



Lesson 2: You're Welcome

Walang anuman

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we continue on with basic etiquette. Filipinos are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in the Philippines, it is more probable you will hear, rather than use, the phrase "You're welcome."

"You're welcome" in Filipino is walang anuman. Walang literally means "nothing" or "none" and anuman means "anything" or "whatever"; Walang Anuman literally translated would be "its nothing".

If you are responding to a phrase of gratitude with someone older than you or with a stranger, walang anuman po is a more polite way to respond. Po is often used after a word or phrase in this way to make it more formal.

PHRASES

Filipino	English
Walang anuman	You're welcome
Walang anuman po	You're welcome (formal)

QUICK TIP

When at a public market in the Philippines, it is customary for vendors to thank customers for their purchases. - Competition is stiff and sellers are keen for repeat business! This is a perfect opportunity for you to respond in an informal way by saying walang anuman. You might even be able to get a cheaper price on some traditional Filipino goods by impressing vendors with your language skills!