

Tahanan

UNIT 1 / INTRODUCTIONS

BEGINNER SERIES

Beginner Tagalog lessons

Four lessons for your first conversations.



Find your way home.

tahanan.com

LESSON 1

Meeting Someone Pt. 1

New Vocab Words

1 of 3

Kumusta

PRONUNCIATION

koo-mu-STAH

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

How are you?

USAGE TIP

Used when greeting someone; like saying, "How's it going?"

EXAMPLE

Hey **Kuya** Lumpia! **Kumusta**? (Hey Brother Lumpia! How are you?)

Mabuti

PRONUNCIATION

ma-BOO-tee

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Good, fine, well

USAGE TIP

It's a word commonly used in formal contexts, but can be utilized in casual conversations.

EXAMPLE

Mabuti ako. (I'm good.)

Lesson 1: Meeting Someone Pt. 1

New Vocab Words

2 of 3

Rin / Din

PRONUNCIATION

reen / deen

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Also, too

USAGE TIP

Use *rin* if the last letter of the word is a vowel; use *din* if the last letter is a consonant.

EXAMPLE

[1] Gutom ka? Ako **o rin**! (*You're hungry? Me too!*)

[2] I'm broke Lumpia, ikaw **w din**? (*I'm broke Lumpia, you also?*)

Ikaw

PRONUNCIATION

ee-COW

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Complete spelling of *you*

USAGE TIP

Can be used in the beginning of a sentence, the word is used in formal and casual conversations.

EXAMPLE

Wow! **Ikaw** si Kuya Lumpia? (*Wow! You're brother Lumpia?*)

Lesson 1: Meeting Someone Pt. 1

New Vocab Words

3 of 3

At

PRONUNCIATION

Ah-t

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

And

USAGE TIP

A tagalog conjunction; use to connect nouns and phrases.

EXAMPLE

Hello, kumusta ka **at** si Lumpia? (*Hello, how are you and Lumpia?*)

Ka

PRONUNCIATION

kAH

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

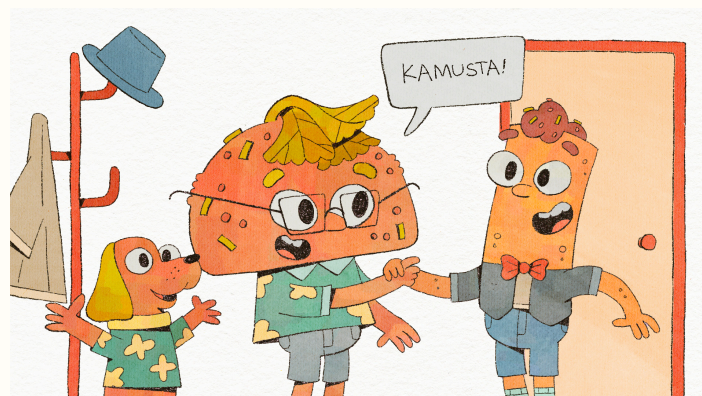
A shortened form of *you*

USAGE TIP

Never use in the beginning of the sentence; this word is often used in questions.

EXAMPLE

Okay **ka**? (*You good?*)



Lesson 1: Meeting Someone Pt. 1

Grammar Focus: Sentence Order in Tagalog

Kumain ang bata = The child ate

EXPLANATION

This is the **natural order**. Predicate comes first, then the subject. Even though the verb comes first, this is NOT inverted or incorrect in Tagalog.

Ang bata ay kumain = The child ate

EXPLANATION

This is the **uncommon order**. Subject comes first, then the predicate. This order is used when the speaker wants to emphasize the subject. It often uses the linker **ay**.

Beginner tip: Use the natural/common order.

EXPLANATION

Using the **common order** first because it sounds more natural and is what native speakers use most in everyday conversation. You will usually encounter the **uncommon order** in more formal contexts such as textbooks, news articles, essays, and speeches.

Lesson 1: Meeting Someone Pt. 1

Practice Sheet

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Kumusta

Rin/Din

Ikaw

Ka

At

Mabuti

How are you?

Fine, well, good

Shortened you

Complete you

And

Too, also

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Kumusta

Rin/Din

Ikaw

Ka

At

Mabuti

1. Thanks for checking up on me Lumpia. How about you, _____?

2. I thought it's just me who feels hot here, ikaw_____?

3. Ako_____ , I believe we, Filipinos are resilient.

4. After helping me, I know that ikaw ay_____.

5. I see that you _____si Lumpia are getting along well!

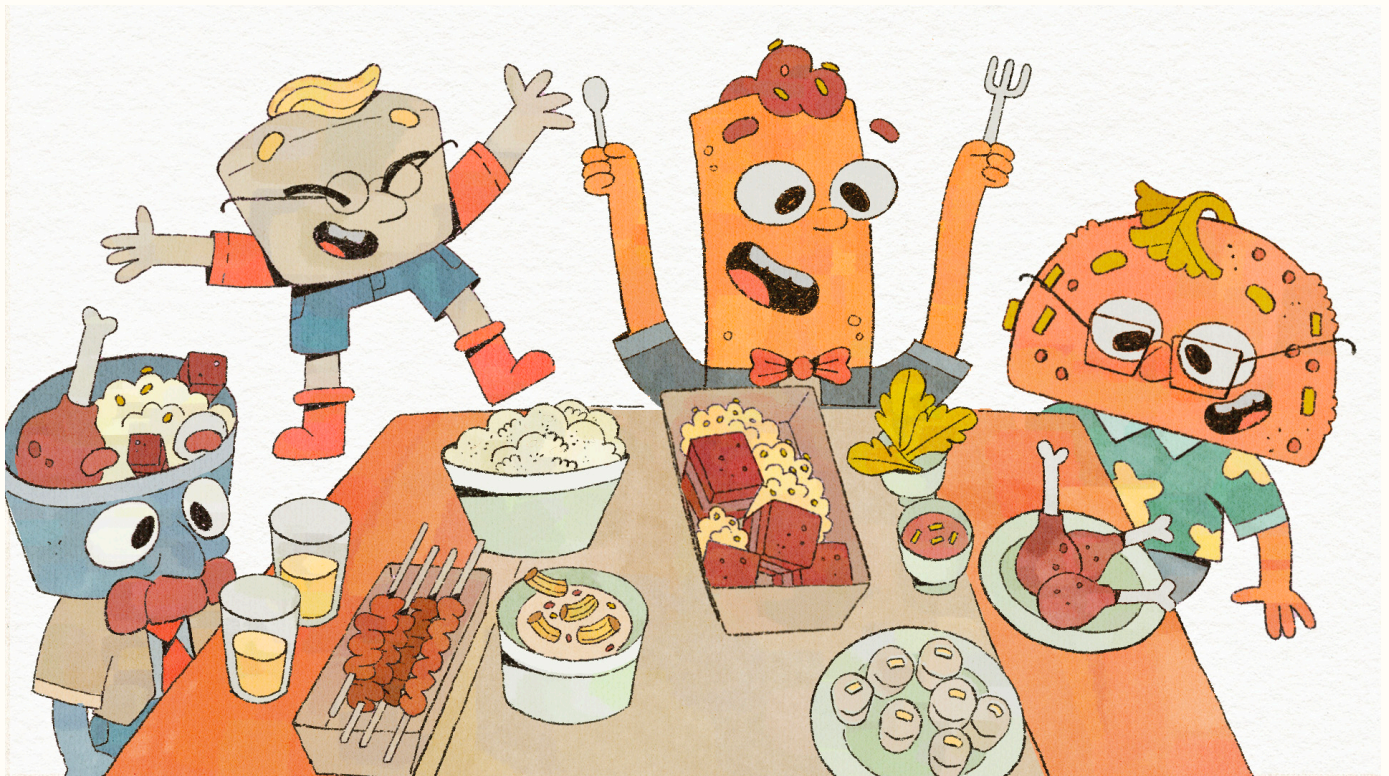
6. It's been a while Lumpia, kumusta _____?

Lesson 1: Meeting Someone Pt. 1

Lumpia's Cultural Insight!

Lumpia's Cultural Insight!

Filipinos often speak Taglish because English has been part of daily life through history, education, and media. During American colonization, English became the language of schools, government, and upward mobility, and it still signals professionalism and modernity. Tagalog carries emotional nuance and cultural closeness, while English often feels more precise for technical or global ideas. Mixing both lets speakers express themselves naturally and efficiently, choosing the best word from each language. Taglish also reflects identity— adaptability, creativity, and connection to both local culture and the wider world. Rather than being “incorrect,” it’s a living, evolving way Filipinos communicate today.



LESSON 2

Meeting Someone Pt. 2

New Vocab Words

1 of 3

Pangalan

PRONUNCIATION

pah-NGAH-lahn

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Name

USAGE TIP

Essential for introductions and getting to know people.

EXAMPLE

Ang **pangalan** ko is Lumpia! (*The name is Lumpia!*)

Si

PRONUNCIATION

see

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Name marker; no direct translation

USAGE TIP

Comes before names, like "named"

EXAMPLE

Ikaw **si** Lumpia! (*You are Lumpia!*)

Lesson 2: Meeting Someone Pt. 2

New Vocab Words

2 of 3

Ano

PRONUNCIATION

AH-no

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

What

USAGE TIP

Question word for asking about things.

EXAMPLE

Ano pangalan mo? (*What is your name?*)

Ang

PRONUNCIATION

ahng

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Primarily *the*, but can also translate to *a* or *an*.

USAGE TIP

A definite article in Tagalog; a marker for singular nouns

EXAMPLE

Ang Pilipinas...could be a nice country to check out... (*The Philippines...could be a nice country to check out...*)

Lesson 2: Meeting Someone Pt. 2

New Vocab Words

3 of 3

Mo

PRONUNCIATION

moh

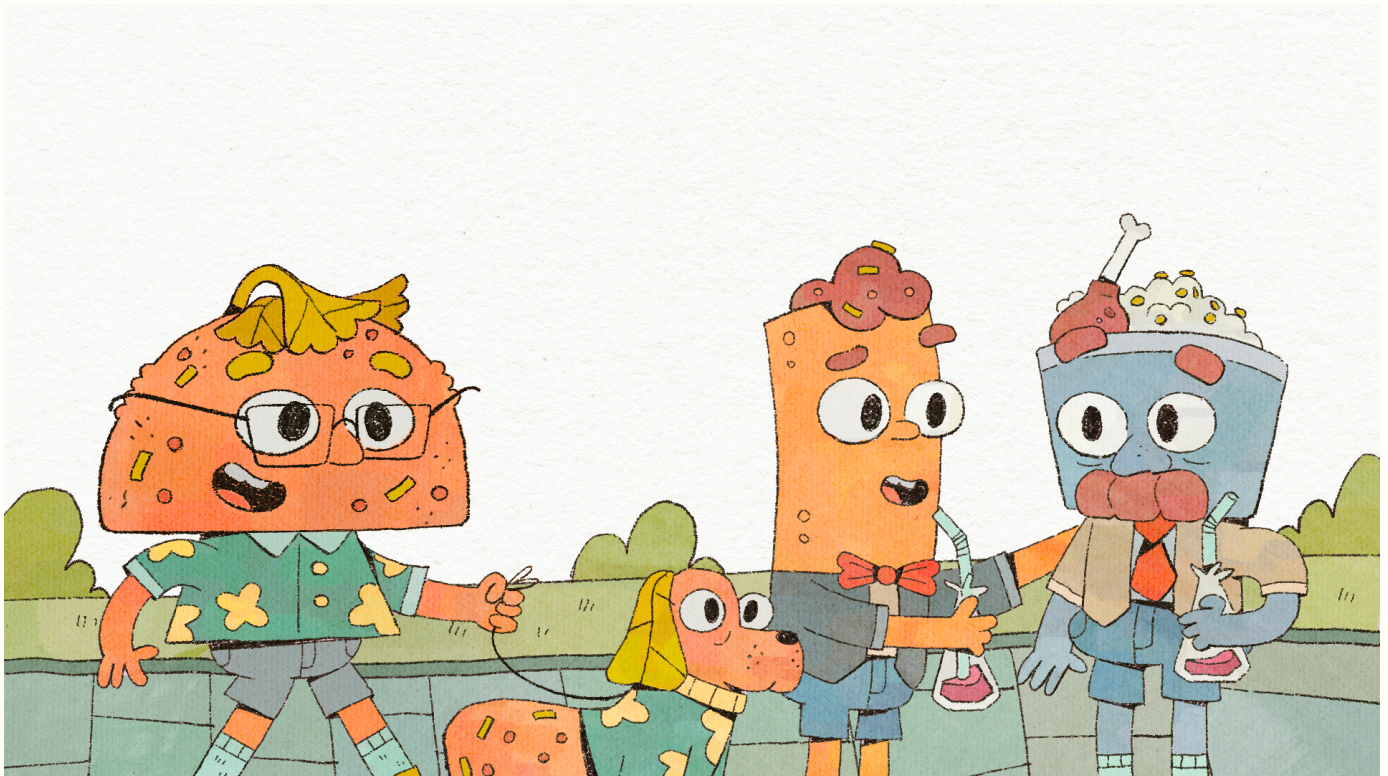
ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Your

USAGE TIP

A possessive pronoun.

EXAMPLE

Ano pangalan **mo**? (*What is your name?*)

Lesson 2: Meeting Someone Pt. 2

Grammar Focus: Learn about Markers in Tagalog

Si

EXPLANATION

Si doesn't have a direct English translation. Instead they're used to mark the role of words in a sentence! We call these words **markers** and you will learn more later.

Ano **ang** pangalan mo?

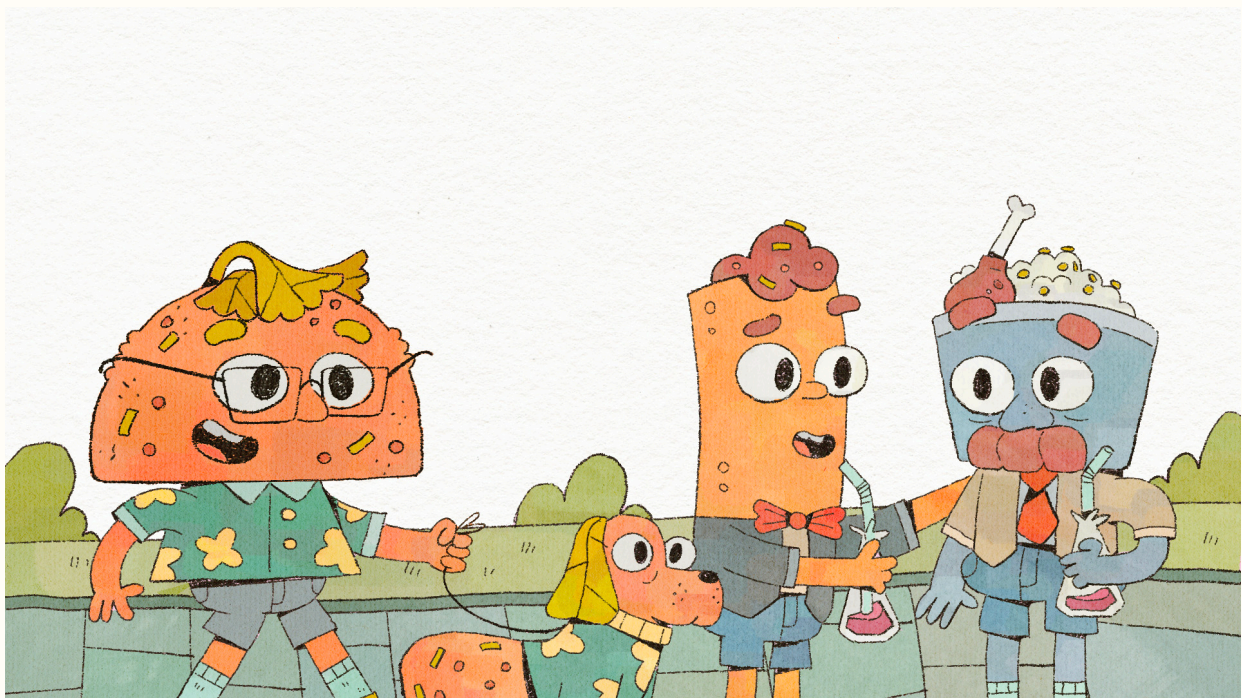
EXPLANATION

Ang marks the noun that is the topic of the sentence.

Ano **ang pangalan** mo?

EXPLANATION

In this example, *pangalan* (*name*) is the topic and follows the marker *ang*.



Lesson 2: Meeting Someone Pt. 2

Practice Sheet

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Si**Ang****Pangalan****Mo****Ano***The/A/An**Name**What**Name marker**Your*

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Si**Ang****Pangalan****Mo****Ano**

1. Do you know who'd join us today? ____ Lumpia.
2. ____ itinerary here in the Philippines would be under Lumpia's care!
3. Lumpia, ____ ang first stop today before lunch?
4. Hey Lumpia! Ano ang ____ of the snack we tried earlier? The egg covered in orange breading?
5. Ano ang pangalan ____?

Lesson 2: Meeting Someone Pt. 2

Lumpia's Cultural Insight: Tagalog vs. Filipino

Lumpia's Cultural Insight: Tagalog v.s. Filipino

Tagalog is a specific language spoken mainly in the Luzon region, especially around Manila. It is one of many Philippine languages like Bisaya, Ilokano, and others— these are not dialects, but separate languages in their own right. Filipino is the national language of the Philippines, based largely on Tagalog but also borrowing words from other Philippine languages, Spanish, and English. Filipino is meant to be a shared language for all Filipinos, while Tagalog is just one local language among many.



LESSON 3

Polite Expressions

New Vocab Words

1 of 3

Po

PRONUNCIATION

poh

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Polite participle; no direct translation

USAGE TIP

Add this to show respect to elders, authorities, or anyone you don't casually talk to. Use this to set up a polite and respectful tone.

EXAMPLE

Thank you **po**! (*Thank you!*)

Opo / Oo

PRONUNCIATION

OH-po / OH-oh

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Yes

USAGE TIP

Use *opo* in polite conversations; use *oo* in casual and informal speech.

EXAMPLE

Opo lola, I would love a bowl of Adobo with rice! (Yes grandmother, I would love a bowl of Adobo with rice!)

Oo Juan, I'm already full from **lola**'s food earlier. (Yes Juan, I'm already full from grandmother's food earlier.)

Lesson 3: Polite Expressions

New Vocab Words

2 of 3

Salamat

PRONUNCIATION

sah-LAH-maht

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Thank you / Thanks

USAGE TIP

Use to express gratitude.

EXAMPLE

Opo lola, the meal was very delicious. **Salamat** po! (*Yes lola, the meal was very delicious. Thank you!*)

Hindi

PRONUNCIATION

HEEN-dee

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

No, not

USAGE TIP

How to decline or say no; it's used first before the subject.

EXAMPLE

Hindi ako okay. (*I'm not okay.*)

Lesson 3: Polite Expressions

New Vocab Words

3 of 3

Sige

PRONUNCIATION

SEE-geh

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Okay, alright

USAGE TIP

A casual or informal word used to agree or permit.

EXAMPLE

Sige, let's go to the Philippines next week. (Alright, let's go to the Philippines next week!)

Kayo

PRONUNCIATION

kah-YOH

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Yourselves, you guys; a rough translation

USAGE TIP

A 2nd person pronoun, you're referring to two or more people

EXAMPLE

Okay na **kayo**? Let's go eat in a Filipino restaurant! (You guys good? Let's go eat in a Filipino restaurant!)



Lesson 3: Polite Expressions

Grammar Focus: Using Po in Sentences

Salamat **po**! (*Thank you!*)

EXPLANATION

Adding *po* at the end makes your sentence polite and respectful.

Mabuti **po** ako (*I'm good*)

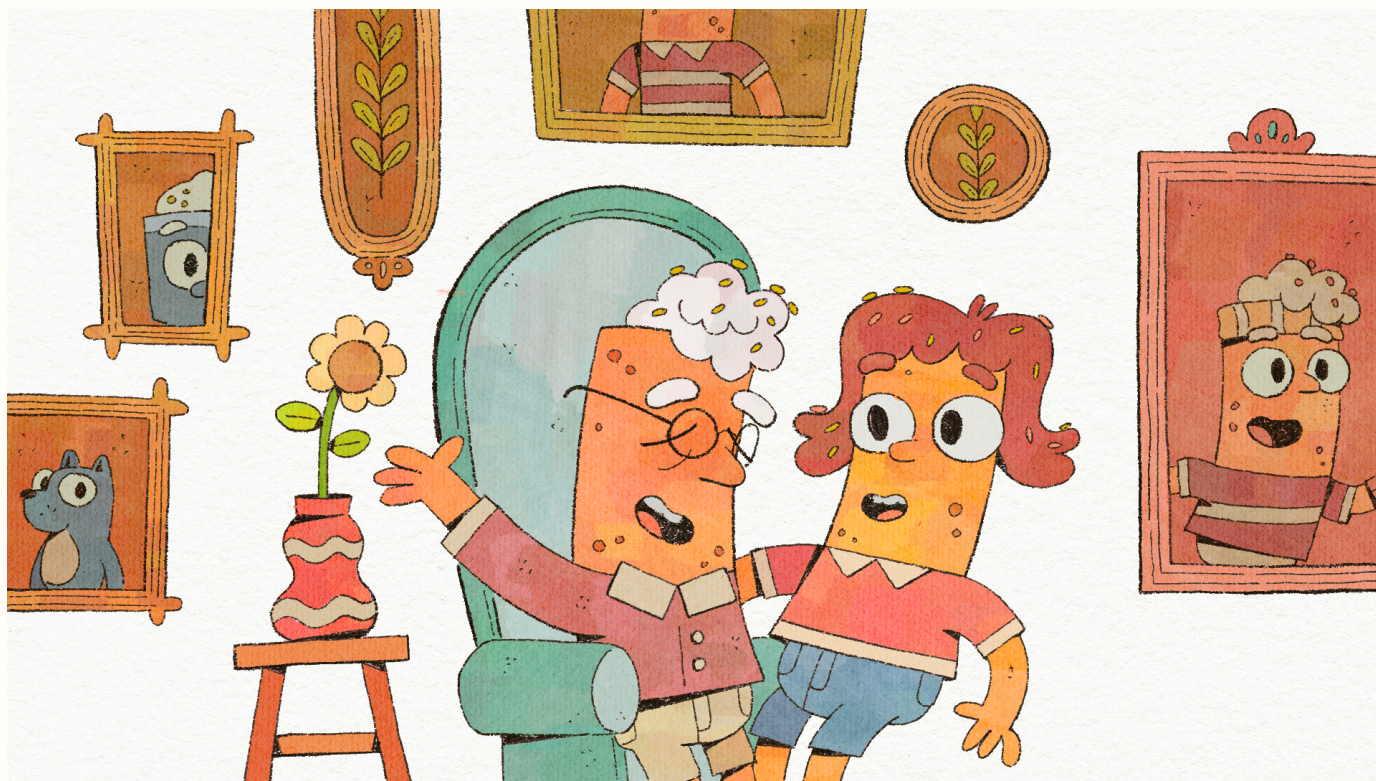
EXPLANATION

You can insert *po* in the middle or at the end of sentences.

Opo, kumusta **po** kayo? (*Yes, how are you?*)

EXPLANATION

Notice how *opo* and *po* work together to show maximum respect.



Lesson 3: Polite Expressions

Practice Sheet

1 of 2

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Hindi

Salamat

Po

Oo

Kayo

Sige

Opo

*Thank you**Okay, alright**Yes (polite)**Yes (casual)**Polite particle**No, not**Yourselves, you guys*

Lesson 3: Polite Expressions

Practice Sheet

2 of 2

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Hindi

Salamat

Po

Oo

Kayo

Sige

Opo

1. I can't believe you managed to get this Lumpia, it's so beautiful! _____ !

2. Are you good _____ Lola? Kuya Lumpia was worried about you.

3. _____ po, I'm cool with washing the dishes. Talk to you later!

4. _____ bro, let's go to Palawan this weekend!

5. _____ Lola, I'll be extra careful on our trip this weekend.

6. I'm excited to set up a boodle fight once we get there! How about _____ ?

7. _____ ako okay. I've been feeling queasy since earlier. Got any meds for me?

LESSON 4

Where Are You From?

New Vocab Words

1 of 2

Taga-

PRONUNCIATION

tah-GAH

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

From; *location marker*

USAGE TIP

A versatile prefix meaning "from" (place of origin/residence) or indicating someone's occupation/role.

EXAMPLE

Taga-Manila ako. (*I'm from Manila*)

Taga-luto si lola before she got sick. (*Grandmother is a cook before she got sick.*)

Saan

PRONUNCIATION

sah-AHN

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Where

USAGE TIP

Question word for locations.

EXAMPLE

Saan ang charger mo? (*Where is your charger?*)

Taga-**saan** ka? (*Where are you from?*)

Lesson 4: Where Are You From?

New Vocab Words

2 of 2

Dito / Rito

PRONUNCIATION

DEE-toh / REE-toh

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Here

USAGE TIP

Use *rito* if the last letter of the word is a vowel; use *dito* if the last letter is a consonant.

EXAMPLE

I remember how lolo used to sing **dito**. (*I remember how grandfather used to sing here.*)

Taga-**rito** ako. (*I'm from here.*)

Doon / Roon

PRONUNCIATION

DOH-on / ROH-on

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

There, over there

USAGE TIP

Use *roon* if the last letter of the word is a vowel; use *doon* if the last letter is a consonant.

EXAMPLE

Hey Lumpia, can you put my phone **doon**? (*Hey Lumpia, can you put my phone there?*)

Taga-roon ako. (*I'm from there.*)

Lesson 4: Where Are You From?

Grammar Focus: Location Marker Taga-

Taga-Manila po ako. (*I'm from Manila*)

EXPLANATION

Taga- is a location marker. It comes before the place name and means *from*.

Taga-saan ka? (*Where are you from?*)

EXPLANATION

Saan means *where*. Combines with *taga-*, it asks about someone's origin.

Taga-saan ka po? (*Where are you from?*)

EXPLANATION

For a polite tone, just add *po* at the end of the sentence.



Lesson 4: Where Are You From?

Practice Sheet

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Taga-

Roon / Doon

Saan

Rito / Dito

Where

There

Here

From

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Taga-

Roon / Doon

Saan

Rito / Dito

1. Hey Lumpia, _____ saan lola mo?
2. OMG, let's go _____ near Luneta Park!
3. Lola, _____ po ang charger? I forgot where you placed it po.
4. Opo lola, I placed your coat _____ sa rack. Should I get it for you po?
5. Ah, good thing you're here. I had your device _____ by my side so you won't misplace it.
6. Please put that bowl of adobo _____ sa table.

Vocabulary reference

Vocab Words Table of Summary

WORD	PRONUNCIATION	TRANSLATION	EXAMPLE
Kumusta	koo-mu-STAH	How are you?	Hey Kuya Lumpia! Kumusta?
Mabuti	ma-BOO-tee	Good, fine, well	Mabuti ako.
Rin	reen	Also, too	Gutom ka? Ako rin!
Din	deen	Also, too	I'm broke Lumpia, ikaw din?
Ikaw	ee-COW	Complete you	Wow! Ikaw si Kuya Lumpia?
At	Ah-t	And	Hello, kumusta ka at si Lumpia?
Ka	KAH	Short you	Okay ka?
Pangalan	pah-NGAH-lahn	Name	Ang pangalan ko is Lumpia!
Si	see	<i>name marker</i>	Ikaw si Lumpia!
Ano	AH-no	What	Ano pangalan mo?
Ang	ahng	the/a/an	Ang Pilipinas...could be a nice country to check out...
Mo	moh	Your	Ano pangalan mo?
Po	poh	<i>polite expression</i>	Thank you po!
Opo	OH-po	Polite yes	Opo lola, I would love a bowl of Adobo with rice!
Oo	OH-oh	Yes	Oo Juan, I'm already full from lola's food earlier.
Salamat	sah-LAH-maht	Thanks	Opo lola, the meal was very delicious. Salamat po!
Hindi	HEEN-dee	No, not	Hindi ako okay.
Sige	SEE-geh	Okay, alright	Sige, let's go to the Philippines next week.
Kayo	kah-YOH	Yourselves, you guys	Okay na kayo? Let's go eat in a Filipino restaurant!
Taga-	tah-GAH	From	Taga-Manila ako.
Saan	sah-AHN	Where	Taga-saan ka?
Dito	DEE-toh	Here	I remember how lolo used to sing dito.
Rito	REE-toh	Here	Taga-rito ako.
Doon	DOH-on	There	Hey Lumpia, can you put my phone doon?
Roon	ROH-on	There	Taga-roon ako.

Lesson 1: Meeting Someone Pt. 1

Answer Key

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Kumusta Rin/Din Ikaw Ka At Mabuti

Kumusta <i>How are you?</i>	Mabuti <i>Fine, well, good</i>	Ka <i>Shortened <u>you</u></i>
Ikaw <i>Complete <u>you</u></i>	At <i>And</i>	Rin / Din <i>Too, also</i>

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Kumusta Rin/Din Ikaw Ka At Mabuti

- Thanks for checking up on me Lumpia. How about you, **kumusta**?
- I thought it's just me who feels hot here, ikaw **din**?
- Ako **rin**, I believe we, Filipinos are resilient.
- After helping me, I know that ikaw ay **mabuti**.
- I see that you **at** si Lumpia are getting along well!
- It's been a while Lumpia, kumusta **ka**?

Lesson 2: Meeting Someone Pt. 2

Answer Key

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Si

Ang

Pangalan

Mo

Ano

Ang*The/A/An***Pangalan***Name***Ano***What***Si***Name marker***Mo***Your*

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Si

Ang

Pangalan

Mo

Ano

1. Do you know who'd join us today? **Si** Lumpia.
2. **Ang** itinerary here in the Philippines would be under Lumpia's care!
3. Lumpia, **ano** ang first stop today before lunch?
4. Hey Lumpia! Ano ang **pangalan** of the snack we tried earlier? The egg covered in orange breading?
5. Ano ang pangalan **mo** ?

Lesson 3: Polite Expressions

Answer Key

1 of 2

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Hindi Salamat Po Oo Kayo Sige Opo

Salamat

Thank you

Sige

Okay, alright

Opo

Yes (polite)

Oo

Yes (casual)

Po

Polite particle

Hindi

No, not

Kayo

Yourselves, you guys

Lesson 3: Polite Expressions

Answer Key

2 of 2

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Hindi Salamat Po Oo Kayo Sige Opo

1. I can't believe you managed to get this Lumpia, it's so beautiful! **Salamat** !

2. Are you good **po** Lola? Kuya Lumpia was worried about you.

3. **Sige** po, I'm cool with washing the dishes. Talk to you later!

4. **Oo** bro, let's go to Palawan this weekend!

5. **Opo** Lola, I'll be extra careful on our trip this weekend.

6. I'm excited to set up a boodle fight once we get there! How about **kayo** ?

7. **Hindi** ako okay. I've been feeling queasy since earlier. Got any meds for me?

Lesson 4: Where Are You From?

Answer Key

Activity 1: Word Match-Up

MATCH THE WORDS WITH THEIR CORRECT TRANSLATIONS

Taga-

Roon / Doon

Saan

Rito / Dito

Saan

Where

Roon / Doon

There

Rito / Dito

Here

Taga-

From

Activity 2: Complete the Sentence

CHOOSE THE TAGALOG WORD THAT BEST FITS THE SENTENCE

Taga-

Roon / Doon

Saan

Rito / Dito

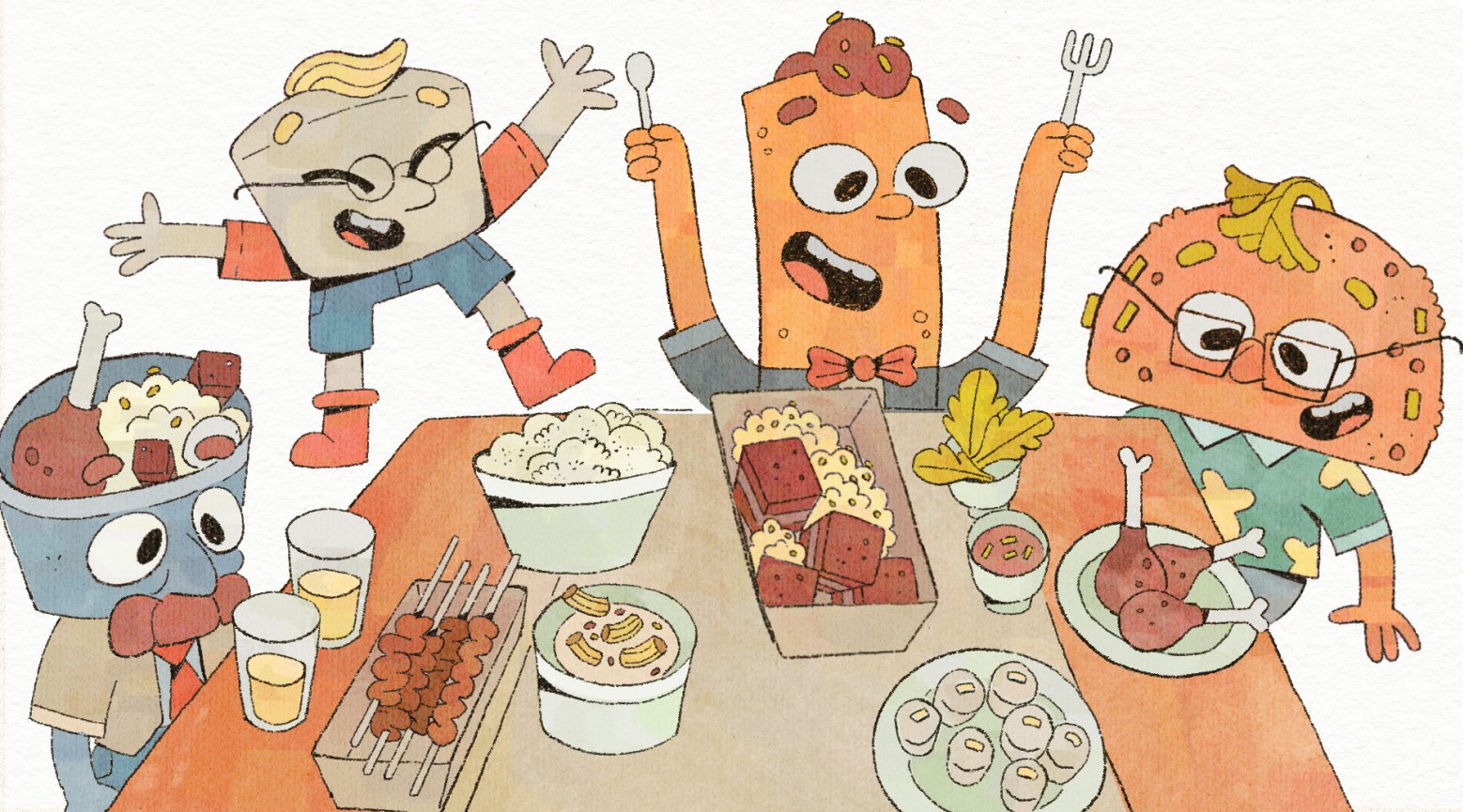
- Hey Lumpia, **taga-** saan lola mo?
- OMG, let's go **roon** near Luneta Park!
- Lola, **saan** po ang charger? I forgot where you placed it po.
- Opo lola, I placed your coat **doon** sa rack. Should I get it for you po?
- Ah, good thing you're here. I had your device **dito** by my side so you won't misplace it.
- Please put that bowl of adobo **rito** sa table.

Tahanan

Keep the conversation going.

Take your next step in Tagalog with the Tahanan app.

Build on these lessons, one everyday conversation at a time.



A little welcome gift

Save 15% on subscription plans

Use code **WELCOME15** when you subscribe on the website.

Get the Tahanan app

Learn more at
tahanan.com/app

Find your way home.

tahanan.com