound of *a* in *arm*

anak	(<i>son or daughter</i>)
daan	(<i>way</i>)
kaarawan	(<i>birthday</i>)
masaya	(<i>happy</i>)
tsaa	(<i>tea</i>)

Exercise 4.

Class work. The following words contain the vowel “e”. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

“e” the sound of *e* in *end*

eskuwela	(<i>school</i>)
palengke	(<i>market</i>)
elegante	(<i>elegant</i>)
nuwebe	(<i>nine</i>)
disyembre	(<i>december</i>)

Exercise 5

Class work. The following words contain the vowel “i”. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

“i” the sound of *I* in *feet*

ilaw	(<i>light</i>)
isda	(<i>fish</i>)
kanin	(<i>rice</i>)
gabi	(<i>evening</i>)

Exercise 6

Class work. The following words contain the vowel “o”. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

“o” the sound of *o* in *corn*

oo	(<i>yes</i>)
doon	(<i>over there</i>)
eroplano	(<i>airplane</i>)
piloto	(<i>pilot</i>)
bagyo	(<i>typhoon</i>)

Exercise 7

Class work. The following words contain the vowel “u”. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

“u” the sound of *u* in *push*.

- ulan** (rain)
- ubo** (cough)
- buko** (coconut)
- prutas** (fruit)

Exercise 8

Pair work. The instructor will pronounce the Filipino vowel letters (not in an alphabetical order). Listen to the sounds and write down the pronounced vowel. Then review your work with your partner.

Exercise 9

Class work. The instructor will pronounce the following words containing the **semi-vowel** letters you learned on page 8. Listen and repeat after the instructor.

- tawag** (*call*)
- dalawa** (*two*)
- araw** (*day*)
- bayan** (*native land*)
- payong** (*umbrella*)
- tulay** (*bridge*)

Point to remember: Dialectal differences in pronunciation

Vowels /o/ and /u/
/e/ and /i/

May be used interchangeably, without changing the meaning of a word as in:

- /ba-kit/ /ba-ket/ **bakit** (why)
- /sa-kit/ /sa-ket/ **sakit** (sick)
- /hi-nog/ /hi-nug/ **hinug** (ripe)