

ANG-Pronouns

The pronouns in this section are pronouns that are in focus. We call this set of pronouns ANG pronouns. ANG pronouns are used to replace ANG-words or SI/SINA-words.

The Personal Pronouns

These are used to replace noun phrases that refer to person(s). There is a current trend though, especially among young Tagalog-speakers in the Philippines, of using these pronouns to refer to other animate and inanimate nouns. But this is a colloquial usage, and a Tagalog learner would be advised to try to limit the use of these pronouns to refer only to people.

First person pronouns refer to the person who is doing the speaking (e.g. I, we). When there is only one person referred to, the singular form of the pronoun is used (e.g. I). When more than one person is referred to the plural form is used (e.g. we).

Second person pronouns refer to the person being spoken to (e.g. you).

Third person pronouns refer to someone who is neither the speaker, nor the listener, but instead third person pronouns refer to someone who is outside the conversation (e.g. him, they).

ANG Personal Pronouns

Person/Number	Singular	Plural
1st Person	AKO (I)	KAMI** (we-exclusive) TAYO*** (we-inclusive)
2nd Person	IKAW/KA* (you)	KAYO (you all)
3rd Person	SIYA (he/she)	SILA (they)

Let's take a look at how these pronouns work. Below is a sample sentence. The words in this sentence are all in English except for the focused part of the sentence:

Si Jose went to the park. Then Si Jose listened to music.
Then Si Jose climbed a tree.

Now, say that you wrote this sentence, and you feel like you have used Si Jose too much. You feel it is becoming too repetitive. So you would like to replace Si Jose with a pronoun. First, because Jose is in focus (you know this because of the SI), you need to select a pronoun that is a pronoun that is in focus (ANG pronoun). All the pronouns in the chart above are focused pronouns. Jose is third person singular, so you would use SIYA. Now you substitute SIYA for Si Jose:

Si Jose went to the park. Then siya (he) listened to music.

Then siya (he) climbed a tree.

*IKAW and KA are both equivalent to the singular YOU. IKAW is used when it is the first word of the sentence, and KA in all other positions.

Here is a dialog where the different you-singular forms (IKAW and KA) are used. Take note of the position of the two forms in sentences.

Jose: Minda, kumusta ka?

Minda: Mabuti. Ikaw?

Jose: Mabuti rin. Saan ka pupunta sa Sabado?

Minda: Pupunta ako sa Laguna.

Jose: Talaga? Sino ang kasama mo?

Minda: Kasama ko sina Fe, George at Dan. Ikaw, gusto mo bang sumama?

Jose: Aba! Siyempre.

Jose: Minda, how are you?

Minda: Fine. And you?

Jose: Fine too. Where are you going on Saturday?

Minda: I'm going to Laguna.

Jose: Really? Who are you going with?

Minda: I'm going with Fe, George and Dan.

What about you, would you like to come?

Jose: Oh, sure!

There are exceptions to the rule about KA and IKAW, though. Certain expressions have the pronoun IKAW within the sentence and not in the initial position. Here are some of the most common ones:

Kung ako ikaw. . . . If I were you. . . .

Kung ikaw ang tatanungin. . . . If you were to be asked. . . .

Basta ikaw! Anything for you!

**KAMI or we-exclusive refers to the speaker and his or her group or people associated with her/him, but it excludes the hearer or the person being spoken to.

***TAYO or we-inclusive refers to both the speaker and the hearer and possibly other person(s) associated with them in the context of the sentence or discourse.

This can be confusing for people who do not make the distinction between the WE that includes both speaker and hearer and the WE that excludes the hearer.

Here are some examples of KAMI and TAYO:

Ana: Carla, kumusta ang bakasyon mo?

Carla: Naku ang saya!

Ana: Saan ka pumunta?

Carla: Pumunta ako sa Bikol, kasama ang pamilya ko. Bumisita kami sa aking lola doon. Nagkita-kita kami ng aking mga pinsan at pumunta kami sa beach. Umakyat din kami sa bundok at natulog kami doon ng isang gabi. Masaya talaga ang bakasyon namin.

Ana: Mabuti ka pa at nakapagpahinga ng husto noong bakasyon. Sana may mga kamag-anak din ako sa probinsiya para mabisita ko kapag bakasyon.

Carla: Pista sa Bulakan sa Sabado at balak kong pumunta doon kasama ang mga kapatid ko. Gusto mo bang sumama?

Ana: Aba, oo! Saan tayo tutuloy doon?

Carla: Nag-iimbita ang Tita Norma ko sa isang salu-salo sa bahay niya. Puwede tayong tumuloy doon. Tiyak na maraming pagkain dahil inaasahan niya na maraming bisitang darating. Manonood tayo ng parada sa umaga, at sa gabi naman ay pupunta tayo sa sayawan. Siguro may mga artistang darating.

Ana: Naku, sana Byernes na ngayon!

Ana: Carla, how was your vacation?

Carla: Oh, it was fun!

Ana: Where did you go?

Carla: I went to Bikol (together) with my family. We visited with out grandmother there. We got together with my cousins, and we went to the beach. We also climbed up the mountain, and we stayed (there) overnight. Our vacation was really fun!

Ana: Good for you that you were able to really relax during your vacation. I wish I also had relatives in the province, so I could visit with them during vacations.

Carla: There's going to be the town fiesta of Bulakan this Saturday, and I'm planning to go there with my sisters. Would you like to join us?

Ana: Oh yes! Where are we going to stay there?

Carla: My Aunt Norma is inviting people to a gathering/party at her house. We can stay there. I'm sure there's going to be lots of food because she's expecting a lot of guests. We will watch the parade in the morning, and in the evening, we will go to the dance. Maybe there will be some celebrities there.

Ana: Oh gosh! I wish it were Friday already.

The Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative Pronouns are used to replace nouns or noun phrases that refer to non-humans. These pronouns are always in focus. Although these forms are usually translated as this/these and that/those in English, they are also equivalent to the pronoun set it/they.

These ANG-forms are distinguished from each other on the basis of the relative distance of their referent from the speaker, the hearer, or from both speaker and hearer. Here is a chart of the ANG-demonstratives:

Relative Distance

from Speaker/Hearer, ANG-Demonstrative Pronouns, English Equivalent

near the speaker	ito	this
near the hearer	iyon	that
far from both	iyon	that (over there)

The demonstrative pronouns have two major functions.

1. They substitute for ANG-phrases. Here are some examples:

Nalaglag ang baso. The glass fell.

Nalaglag ito. It fell.

May ilaw ang silid. The room has light.

May ilaw iyon. It has light.

Nasa kusina ang aso. The dog is in the kitchen.

Nasa kusina iyon. It is in the kitchen.

A plural noun, however, does not drop the markers that come before it. Instead, only the noun (+ possessive or some modifier following it, if any) is replaced by the pronoun. Here are some examples:

Nalanta ang mga bulaklak. The flowers withered.

Nalanta ang mga ito. They withered.

Nawala ang mga libro ko. My books were lost.

Nawala ang mga iyon. They were lost.

Binili niya ang mga libro para sa klase.

The books for the class were bought by her.

Binili niya ang mga iyon. They were bought by her.

2. They are used as pointers to bring attention to a referent noun. In this context, the pronoun may refer to either human or non-human noun. Because it is used for emphasis, it is usually placed at the beginning of the sentence.

Here are some examples:

Ito si Noel. This is Noel.

Iyan ang upuan ko. That is my seat.

Iyon ang tatay niya. That is his dad.

Ito ang mga halaman ko. These are my plants.

Iyan ang mga gamit niya. Those are his stuff.

Iyon ang mga kaibigan ko. Those are my friends.

SA-Pronouns

SA-pronouns are used to substitute for SA- and KAY/KINA-phrases. SA pronouns are used to indicate direction or location and they are not in focus. This set has the same functions as the SA-phrases.

The Personal Pronouns

These are used to replace noun phrases that refer to person(s). There is a current trend though, especially among young Tagalog speakers in the Philippines, of using these pronouns to refer to other animate and inanimate nouns. But this is a colloquial usage, and a Tagalog learner would be advised to try to limit the use of these pronouns to refer only to people.

SA Personal Pronouns

Person/Number,	Singular,	Plural
1st Person	AKIN (me/my)	AMIN (us/our) ATIN (us/our)
2nd Person	IYO (you/your)	INYO (you/your)
3rd Person	KANYA (him/his/her)	KANILA (them/their)

The major functions of this pronoun set are discussed in this section.

1. SA-pronouns indicate possession. The possessor comes before the noun possessed. Structurally, the possessor-pronoun is used as a modifier of the noun possessed. Thus, the linker NA (-ng/na) is required between the pronoun and the noun. Here are some examples:

aking kapatid	my brother
kanyang kotse	her car
aming hardin	our garden
kanilang bahay	their house

2. SA-pronouns express location. Here are some examples:

Nasa akin ang libro mo. Your book is with me.
Nasa kanya ang gamit mo. Your stuff is with him.
May salu-salo sa amin. There's a get-together at our place.
Nakatira ako sa kanila I am staying at their place.

3. SA-pronouns express direction. Any prepositional phrase that indicates some kind of movement toward or away from someone is expressed using one of these markers. Here are some examples:

Dadalaw ako sa iyo bukas. I am going to visit you tomorrow.
Ibinigay ni Ana ang susi sa kanya. Ana gave the key to him.
Umalis siya sa kanila. He left (from) their place.
Itinago ni Luz ang libro (mula) sa atin. Luz hid the book from us.

4. SA-pronouns express the beneficiary of an action. Just like SA and KAY/KINA-phrases, these forms are almost equal to English for-phrases expressing the idea of an action done for someone. The marker is always preceded

by the word para. Here are some examples:

Gumawa ako ng cake para sa atin. I baked a cake for us.

Binili ko ang bulaklak para sa iyo. I bought the flowers for you.

Nagluto ako ng adobo para sa kanila. I cooked adobo for them.

Itinago ko ang mga sulat para sa inyo. I kept the letters for you (pl.).

The Demonstrative Pronouns

They are used to replace nouns or noun phrases that refer to non-human subjects. Although these forms are usually translated as this/these and that/those in English, they are also equivalent to the pronoun set it/they.

These SA-forms are distinguished from each other on the basis of the relative distance of their referent from the speaker, the hearer, or from both speaker and hearer. Here is a chart of the SA-demonstratives:

Relative Distance from Speaker/Hearer,	SA-Demonstrative Pronouns,	English Equivalent
near the speaker	dito/rito	here
near the hearer	diyan/riyan	there
far from both	doon/roon	over there

The major functions of this pronoun set are discussed in this section.

1. SA-pronouns indicate location. Most prepositional phrases in English indicating some location are expressed in Tagalog as SA-phrases. Here are some examples:

May parti doon sa Sabado. There's going to be a party there on Saturday.

Nakatira ako dito. I live here.

Nag-aaral diyan si Maya. Maya studies there.

Nagluluto ang nanay doon. Mom is cooking there.

2. SA-pronouns indicate direction. Prepositional phrases in English indicating some direction towards or away from a place or some other noun are also generally expressed as SA-phrases in Tagalog. Here are examples:

Pumunta sila dito noong bakasyon. They came here last vacation.

Umalis siya doon nang maaga. He left (from) there early.

Binili niya ang bulaklak diyan. He bought the flowers from there.

Kinuha niya ang libro dito. He got the book (from here).

3. SA-pronouns indicate the beneficiary of an action. It is equivalent to the English for-phrase in the context of doing something for something. It comes after the word para (for) in this context. Here are some examples:

Gumawa siya ng eksamen para dito. She made an exam for this.
Naghanda kami ng sorpresa para doon. We prepared a surprise for that.
Bumili si Ana ng regalo para diyan. Ana bought a gift for that.
Nagdala si Butch ng laruan para dito. Butch brought a toy for this.

Neutral Adjective Forms

Neutral Adjectives are the standard, regular type of adjective used in Tagalog. These adjectives may be classified into two kinds according to their structures: simple adjectives (root words) and MA-adjectives (MA- + root word).

In other words, there are some adjectives that by their nature can be adjectives on their own, and nothing needs to be added to make them adjectives. Think for example of the word slow in English. This word works naturally as an adjective without any modification, as for example in the sentence "That is a slow cat." These type of adjectives in Tagalog are called simple adjectives (like payat, bansot, etc.).

On the other hand, there are some words in English that need to be modified before they can be used as an adjective. Take for example the word beauty. On its own, it is a noun. But if I want to turn it into an adjective, I have to make some changes in the word. Take for example the sentence: "I saw the beautiful mountain." Here I added the marker or affix -FUL onto the word beauty. -FUL really just goes back to the English word full, so when I say beautiful, I am really saying "full of beauty."

There are similar adjectives in Tagalog. Tagalog has a lot of root words that on their own simply function as nouns (e.g., ganda, taba). If I want to use these words as adjectives, then I have to stick an affix onto the word.

An AFFIX is like a little code or marker that is added on to a word. Affixes package into a word extra bits of meaning. There are three kinds of affixes. A PREFIX is added to the start of a word, an INFIX is added inside a word, and a SUFFIX is added on to the end of a word.

In order to make Tagalog root words adjectives, I add the affix MA to the beginning of the word. Like English -FUL, MA essentially means "full of." For example, let's take the root word (noun) ganda beauty. To make this word an adjective, I add on the MA:

ma + ganda = maganda beautiful (or literally 'full of beauty')

These type of adjectives are called MA-adjectives, and these are the type you will see most often. The MA prefix is a tip off to the learner that you have an adjective in front of you.

Here are some more examples:

Simple Adjectives	MA-Adjectives
payat (slim/thin)	mataba (fat)
bansot (short)	matangkad (tall)
mahal (expensive)	masarap (delicious)
mura (cheap)	mayaman (rich)

Adjectives may function as a modifiers of noun(s) or noun phrase(s) or as predicates of adjectival sentences. Here are a few examples:

Noun Modifier

magandang pelikula	good movie
matalinong bata	smart kid
mabait na kapitbahay	nice neighbor
maliit na kwarto	small room

Predicate of an Adjectival Sentence

Maganda ang pelikula.	The movie is good.
Matalino ang bata.	The kid is smart.
Mabait si Pina.	Pina is nice.
Maliit ang kwarto ko.	My room is small.

Adjectives in Tagalog can also play the role of what is known as an adverb in English. An adverb describes a verb in the same way that an adjective describes a noun. For example, look at the following sentence:

Bob walked to the house.

Let's say we wanted to add something about how Bob walked to the house. We could say:

Bob walked slowly to the house.

Slowly is an adverb in this sentence.

Tagalog does not distinguish between adverbs and adjectives. The same forms used as adjectives are also used as adverbs. Here are some examples:

Mabilis tumakbo si Juan.	Juan runs fast.
Mabagal na naglakad si Mario.	Mario walked slowly.
Mahusay na kumanta si Minda.	Minda sang well.
Masayang naglalaro ang mga bata.	The kids are playing happily.

Comparative Adjective Forms

These types of adjectives are used when comparing different things. There are two basic kinds of comparison: equal comparison and unequal comparison.

Equal Comparison

1. There are two common ways of expressing equal comparison. One is by adding the prefix *magkasing-* to the adjective root word. Take for example the root word (noun) *ganda* beauty. To make this word an adjective of equal comparison, I would add *magkasing-* to the front of the word *ganda*:

magkasing + ganda = magkasingganda

Magkasing- words always comes before an *ang*-phrase/pronoun, or in other words, these adjectives always describe (or go with) words that are in focus. Here are some examples:

Magkasingganda ang rosas at ang orkidyas.

Roses and orchids are of the same (degree of) beauty.

Magkasingtalino sina Pedro at Mario.

Pedro and Mario are of the same (degree of) intelligence.

Magkasingtangkad kami. We are of the same height.

Magkasinggaling sila. They are of the same (good) skill.

Let's take a close look at the first example:

Magkasingganda ang rosas at ang orkidyas.

Notice that there are two words that are in focus in this sentence (*rosas* and *orkidyas*). This is because *rosas* and *orkidyas* are truly equal to each other (in the sense of the quality being compared and in prominence). Hence *magkasing-* is used when you are comparing two items that are equal and have the same prominence or importance in the sentence. Neither *orkidyas* or *rosas* stands out over the other.

2. Another way of expressing equal comparison is by adding the prefix *kasing-/sing-* to the adjective root. In a simple sentence, this form always comes before *ng*-phrase/pronoun + *ang*-phrase/pronoun. In other words, the prefix *kasing-/sing* compares two words. One of these words is in focus, and the other one is not in focus. It is as though you hold up one item as the main one that you are talking about; then, you compare that first item to another item that is not the main focus of your discussion.

Kasingganda ng rosas ang orkidyas. Orchids are as beautiful as roses.

Singtalino ni Mario si Pedro. Pedro is as intelligent as Mario.

Kasingtaas ko siya. She is as tall as I am.

Singgaling niya siya. He is as good as he is.

Let's take a close look at the first example again:

Kasingganda ng rosas ang orkidyas.

Orkidyas is in focus but rosas is not. It is as though I came to give a lecture on orchids, and I hold one up in my hands and say, "Orchids are as beautiful as roses." Both items are of equal beauty, but one item is more relevant or prominent (focused) in my statement. For these circumstances you use the kasing-/sing prefix.

Unequal Comparison

When things and/or people being compared share the same quality but not of the same degree, the adjective is preceded by the qualifier MAS. In a simple sentence, the MAS + adjective is followed by the structure ANG-phrase+ (KAYSA)+SA-phrase. In other words, MAS and the adjective are followed by a word that is in focus, then by the word KAYSA, then by a word that is a SA-word. The word that is in focus is the word that has more of the quality; the SA word has less of the quality. This is roughly equivalent to the English phrase more . . . than. Here are some examples:

Mas maganda ang rosas (kaysa) sa orkidyas.

Roses are more beautiful than orchids.

Mas matalino si Mario (kaysa) kay Pedro. Mario is more intelligent than Pedro.

Mas matangkad ako kaysa sa kanya. I am taller than he is.

Mas magaling siya kaysa sa kanya. She is smarter than he is.

Other functions

These forms may function as modifiers of nouns, as shown by the following examples:

dalawang magkasinggandang bulaklak two equally beautiful flowers

ang batang kasingtalino ni Pepe the kid who is as smart as Pepe

taong kasing tangkad ng puno a person who is as tall as a tree

They may also function as adverbs modifying verbs. Here are a few examples:

Lumakad siya nang mas mabilis. She walked faster.

Kumanta siya ng mas magaling. He sang better.

Superlative Adjective Forms

A Superlative form is the highest degree of an adjective (think of the word super). In English, superlatives are words like fastest, smartest, greatest, etc. There are

several ways of expressing superlatives in Tagalog. This section will discuss some of the most common forms.

1. Reduplication

The superlative is expressed by repeating the adjective. The two adjectives are connected by the linker NA (na/-ng/-g). In a simple sentence, this adjective form comes before an ANG-phrase/pronoun, or in other words, this adjective describes a noun that is in focus. Here are some examples:

Magandang-maganda ang pelikula. The movie was very good.

Mabait na mabait ang nanay niya. Her mom is very nice.

Murang-mura ang kamatis ngayon. Tomatoes are very cheap these days.

Noun Modifier

magandang-magandang pelikula a very good movie

mabait na mabait na tao a very nice person

murang-murang gulay very cheap vegetables

2. ANG + Adjective root (+ optional reduplication of the root)

The superlative is expressed by placing ANG before the adjective root. The root word may be repeated for emphasis. In a simple sentence, the adjective form comes before a NG-phrase/pronoun (the word being described is not in focus). Here are some examples:

Ang ganda ng pelikula.

Ang ganda-ganda ng pelikula. The movie was very good.

Ang bait niya.

Ang bait-bait niya. She is very nice.

Ang mura nito.

Ang mura-mura nito. These are very cheap.

Noun Modifier

ang gandang pelikula, ang ganda-gandang pelikula a very good movie

ang bait na kapitbahay, ang bait-bait na kapitbahay a very nice neighbor

ang murang gulay, ang mura-murang gulay very cheap vegetables

Let's take a look at the first sentence:

Ang ganda ng pelikula.

In this case the beauty (ganda) is so great that it is considered to be more important than the movie. Hence ganda is in focus and not the movie. Instead of saying something like "It was a beautiful movie" (maganda ang pelikula), saying "Ang ganda ng pelikula!" means something like: "Ah, the beauty of that movie!"

3. The affix NAPAKA-

The superlative is expressed by attaching the prefix *napaka-* to the root word. In a simple sentence, this adjective form comes before a NG-phrase/pronoun (the thing being described is not in focus). Here, like ANG superlatives, the adjective is seen to be so great that it eclipses the thing/person being described (e.g., the beauty is more important than the film). Hence, the thing described is not in focus. Here are some examples:

Napakaganda ng pelikula. The movie was very good.

Napakabait ni Mrs. Santos. Mrs. Santos is very nice.

Napakamura ng kamatis ngayon. Tomatoes are very cheap these days.

Noun Modifier

napakagandang pelikula a very good movie

napakabait na kaibigan a very good friend

napakamurang gulay very cheap vegetables

4. The affix PAGKA- + Adjective root (+ optional reduplication of the root)

The superlative is expressed by attaching the prefix *PAGKA-* to the adjective root. The root word may be repeated for emphasis. In a simple sentence, this adjective form comes before a NG-phrase/pronoun. Like *NAPAKA*, the adjective is more important than the thing being described. Hence, the thing described is not in focus. Here are some examples:

Pagkaganda ng pelikula.

Pagkaganda-ganda ng pelikula. The movie was very good.

Pagkabait ni Mrs. Santos.

Pagkabait-bait ni Mrs. Santos. Mrs. Santos is very nice.

Pagkamura ng gulay.

Pagkamura-mura ng gulay. The vegetables are very cheap.

Noun Modifier

pagkagandang pelikula, pagkaganda-gandang pelikula a very good movie

pagkabait na katrabaho, pagkabait-bait na katrabaho a very nice colleague

pagkamurang gulay, pagkamura-murang gulay very cheap vegetables

5. Other Expressions

There are other phrases that are used to express superlatives. Some of the more common ones are presented here.

Superlative structure Examples

Ubod ng + adjective root

Ubod ng talino ang bata. (The kid is very smart.)

ubod ng talinong bata (a very smart kid)

Saksakan ng + adjective root

Saksakan ng tamis ang mangga. (The mango is very sweet.)

saksakan ng tamis na mangga (a very sweet mango)

Puno ng + adjective root

Puno ng saya ang salu-salo. (The party was so much fun.)

puno ng sayang salu-salo (a very enjoyable party)