

Time Indicators

The Tagalog Timeline

Here is a timeline of Tagalog and some of the time indicators associated with the different sections or points in time.

NAKARAAN (past)	KASALUKUYAN (present)	HINAHARAP (future)
noon (then/ in the past)	ngayon (in the present time)	
		sa darating na panahon (in the future)
kahapon (yesterday)	ngayon (today)	bukas (tomorrow)
kanina (earlier today)	ngayon (now / at the moment)	mamaya (later today)

Notice that ngayon has 3 different meanings that encode three different points in time:

- (1) Ngayon indicating the present time,
distinguished from the past or the future time;
- (2) Ngayon indicating today, distinguished from yesterday and tomorrow; and
- (3) Ngayon indicating the point in time at the moment of speaking (now),
distinguished from earlier or later in the day.

Further discussion of these indicators are in the specific sections of past, present, and future.

Past Tense Indicators

The past time indicators are associated with the completed aspect of the verbs and, therefore, are closely tied with past tense. This section presents some of the most common expressions that indicate particular points in the past. These time indicators are grouped according to how recent or remote they are in the past based on the Tagalog timeline.

Past within NGAYON (today)

kanina (earlier), Nakita ko si Ana kanina. I saw Ana earlier.

kaninang umaga (earlier today in the morning),

Pumasok ako sa klase kaninang umaga.

I went to class earlier today in the morning.

kaninang tanghali (earlier today at noon),

Kumain ako sa kapeterya kaninang tanghali.

I ate in the cafeteria earlier today at noon.

kaninang hapon (earlier today in the afternoon),

Nag-aral ako sa laybrari kaninang hapon.

I studied in the library earlier today in the afternoon.

kanina lang (just a few moments ago),

Nandito si Noel kanina lang. Noel was here a few minutes ago.

Past within KAHAPON (yesterday)

kahapon (yesterday),

Bumili siya ng libro kahapon. I bought a book yesterday.

kahapon ng umaga (yesterday morning),

Dumating siya mula sa Bikol kahapon ng umaga.

She arrived from Bikol yesterday morning.

kahapon ng tanghali (yesterday at noon),

Nagkita kami kahapon ng tanghali. We met yesterday at noon.

kahapon ng hapon (yesterday afternoon),

Umalis siya papuntang L.A. kahapon ng hapon.

He left for L.A. yesterday afternoon.

kagabi~kahapon ng gabi (last night),

Tumawag siya kagabi. He called last night.

Past within KAMAKALAWA (day before yesterday)

kamakalawa~noong isang araw (the day before yesterday),

Pumunta kami sa Laguna kamakalawa. We went to Laguna the other day.

kamakalawa ng umaga (in the morning of the other day)

Umalis siya kamakalawa ng umaga. He left in the morning of the other day.

kamakalawa ng tanghali (at noon of the other day),

Nag-usap kami kamakalawa ng tanghali. We talked at noon of the other day.

kamakalawa ng hapon (in the afternoon of the other day),

Nagsine kami kamakalawa ng hapon.

We watched a movie in the afternoon of the other day.

kamakalawa ng gabi (in the evening/at night the other day),

Nagdisko kami kamakalawa ng gabi.

We went to a disco/club the night before last.

Relatively Remote Past - NOON (then)

noon (then),

Nakatira kami sa Banawe noon. We lived in Banawe then.

noong + day (last + day of the week),

Pumunta kami sa Cebu noong Sabado. We went to Cebu last Saturday.

noong isang linggo (last week),

Nagbakasyon kami sa Boracay noong isang linggo.

We spent our break in Boracay last week.

noong + month (in + month of the year),

Bumisita ako sa lola ko noong Mayo. I visited with my grandmother in May.

noong isang buwan (last month),

Dumalaw si Ana noong isang buwan. Ana came for a visit last month.

noong + year (in + specific year),

Nag-aral ako sa UP noong 1986. I studied in UP in 1986.

noong isang taon (last year),

Nagbiyahe ako sa Mindanao noong isang taon. I traveled in Mindanao last year.

noong + season (last/in/at + specific time of year),

Nakita ko ang mga kapatid ko noong pasko.

I saw my brothers and sisters last Christmas.

Pumunta ako sa Iloilo noong tag-araw. I went to Iloilo in the summer.

noong unang panahon (once upon a time/long ago),

Noong unang panahon, may nakatirang diwata sa bundok ng Makiling.

Once upon a time, there lived a fairy on Mount Makiling.

Present Tense Indicators

Present tense indicators are associated with incomplete and/or progressive events/actions. These indicators are grouped according to the contexts they are closely tied to: simple (present) imperfect and habitual action.

Ngayon is the most common indicator of present tense expressing simple (present) imperfect. It encodes three different sections/points in time:

- (1) Ngayon indicating the present time,
distinguished from the past or the future time;
- (2) Ngayon indicating today, distinguished from yesterday and tomorrow; and
- (3) Ngayon indicating the point in time at the moment of speaking (now),
distinguished from earlier or later in the day.

ngayon (in the present time),

Mahirap ang buhay ngayon. (Life is hard these days.)

Si Joseph Estrada ang presidente ng Pilipinas ngayon.

(The current president of the Philippines is Joseph Estrada.)

Mataas ang presyo ng gasolina ngayon. (Fuel prices are up these days.)

ngayon (today),

Martes ngayon. (Today is Tuesday.)

Darating siya ngayon. (He's coming today.)

Araw ng mga patay ngayon. (It's All Souls' Day today.)

ngayon (now / at the moment),

May kumakatok sa pinto ngayon. (There's someone knocking at the door now.)

Nag-aaral ako ngayon. (I am studying at the moment.)

Nag-aaral tayo ng Tagalog ngayon. (We are studying Tagalog at this moment.)

Habitual actions or events are associated with the following time indicators:

TUWING (every) + specific time

tuwing Pasko (every Christmas),

Nagdiriwang kami tuwing pasko. (We celebrate every Christmas.)

tuwing Mayo (every month of May),

Pumupunta ako sa Laguna tuwing Mayo. (I go to laguna each May.)

tuwing Lunes (every Monday),

May klase ako sa Tagalog tuwing Lunes.

(I have a Tagalog class every Monday.)

tuwing umaga (every morning),
Tumatakbo ako tuwing umaga. (I run every morning.)
tuwing alas tres ng hapon (every afternoon at three),
May trabaho ako tuwing alas tres ng hapon araw-araw.
(I go to work at three in the afternoon everyday.)
tuwing umuulan (everytime it rains),
Masaya ako tuwing umuulan at kapiling ka.
(I'm happy everytime it rains, and I'm with you.)

Repetition of time expression

taun-taon (every year),
Pumupunta siya sa Amerika taun-taon. (He goes to the US every year.)
buwan-buwan (every month),
Binibigyan siya ng pera ng tatay niya buwan-buwan.
(His father gives him money every month.)
linggo-linggo (every week),
Umuuwi siya sa probinsiya linggo-linggo.
(He goes home to the province every week.)
araw-araw (everyday),
Pumapasok siya sa unibersidad araw-araw. (He goes to the university everyday.)
gabi-gabi (every night),
Nag-aaral siya sa laybrari gabi-gabi. (He studies at the library every night.)
oras-oras (every hour),
Umaalis ang bus oras-oras. (The bus leaves every hour.)
minu-minuto (every minute),
May pumupunta sa Seasite minu-minuto.
(There are SEAsite visitors every minute.)

BAWAT (each) + general time expression

bawat panahon (each era / generation),
May kanya-kanyang bayani ang bawat panahon.
(Every generation has its heroes.)
bawat buwan (each month),
Pumupunta siya sa Maynila bawat buwan. (He goes to Manila each month.)
bawat araw (each day),
Nag-aaral siya sa Seasite bawat araw. (He studies at SEAsite each day.)
bawat oras (each hour),
Ikaw ang iniisip ko bawat oras ng buhay ko.
(It's you I think of each hour of my life.)
bawat sandali (each moment),
Alay ko sa iyo ang bawat sandali ng buhay ko.
(I offer you each moment of my life.)

Future Tense Indicator

The future time indicators are associated with the contemplated aspect of the verbs and, therefore, are closely tied with future tense. This section presents some of the most common expressions indicating particular points/sections in the future. These time indicators are grouped according to how near or far they are in the future based on the Tagalog timeline.

Future within NGAYON (today)

mamaya (later),

Mag-aaral ako mamaya. I'm going to study later.

mamayang tanghali (later today at noon),

Kakain ako sa kapeterya mamayang tanghali.

I'm going to eat at the cafeteria at noon today.

mamayang hapon (later today in the afternoon),

Magsisine ako mamayang hapon. I'm going to the movies this afternoon.

mamayang gabi (tonight),

Magbabasa ako mamayang gabi. I'm going to read tonight.

mamaya-maya (in a little while),

Darating na siya mamaya-maya. He'll be here in a little while.

Future within BUKAS (tomorrow)

bukas (tomorrow),

Aalis ako bukas. I'm leaving tomorrow.

bukas ng umaga (tomorrow morning),

Darating siya bukas ng umaga. She's arriving tomorrow morning.

bukas ng tanghali (tomorrow at noon),

Magkikita kami bukas ng tanghali. We're meeting at noon tomorrow.

bukas ng hapon (tomorrow afternoon),

Tatawag siya bukas ng hapon. He's going to call tomorrow afternoon.

bukas ng gabi (tomorrow night),

Kakanta siya bukas ng gabi. She is going to sing tomorrow night.

Future within SA MAKALAWA (day after tomorrow)

sa makalawa~sa susunod na araw (the day after tomorrow),

Pupunta kami sa Laguna sa makalawa.

We are going to Laguna the day after tomorrow.

sa makalawa ng umaga (in the morning of the day after tomorrow),

Aalis siya sa makalawa ng umaga.

He's leaving in the morning of the day after tomorrow.

sa makalawa ng tanghali (at noon of the day after tomorrow),

Mag-uusap kami sa makalawa ng tanghali.

We're going to talk at noon of the day after tomorrow.

sa makalawa ng hapon (in the afternoon of the other day),

Magsisine kami sa makalawa ng hapon.

We're watching a movie in the afternoon of the day after tomorrow..
sa makalawa ng gabi (in the evening/at night the day after tomorrow),
Magdidisko kami sa makalawa ng gabi.
We're going to a disco/club the night after tomorrow.

More Distant Future - SA DARATING NA PANAHOON (in the future)
sa hinaharap~, sa darating na panahon (in the future),
Titira kami sa Banawe sa darating na panahon.
We are going to live in Banawe in the future.
sa + day (on + day of the week),
Pupunta kami sa Cebu sa Sabado. We are going to Cebu on Saturday.
sa susunod na linggo (next week),
Magbabakasyon kami sa Boracay sa isang linggo.
We are spending our break in Boracay next week.
sa + month (in + month of the year),
Bibisita ako sa lola ko sa Mayo. I will visit with my grandmother in May.
sa susunod na buwan (next month),
Dadalaw si Ana sa isang buwan. Ana will be here for a visit next month.
sa + year (in + specific year),
Mag-aaral ako sa unibersidad sa 2005.
I'm going to study at the university in 2005.
sa susunod na taon (next year),
Magbibiyahe ako sa Mindanao sa isang taon.
I will travel to Mindanao next year.
sa + season (in + specific time of year),
Makikita ko ang mga kapatid ko sa pasko.
I'm going to see my brothers and sisters in Christmas.
Pupunta ako sa Iloilo sa tag-araw. I'm going to Iloilo in the summer.

Telling Time

There are a number of ways of telling time in Tagalog. Tagalog speakers can choose to use English numbers, Spanish numbers, or native Tagalog numbers when telling time. Numbers borrowed from Spanish are the most widely used forms in expressing time of day. Among young people, English numbers appear to be the preference. Only in very formal situations, where Tagalog is the specified language of choice (e.g., radio/TV shows, conferences, formal invitations), are Tagalog numbers employed in telling time.

This section presents the common ways of telling time using the different number systems mentioned here.

In order to tell whether a time is in the morning (am) or evening (pm) the following phrases may be added. They are placed immediately after the number (ala una ng hapon).

ng umaga, in the morning (am) ng tanghali, at noon

ng hapon, in the afternoon (pm) ng gabi, in the evening/atnight (pm).
The use of these phrases is necessary when using the Tagalog numbers.

SPANISH

In Spanish, they say... Ano'ng oras na? (What time is it?)

In Tagalog, we say...

es la una	1:00	ala-una
son las dos	2:00	alas-dos
son las tres	3:00	alas-tres
son las quatro	4:00	alas-kuwatro
son las cinco	5:00	alas-singko
son las seis	6:00	alas-sais
son las siete	7:00	alas-siyete
son las ocho	8:00	alas-otso
son las nueve	9:00	alas-nuwebe
son las diez	10:00	alas-diyes
son las onse	11:00	alas-onse
son las dose	12:00	alas-dose

In Spanish, they also say Ano'ng oras na? (What time is it?)

In Tagalog, we also say...

son las dose y cinco	12:05	alas dose singko
son las dose y diez	12:10	alas dose diyas
son las dose y quince	12:15	alas dose kinse
son las dose y media	12:30	alas dose y medya
son las dose quarenta y cinco	12:45	alas dose kwarenta y singko
menos diez para a la una	12:50	menos dyas para ala una

TAGALOG

Ano'ng oras na? What time is it?

Ika- isa 1:00,	Limang minuto makalipas ang ika-isa ng...	1:05
Ikalawa 2:00,	Sampung minuto makalipas ang ikalawa ng...	2:10
Ikatlo 3:00,	Labinlimang minuto makalipas ang ikatlo ng...	3:15
Ika-apat 4:00,	Dalawampung minuto makalipas ang ika-apat ng...	4:20
Ika-lima 5:00,	Dalawampu't-limang minuto makalipas ang ika-lima ng...	5:25
Ika-anim 6:00,	Ika-anim at kalahati ng.../	
	Tatlumpung minuto makalipas ang ika anim ng.../	
	Tatlumpung minuto bago mag-ika-pito ng...	6:30
Ika-pito 7:00,	Tatlumpu't-limang minuto makalipas ang ika-pito ng.../	
	Dalawampu't-limang minuto bago mag-ika-walo ng...	7:35
Ika-walo 8:00,	Apatnapung minuto makalipas ang ika-walo ng.../	
	Dalawampung minuto bago mag-ika-siyam ng...	8:40
Ika-siyam 9:00,	Apatnapu't-limang minuto makalipas ang ika-siyam ng.../	

Labinlimang minuto bago mag-ika-sampu ng... 9:45
Ika-sampu 10:00, Limampung minuto makalipas ang ika-sampu ng.../
Sampung minuto bago mag-ika-labing-isa ng... 10:50
Ika-labing-isa 11:00,
Limampu't-limang minuto makalipas ang ika-labing-isa ng.../
Limang minuto bago mag-ika-labindalawa ng... 11:55
Ika-labindalawa 12:00,
Dalawang minuto makalipas ang ika-labindalawa ng... 12:02

Days of the Week, Months of the Year, Seasons and Holidays

This page presents the vocabulary for particular points in time, days, months, seasons, and some holidays that are widely observed in the Philippines. These words are also used in example sentences.

Mga Araw ng Linggo (Days of the Week)

Lunes Monday,

May klase ako tuwing Lunes ng hapon. I have a class on Monday afternoons.

Martes Tuesday,

Nagtatrabaho ako tuwing Martes. I work on Tuesdays.

Miyerkoles Wednesday,

Kaarawan ko sa Miyerkoles. My birthday is on Wednesday.

Huwebes Thursday,

May test kami sa Huwebes. We have a test on Thursday.

Biyernes Friday,

Luluwas ako sa Maynila sa Biyernes. I'm going to Manila on Friday.

Sabado Saturday,

Namimili ako tuwing Sabado. I go shopping on Saturdays.

Linggo Sunday,

Maraming taong pumupunta sa Luneta tuwing Linggo.

Many people go to Luneta Park on Sundays.

Mga Buwan ng Taon (Months of the Year)

Enero January,

Sa Enero ang kaarawan ko. My birthday is in January.

Pebrero February,

Pebrero ang Araw ng mga Puso. Valentine's Day is in February.

Marso March,

Nagsisimula ang tag-init sa Pilipinas ng Marso.

The hot season in the Philippines begins in March.

Abril April,

Mainit sa Pilipinas sa buwan ng Abril.

It's hot in the Philippines during the month of April.

Mayo May,

Ang Santacruzán ay ginaganap sa buwan ng Mayo.

Santacruzán takes place in the month of May.

Hunyo June,

Pasukan na uli sa Hunyo. It's schooltime once again in June.

Hulyo July,

Hulyo ang kaarawan ng nanay ko. My mother's birthday is in July.

Agosto August,

Ginaganap ang linggo ng wika ng Agosto.

National Language Week is observed in August.

Setyembre September,

May pagdiriwang sa bahay niya sa Setyembre.

There's a party at her place in September.

Oktubre October,

Maraming dumarating na bagyo sa Pilipinas sa buwan ng Oktubre.

Many typhoons hit the Philippines in the month of October.

Nobyembre November,

Inaalala ng mga Pilipino ang mga yumaong mahal sa buhay

sa buwan ng Nobyembre.

The Filipinos remember their deceased loved ones in the month of November.

Disyembre December,

Uuwi kami sa Pilipinas sa Disyembre.

We're going home to the Philippines in December.

Mga Panahon at Okasyon (Seasons and Holidays)

Tag-araw, Summer

Magbabakasyon kami sa Banawe sa tag-araw.

We are going to spend our vacation in Banawe in the summer.

Tag-ulan, Rainy season

Bumabaha sa amin tuwing tag-ulan.

Our town gets flooded during the rainy season.

Taglamig, Winter

Walang Taglamig sa Pilipinas. There's no winter in the Philippines.

Tagsibol, Spring

Maganda ang mga bulaklak sa tagsibol. The flowers are beautiful in the spring.

Tag-init, Hot (Summer) season

Marami ang pumupunta sa Boracay tuwing tag-init.

Many people go to Boracay in the summer.

Taglagas, Fall

Maganda ang kulay ng mga puno sa panahon ng taglagas.

The trees are beautiful in the fall.

Bagong Taon, New Year

Maingay ang bagong taon sa Pilipinas.

The New Year celebration is noisy in the Philippines.
Mahal na Araw, Holy Week
Marami ang nagdadasal sa simbahan tuwing Mahal na Araw.
Many people pray in church during Holy Week.
Araw ng mga Patay, All Souls' Day
Pumupunta kami sa sementeryo tuwing Araw ng mga Patay.
We go to the cemetery during All Souls' Day.
Pasko, Christmas
Masaya ang Pasko sa Pilipinas. Christmas in the Philippines is fun.

Imperative Forms

Commands

Commands or straightforward orders/directions are expressed in Tagalog by using the infinitive form of the verb followed by the appropriate second person pronoun (e.g., ka, kayo, mo, ninyo).

Adding either of the enclitic particles *nga* and *naman* "softens" the command. That is, the particle makes the order sound more like a request.

Here are a few examples representative of the different focus forms of the verb. Take note that the pronoun has to agree with the verbal focus. For example, if the verb is actor focused, then the pronoun must be actor focused (ka, kayo).

Actor-Focus Verbs (Infinitive + ka/kayo...)

-UM- Verb

Umupo ka. / Umupo ka nga. / Umupo ka naman. You (singular) sit down.

Kumuha ka ng tubig sa kusina. / Kumuha ka nga ng tubig sa kusina./

Kumuha ka naman ng tubig sa kusina. You (singular) get water from the kitchen.

MAG- Verb

Magbasa kayo. You (plural) read.

Mag-aral kayo para sa eksamen bukas. You (plural) study for tomorrow's exam.

MA- Verb

Matulog ka na. You (singular) go to sleep now.

Makinig kayo sa titser. You (plural) listen to the teacher.

*When enclitics (*na*, *pa*, *nga*, *naman*, etc.) and pronouns are in the same sentence, the word order rule, or the rule for which word comes first in the sentence is shortest to longest. The shortest word comes first, then the next shortest follows, and so on until finally the longest word comes last.

Non-Active Verb Focus (Infinitive + mo/ninyo...)

Object-Focus

-IN Verbs

Lutuin mo ang isda. (or: Lutuin mo nga ang isda. /
Lutuin mo naman ang isda.) You (singular) cook the fish.
Basahin ninyo ang libro. (or: Basahin nga ninyo ang libro. /
Basahin n'yo nga ang libro.) You (plural) read the book.

I- Verbs

Ilagay mo ang mga bulaklak sa mesa.
(or: Ilagay mo nga ang mga bulaklak sa mesa.
Ilagay mo naman ang mga bulaklak sa mesa.)
You (singular) put the flowers on the table.
Itago ninyo ang mga laruan. You (plural) put away the toys.

Location/Direction-Focus

-AN Verbs

Puntahan mo si Maria. You (singular) to Maria.
Daanan ninyo ang Laguna. You (plural) pass by Laguna.

Beneficiary-Focus

IPAG- Verbs

Ipagtimpla mo ng kape ang bisita. You (singular) prepare coffee for the guest.
Ipagluto ninyo ako ng adobo. You (plural) cook adobo for me.

-AN Verbs

Bigyan mo ng lapis ang bata. You (singular) give the child a pencil.
Dalhan ninyo ng prutas si lola. You (plural) bring some fruits for lola.

Instrumental-Focus

IPANG- Verbs

Ipanlinis ninyo ng sahig ang walis.
You (plural) use the broom for cleaning the floor.
Ipanghalo mo ng sabaw ang kutsara. You (singular) use the spoon to stir the soup.

Requests

Requests are expressed in Tagalog by adding the prefix PAKI- to the verb root or verb stem followed by the second person NG (non focused)-pronoun, mo (you-singular) or ninyo (you-plural). The prefix PAKI- is similar to the word please in English.

Adding either of the enclitic particles nga and naman "softens" the request further. Here are some examples representative of the different derivational verb stems:

PAKI- + Verb Root

Derivational Stem, Request Form, Example

Object-Focus -IN Verbs, dalhin> pakidala,
Pakidala mo ang maleta ko. Please carry my luggage.
lutuin> pakiluto
Pakiluto mo naman ang manok. Please cook the chicken.

Object-Focus I- Verbs, ibigay> pakibigay,

Pakibigay mo ang mangga sa bata. Please give the mango to the child.

ilagay> pakilagay,

Pakilagay mo nga ang bulaklak sa mesa.

Please put the flowers on the table.

Beneficiary-Focus IPAG-/I- Verbs, ipagtimpla> pakitimpla,

Pakitimpla mo ng kape ang bisita. Please prepare coffee for the guest.

ipagluto> pakiluto,

Pakiluto mo nga ng pancit ang mga bata.

Please cook noodles for the kids.

*When enclitics and pronouns are in the same sentence,
the order rule is shortest → longest.

PAKI- + Verb Stem

Derivational Stem, Request Form, Example

Location/Direction- Focus -AN Verbs, puntahan> pakipuntahan,

Pakipuntahan mo si Maria sa kusina. Please see Maria in the kitchen.

lapitan> pakilapitan,

Pakilapitan mo ang bata. Please move closer to the child.

Beneficiary-Focus -AN Verbs, bigyan> pakibigyan,

Pakibigyan mo ng tip ang weyter. Please leave a tip for the waiter.

dalhan> pakidalhan,

Pakidalhan mo ng prutas si Lola.

Please bring some fruits for Grandmother.