

## Tagalog



**Spoken in:** Philippines

**Region:** Central & south Luzon

**Total speakers:** First language 22 million, Second language 50 million

**Genetic specification:** Austronesian Malayo-Polynesian Western Central Philippine Tagalog

**Official language of:** Philippines

Tagalog is an Austronesian language with about 57 million speakers in the Philippines, particularly in Manila, most of Luzon and Mindoro. It is also spoken in Canada, Guam, Midway Islands, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, UK and USA.

Tagalog used to be written with the Alibata alphabet, today the Alibata alphabet is used mainly for decorative purposes and the Latin alphabet is used to write to Tagalog.

The most recent reform of the alphabet occurred in 1987. The number of letters was reduced from 33 to 28.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 4 Tagalog sessional interpreters.

### The Alibata alphabet



### Latin alphabet for Tagalog

A a B b K k D d E e G g H h I i L l M m

a bah kah dah eh gah hah ih lah mah

N n Ng ng O o P p R r S s T t U u W w Y y