

Remark that all link in this document go to the webpage about:



Philippine Names

For a long time the naming customs in the Philippines were dominated by Spanish names, as the result of 400 years of colonial rule of Spain over the Philippines. In the last decades however English names became more and more popular and widespread, reflecting the ever-growing influence of English and the USA in the Philippines.

There are only very few truly Philippine i.e. native names in use nowadays, and they are rare. Maybe they will be practically extinct in a few more decades.

You find a list of **typically Philippine given names** [further down](#) on this page.

The following **hit parade of Philippine given names** is the result of my own analysis of a list of the names of about 32'000 people from the Philippines that successfully finished their education in October 2004 and became teachers, plus another such list of about 41'000 people that graduated in October 2005. This hit parade thus shows which names Philippine parents chose for their newborns around 20 to 25 years ago.

It is not without flaws: Obviously many more women than men became teacher, and because of this the statistic over the male names is less reliable. Furthermore it might be that more people from wealthy families become teachers; if true, the names of poorer people are under-represented.

But never mind, I never saw a hit parade for Philippine given names anywhere else, so this one here is clearly better than nothing at all!

The hit parade **Graduates 2005**, including comparison with the previous year:

The hit parade **Graduates 2004**:

A list of usual Philippine given names is probably somewhat boring because it is dominated by well-known English and Spanish names: Most English and Spanish names are "Philippine" names as well.

This is why I collected the following list of **typically Philippine given names** together with information about origin and meaning. There are three kind of names in this list:

- truly Philippine i.e. native names (you recognize them by "Tagalog" as the language of origin)
- Spanish names that are popular in the Philippines but hardly known anywhere else
- English names that are popular in the Philippines but hardly known anywhere else

I was careful and only included a name in the list when I was able to find real persons living today with the name mentioned somewhere on the Internet. (If you don't find a name here because it is not especially Philippine you might find it in the "normal" database available at the [home page](#).)

Further informations about the following names, corrections and additions are of course welcome anytime! ([contact information](#)).

The female names:

Amihan	Amihan
Amor	Amor
Analyn	Analyn
Bituin	Bituin
Charito	Charito
Cherry	Variant of Cherie
Chona	Chona
Dalisay	Dalisay
Divina	Divina
Diwata	Diwata
Flordeliza	Flordeliza
Girlie	Girlie
Imee	Imee
Imelda	Variant of Irmhild
Irish	Irish
Iska	Iska
Jesusa	Jesusa
Jovelyn	Jovelyn
Laarni	Laarni
Laarnie	Variant of Laarni
Lailani	Lailani
Leizel	Leizel
Lerma	Lerma
Liezel	Variant of Elizabeth
Ligaya	Ligaya
Lilibeth	Lilibeth
Lidayway	Lidayway
Liwliwa	Liwliwa
Lualhati	Lualhati
Luningning	Luningning
Luzviminda	Luzviminda
Malaya	Malaya

Maricar	Maricar
Maricel	Variant of Maricela
Marichu	Variant of Marichú
Maricor	Maricor
Maricris	Maricris
Marife	Variant of Marifé
Marifel	Marifel
Marikit	Marikit
Marilag	Marilag
Marites	Marites
Maritess	Variant of Marites
Marivic	Marivic
Mayumi	Mayumi
Mirasol	Mirasol
Nenita	Nenita
Nimfa	Nimfa
Perla	Variant of Pearl
Riza	Riza
Rizalia	Variant of Rizalina
Rizalina	Rizalina
Rizalyn	Variant of Rizalina
Rizza	Rizza
Rubilyn	Variant of Rubylyn
Rubylyn	Rubylyn
Rutchel	Rutchel
Rutchell	Variant of Rutchel
Tala	Tala

The male names:

Arnel	Arnel
Arvin	Arvin
Bagwis	Bagwis
Bayani	Bayani
Benjie	Variant of Benjamin
Crisanto	Crisanto
Dakila	Dakila
Danilo	Variant of Daniel
Datu	Datu
Efren	Variant of Ephraim

Fermin	Variant of Pirmin
Gani	Variant of Isagani
Gener	Gener
Heherson	Heherson
Homobono	Homobono
Honesto	Honesto
Igme	Igme
Isagani	Isagani
Isko	Isko
Jay	Jay
Jejomar	Jejomar
Jose	Variant of Joseph
Joselito	Variant of Joseph
Kidlat	Kidlat
Liberato	Liberato
Luzvimindo	Luzvimindo
Magtanggol	Magtanggol
Melchor	Variant of Melchior
Pacifico	Pacifico
Ramil	Ramil
Reynante	Reynante
Rizal	Rizal
Rizaldo	Variant of Rizal
Rizalino	Variant of Rizal
Rodel	Rodel
Rommel	Variant of Rommel
Rommel	Rommel
Sherwin	Sherwin
Virgilio	Virgilio

Amihan

Language of origin: Tagalog
 Gender: female
 Meaning/translation: northeast monsoon
 Info about origin: from the Philippine name of a winter wind
 Words: amihan=the northeast monsoon
 Variants: **Amihan** Tagalog

Amor

Language of origin: Spanish
 Gender: female
 Meaning/translation: love

Info about origin: use of the Spanish word for love as a given name in the Philippines
Words: amor=the love
Variants: **Amor** Tagalog

Analyn

Language of origin: English
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe combination of 'Anna' and 'Lynn'
mostly used in the Philippines and rather popular there
Variants: **Analyn** English, Tagalog

Arnel

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Info about origin: maybe a Spanish form of 'Arnold'
Variants: **Arnel** Spanish, Tagalog

Arvin

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Info about origin: maybe a variant of 'Erwin' or of 'Arwin'
Variants: **Arvin** English, Tagalog

Bagwis

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: long wing feather
Words: bagwis=the long wing feather
Variants: **Bagwis** Tagalog

Bayani

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: hero
Words: bayani=the hero
Variants: **Bayani** Tagalog

Benjamin

Language of origin: Hebrew
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: son of the right hand, son of the south, son of luck
Info about origin: in the Bible Benjamin is the youngest son of Jacob and thus the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel
Words: ben=the son; yamin=right, the right hand, the south
Female form: [Beniamina](#)
Variants: **Benjamin** German, English, French (#30 in US popularity) (#29 in Switzerland 1997)
Benjy German, English
Ben English (#520 in US popularity) (#671 in Switzerland 1997)
Benji English

Benjie English, Tagalog
Bennie English
Benny English (#793 in US popularity)
[4 variants more...](#)

Bituin

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: star
Words: bituin=the star
Variants: **Bituin** Tagalog

Charito

Language of origin: Old Greek
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe from the word 'charito' (full of grace) that occurs in the Greek original of the New Testament
a female name, despite the 'o' ending
Words: charito=full of grace; charis=the grace, the kindness
Variants: **Charito** Spanish, Tagalog

Cherie

Language of origin: French
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: darling
Info about origin: use of the French word 'chérie' (darling) as an English given name
Words: chérie=the darling
Variants: **Cherie** English
Cher English
Cheri English
Cherry English, Tagalog
Sheri English
Sherri English
Sherry English (#792 in US popularity)

Chona

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Variants: **Chona** Spanish, Tagalog

Crisanto

Language of origin: Old Greek
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: golden flower; chrysanthemum
Info about origin: can refer to the chrysanthemum flower
many people probably take the name to mean 'Cristo santo' (Christ the saint)
Words: chrysos=golden; anthos=the flower
Variants: **Crisanto** Spanish, Tagalog
Chrysanthos Old Greek (old/original name form)

Dakila

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: big, great
Words: dakila=big, great
Variants: **Dakila** Tagalog

Dalisay

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: pure
Words: dalisay=pure
Variants: **Dalisay** Tagalog

Daniel

Language of origin: Hebrew
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: God is my judge
Info about origin: in the Bible Daniel is an important prophet
Words: dan=the judge; el=God, the powerful
Female form: [Daniela](#)
Variants: **Daniel** German, French, English, Polish, Czech, Scandinavian, Spanish, Portuguese (#7 in US popularity) (#15 in Switzerland 1997)
Dany German (#183 in Switzerland 1997)
Dan English (#800 in US popularity) (#346 in Switzerland 1997)
Danilo Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Slavic (#256 in Switzerland 1997)
Danny English (#218 in US popularity) (#407 in Switzerland 1997)
[9 variants more...](#)

Datu

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: chieftain
Words: datu=the chieftain
Variants: **Datu** Tagalog

Divina

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: the divine
Words: divino=divine
Variants: **Divina** Tagalog

Diwata

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: goddess
Words: diwata=the goddess
Variants: **Diwata** Tagalog

Elizabeth

Language of origin: Hebrew
Gender: female

Meaning/translation: My God is abundance; My God has sworn
Info about origin: meaning not known for sure
2 interpretations are common, with the second name element either derived from 'sheba' (seven) or from 'shaba' (oath):
'My God is seven' with the number seven as symbol for abundance, thus 'My God is abundance' or 'My God has sworn').
in the Bible Elizabeth is the mother of John the Baptist
Words: el=God, the powerful; sheba=seven; shaba=the oath
Variants: **Elizabeth** English (#8 in US popularity)
Bethli German, Swiss German
Betina German, Italian
Bettina German, Italian (#151 in Switzerland 1997)
Elisa German (#425 in US popularity) (#55 in Switzerland 1997)
Elisabeth German, English, French, Greek (#356 in US popularity) (#490 in Switzerland 1997)
Elisabetha German
Elischeba German
Elise German (#288 in US popularity) (#324 in Switzerland 1997)
Elsa German (#905 in US popularity) (#212 in Switzerland 1997)
Liesel English, Tagalog
[48 variants more...](#)

Ephraim

Language of origin: Hebrew
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: doubly fruitful
Info about origin: probably from a Hebrew place name with the meaning 'doubly fruitful' in the Bible Ephraim is one of the sons of Joseph and is counted as the ancestor of one of the 12 tribes of Israel
Words: ephrayim=doubly fruitful
Variants: **Ephraim** German, English
Efraim German, English
Ephräm German
Efren Spanish, Tagalog (#925 in US popularity)
Ephraem English
[5 variants more...](#)

Flordeliza

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: Liza's flower (?)
Info about origin: maybe from a Spanish expression 'flor de Liza' (Liza's flower) maybe well known because of a Philippine film with the title 'Flor de Liza' (1984)
Variants: **Flordeliza** Tagalog

Gener

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Info about origin: maybe the name is connected with the Catalan word 'gener' (January)
Variants: **Gener** Tagalog

Girlie

Language of origin: English
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: girlie, little girl
Info about origin: probably use of the English word 'girlie' (diminutive of 'girl') as a given name in the Philippines
Variants: **Girlie** Tagalog

Heherson

Language of origin: English
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: He is her son (?)
Info about origin: probably from English 'he her son', maybe referring to Jesus as the son of Maria
Variants: **Heherson** Tagalog

Homobono

Language of origin: Latin
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: good man
Words: homo=man, the human being; bonus=good
Variants: **Homobono** Spanish, Tagalog
Homobonus Latin (old/original name form)

Honesto

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: honest
Info about origin: use of the Spanish word for 'honest' as a given name in the Philippines
Words: honesto=honest
Variants: **Honesto** Tagalog

Igme

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Info about origin: now sadly known as the name of a devastating typhoon over the Philippines in 2004
Variants: **Igme** Tagalog

Imee

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Info about origin: name of the oldest daughter of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos (F. Marcos was president of the Philippines until 1986) strictly speaking this is a nickname because the name of the daughter is Imelda, like the mother
Variants: **Imee** Tagalog

Irish

Language of origin: Unknown

origin:
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe derived from the name of the country, used as a given name in the Philippines
Variants: **Irish** Tagalog

Irmhild

Language of origin: Old High German
Gender: female
Info about origin: (not yet available)
Words: ermana=immense, universal; hiltja=the fight
Variants: **Irmhild** German
Irmhilde German
Imelda Italian, Spanish, Tagalog
Imelde Italian
Emihild Old French (old/original name form)

Isagani

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Info about origin: probably a native Philippine name
Variants: **Isagani** Tagalog
Gani Tagalog

Iska

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: See male form [Isko](#)
Variants: **Iska** Tagalog

Isko

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: male
Info about origin: short form of Spanish 'Francisco', used probably only in the Philippines
Female form: [Iska](#)
Variants: **Isko** Tagalog

Jay

Language of origin: English
Gender: male
Info about origin: short form of various names starting with 'J' or 'Ja', like Jack, Jacob or James
Variants: **Jay** English, Tagalog (#260 in US popularity)
Jai English

Jejomar

Language of origin: Tagalog

Gender: male
Info about origin: formed by concatenating the starts of the three names Jesus, Joseph and Mary
Variants: **Jejomar** Tagalog

Jesusa

Language of origin: Hebrew
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: Yahweh is salvation
Info about origin: See male form [Joshua](#)
Variants: **Jesusa** Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog
Gesua Italian

Joseph

Language of origin: Hebrew
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: He (God) will add
Info about origin: the name is interpreted as 'May God add another son'
in the Old Testament Joseph is the 11th son of Jacob, advisor to the pharaoh in Egypt, and thus the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel
in the New Testament Joseph is the husband of Maria, the mother of Jesus
Words: yacaph=to add, to increase
Female form: [Josepha](#)
Variants: **Joseph** German, French, English (#10 in US popularity) (#468 in Switzerland 1997)
Joscha German, Hungarian
Joschka German
Josef German, Hebrew (#710 in US popularity) (#468 in Switzerland 1997)
Jupp German
Sepp German
Seppi German
Jo English
Jody English (#962 in US popularity)
Joe English, French (#234 in US popularity) (#377 in Switzerland 1997)
Joselito Spanish, Tagalog
Jose Tagalog (#32 in US popularity) (#224 in Switzerland 1997)
[29 variants more...](#)

Jovelyn

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Variants: **Jovelyn** Tagalog

Kidlat

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: lightning
Words: kidlat=the lightning
Variants: **Kidlat** Tagalog

Laarni

Language of origin: Unknown

origin:
Gender: female
Variants: **Laarni** Tagalog
Laarnie Tagalog

Lailani

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Info about origin: probably a native Philippine name
Variants: **Lailani** Tagalog

Leizel

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe a variant of 'Liesel'
Variants: **Leizel** Tagalog

Lerma

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe from the name of a town in the Spanish province of Burgos
Variants: **Lerma** Tagalog

Liberato

Language of origin: Latin
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: the liberated
Words: liber=free
Variants: **Liberato** Italian, Spanish, Tagalog

Ligaya

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: happiness
Words: ligaya=the happiness
Variants: **Ligaya** Tagalog

Lilibeth

Language of origin: English
Gender: female
Info about origin: combination of 'Lilly' and 'Beth' (short for 'Elizabeth')
rather popular in the Philippines
Variants: **Lilibeth** English, Tagalog

Lidayway

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: dawn

Words: liwayway=the dawn
Variants: **Liwayway** Tagalog

Liwliwa

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: inspiration (?)
Variants: **Liwliwa** Tagalog

Lualhati

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: spritual peace (?)
Info about origin: also in use as one of the few native Philippine family names
Words: lualhati=the spiritual peace
Variants: **Lualhati** Tagalog

Luningning

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: brilliance, brightness
Info about origin: one of the most popular native Philippine names
Words: luningning=the brilliance, the brightness
Variants: **Luningning** Tagalog

Luzviminda

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Info about origin: formed by concatenating the starts of the names of three large islands of the Philippines: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao
Male form: [Luzvimindo](#)
Variants: **Luzviminda** Tagalog

Luzvimindo

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: male
Info about origin: See female form [Luzviminda](#)
Female form: [Luzviminda](#)
Variants: **Luzvimindo** Tagalog

Magtanggol

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: to defend
Info about origin: also in use as one of the few native Philippine family names
Words: magtanggol=to defend
Variants: **Magtanggol** Tagalog

Malaya

Language of origin: Tagalog

Gender: female
Meaning/translation: free, independent
Words: malaya=free, independent
Variants: **Malaya** Tagalog

Maricar

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: probably a combination of 'María' and a second name
Variants: **Maricar** Spanish, Tagalog

Maricela

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: combination of 'María' and 'Celia'
Variants: **Maricela** English, Spanish (#813 in US popularity)
Maricel Spanish, Tagalog
Marisela English, Spanish (#891 in US popularity)

Marichú

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe shortened from 'María de Jesús'
Variants: **Marichú** Spanish
Marichu Spanish, Tagalog

Maricor

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: probably a combination of 'María' and a second name
Variants: **Maricor** Tagalog

Maricris

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe combination of 'María' and 'Cris' (shortened from 'Cristina')
rather popular in the Philippines
Variants: **Maricris** Spanish, Tagalog

Marifé

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe combination of 'María' and 'Fe'
rather popular in the Philippines
Variants: **Marifé** Spanish
Marife Spanish, Tagalog

Marifel

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: probably a combination of 'María' and a second name
Variants: **Marifel** Spanish, Tagalog

Marikit

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: pretty
Words: marikit=pretty
Variants: **Marikit** Tagalog

Marilag

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: beautiful
Words: marilag=beautiful
Variants: **Marilag** Tagalog

Marites

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: probably a combination of 'María' and 'Tes' (shortened from 'Teresa') rather popular in the Philippines, but hardly used anywhere else
Variants: **Marites** Tagalog
Maritess Tagalog

Marivic

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: probably a combination of 'María' and a second name, e.g. 'Vic' from 'Victoria'
Variants: **Marivic** Spanish, Tagalog

Mayumi

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: modest
Words: mayumi=modest
Variants: **Mayumi** Tagalog

Melchior

Language of origin: Hebrew
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: king (Yahweh) is light
Info about origin: in the Bible Melchior is one of the three kings visiting the newborn Jesus
Words: melek=the king; or=the light
Variants: **Melchior** German, English

Melchiorre Italian
Melchor Spanish, Tagalog
Melker Scandinavian
Melkior French

Mirasol

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: sunflower
Info about origin: use of the Spanish word for sunflower as given name in the Philippines
Words: mirasol=the sunflower; mira=the sight; sol=the sun
Variants: **Mirasol** Tagalog

Nenita

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: little girl (?)
Info about origin: maybe from Spanish 'nenita', a diminutive of 'nena' (girl)
Words: nenita=the little girl; nena=the girl
Variants: **Nenita** English, Tagalog

Nimfa

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: nymph (?)
Info about origin: maybe derived from 'ninfa', the Spanish word for 'nymph' (Tagalog: 'nimpa')
Variants: **Nimfa** Tagalog

Pacifico

Language of origin: Latin
Gender: male
Meaning/translation: the pacific, the peaceful
Words: pacifico=peaceful, pacific; pax=the peace
Variants: **Pacifico** Spanish, Tagalog

Pearl

Language of origin: English
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: pearl
Info about origin: use of the common word for pearl in English and other languages as given name
the English word derives from old French 'perle' and ultimately from Latin 'perla'
Words: perle=the pearl; perla=the pearl
Variants: **Pearl** English, Irish
Pearlie English
Pearline English
Perla Italian, Spanish, Tagalog (#456 in US popularity)

Pirmin

Language of origin: Latin
Gender: male

Meaning/translation: the firm
Info about origin: from a Roman name 'Firminus'
name of several medieval saints
Words: firmus=firm
Variants: **Pirmin** German, Rhaeto-Romanic (#388 in Switzerland 1997)
Fermin Spanish, Tagalog
[4 variants more...](#)

Ramil

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Variants: **Ramil** Tagalog

Reynante

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: male
Variants: **Reynante** Tagalog

Riza

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Variants: **Riza** Tagalog

Rizal

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: male
Info about origin: from the family name of José Rizal (1861-1896) who is seen as the greatest national hero of the Philippines
the family name (which he chose himself) derives from the Spanish word 'ricial' that refers to the re-greening of a field after harvest/after cutting
Words: ricial=greening again
Female form: [Rizalina](#)
Variants: **Rizal** Tagalog
Rizaldo Tagalog
Rizalino Tagalog

Rizalina

Language of origin: Spanish
Gender: female
Info about origin: See male form [Rizal](#)
Variants: **Rizalina** Tagalog
Rizalia Tagalog
Rizalyn Tagalog

Rizza

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female

Info about origin: maybe originally a short form of 'Rizal' names like e.g. 'Rizalina'
Variants: **Rizza** Tagalog

Rodel

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Variants: **Rodel** Tagalog

Rommel

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: male
Variants: **Rommel** Tagalog
Romel Tagalog

Rubylyn

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Info about origin: maybe a combination of 'Ruby' and 'Lynn'
Variants: **Rubylyn** Tagalog
Rubilyn Tagalog

Rutchel

Language of origin: Unknown
Gender: female
Variants: **Rutchel** Tagalog
Rutchell Tagalog

Sherwin

Language of origin: Old English
Gender: male
Words: wine=the friend
Variants: **Sherwin** English, Tagalog

Tala

Language of origin: Tagalog
Gender: female
Meaning/translation: bright star, planet
Words: tala=the bright star, the planet
Variants: **Tala** Tagalog

Virgilio

Language of origin: Latin
Gender: male
Info about origin: (not yet available)
Female form: [Virgilia](#)
Variants: **Virgilio** Italian, Spanish, Tagalog

Vergil German
Virgil English
Virgile French
Vergilius Latin (old/original name form)
