



# LANGUAGES & DIALECTS SPOKEN IN THE *PHILIPPINES*

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***A language guide for getting  
yourself around the country.***

"Palawan Island Philippines: One of the Most Beautiful Island in the World - Inspirationseek.Com." PixelRZ, [inspirationseek.com/palawan-island-philippines-one-of-the-most-beautiful-island-in-the-world/](http://inspirationseek.com/palawan-island-philippines-one-of-the-most-beautiful-island-in-the-world/). Accessed 18 Feb. 2026.

# Dialects of the Philippines

The Philippines has over 170 languages, which includes languages from foreign born people who came to the Philippines for a multitude of reasons. Within that number, 120+ native dialects. These are the most commonly, currently used dialects.



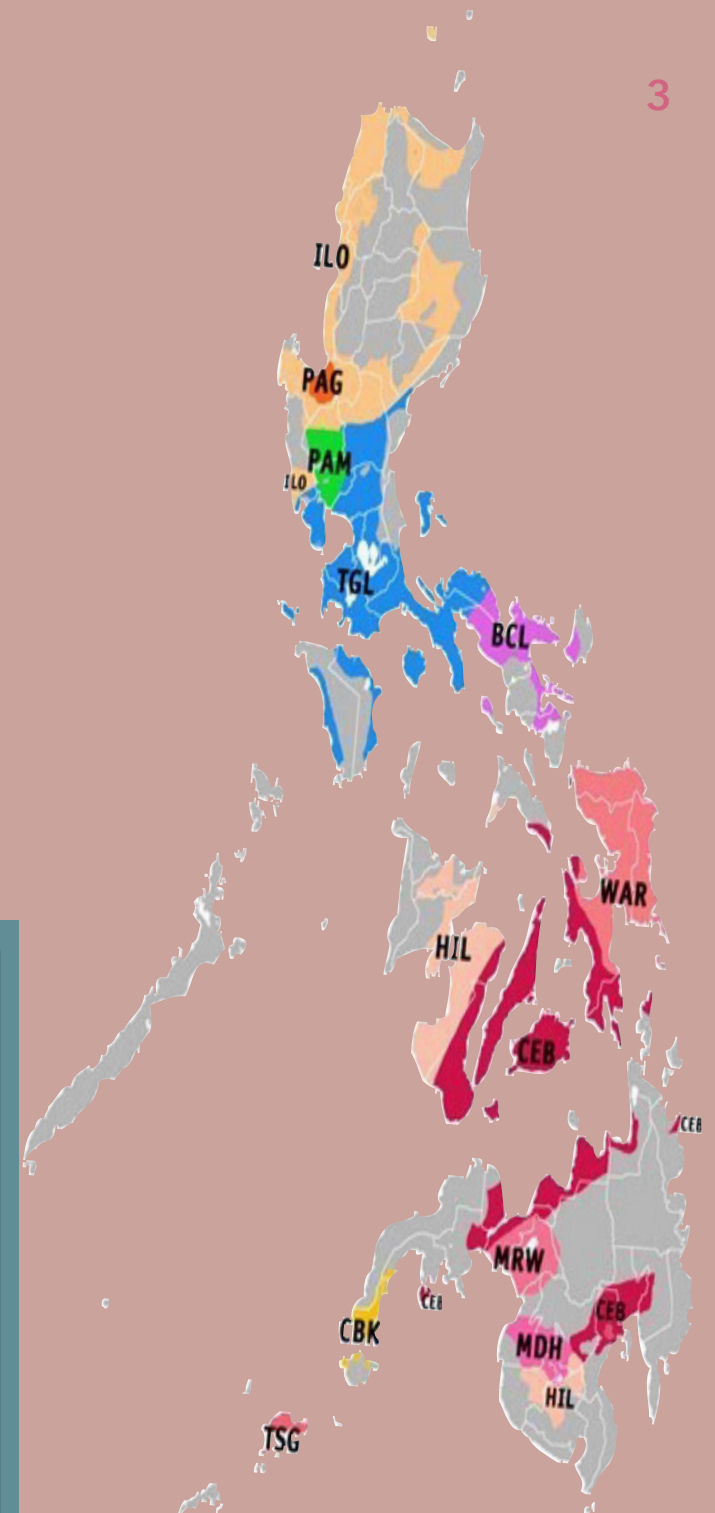
| Language           | Population                 | Region            | Location  |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Tagalog            | ~22.5-33 million speakers  | National language | Cross-nationally                                    |
| Cebuano            | 25.5 million speakers      | Visayas           | Visayan or Southern most islands of the Philippines |
| Hiligaynon/Ilonggo | ~7-9.1 million speakers    | Visayas           | Western Visayas and Soccsksargen                    |
| Kapampangan        | 2.4 million speakers       | Luzon             | Pampanga province                                   |
| Ilocano            | ~7.7-10 million speakers   | Luzon             | Northern Region                                     |
| Bicolano           | ~2.5 million speakers      | Visayas           | Central Bikol                                       |
| Waray-Waray        | ~3.1-3.71 million speakers | Visayas           | Primarily Eastern Visayas                           |
| Marano             | 2.1 million speakers       | Mindanao          | Primarily in Mindanao                               |
| Pangasinan         | 2.4 million speakers       | Luzon             | Northwestern Luzon                                  |

According to "Elite Asia," "futurelearn.com," and "TransLinguist."

# VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF WHERE EACH DIALECT IS USED

The Philippines is split into three regions. Visaya, Luzon and Mindanao. To get a better sense of where these dialects are, here's a map of where the dialects are mostly spoken. English is included due to the influx of foreign born students due to how cheap it is to learn English there.

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>English</b>     | <b>Waray</b>      |
| <b>Iloko</b>       | <b>Hiligaynon</b> |
| <b>Pangasinan</b>  | <b>Cebuano</b>    |
| <b>Kapampangan</b> | <b>Maranao</b>    |
| <b>Tagalog</b>     | <b>Chavacano</b>  |
| <b>Bicol</b>       | <b>Tausug</b>     |



# INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

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| <i>Country</i> | <i>Language</i> | <i>Speakers</i>   |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Westerners     | English         | +14 million       |
| Spaniards      | Spanish         | Less than 450,000 |
| China + Spain  | Chavacano       | ~106,000          |
| Pakistan       | Sindhi          | ~20,000           |
| Japan          | Japanese        | ~2,900            |
| Indonesia      | Indonesian      | ~2,580            |

The Philippines is an educational hub for various foreign-born peoples. This is due to the affordability of their quality education, primarily from Asian and African countries. In 2024, there was an influx of approximately 17,202 international students. This table shows only a few of the foreign languages spoken in the country.