



How To Use Pronouns With Mag & Um Verbs

In Tagalog, verb conjugation is closely linked to pronouns, as they indicate who is performing the action. Different types of verbs, such as **MAG** and **UM** verbs, follow distinct patterns but share common pronoun usage. This tutorial will guide you on which pronouns to pair with these verbs to form correct sentences.

Objectives

At the end of this tutorial, you will be able to:

1. Learn about subjective pronouns in Tagalog language.
2. Construct simple sentences with verbs in an active voice.
3. Use the right pronoun together with a MAG or Um verb.

Overview Of Tagalog Pronouns

The Tagalog pronouns can be grouped into various ways. First, a pronoun can be either subjective or objective. Second, it can either be singular or plural, and third, could be grouped according to the speaker's perspective.

A **subjective pronoun**, as the name suggests, is used as the subject of the statement. When you compose a statement, whether in your primary language or Tagalog, the subject always exists. A subject answers the question "*What are you talking about?*".

An **objective pronoun**, on the other hand, does not take the subject placement in the sentence. In Tagalog sentence structure, the objective pronoun plays a tricky part and it can be confusing to English speakers. Tricky because this type of pronoun can function as a possessive pronoun while other times it is paired with a verb expressed in passive voice which functions as the doer but not the subject of the statement.

In this tutorial, I will not give you an in-depth discussion on objective pronouns but I would rather focus on subjective pronouns. That is because both MAG and UM verbs are always expressed in active voice, and they simply require **subject pronouns as the doer of the action**.



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Here's the complete list of subjective pronouns:

1. Ako (I, me)
2. Tayo (We/us, inclusive)
3. Kamí (We/us, exclusive)
4. Ikaw (You, singular)
5. Ka (You, singular)
6. Kayó (You, plural)
7. Siyá (He/she)
8. Silá (They)

Notice that *akó*, *ikáw*, *ka*, and *siyá* are a group of singular subjective pronouns while *tayo*, *kamí*, *kayó*, and *silá* belong to the plural group.

Pronouns, From the Perspective of the Speaker


As far as the speaker's perspective is concerned, pronouns are grouped into three:

1. The first person pronoun includes **akó**, **tayo**, and **kamí**. This means the speaker is the doer or part of the doer of the action.
2. Pronouns that belong to the second person are **ikáw**, **ka**, and **kayó**. Using this group of pronouns means the speaker is not the doer of the action. The speaker implies that the second party is/are the doer of the action. The second party is usually the listener or the recipient of the message.
3. The pronouns **siyá** and **silá** belong to the third person pronoun. From the speaker's perspective, the subject *siyá* or *silá* is not present in the conversation but at the same time, the 3rd person pronoun is the doer of the action.

Verb-Pronoun Agreement

Composing a Tagalog sentence requires a careful decision on which verb group to use along with its doer pronoun. Today, we will focus on the two verb groups: MAG verbs and UM verbs.

MAG and UM verbs are expressed in active voice. A verb is in active voice if the subject is the doer of the action. That is why both MAG and UM verbs require a subjective pronoun as the subject of the statement.

 Use only the pronouns *akó*, *ka*, *siyá*, *tayo*, *kamí*, *kayó*, or *silá* as the doer of the action when a MAG or a UM verb is used.

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Here are some examples sentence with verbs paired with subjective pronouns:

Example Sentences	English Expression	Remarks
Uminóm akó ng kapé. (<i>Drunk I ng coffee</i>)	I drank coffee.	<i>Uminóm</i> is the past tense of the verb and it is in the same form as its infinitive mood: <i>uminóm</i> (to drink). The doer is <i>akó</i> while at the same time, <i>akó</i> is the subject of the statement.
Kakain tayo sa labás. (<i>Will-eat we sa outside</i>)	We will eat outside. (<i>Includes you</i>)	<i>Kakain</i> is the future tense of the verb <i>kumain</i> (to eat). The doer is <i>tayo</i> while at the same time, <i>tayo</i> is the subject of the statement.
Magbasá ka ng balità. (<i>Read you ng news</i>)	You read the news. (Singular you)	<i>Magbasá</i> is in an imperative mood while at the same time, <i>magbasá</i> (to read) is the infinitive form. The doer is <i>ka</i> while at the same time, <i>ka</i> is the subject of the statement.
Sasama kayó sa amin. (<i>Will come with you sa ours</i>)	You will come with us. (Plural you)	<i>Sasama</i> is the future tense of the verb <i>sumama</i> (to come with). The doer is <i>kayó</i> while at the same time, <i>kayó</i> is the subject of the statement.
Naglalarô silá ng chess. (<i>Playing they ng chess</i>)	They are playing chess.	<i>Naglalarô</i> is the present tense of the verb <i>maglarô</i> (to play). The doer is <i>silá</i> while at the same time, <i>silá</i> is the subject of the sentence.
Umaawit siyá ng Ingles na awit. (<i>Singing he/she ng English song</i>)	He/she is singing an English song.	<i>Umaawit</i> is the present tense of the verb <i>umawit</i> (to sing). The doer is <i>siyá</i> while at the same time, <i>siyá</i> is the subject of the sentence.

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Pronouns Ka and Ikáw, What's the Difference?

While *ka* and *ikáw* both translate to “you” in English, they have distinct placements in a Tagalog sentence. Both are subjective pronouns, however **if the verb is mentioned prior to the pronoun**, like the sentences given above, **ka** is the right pronoun. **Never replace ikaw with ka** in such sentence structure.

While *ikáw* can be paired with any of the verbs from either MAG or UM group as its subjective pronoun, I would write a **separate tutorial** on this targeting an audience with advanced skill in Tagalog. For beginners in Tagalog, I would prepare another tutorial covering **adjectives paired with ikáw**.

Quiz 1

Instruction: Given the base form of the verb, fill in the blank with future tense of the same verb.

Infinitive Verbs	Your Sentences
Kumuha (to get)	1. _____ kayó ng kanin mamayâ. (You will get rice later.)
Magsabi (to tell)	2. _____ tayo nang totoó. (We will tell the truth.)
Mag-asawa (to get married)	3. _____ akó pagkatapos ng dalawáng taón. (I will get married in two years.)
Uminóm (to drink)	4. _____ silá ng alak mamayáng gabi. (They will drink liquor/wine tonight.)
Magtaním (to plant)	5. _____ kamí ng maís sa susunod na buwán. (We will plant corn next month.)

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Quiz 2

Instruction: Given the pronoun hints in the first column, fill in the blank with the right pronoun.

Pronoun Hints	Your Sentences
3rd person plural	1. Bumalík _____ sa tindahan. (Bumalík: <i>went back</i> ; tindahan: <i>store</i>)
1st person plural, exclu	2. Mag-aaral _____ ng martial arts. (Mag-aaral: <i>will study</i>)
1st person plural, inclu	3. Lumangóy _____ kahapon. (Lumangóy: <i>swam</i> ; kahapon: <i>yesterday</i>)

Quiz 3

Instruction: Given the verb roots, pronoun hints, and simple phrases as additional information, construct your sentences in Tagalog. Use space provided to write your answers.

Verb Root	Pronoun Hints	Additional Information	Your Sentences
Alís (<i>leave</i>)	3rd person singular	dito kahapon (<i>here yesterday</i>)	Example: Umalís siyá dito kahapon.
Datíng (<i>arrive</i>)	2nd person plural	dito bukas (<i>here tomorrow</i>)	1.
Prito (<i>fry</i>)	1st person singular	ng itlóg ngayón (<i>ng egg now</i>)	2.
Pasok (<i>enter</i>)	3rd person plural	sa hotél kagabí (<i>sa hotel las night</i>)	3.
Usap (<i>talk</i>)	1st person plural, inclu	ngayón (<i>now</i>)	4.
Bilí (<i>buy</i>)	2nd person singular	ng tinapay mamayâ (<i>ng bread later</i>)	5.
Bilí (<i>buy</i>)	3rd person plural	ng gatas kanina (<i>ng milk earlier</i>)	6.
Labás (<i>go out</i>)	1st person plural, exclu	sa simbahan ngayón (<i>sa church today</i>)	7.

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UM & MAG VERBS DAILY



Guide: On part 1, practice your *UM and MAG Verb Conjugations*. Then on part 2, write your Tagalog sentences. You can talk about yourself, another person, the weather, or your environment.

Root Words:

Past Tense

Present Tense

Future Tense

Root Words:	Past Tense	Present Tense	Future Tense

Prompt:
What did I do
yesterday?

Prompt:
Any recurring
things that I do?

Prompt:
What is my plan
for the week or
tomorrow?

Struggling to Construct a Proper Tagalog Sentence? You're Not Alone.

Have you ever felt **frustrated** trying to speak Tagalog—only to realize that while you know **words**, forming a clear and **correct sentence** feels impossible?



If you've tried popular language apps like **Duolingo**, you've probably noticed:

- ✗ **It's easy to memorize random words but hard to string them together.**
- ✗ **Verb conjugation? A mess.** You know the word, but is it past, present, or future?
- ✗ **No cultural context.** You're learning phrases that sound robotic—not how real Filipinos actually speak.

At Aralin World, We Bridge the Gap.

Our **membership program** is designed for learners who want to stop guessing and **start speaking Tagalog naturally**. We focus on the areas that **apps miss**—so you can express yourself **clearly and correctly**.



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Why Choose Aralin World?

✓ 1. Personalized Guidance from a 100% Human Teacher

Forget one-size-fits-all lessons. With **Albine**, you get a real, experienced teacher who knows how to **guide you through your struggles**, not just feed you pre-set exercises.

✓ 2. Practical, Sentence-Focused Learning

We teach you how to **construct Tagalog sentences properly**—not just isolated words. You'll finally understand **verb conjugation, sentence structure, and how to speak naturally** in everyday situations.

✓ 3. A Growing, Supportive Community

As **Aralin World grows**, so do your learning resources. Right now is the best time to join—you'll receive **personalized attention, exclusive materials, and ongoing updates** designed to help you succeed.



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🚀 **Early Access, Big Benefits** – While **Aralin World** is still in a growth phase, you'll get **priority support, custom learning paths, and direct communication with Albine**—something that won't be as easy once the community expands.

💬 **100% Human Interaction** – No bots, no automated feedback. **Real conversations with a real teacher** who cares about your progress.

🔑 **Master the Essentials** – We'll help you:

- Construct **correct** and **natural** Tagalog sentences.
- Understand **verb focus** and **proper conjugation**—no more guesswork!
- Use phrases **Filipinos actually say**, so you **sound authentic**.



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Ready to Finally Speak Tagalog with Confidence?

Join **Aralin World's Membership Program** today and **start closing the gap** between what you know and what you want to say.

👉 **Subscribe Now** and let's build your Tagalog fluency—one proper sentence at a time.

Hi! Albine here. **I can help you speak Tagalog.** I have been teaching Tagalog Online since 2019. I wish to connect with you because:

- You have difficulty constructing Tagalog sentences;
- You do not understand the context behind Filipino expressions;
- You have difficulty communicating with your loved ones in the Philippines; or
- As a tourist, you want to navigate the Philippines on your own.

I offer personalized guidance as a native speaker but now a permanent resident in the United States. **I understand your struggles and I will tailor my lessons to fit your needs.**

I am the founder of **Aralin World LLC**. I built the website to provide you with easy access to my creations and for you to be able to find me anytime so please remember my URL: aralinworld.com

If you **sign up for any of my Programs**, whether web-based or 1 on 1 calls, you will receive exclusive learning materials, direct teacher support, and ongoing updates plus an option to join the weekly group coaching calls.

As a sole worker of Aralin World, my mission is to build a community of Tagalog speaking people who share with the following core values:

1. **Commitment To Mastery:** We commit to serve the community. We continue to lead and teach individuals and groups while we innovate our existing tools and processes. Such commitment lies on teacher-student synergy to key player's betterment.
2. **Consistency To Face Challenges:** We strive to be remarkably consistent in everything that we do. We don't seem to follow the crowd but we're noticeable to many.
3. **Connection With A Purpose:** While technology is essential to our growth, we prioritize human touch. Teaching a language means we want people to be able to connect with each other through speech communication and we help them realize that a Philippine language can be functional all over the world.

At Aralin World, our vision includes the following:

1. Tagalog is a functional language to the global community and can be used in both casual and formal conversations.
2. Children of Filipinos abroad are more connected to their roots because they have access to Tagalog language resources prepared by a native speaker.
3. Tourists speaking Tagalog consider the Philippines as the second home and they can confidently navigate the country.

 **Considering Tagalog as your second language? Let's talk!**

Answers Key

Quiz 1: Fill in the blank with future tense of the verb.

1. Kukuha
2. Magsasabi
3. Mag-aasawa
4. Inóm
5. Magtataním

Quiz 2: Fill in the blank with a subjective pronoun.

1. Silá
2. Kamí
3. Tayo

Quiz 3: Construct your sentences in Tagalog.

1. Dadatíng kayó dito bukas.
2. Nagpriprito akó ng itlóg ngayón.
3. Pumasok silá sa hotél kagabí.
4. Nag-uusap tayo ngayón.
5. Bibilí ka ng tinapay mamayâ.
6. Bumilí silá ng gatas kanina.
7. Lumalabás kamí sa simbahan ngayón.