

A Brief Guide to Filipino Pronunciation

VOWELS: There are only five vowel sounds in the Filipino language:

A - like the **U** in *up* or *cut*

E - like *end* or *bed*

I - like *machine* and *marine*

O - like *old* or *sold*

U - like *rude* or the **OO** in *moon*

CONSONANTS: Filipino consonants have only one sound each.

B, D, H, K, L, M, N, P, R, W are sounded as in the English language.

G is always pronounced hard as in *good* (never soft as in *general*)

S never takes on a **Z** sound

T has a lighter or gentler dental explosion

NG is a single letter. Here is a simple way to learn the sound: First, repeat the words: *sing-along, sing-along, sing-along, sing-along*. Then remove the last syllable, "long" and repeat several times: *singa, singa, singa, singa*. Finally remove the "si" and repeat several times: *nga, nga, nga, nga*

Ng at the end of the syllable is pronounced like the end of English words, *ring* or *sung*.

C, F, J, Q, V, X and **Z** are for foreign words and they follow the rules of a given word's origin.

