Constructing Sentences

Just like in English, the typical simple sentence in Filipino consists of a subject (topic) and a predicate (comment about the topic). The subject of a simple Filipino sentence can be a noun or a pronoun. The predicate can be a noun, a verb, an adjective, or a prepositional phrase. Filipino sentences either use the subject/predicate (S/P) word order, or predicate/subject (P/S) word order. Subject/predicate sentences have the "ay" predicate marker while predicate/subject sentences are inverted and do not have the "ay" predicate marker.

- Subject/predicate sentence example: Ang aso **ay** matapang.
- Predicate/subject sentence example: Matapang ang aso.
  - *Translation: The dog is tough*

There are 3 cases of nouns and pronouns in the Filipino language:
- Ang-case refers to the subject of the sentence. Noun markers include ang, ang mga, si and sina.
  - Example: **Ang** bata ay masipag.
    Translation: The kid is hardworking.
- Sa-case indicates the "place" of something and answers the question "where?". Noun markers include sa, sa mga, kay and kina.
  - Example: Si Nicki ay pumunta **sa** Madison Square Garden.
    Translation: Nicki went to Madison Square Garden.
  Sa-case is also used to indicate the "indirect object" and answer the questions "to whom" or "for whom".
  - Example: Ako ay nagbigay ng regalo **kay** Julia.
    Translation: I gave a gift to Julia.
- Ng-case indicates ownership. Noun markers include ng, ng mga, ni and nina.
  - Example: Si Solana ay pumunta sa **kaniyang** lola.
    Translation: Solana went to her grandmother.
  Ng-case is also used to refer to the "direct object" and answers the questions "what" or "whom".
  - Example: Siya ay nagbigay **ng** pera sa kaniya.
    Translation: He/she gave him/her money.

Basic Sentence Patterns:
- Basic sentence pattern #1 (BSP #1) defines someone or somebody. The pattern is noun/pronoun + ay (predicate marker) + another noun/pronoun, which follows the subject/predicate word order.
  - Example: Ang babae ay artista.
    Translation: The woman is an actress.
  To form a negation for basic sentence pattern 1, add "hindi" after the predicate marker, "ay".
  - Example: Si Robin ay hindi manunulat.
    Translation: Robin is not a writer.

- Basic sentence pattern #2 (BSP #2) describes somebody or something. Following the subject/predicate word order, we start with a noun/pronoun and add an adjective.
  - Example: Ang alimango ay malaki.
    Translation: The crab is big.
- Basic sentence pattern #3 (BSP #3): Following the subject/predicate word order, we start with a noun/pronoun and add a verb.
  - Example: Ang guro ay nagtuturo.
    Translation: The teacher is teaching.

Linkers

Linkers (-g, -ng, na) are used to connect Tagalog words in the following situations:
adjective + noun; noun + adjective; pronoun + noun; pronoun + verb.

- Add the linker "-ng" if the preceding word ends in a vowel.
  - Example: pusa**ng** itim
- Add the linker "na" if the preceding word ends in a consonant, except for the letter "n".
  - Example: lugar **na** mainit
- Add the linker "-g" if the preceding word ends in an "n".
  - Example: pagkain**g** masarap

Actor Focus Verbs

- "Mag" is a prefix; it is placed before the root verb.
  If the root verb begins with a vowel, put a hyphen in between the root and the prefix.

Prefix	Infinitive	Future	Present	Past
Mag	mag + **root verb** [starts with a vowel]	mag + <mark>repeat 1st vowel</mark> of root verb + **root verb**	nag + <mark>repeat 1st vowel</mark> of root verb + **root verb**	nag + **root verb**
Ex:	mag-**isip**	mag-**isip**	nag-**isip**	nag-**isip**
	mag + **root verb** [starts with a consonant]	mag + <mark>repeat 1st consonant-vowel pair</mark> of root verb + **root verb**	nag + <mark>repeat 1st consonant-vowel pair</mark> of root verb + **root verb**	nag + **root verb**
Ex:	mag**maneho**	mag<mark>ma</mark>**maneho**	nag<mark>ma</mark>**maneho**	nag**maneho**

- "Um" is a prefix if the root verb begins with a vowel; otherwise, it is an infix.

Prefix	Infinitive	Future	Present	Past
Um	um + **root verb** [starts with a vowel]	repeat 1st vowel of root verb + **root verb**	um + repeat 1st vowel of root verb + **root verb**	um + **root verb** (same as infinitive)
Ex:	um**alis**	a**alis**	um**a**alis	um**alis**
	insert um to 1st consonant-vowel pair	repeat 1st consonant-vowel pair of root verb + **root verb**	insert um to 1st consonant-vowel pair of the future aspect	insert um to 1st consonant-vowel pair (same as infinitive)
Ex:	lum**ipad**	li**lipad**	lum**i**lipad	lum**ipad**

Useful Phrases: Gusto at Ayaw
"Gusto" means "to like" or "to want"; while "Ayaw" means "to not like" or "to not want". Sentences use the ng-case possessive pronouns (after noun).
- Gusto + bagay (thing)
  - Example: Gusto namin ng pritong manok.
    Translation: We want fried chicken.
- Gusto + kilos (action). You will need to add a linker to the ng-case possessive pronoun: -ng, or –g before the VERB.
  - Example: Gusto kong lumabas.
    Translation: I want to go out.
- Ayaw + bagay (thing)
  - Example: Ayaw ko ng tinapay.
    Translation: I do not want bread.
- Ayaw + kilos (action). You will need to add a linker to the ng-case possessive pronoun: -ng, or –g before the VERB.
  - Example: Ayaw niyang kumanta.
    Translation: He/she does not want to sing.