

## Overview

### Population

The Philippine's estimated population is 101,802,000. The national language of the Philippines is Tagalog and this language is spoken by approximately 52 million people. Filipino is an alternative name for Tagalog. There are numerous other dialects e.g. some Filipinos speak Visayan.

Tagalog is spoken mainly in Metro Manila and other urban areas. English is also used as an official language of the Philippines and there are 171 individual dialect languages depending on the region and province of the Country.

More than 86% of the population is Roman Catholic.

### Climate

The Philippines have a tropical maritime climate that is usually hot and humid with temperatures ranging from 21°C to 32°C depending on the season. The coolest month is January; the warmest is May, with an average yearly temperature of around 26.6°C. There are two seasons: wet and dry.

### Education System (for children from the Philippines)

In 2011 the education system changed from the old 10-year basic educational system to a 12-year educational system. The new 12-year system is now compulsory. Kindergarten (ages 5-6), Elementary School (ages 6-12), Junior High School (ages 12-16), Senior High School (ages 16-18).

### SEN:

The state normally provides adequate resources to enable students with special educational needs to gain an appropriate education.

### EAL:

Learning English is compulsory at elementary school and is taught from age 6.

## Education System – main differences and implications for schools

### School starting age

- Compulsory education in the Philippines includes kindergarten (ages 5-6). In kindergarten, the pupils are required to learn the alphabet, numbers, shapes, and colours through games, songs and dance in their mother tongue.
- New arrivals in Key Stage 1 sometimes may not have experienced formal schooling yet. They may require a gentler introduction to school life.

### School day

- Each classroom usually has a chalk board or whiteboard. Electronic whiteboards/projectors are rare.
- Filipino school pupils usually wear school uniform (shorts for boys, skirts for girls).
- The school day is a little shorter (5 hours) at elementary school and high school. However the hours are different depending on whether the child is placed in a morning (7am - 12 noon) or afternoon (1pm - 6pm) session.
- Most subjects are taught in the students' own classroom at elementary school. From junior high school onward, however, students move from class to class depending on the subject or course they are taking.

### Curriculum

- At elementary school or in grades 1-6, the subject areas mainly taught are English, Tagalog, Literacy, Numeracy, RE and PE. Subjects like Geography, History, Music and Science do not start until Junior High School. Core curriculum areas include Languages, Literature, Communication, Mathematics, Philosophy, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.
- Homework is usually set in each subject on a weekly basis.
- Exams are usually essay based and include multiple choice questions, with graded results being given.

## Literacy

- In schools English is the main language of instruction, although Filipino and local dialects are also used, particularly in lower grades.
- Independent writing usually starts at age 6 at elementary school; children in the lower years of primary school might need extra support with independent writing (e.g. writing frames, partially completed sentences etc.)
- Tagalog handwriting is quite similar to English handwriting. It is written in a Spanish (Roman) alphabet. Students should be allowed to continue with the handwriting style they are used to. However if the style is too different, support should be given to improve handwriting.
- Elementary school children are used to line guides for their writing, starting with 3 lines for children first learning to write.

## Maths

- Mathematics education has two main aims, with critical thinking and problem solving being the main disciplines.
- Methods taught for multiplication, division and other equations or calculations may be different from those taught in English schools; however the main discipline of finding a solution to a problem or evaluating and applying knowledge to information should be the same.

## Cultural sensitivities

- Titles and names are usually the same as in English i.e. Mr/Mrs - First/Middle (or Mother's Maiden) - Surname.
- Children are encouraged to deal with playground squabbles themselves although fighting is not allowed.
- Children in the Philippines are brought up to be independent from a very early age and most children either walk to school or travel by school bus or public transport.

## Parental involvement and attendance in the Philippines

- Parent involvement in schools is usually high and includes taking an active part in home and school based activities. Parents provide learning materials, help with home work and reading
- School and teachers try to involve parents as much as possible: activities such as assigning homework to increase student and parent interaction, holding workshops for families, holding parents meetings and communicating with parents about the development of their children. These activities are created to encourage a collaborative effort to help the child achieve his/her II potential.
- Depending on the circumstances pupils may have to repeat a school year if they do not achieve the expected minimum grade. Most of the students are enthusiastic to learn.
- Children usually bring their school text books or exercise books home every day to complete homework. Individual subject tests are usually set in each school term, with individual performance and result feedback given to parents, whether from progress reports or individual parents' evenings.

## Language differences that may cause problems with Literacy

### Alphabet/Script

Tagalog is written in a Spanish (Roman) alphabet. Modern Tagalog writing uses the Roman letters A, B, D, E, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, U, W, and Y.

### Spelling

Tagalog spelling is much more consistent than English spelling in reflecting pronunciation, except in the case of certain borrowed words.

## Auxiliaries/negatives/questions/tenses

- The Tagalog verb system is much simpler than the English one. In many English sentences, there is an inversion of the auxiliary verb and the subject in direct questions ('Is he going?') which is restored to normal statement order in an included question ('Do you know if he is going?') There are no comparable conversions in Tagalog.
- There are no true tense distinctions like the English distinction between past and present.

## Modal verbs

- Tagalog has no modal verbs. Therefore modal verbs are one of the most difficult aspects of English grammar. This means pupils may often have trouble grasping the subtle variations in meaning implicit in the speaker's choice of modal.
- Pupils may struggle to choose the correct modal to convey their intended meaning.

## Word order

- Tagalog nouns are not inflected; they are usually preceded by case-marking particles. These follow an Austronesian alignment (also known as a 'trigger' system) which is a distinct feature of Philippine-type languages. There are three basic cases: direct, indirect, and oblique.

## Gender/Articles

- Nouns are masculine, feminine or neuter; often these are transferred into English.

## Useful classroom words

### Greetings

Welcome	Maligayang Pagdating
Hello	Helo, Kumusta
Thank you	Salamat
Please	Pakiusap
Goodbye (formal)	Paalam po
Bye (casual)	Paalam
Morning	Magandang umaga
Afternoon	Magandang hapon
Are you OK?	Ayos lang ba kayo?

### School Routine:

School playground	Palaruan s paaralan
School office	Tanggapan ng paaralan
Hall	Bulwagan
School	Paaralan
Assembly	Pagpupulong
Toilets	Banyo
School field	Patlang ng paaralan
Classroom	Silid-aralan
Registration	Rehistrasyon
Computer suite	Silid para sa Computer
Tutor group (class)	Turuan nang sarilinan

Break time	Oras ng pahinga
Outside	Labas
Inside	Loob
Fire drill	Magsanay para sa Sunog
Packed lunch	Naka-balot na pang tanghalian

School dinner	Paaralan hapunan
School nurse	Nars ng paaralan
First aid room	Kwarto para sa Pangunang Lun
Staff room	Kwarto para sa mga kawani

Lunchtime	Pagsapit ng tanghalian
School uniform	Uniporme ng paaralan
Library	Aklatan
Reading book	Pagbabasa ng libro
Library book	Libro ng Aklatan libro
Copy	Kopya

## Days of the week:

Monday	Lunes
Tuesday	Martes
Wednesday	Miyerkules
Thursday	Huwebes
Friday	Biyernes
Weekend	Katapusan ng Linggo

## Numbers

Zero - Sero	
One - Isa	
Two - Dalawa	20 - Dalawang pu
Three - Tatlo	30 - Tatlong pu
Four - Apat	40 - Apat na pu
Five - Lima	50 - Limang pu
Six - Anim	60 - Anim na pu
Seven - Pito	70 - Pitong pu
Eight - Walo	80 - Walong pu
Nine - Siyam	90 - Siyam na pu
Ten - Sampo	100 - Isang daan
How many?	Gaano karami?

## Instructions/Questions

Work with a partner	Makipag-trabaho sa kasamahan.
Use your dictionary	Gamitin ang iyong diksyunaryo.
Do you understand?	Naunawaan mo ba?
Talk about this at home	Makipag-talakayan tungkol dito sa inyong tahanan.
Translate these words at home	Isalin ang mga salitang ito sa tahanan.
You can write in Tagalog	Maaari kang sumulat sa Tagalog.
Write in sentences	Isulat sa pangungusap
Fill in the blanks	Punan ang mga patlang.
Annotate	Magkomentaryo.
Highlight	Tampok
Draft	Plano
Please be quiet	Mangyaring tumahimik lamang
Well done!	Megaling!