

Filipino, as Filipinos speak it.



Newbie Lesson: Checking the Taxi Meter - Gumagana

Boss, gumagana ba metro mo?	Sir/Driver is your meter working?
Oo, bakit?	Yes, why?
Ang mahal kasi eh.	Because it seems expensive.
Tama yan, trapik eh.	That's correct, it's just really traffic.

Tambay Talk

- I. Boss, gumagana ba metro mo?
- II. Ang mahal kasi eh.
- III. Tama yan, trapik eh.

I. Boss, gumagana ba metro mo?

Boss (“sir”), **gumagana ba** (is it working[?]) **[ang] metro mo** (your meter)?

- **Boss** (interchangeable with “Manong”) – a polite way of addressing an older male person, be it someone you know or a stranger.
- **Gumagana** – working/functioning right, used to refer to the working condition of mechanical objects or machines. Alternatively, for most cases you can also use the word “**Umaandar**” to refer to whether something is actually “on” or working.”
 - **Gumagana ba yung metro?** – Is the meter working right?
 - **Umaandar ba yung metro?** – Is the meter on/running?
- **Ba** – Question making particle, its meaning is roughly translated to “is it?” or “it is?”
 - **Gumagana ba? - Is it working?**
 - **Mahal ba? – Is it expensive?**
 - **Tama ba? – Is it correct?**
- **metro** – meter
- **mo** – “your”

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II. Ang mahal kasi eh.

Ang mahal (expensive) kasi (because) eh.

- **Eh** – informal particle that inflects that a person is trying to give a reason or explanation or excuse
- **kasi** – because, note that it can generally be put before or after the “reason”
 - Ang mahal *kasi* eh.
 - *Kasi* ang mahal eh.
 - These two mean the same thing.
- **Mahal** – expensive is the specific meaning in this exchange
 - **Alternate meanings:**
 - *Mahal* yung alahas – The jewelry is *expensive/valuable*.
 - *Mahal* ko siya – I *love* him/her.
 - Siya ang *mahal* ko. – She/He is my *love*.
- **Ang** – in this particular exchange, a particle that adds emphasis to the adjective, roughly means “very” or “really” in this case.
 - It is also used as the definite article “the” but in a rough sense when referring to the subject of a phrase. To look at it in another way, as an article used with an adjective, “Ang” can be thought of as answering the question “what?” meaning that **Ang** roughly means “is what” when used to refer to the object of the sentence.
 - **Ang pagong at ang matsing** – The turtle and the monkey
 - **Masakit ang tiyan ko.** – My stomach is hurting. [literal: Painful, the stomach mine]
 - **Ang tiyan ko ang masakit.** – It’s my stomach that’s painful. [literal: The stomach mine is what’s painful.]

III. Tama yan, trapik eh.

Tama yan – That’s right./ That’s correct.

- **tama** – correct
- **yan** – shortened version of **inyan**, meaning “that”

NOTES:

- Just for total clarification, the “mahal” or expensive thing implied or being referred to is the taxi fare amount displayed on the meter, not the meter itself.
- If you notice, the passenger asks “Is it working?” but the answer given is “That’s [the meter is] correct”; just note the informality. The formal response actually answering the question is, “**Gumagana nang maayos yan, tama yung nakalagay sa metro.**” – “That is working properly, the fare displayed on the meter is correct.”