

Your Fast Fun Guide to Reading Thai



This book explains the elegant Thai writing system by using large letters, color, many fonts, and easy to read tone marks and charts.

ไม māi
NOT

"My! My! You look *fabulous*."

ไม māi
QUESTION
WORD

"Are you sure you want to drive *my* car?"

ไม māi
NEW

"You want to eat *my* *HAT*?!"

Includes 300 word dictionary

Plus numbers, colors, months, days, food...

เขียนภาษาไทยสนุกมาก

"The use of color to simplify the writing system is brilliant."

"Beautifully designed."

"Easy to understand."

ISBN 978-974-9823-94-1



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Reading Thai *is* fun

by James Neal

อ่าน ภาษาไทย สนุกมาก

A red spiral binding is visible on the left side of the notebook cover, winding around the spine.

Reading Thai is fun

Written and Designed
by James Neal

ISBN 978-974-9823-94-1

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Published in Thailand by
iGroup Press Co., Ltd.
100 Lang Sanamgolf Krungthep Kreetha Road
Huamark, Bangkok, Bangkok 10240
Thailand
E-mail: info@igrouppress.com

Distributed by
Booknet Co., Ltd.
1173, 1175, 1177, 1179 Srinakharin Road
Suan Luang, Bangkok 10250
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 3223678
Fax: +66 2 7211639
E-mail: booknet@book.co.th

Printed and bound in Thailand by
M.A.H. Printing Co., Ltd.

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Please send them to e-mail: comments@book.co.th



James Neal spent his early years in the mountains of Colorado, and moved with his family to Texas, then Los Angeles. Drafted to serve in Vietnam, he developed a love of Asia, and studied Chinese in college. He lived on the central coast of California until 1990, after which he lived and taught in Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand. He died in Bangkok in 2004, soon after completing this book. A veteran of three marriages (he called them wifetimes), his son Sam lives in Japan, and his sisters, Penny and Sandy, live in the US.



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About this book

This book uses color to simplify the Thai writing system. It brings this elegant system to life by using convenient charts, simple explanations, and big Thai letters.

This book uses big Thai letters.

ไฉน yai
BIG

This book uses many Thai fonts.

Here are six fontastic flavors of *ai-sa-griim*.
ICE CREAM

ไอศกรีม ไอศกรีม

ไอกรีม ไอกรีม

ไอกรีม ไอกรีม

This book groups the letters by shape.

ค ค ด ต

ก ก ก

ข ข บ ป

First, you'll learn the more common letters.

ก ข ม จ ต

Later, you'll learn the letters used less often.
These often have more complex shapes.

ฎ ฌ ฌ ฎ ฌ

Using this book

First, read the book from beginning to end. Then follow the five steps below. Work on steps 1, 2, and 3 together, but study pages 35 to 52, steps 2 & 3, in sequence.

1 Learn the shapes PAGE 11

Draw the letters really BIG
Trace them over and over
Speak when you write

2 Learn about the sounds PAGE 35

Initial, medial, & final sounds
Long and short vowels

3 Learn about tone PAGE 44

Red, gold, or black
Use the tone chart

4 Begin reading PAGE 53

Find the syllable borders
See the tone in the spelling
Read some common words

5 Learn to see the sound of Thai

When you see a word for the very first time,
and you know its sound, you're reading.

ยินดีด้วย

yin-dii-duai
CONGRATULATIONS

Thai sounds like...

This book uses the letters of the English alphabet to spell out the approximate sounds of Thai. Ask a Thai person to tell you the real sounds.

The basic vowel sounds, sound like the vowels in:

i	eel	u	yurt	u	oops
e	egg	ə	up	o	old
ɛ	at	a	ah	ɔ	awl

The twenty consonant sounds:

b	bees	j	jolly *	p	pin
ch	chasing	k	kings	r	rolled **
d	desert	l	like	s	south
f	flowers	m	merry	t	toward
g	get *	n	nobles	w	wild
h	hot	ng	singing	y	yucca
bp	between a b and a p as in spear *				
dt	between a d and a t as in steer *				

* **g, j, dt, bp** — these red consonants are:
unaspirated — no puff of air from your lips
and *unvoiced* — no sound in your throat

** **r** — rolled like the Spanish *rr*
It often sounds like l, and it's often omitted.



On Drawing PAGE 12

Draw **large** letters.

Retrace your letters.

Draw a letter; right on top of it, draw it again.

Do this over and over.

It's easy, it's fun, and it saves a lot of paper.

Consonants PAGE 14

Consonants are either **red**, **gold**, or **black**.

While you're learning the letters, learn their color. You'll need the color to find the tone.

Vowels PAGE 32

These sixteen simple shapes combine to form the Thai vowels.

Shape

Drawing Thai

Thai children learn to write a formal boxy style. Some adults insist it's the only way to write, but most adults write with a cursive style like the letter on the right.



Learn to **read** this letter

Very easy to read
Hard to write

Learn to **write** this letter

Easy to read
Easy to write

Learn by drawing

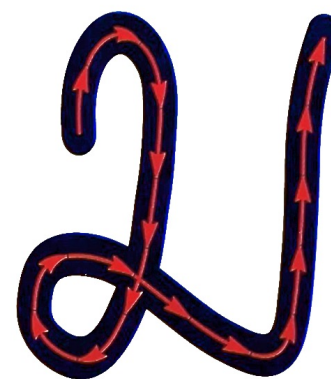
Draw each letter over and over, right on top of itself. Begin slowly, and gradually build speed until you can draw them in one smooth graceful motion.

Feel the shape and bounce, the loops and curves.

Speak the sound. See the color.



The next section presents the letters grouped by shape. These groups help you see how similar letters differ.



Use the large graceful cursive letters, like the one on the left, as your handwriting models.

The next section introduces the letters with a brief description of how to draw the large cursive model. It also shows each letter in four distinct fonts. Compare these fonts to learn the essential features of each letter.

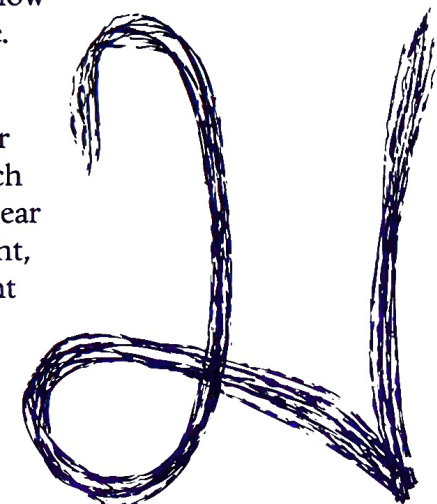
Retrace your letters

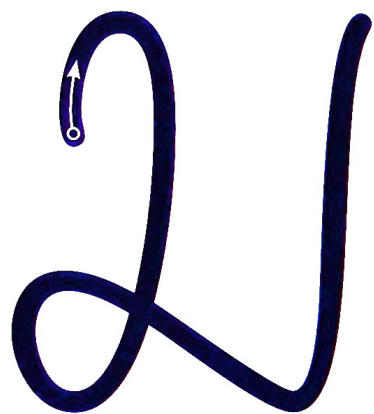
Draw your first letter. You'll probably think it looks ugly and awkward. Draw it a second time right on top of your first attempt. This second letter will be equally ungainly, but you'll notice it less, now that your letter is double.

Do this over and over.

By retracing, you let your body feel the form of each letter. Flaws soon disappear as your letters gain weight, substance, and an elegant flowing grace.

Retracing will also help your handwriting look less and less childlike.





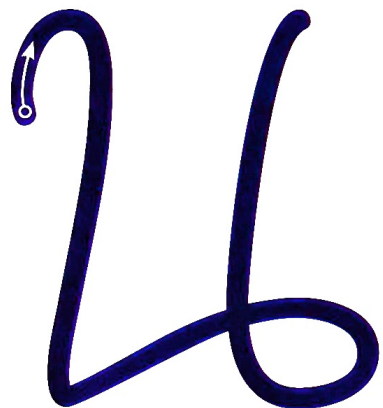
มว maa

น น ฮ

SQUARES with open tops

ABOVE Hook, go down, loop around, go down to the right, and bounce straight up

BELOW Hook, go down, bounce to the right, loop around and go straight up



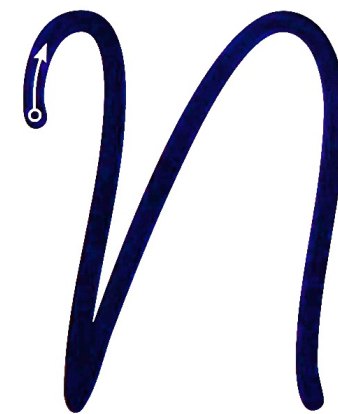
นว nuu

น น ฮ

ตว ta-haan

ท

ท ท ฮ



SQUARES with closing tops

ABOVE Hook, go down, bounce up forming a "V" bend around, and go straight down

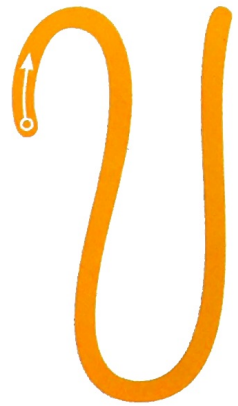
BELOW Hook, go down, bounce up forming a "V" make a reverse loop, and go straight down

หว hiip

ห

ห ห ฮ





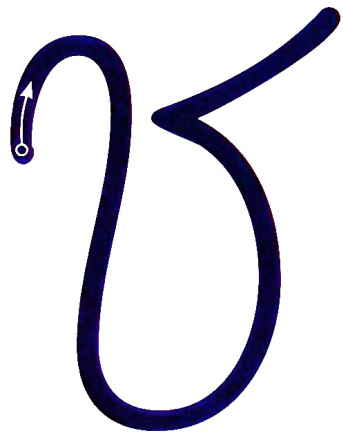
ข kǎi

ข ข ข

BASKETS with round bottoms

ABOVE Narrow and straight sided, open on top

BELOW Bulging around the hips and closed on top



ช chāng

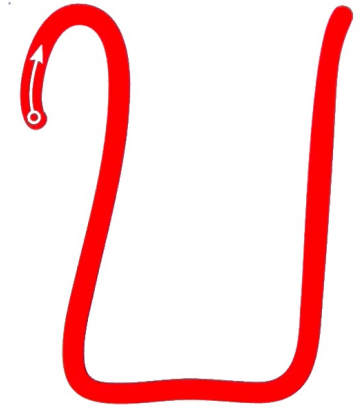
ช ช ช



บ bai-māi

บ

บ บ บ



BASKETS with flat bottoms

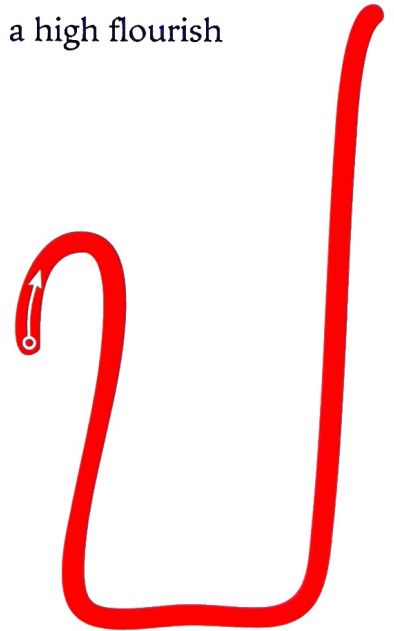
ABOVE Wide and straight sided with a flat base

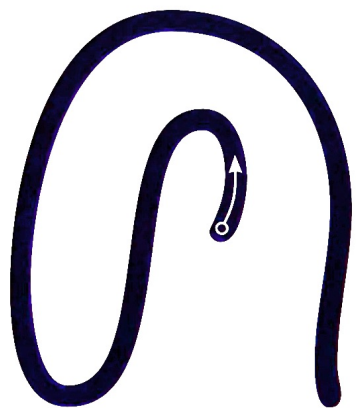
BELOW Extend the final up in a high flourish

บป bla

บ

บ บ บ





ค kwaai



DOMES starting counter-clockwise

ABOVE Hook, go down, bounce up, and go over the top

BELOW As ABOVE — the final flag can be a second stroke



ค saa-laa



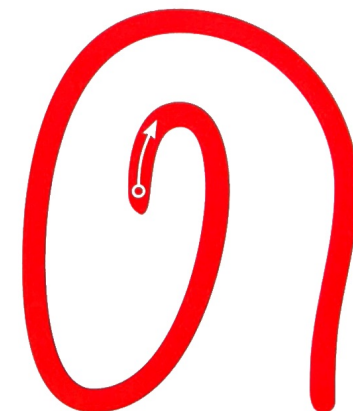
ดอ dek



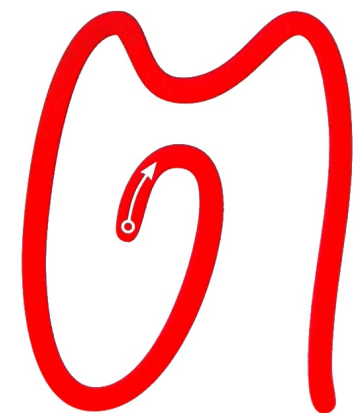
DOMES starting clockwise

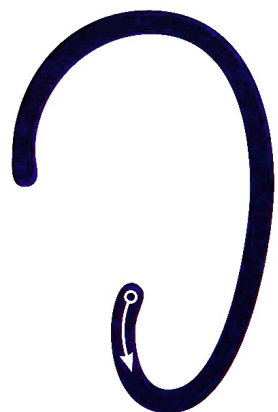
ABOVE A wide continuous spiral

BELOW A spiral with a dent in the dome



ดอ dtao





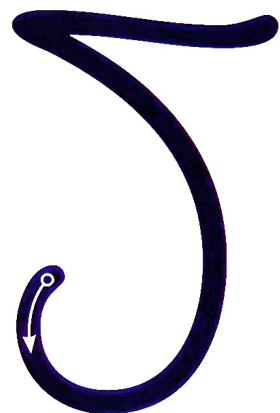
ဝဝ ဝေင်



HOODS counter-clockwise, starting low

ABOVE Hook, and go up & over to form the hood

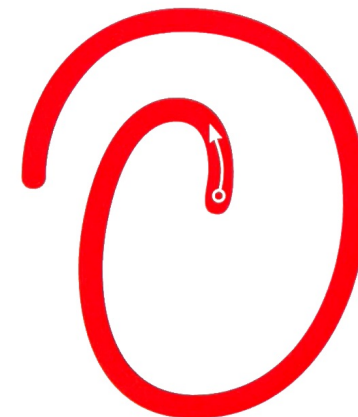
BELOW As ABOVE — then run the flag back off the top



ရရ ရှာ



ဝ ခာံ



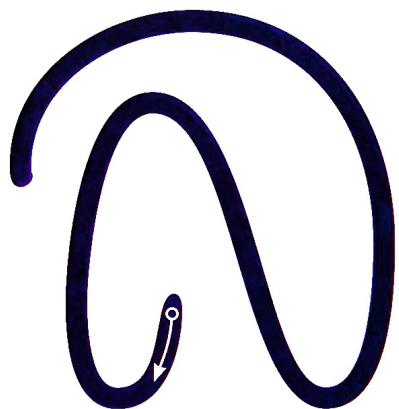
HOODS counter-clockwise, starting high

ABOVE A gentle spiral

BELOW Bounce down twice, bend around, and go straight up, staying open at the top

ယ ယာ်





လ

လဝ် ling

လ

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HOODS clockwise, two legs

ABOVE Hook, go straight up, bend around, go down, around, and up & over to form the hood

BELOW AS ABOVE — easy 's' curves ending in a flag



လှ

လှဝ် လှာ

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ညာ jaan

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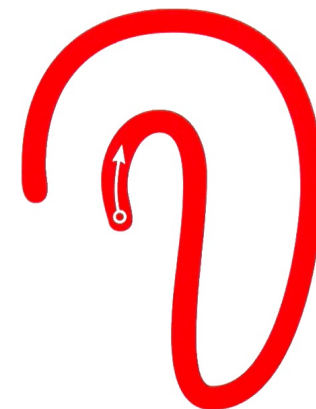
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HOODS clockwise, one leg

ABOVE Hook, go straight down, bend around, and go up & over to form the hood

BELOW Hook, go straight down, bend around, and go up to the left



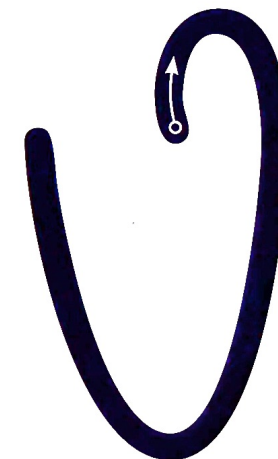
ငှာ nguu

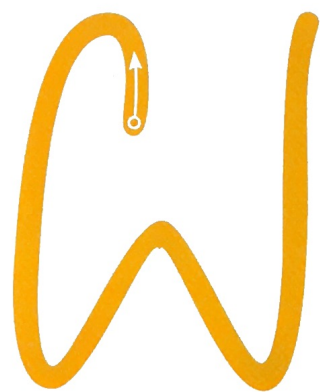
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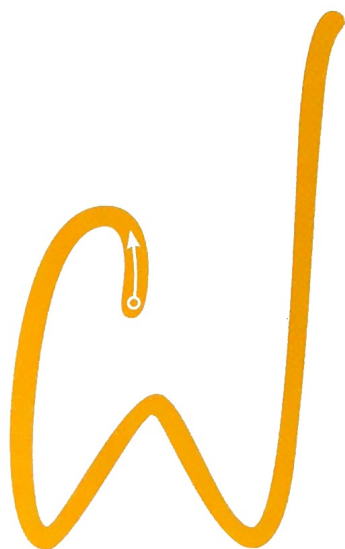
póo pùng



PEAKS & VALLEYS, hook on the inside

ABOVE The middle peak stays low

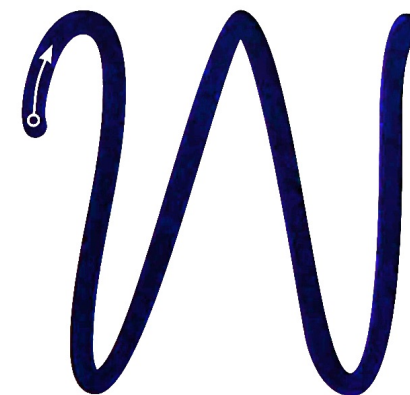
BELOW As ABOVE — extend the final to form a flag



fóo fáa



póo paan



PEAKS & VALLEYS, hook on the outside

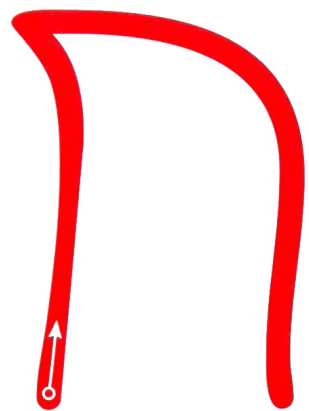
ABOVE The middle peak reaches high

BELOW As ABOVE — extend the final to form a flag



fóo fan





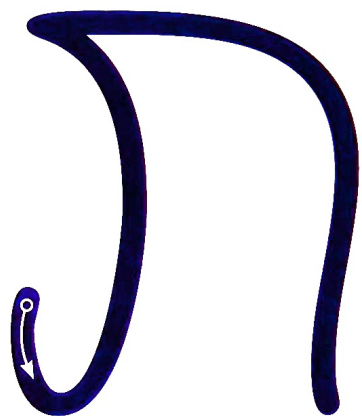
ဂ ဂှာ ḡai

ဂ ဂ ဂ

HENS counter-clockwise

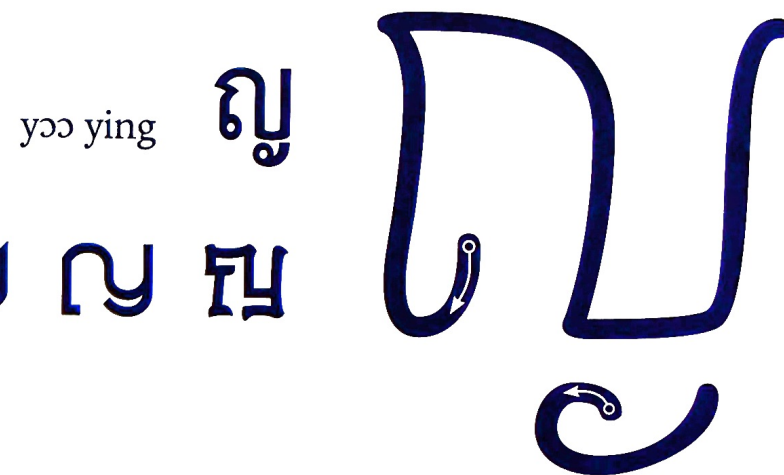
ABOVE No beginning hook — go straight up, turn at the beak, and bounce down the back

BELOW Hook, curve up to the beak, and bounce down the back



ဂ ဂှာ sám-pao

ဂ ဂ ဂ



ယ ယှာ ying

ယ ယ ယ

HENS clockwise

ABOVE A two part letter, draw the big part first

BELOW Hook, 's' up to the beak, and bounce down the back



တ တှာ túng

တ တ တ

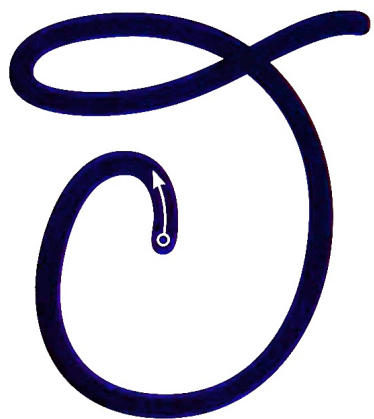


chóo ching

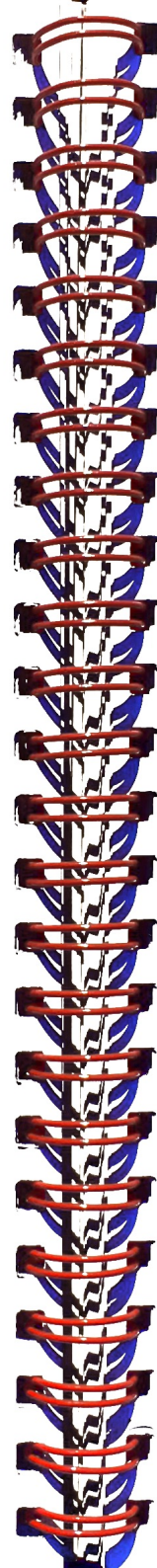


ABOVE Hook, go down, bounce to the right, loop around, and go up & over the top

BELOW A gentle spiral with a large loop at the top



hoo nōk-huuk



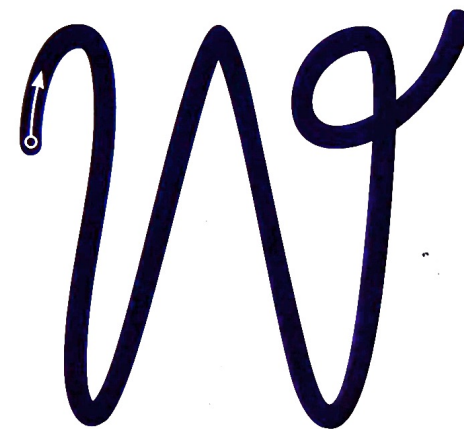
sóo ruu-sii



ABOVE Flat bottom and straight sides, can be written with one or two strokes

BELOW The central peak reaches high

loo jū-laa



Less Frequent Consonants

Begin the first stroke at **1**
and a second stroke at **2**

1
သ
သ
cha-daa

1
ဓ
ဓ
bpa-dtak

1
ဏ
ဏ
neen

1
ဓ
ဓ
chae

1
တ
တ
tong

1
ဆ
ဆ
soo

1
တ
တ
taan

1
တ
တ
mon-too

1
တ
တ
puu-tao

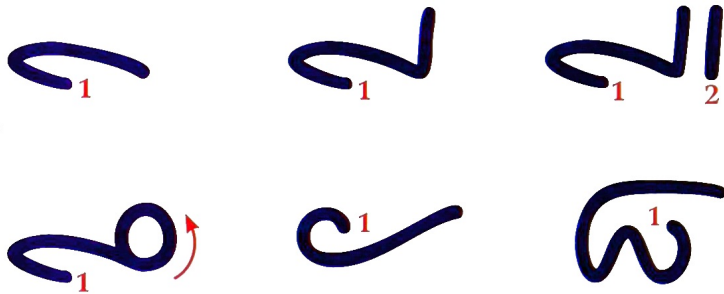
1
က
က
ra-kang

Vowel Shapes

Write the vowels with these shapes. They're used alone and in combination to form the vowels.

Begin the first stroke at **1**
and a second stroke at **2**

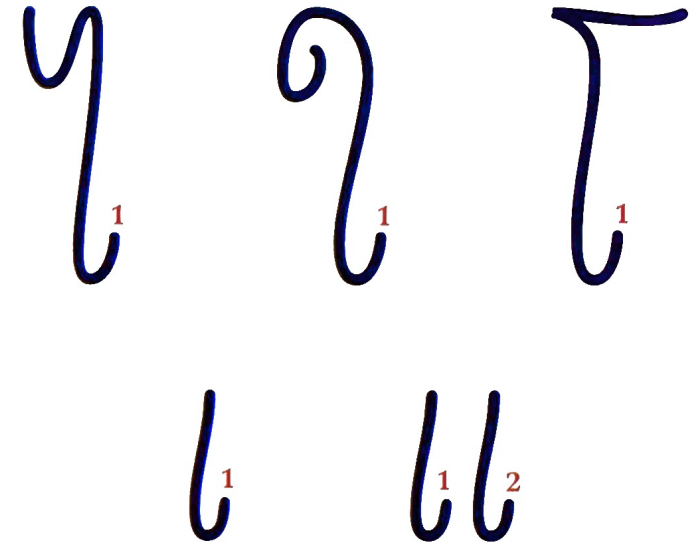
Write       over the consonant.



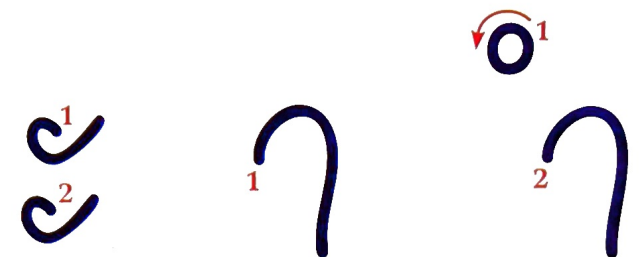
Write   under the consonant.

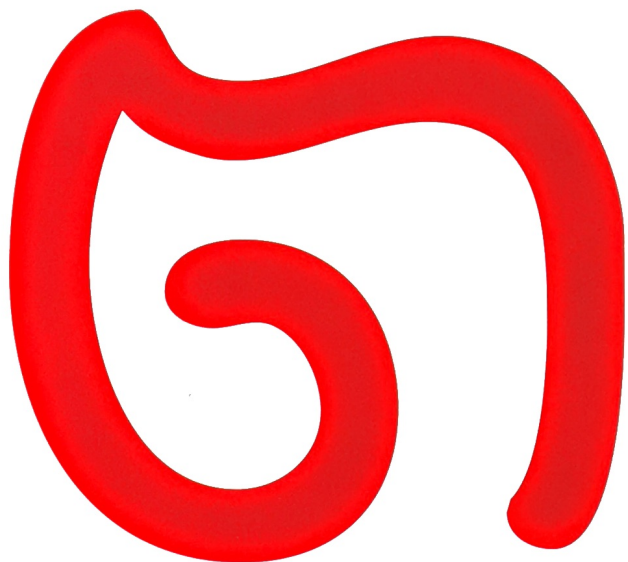


Write      before the consonant.



Write    after the consonant.





Vowels

PAGE 36

Thai has nine basic vowel sounds. They can be *long* or *short*, and combined to form compound vowels.

Consonants

PAGE 42

The 42 Thai consonants have 20 *initial* sounds but only 6 *final* sounds.

Tone

PAGE 44

The Tone Chart creates a visual image of Thai tone.

Clusters

PAGE 48

Thai has 15 real clusters, a few fakes, plus the **red** and **gold** tone clusters.

Symbols

PAGE 50

These alter sounds, repeat words, shorten words, etc.

Sound

Vowel Sounds

The Thai vowels are written around the consonant. Most vowels have one or two parts; a few have three or four.

Where do all the vowels go?

Vowels go above, below, before, and after the consonant.

This symbol **๐** shows where the consonant is written.

The three parts of this vowel: **เ** **อ** **ะ**

surround this consonant: **ส** **ส-**

when forming this word: **เสือ** **สหาย**
TIGER

Thai vowels can be long or short.

The rhythm of spoken Thai comes from its long and short vowels. The long **ii** and short **i** have the same basic sound, but the long **ii** sound is stretched out.

Long vowels are romanized with a double letter: **อ** **ii**

Short vowels are romanized with a single letter: **อ** **i**

Sounds like the vowel in	LONG VOWELS	SHORT VOWELS
all	aa อ	-a อะ
old	oo โ	-o โอะ
ooze	uu ู	u ุ
eel	ii ิ	i ิ
yurt	-uu ือ	u ือ
awl	oo อ	-o อะ
ultra	-oo โ	-o โอะ
egg	ee เอ	-e เอะ
at	ee แ	-e แอะ

See the complete Vowel Chart INSIDE THE BACK COVER

Initial-medial-final

You must know if a sound is *initial*, *medial*, or *final*. Is the sound at the *beginning*, *middle*, or *end* of a syllable? You need to know this to begin reading.

The dashes show how the sounds are used.

- Sounds before the dash — always *initial* **x-**
- Sounds between dashes — always *medial* **-x-**
- Sounds after the dash — always *final* **-x**
- Sounds with no dash — *medial or final* **x**

Initial, *medial*, and *final* refer to the position of the sound, not the letter. Vowels—or a part of the vowel—are often written in front of the *initial* consonant.

In **j-ai**, **j-e-p**, and **j-a-n** the **จ** is the *initial* consonant.

ใจ jai HEART **เจ็บ** jēp HURT **จาน** jan PLATE

These marks **็** **ะ** shorten some long vowels.

This long vowel **เ** has these short forms:

Short *medial* vowel: **เ็** **-e-**

Short *final* vowel: **เะ** **-e**

Abbreviated Vowels

Three short vowel sounds have abbreviated forms. This simplification helps give Thai an easy to read elegance.

oo **-o-** Short *medial* **-o-**

This unwritten vowel sound occurs between two consonants in the **same** syllable.

คน kon PERSON **พม** pōm I [MEN]

o **-a** Short *final* **-a**

This unwritten vowel sound occurs between two consonants in **two different** syllables.

สบาย sa-baai FEEL GOOD **ตลาด** dta-laāt MARKET

oo **-a-** Short *medial* **-a-**

This vowel sound is written with a mark that straddles the *initial* and *final* consonants.

วัด wat TEMPLE **ฉัน** chān I [WOMEN]

Compound Vowels

Compound vowels blend two or three simple vowel sounds. Ninety percent of the compound vowels are always *final*.

The most common compound vowels

The complete Vowel Chart is inside the back cover.

อ่า -am This vowel includes a *final* 'm' sound.

ไอ -ai This *final* vowel sound is written in front of the consonant.

This long oo sound can be *medial* or *final*.

ไอ oo

ไอ -ai Only twenty Thai words use this vowel, but they're common words, so you'll see it a lot.

ไออ -ao Don't confuse this with ไออะ ~

ไอีย ia ไออู ua These two compound vowels can be *medial* or *final*. The other compound vowels are all *finals*.

Vowel Practice

This chart arranges the nine basic vowel sounds according to where they're produced in the mouth.

Practice these sounds with a Thai speaker.

Go from front to back and top to bottom. Practice until you get a good feel for how the vowels are pronounced.

This chart is designed for practice, so it doesn't spell out the sounds. They're spelled out on PAGE 9.

Make these vowel sounds in **this part** of your mouth.

Top

Middle

Bottom

Front Center Back

อ	อือ	อุ
เ	เือ	เู
แ	อ่า	อู

LONG VOWELS

Top

Middle

Bottom

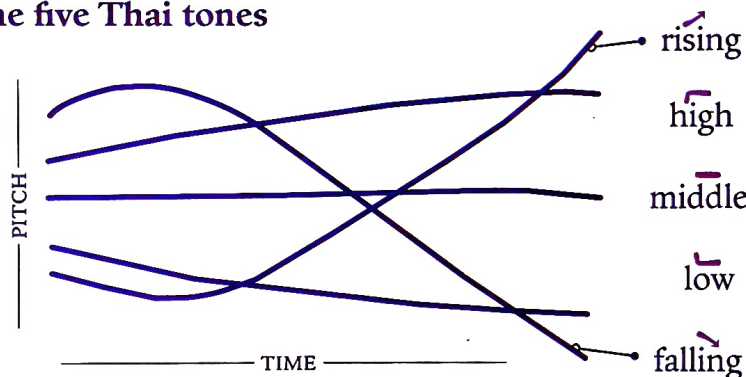
อ	อือ	อุ
เ	เือ	เู
แ	อ่า	อู

SHORT VOWELS

About Tone

Every Thai word has a tone. This tone gives Thai its musical quality. When the tone of a word changes, its meaning also changes. It's similar to English, where we use a rising tone to ask, "Yes?" And we use a falling tone to answer, "Yes!"

The five Thai tones



Graphic tone marks

These marks are used with the romanized Thai. They show the actual tone. Romanized syllables with a middle tone are printed without a graphic tone mark. This mark  is used only in the tone chart.

Thai tone marks

The tone marks used in written Thai don't show the actual tone, they only modify the spelling. Thai spelling usually shows the correct pronunciation, including tone.

The color of the *initial* consonant determines the tone. The color works in combination with the tone mark, the *final* sound, and the vowel length. This Tone Chart makes it easy to find the tone.

			CONTINUE
			STOP
			1
			2
			3
			4

About the Tone Chart

The top half is for syllables **without** Thai tone marks.
The bottom half is for syllables **with** Thai tone marks.

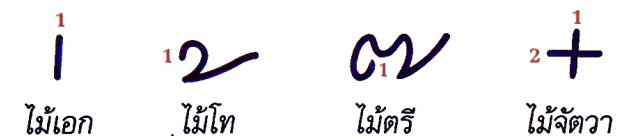
CONTINUE – the *final* sound continues *onnnnn*

Syllables ending in: **-ng, -n, -m**
long vowels
compound vowels

STOP – the *final* sound stops short.

Syllables ending in: **-k, -t, -p**
short vowels

Drawing the Thai tone marks



Tone Chart

This chart determines tone. The explanation is complex, but the chart is super easy to use. Once you understand the explanation, this chart is all you need to read Thai tone.

			CONTINUE
			STOP

				๗	
				+	

Without
tone mark

With
tone mark

Step 1 — Decide which half of the chart to use.

2 — Decide which row to use.

3 — Match the color of the *initial* consonant to a graphic tone mark in that row.

1 — For syllables *without* a Thai tone mark:

2 — If the *final* CONTINUES use the first row.

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **red** or **black**
It has a middle tone

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **gold**
It has a rising tone

2 — If the *final* STOPS use the second row.

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **red** or **gold**
It has a low tone

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **black**
With long vowels it has a falling tone.
With short vowels it has a high tone.

1 — For syllables *with* Thai tone marks:

2 — If it has this tone mark: use the third row

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **red** or **gold**
It has a low tone:

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **black**
It has a falling tone:

2 — If it has this tone mark: use the fourth row

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **red** or **gold**
It has a falling tone:

3 — If the *initial* consonant is **black**
It has a high tone:

2 — These two tone marks are rare:

3 — They give red consonants a high or rising tone.

1 — นก has no Thai tone mark

So look in the top half of the chart.

นก nok
BIRD

2 — The *final* -k stops.

So look in the second row — STOP

3 — The *initial* consonant น is **black**

So find the black graphic tone mark.

There are two black graphic tone marks.

A mark for long vowels

A mark for short vowels

-o- is short — so นก has a high tone.

1 & 2 — Look in the section.

3 — The *initial* consonant บ is **red**.

So บ้าน has a falling tone.

บ้าน baan
HOUSE

Clusters

Clusters are pairs of consonants working as a single unit. Real clusters are *real*, because both consonants contribute to the sound. In other clusters, one consonant is silent.

Real Clusters

These function as single initial consonants. Here are all 15:

กร ขร คร ตร ปร พร
 กล ขล คล ปล พล ผล
 กว ขว คว

The 1st consonant determines tone, and the 2nd one carries the tone marks.
 Vowels go before & after the cluster, and above & below the 2nd consonant.

เกลือ gla
SALT
 เปี้ยว bpriao
SOUR

Fake Clusters

When ฦ forms what looks like a cluster, but it's not a real cluster, then it's probably a fake cluster, and the ฦ is silent.

จริง jing
REAL
 เสร็จ set
TO FINISH

Tone Clusters

The nasal consonants are in the far right column of the Consonant Chart on page 43. Nasal consonants form clusters with ฦ and ล to make the gold and red tones.

Gold Clusters

A syllable beginning with a nasal consonant can't make a low or rising tone. So these nasal consonants: ง ญ น ม ย ว ล ว form clusters with ฦ to make the low and rising tones.

The ฦ is silent while giving the cluster its golden tone.

ไม่ mǎi
NOT
 ใหม่ mǎi
NEW
 ไหม mǎi
QUESTION
WORD
 มา maa
COME
 หมา maa
DOG

Red Clusters

Thai has four words where ฦ forms a tone cluster with ล. The ล remains silent while giving the cluster its red tone.

อย่า yaa
DON'T
 อย่าง yaang
A TYPE OF
 อยู่ yuu
BE AT
 อยาก yaak
WANT

Symbols

๐

Silent letter marker การ์ันต์
Written above silent consonants

๐

Short vowel mark ไม้ไต่คู้
Shortens some *medial* vowel sounds
SEE PAGE 38

๗

Abbreviation symbol ไปยาลน้อย
Shortens long words, like the period in
Wed. Like the period, it's often omitted.

กรุงเทพ grung-tēep
BANGKOK

๗

Repeat indicator ไม้ยมก
Repeats the previous word

จริง jing
REAL

จริงๆ jing-jing
REALLY REAL

๗๐๗

Etcetera ไปยาลใหญ่
Like 'etc.' it means more of the same
It's pronounced: ละ ไร่

Special Sounds

Consonants spoken twice

When two words are combined to form a new word, any new double consonants become a single consonant, pronounced twice – often with two different sounds. *The sounds can merge.*

ผลไม้ pón-lā-māai FRUIT
ธรรมดา tam-mā-daa ORDINARY

Tone shift in words with this unwritten -a PAGE 39

When the 1st consonant is **red** or **gold** ๐|๐ -a And the 2nd consonant is **black** ๐|๐ -a

The second syllable takes on the tone color of the first.

ตลาด dā-lāat MARKET
ถนน tā-nōn ROAD

The first syllable of these and other multi-syllable words is often spoken with a middle tone.

This cluster ทร often sounds like s-

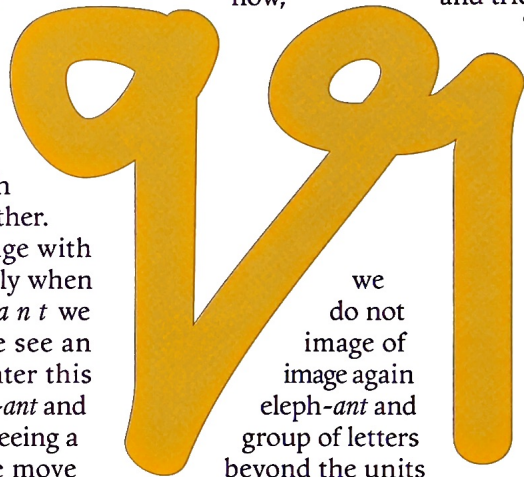
ทราย saai
SAND

ทรุด sut
GET WORSE

You will likely begin reading before you have learned all the consonants and vowels. This is natural. In your reading, necessity will teach you the ones you've not learned. Written Thai has no spaces between words. So one difficulty in learning to read Thai is recognizing where the words begin and end. This is not always easy. It's similar to finding syllable borders in words like *replica* and *replace*. Easy if you know how, and tricky if you don't.

So relax.
task can
looking
backward
vowels and
to see which
can fit together.

any language with
text. Usually when
the letters *a n t* we
sounds, we see an
We encounter this
p-ant and *r-ant* and
places. By seeing a
sounds, we move
discover these rich



we
do not
image of
image again
eleph-ant and
group of letters
beyond the units
visual images of the

This daunting
push you to
forward and
among the
consonants
sounds you
We do this in
hard to read
come across
see the *a-n-t*
a n t sound.
in *pl-ant* and
many other
as a blend of
of sound and
sounds we say.

Reading and reading and re-reading will help develop these rich visual images. Reading involves recognizing entire words and phrases. When you don't recognize a word you must first decipher it by looking at each letter. This is cumbersome and discouraging, but speed improves with practice. So practice. Start reading the words and phrases in this book. Keep a personal list of new words and practice reading them. You will learn them faster and improve your reading too.

Begin Reading PAGE 54

These signals show where syllables begin and end.

Seeing Tone PAGE 58

Learn these words *with* their tones. Then you'll begin to see Thai tone.

Practice Words PAGE 60

A 300 word dictionary plus numbers, colors, months, days, cooking methods, ingredients, Thai towns, common signs, and the names of the consonants.

Font Folio PAGE 97

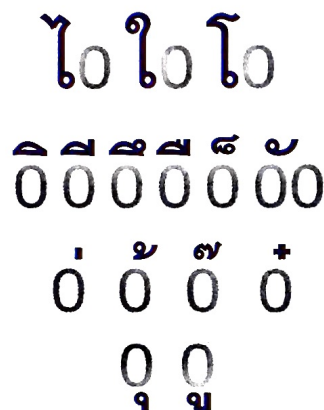
Find the details that make each letter unique. Learn to read the fonts used in magazines and ads.

Reading

Begin Reading

Thai is written in a long stream of letters. It has no spaces between words. A space marks the end of a sentence or phrase. To begin reading, you must find where the syllables begin and end. Thai has many signals to help you do this.

First look for marks that extend beyond the tops & bottoms of the consonants. These always signal the *initial* consonant.



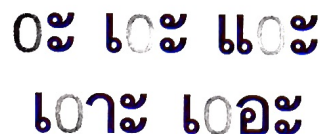
The marks in the top row sit in front of the *initial* consonant; the other marks sit above or below the *initial* consonant.

Next look for marks that always begin or end a syllable.

These vowel marks are always in front of the *initial* consonant. You'll see these often.



This mark ๕ always ends the syllable.



Then look for consonants that are always *initial*.

These five are never *final*.

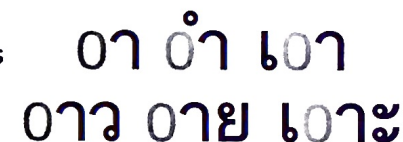


Clusters are always at the beginning of the syllable. PAGE 48

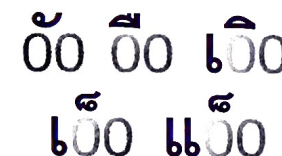


And then look for these vowels.

This mark ๑ always points to the *initial* consonant.



These vowels are *medial*. The two consonants oo are always the *initial* and *final* consonants.



These two compound vowels can be *medial* or *final*. All of the other compound vowels are always *final*. PAGE 40



Syllable Borders

These two pages have examples of how to find the syllable borders. It uses information presented on pages 54 & 55.

สวัสดีค่ะ sa wat dii kà
HELLO
① ② ③ ④

These vowels and tone marks sit above the *initial* consonant.

- ① 0|0 ส This unwritten *final -a* is found between two syllables of the same word. PAGE 39
- ② |00| วัส The ˊ straddles the *initial* and *final* consonants.
- ③ |0 ี ดี The ˊ sits above the *initial* consonant.
- ④ |0 ้ ค่ะ Tone marks sit above the *initial* consonant.

The tone of syllable ② shows the tone shift explained on page 51.

อ่านภาษาไทยสนุก aān paa sǎa tai sǎa nǔk
READING THAI IS FUN
① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥

- ① |อ่ อ่าน Tone marks sit above the *initial* consonant.
- ② |อ ภา The ˊ points to the *initial* consonant.
- ③ |อ ษา The ˊ points to the *initial* consonant.
- ④ |ไ ไทย The ไ sticks up at the beginning of the syllable.
- ⑤ 0|0 ส This begins a new word. It includes the unwritten *final -a* PAGE 39
- ⑥ |อ ุ นุก The ˊ sits under the *initial* consonant.

The tone of syllable ⑥ shows the tone shift explained on page 51.

Seeing Tone

Use these words as tone models. They'll help you see tone. Words spelled like the model will have the same tone. So once you know that **ขาว** WHITE has a rising tone, you'll know that **สาม** THREE also has a rising tone.

ใจ jai
HEART

ขาว kaao
WHITE

คน kon
PERSON

ปิด bpit
OFF

ถูก tuuk
CHEAP

ยาก yaak
DIFFICULT

ไก่ gai
CHICKEN

ไข่ kai
EGG

ไม่ mai
NO

ได้ daai
ABLE TO

ข้าว kaao
RICE

ช้าง chaang
ELEPHANT

Nasal consonants form clusters with **ห**

They form these clusters to gain its golden tone. PAGE 49

ไหม mai
QUESTION WORD

หยุด yut
STOP

ใหม่ mai
NEW

ไหม้ mai
BURNT

Looking at the Tone Chart

Notice how the **red** & **gold** tones are usually the same — except the **golden** CONTINUOUS when it forms the rising tone.

Notice how the low tones are grouped together.

—	↗	—	CONTINUE
↘	↘	↘	STOP
↘	↘	↘	↘
↘	↘	↘	↘

Notice the falling tones at the bottom and near the center.

These Thai tone marks are rare. You'll see them in nicknames, recent imports, and words that imitate sounds.

The two middle lines of the Tone Chart are almost the same. Except for the **black** consonants, which shift tone between the long and short vowels in a very natural way:

In Thai the falling tone starts high and then falls. So when a syllable has a *short vowel* and a *falling tone*, it will stay high because it doesn't have enough time to fall.

Reading Practice

Once you learn the Thai consonants and vowels, start reading these 300 common words. The **red** and **gold** consonants are in color, but only when they're *initial*. You could also use this list as a tiny English-Thai dictionary.

Practice by reading the Thai words.

1. Speak each word — with the tone.
2. Read a page and immediately read it again.
3. Use each word in a sentence or phrase.
4. Learn to recognize the whole word.

Practice by writing the Thai words.

Writing the words helps you learn them.

1. Look at the English and write the Thai.
2. Speak each word while you write it.

Every Thai word has tone.

Speaking Thai can feel a lot like singing. So if you're not singing, you're probably not speaking Thai.

Always know the tone.

Always know the tone. Know it when you speak, and know it when you read, and know it when you write.

By always knowing the tone, the tone becomes natural. It becomes a part of the word. So when you see a word, you can hear its tone.

dtrong-kaam
ACROSS FROM

dtoun-baai
AFTERNOON

aa-gaai
AIR

kruang-bin
AIRPLANE

sa-naam-bin
AIRPORT

groot
ANGRY

keen
ARM

maa-tung
ARRIVE

lap
ASLEEP

dtuan
AWAKE

op
BAKED

gluai
BANANA

ตรงข้าม

ตอนบ่าย

อากาศ

เครื่องบิน

สนามบิน

โกรธ

แขน

มาถึง

หลับ

ตื่น

อบ

กล้วย

ธนาคาร

ย่าง

ห้องน้ำ

หาดทราย

สวย

ห้องนอน

เนื้อ

เบียร์

ข้างหลัง

ดีที่สุด

ดีกว่า

ระหว่าง

ta-naa-kaan
BANK

yaang
BARBECUED

hwaang-naam
BATHROOM

haat-sai
BEACH

sua
BEAUTIFUL

hwaang-nuan
BEDROOM

nea
BEEF

bia
BEER

kaang-laang
BEHIND

dii tui-sut
BEST

dii guaa
BETTER

ra-waang
BETWEEN

yai
BIG

sii dam
BLACK

sii naam-ngan
BLUE

rua
BOAT

dtom
BOILED

naang-sam
BOOK

ba
BORED

kuat
BOTTLE

kaang-laang
AT THE BOTTOM

chaam
BOWL

aa-haan chaao
BREAKFAST

pui-chaai
OLDER BROTHER

ใหญ่

สีดำ

สีน้ำเงิน

เรือ

ต้ม

หนังสือ

เบื่อ

ขวด

ข้างล่าง

ชาม

อาหารเช้า

พี่ชาย

น้องชาย

รถเมล์

ใจเย็น

ได้

ได้ไหม

รถยนต์

จับ

เด็ก

พริก

ถูก

ไก่

จีน

nǒng-chaai
YOUNGER BROTHER

rōt-mee
BUS

jai-yen
CALM

daai
CAN, GET

daai-mai
CAN YOU...?

rōt-yon
CAR

jāp
CATCH

dēk
CHILD

prik
CHILI

tuuk
CHEAP

gai
CHICKEN

jiin
CHINESE

sā-āat
CLEAN

naa-li-gaa
CLOCK

bpit
CLOSED, OFF

sā-paa
CLOTHES

mēek
CLOUD

gaa-fēe
COFFEE

naao
COLD

sii
COLOR

bpra-teet
COUNTRY

muang
COUNTRY

bpuu
CRAB

tuay
CUP

สะอาด

นาฬิกา

ปิด

เสื้อผ้า

เมฆ

กาแฟ

หนาว

สี

ประเทศ

เมือง

ปู

ถ้วย

แกง

gɛɛng
CURRY

ตัด

dtat
CUT

เต้น

dteen
DANCE

ลูกสาว

luuk-sáo
DAUGHTER

วัน

wan
DAY

อร่อย

ǎ-rǎi
DELICIOUS

โต๊ะทำงาน

dtó-tam-ngaan
DESK

อาหารเย็น

aa-haán yen
DINNER

ทาง

taang
DIRECTION, WAY

สกปรก

sók-ga-bp̄rok
DIRTY

เคย

kəoi
DONE IT

ประตู

bp̄ra-dtuu
DOOR

long
DOWN

waat
DRAW [A PICTURE]

dm̄m
DRINK

káp
DRIVE

kaai-yaa
DRUG STORE

hɛɛng
DRY

bp̄et
DUCKS [ON A POND]

taan
EAT [FORMAL]

gin
EAT

kai
EGG

sǎ-taan-tuut
EMBASSY

waàng-bplǎo
EMPTY

ลง

วาด

ดื่ม

ขับ

ขายยา

แห้ง

เป็ด

ทาน

กิน

ไข่

สถานทูต

ว่างเปล่า

อังกฤษ
ทางเข้า
ตอนเย็น
ทุก
ตื่นเต้น
ทางออก
แพง
ตา
ครอบครัว
อ้วน
พ่อ
ปลา

ang-grít
ENGLISH
taang-kaáo
ENTRANCE
dtóon-yen
EVENING
túk
EVERY
dtéén-dtén
EXCITED
taang-wáik
EXIT
pɛɛng
EXPENSIVE
dtaa
EYE
kròp-krua
FAMILY
uán
FAT
pǎw
FATHER
bplaa
FISH

chán-háa
FIFTH FLOOR
dǎwk-mái
FLOWER
táao
FOOT
róm
FORK
kaáo-pát
FRIED RICE
tǎwt
DEEP FRIED
pát
STIR FRIED
phán
FRIEND
pón-la-mái
FRUIT
dtem
FULL
gɛɛo
GLASS
bpai
GO

ชั้นห้า
ดอกไม้
เท้า
ล้อม
ข้าวผัด
ทอด
ผัด
เพื่อน
ผลไม้
เต็ม
แก้ว
ไป

ไปเที่ยว

ตรงไป

ดี

เก่ง

สีเขียว

สีเทา

ย่าง

ฝรั่ง

มือ

ความสุข

หัว

สูง

bpai-tiào
GO OUT

dtrong-bpai
GO STRAIGHT

dii
GOOD

geeng
GOOD AT

sii kiao
GREEN

sii tao
GREY

yaang
GRILLED

fa-rang
GUAVA

มื
HAND

kuaam-suk
HAPPINESS

hua
HEAD

suung
HIGH, TALL

baan
HOME

roong-pa-yaa-baan
HOSPITAL

ร้อน
HOT

roong-reem
HOTEL

chua-moong
HOUR

tao-rai
HOW MUCH

jep
HURT, PAIN

saa-mii
HUSBAND

naam-keeng
ICE

nai
IN

kaang-nai
INSIDE

iik song wan
IN 2 DAYS

บ้าน

โรงพยาบาล

ร้อน

โรงแรม

ชั่วโมง

เท่าไร

เจ็บ

สามี

น้ำแข็ง

ใน

ข้างใน

อีกสองวัน

ข้างหน้า

ครัว

มีด

ภาษา

หัวเราะ

ออกไป

ซ้าย

ทางซ้าย

ขา

ฟัง

เล็ก

พักอยู่

kaang-naa
IN FRONT

krua
KITCHEN

mít
KNIFE

paa-saa
LANGUAGE

húa-rǐ
LAUGH

wǎk-bpai
LEAVE

sāi
LEFT

taang-sāi
LEFT SIDE

káa
LEG

fang
LISTEN

lèk
LITTLE

pāk-yūn
STAY AT

hòng-naṅ-leèn
LIVING ROOM

yao
LONG

feen
LOVED ONE

dām
LOW

aa-haan tiāng
LUNCH

nīt-dā-ya-saan
MAGAZINE

mā-muāng
MANGO

maak
MANY

laai-krang
MANY TIMES

pēen-tii
MAP

dā-laāt
MARKET

pūn-chaai
MAN

ห้องนั่งเล่น

ยาว

แฟน

ต่ำ

อาหารเที่ยง

นิตยสาร

มะม่วง

มาก

หลายครั้ง

แผนที่

ตลาด

ผู้ชาย

เที่ยงคืน
นาที
เดือน
พระจันทร์
มากกว่า
ตอนเช้า
แม่
ปาก
ผงชูรส
โรงหนัง
เน็คไท
ใหม่

tiāng-khuen
MIDNIGHT

naa-tii
MINUTE [TIME]

duan
MONTH

p̄ra-jan
MOON

māak-guāa
MORE

dtɔɔn-chāao
MORNING

mēē
MOTHER

b̄paak
MOUTH

poŋg-chuu-r̄ot
MSG

roong-nāng
MOVIE THEATER

n̄ek-tai
NECKTIE

māi
NEW

nāng-sūn-pim
NEWSPAPER

dtit-gāp
NEXT TO

b̄pit
OFF

gāo
OLD [THING]

gēē
OLD [PERSON]

b̄p̄wat
ON, OPEN

krāng-diāo
ONE TIME

r̄u
OR

sòm
ORANGES

sii sòm
ORANGE COLOR

nāam-sòm
ORANGE JUICE

tam-mā-daa
ORDINARY

หนังสือพิมพ์

ติดกับ

ปิด

เก่า

แก่

เปิด

ครั้งเดียว

หรือ

ส้ม

สีส้ม

น้ำส้ม

ธรรมดา

ข้างนอก

เหนือ

จอดรถ

ปากกา

ดินสอ

คน

ชิ้นละ

สับปะรด

สีชมพู

สถานที่

จาน

เล่น

kaang-nòk
OUTSIDE

n̄ua
OVER, ABOVE

jw̄t-r̄ot
PARK CAR

bpaak-gaa
INK PEN

din-s̄w̄
PENCIL

kon
PEOPLE

ch̄in-la
PER PIECE

s̄ap-bpa-r̄ot
PINEAPPLE

s̄ii chom-puu
PINK

s̄a-taan-t̄i
PLACE, SITE

jaan
PLATE

l̄een
PLAY

jon
POOR

mun
PORK

bprai-s̄a-nii
POST OFFICE

ḡot
PRESS (BUTTON)

raa-kaa
PRICE

dung
PULL

s̄ii muang
PURPLE

plak
PUSH

s̄ai
PUT

mai
QUESTION WORD

wit-ta-yū
RADIO

f̄on-d̄tok
RAIN

จน

หมู

ไปรษณีย์

กด

ราคา

ดึง

สีม่วง

ผลัก

ใส่

ไหม

วิทยุ

ฝนตก

เงาะ

อ่าน

สีแดง

ตู้เย็น

ร้านอาหาร

ข้าว

รวย

ขี่

ขวา

ทางขวา

วิ่ง

เศร้า

ngw
RAMBUTAN

aan
READ

sii deeng
RED

dtuu-yen
REFRIGERATOR

raan-aa-haan
RESTAURANT

kaao
RICE

ruay
RICH

kii
RIDE [BICYCLE]

kuaa
RIGHT

taang-kuaa
RIGHT SIDE

wing
RUN

sao
SAD

glua
SALT

roong-rian
SCHOOL

bwai-krang
SEVERAL TIMES

sua-chwat
SHIRT

roong-tao
SHOES

dtia
SHORT [HEIGHT]

sán
SHORT [LENGTH]

gaang-geeng-kaa-san
SHORTS

aap-naam
SHOWER

gung
SHRIMP

mai sabai
SICK

roong-pleeng
SING

เกลือ

โรงเรียน

บ่อยครั้ง

เสื้อเชิ้ต

รองเท้า

เตี้ย

สั้น

กางเกงขาสั้น

อาบน้ำ

กุ้ง

ไม่สบาย

ร้องเพลง

เงาะ
อ่าน
สีแดง
ตู้เย็น
ร้านอาหาร
ข้าว
รวย
ขี่
ขวา
ทางขวา
วิ่ง
เศร้า

ngó
RAMBUTAN
aan
READ
sǐi dɛɛng
RED
dtuu-yen
REFRIGERATOR
raan-aa-haan
RESTAURANT
kaao
RICE
ruay
RICH
kii
RIDE [BICYCLE]
ku'aa
RIGHT
taang-ku'aa
RIGHT SIDE
wiing
RUN
sao
SAD

glua
SALT
roong-rian
SCHOOL
bǝi-krang
SEVERAL TIMES
sha-chwat
SHIRT
roong-tao
SHOES
dtia
SHORT [HEIGHT]
san
SHORT [LENGTH]
gaang-geeng-kaa-san
SHORTS
aap-naam
SHOWER
gung
SHRIMP
mai sabai
SICK
roong-pleeng
SING

เกลือ
โรงเรียน
บ่อยครั้ง
เสื้อเชิ้ต
รองเท้า
เตี้ย
สั้น
กางเกงขาสั้น
อาบน้ำ
กุ่ม
ไม่สบาย
ร้องเพลง

พี่สาว
น้องสาว
นอน
กระโปรง
รถไฟฟ้า
เล็ก
ถุงเท้า
ลูกชาย
เปรี้ยว
พูด
ช้อน
ดาว

pīi-sáo
OLDER SISTER
nǎwng-sáo
YOUNGER SISTER
นอน
SLEEP
grǎ-bproong
SKIRT
rót-fai-fāa
SKYTRAIN
lék
SMALL
túng-tǎo
SOCKS
luúk-chaai
SON
bpriào
SOUR
puut
SPEAK
chǎwn
SPOON
daao
STAR [IN THE SKY]

sǎ-taa-nii
STATION
nǎng
STEAMED
jǔwt-tii-nii
STOP HERE
kǎng-reeng
STRONG
rian
STUDY
prǎ-aa-tit
SUN
deet-jat
SUNNY
wǎan
SWEET
wǎi-naam
SWIM
suung
TALL
rót-tek-sii
TAXI
naam-chaa
TEA

สถานี
นั่ง
จอดที่นี่
แข็งแรง
เรียน
พระอาทิตย์
แดดจัด
หวาน
ว่ายนํ้า
สูง
รถแท็กซี่
น้ำชา

ครู
โทรศัพท์
อาหารไทย
นั้น
โน้น
ผอม
นี้
โยน
ตั๋ว
เวลา
เหนื่อย
ปิ้ง

kruu
TEACHER
too-ra-sǎp
TELEPHONE
aa-háan tai
THAI FOOD
nǎn
THAT (NEAR)
nóon
THAT (FAR)
pǎm
THIN
nǐi
THIS
yoon
THROW
dtua
TICKET
wee-laa
TIME OF DAY
nǎi
TIRED
bpǐng
TOASTED

wan-níi
TODAY
prǔng-níi
TOMORROW
kaang-bon
TOP
tiào
TRAVEL
gaang-geeng
TROUSERS
rót-ban-túk
TRUCK
liào
TURN
sǎwng-kràng
TWICE
too-ra-tát
TV
dtài
UNDER
kǔn
UP
pák
VEGETABLES

วันนี้
พรุ่งนี้
ข้างบน
เที่ยว
กางเกง
รถบรรทุก
เลี้ยว
สองครั้ง
โทรทัศน์
ใต้
ขึ้น
ผัก

เดิน

อยาก

ซัก

น้ำ

แตงโม

ดู

ใส่

อาทิตย์

เปียก

อะไร

เมื่อไหร่

ไปไหน

dəən
WALK

yaak
WANT

sak
WASH CLOTHES

naam
WATER

dεeng-moo
WATERMELON

duu
WATCH / SEE

sai
WEAR, PUT IN

aa-tit
WEEK

bplak
WET

ā-rai
WHAT

māa-rai
WHEN

bpai-nai
WHERE' YA' OFF TO?

bpai-nai
GO WHERE?

yuu-tii-nai
WHERE IS IT?

sii kaao
WHITE

pan-ra-yaa
WIFE

ja
WILL

naa-dtaang
WINDOW

lom
WIND

puu-ying
WOMAN

tam-ngaan
WORK

kian
WRITE

bpii
YEAR

māa-wan-nii
YESTERDAY

ไปไหน

อยู่ที่ไหน

สีขาว

ภรรยา

จะ

หน้าต่าง

ลม

ผู้หญิง

ทำงาน

เขียน

ปี

เมื่อวานนี้

Numbers

0	๐	ศูนย์	suun
1	๑	หนึ่ง	nhing
2	๒	สอง	sóng
3	๓	สาม	sáam
4	๔	สี่	sii
5	๕	ห้า	hàa
6	๖	หก	hok
7	๗	เจ็ด	jēt
8	๘	แปด	bp̄ēt
9	๙	เก้า	gaào
10	๑๐	สิบ	sip

Colors

สี	sii	COLOR
สีดำ	sii-dam	BLACK
สีขาว	sii-kaáo	WHITE
สีแดง	sii-deeng	RED
สีฟ้า	sii-faa	LIGHT BLUE, SKY BLUE
สีน้ำเงิน	sii-naam-ngen	DARK BLUE
สีเขียว	sii-kíao	GREEN
สีเหลือง	sii-luáng	YELLOW
สีน้ำตาล	sii-naam-dtaan	BROWN

Months

มกราคม คม

กรกฎาคม คม

กุมภาพันธ์ พันธ์

สิงหาคม คม

มีนาคม คม

กันยายน ยน

เมษายน ยน

ตุลาคม คม

พฤษภาคม คม

พฤศจิกายน ยน

มิถุนายน ยน

ธันวาคม คม

January mā-gā-raa kom
February gum-paa pan
March mii-naa kom
April mee-sāa yon
May prūt-sā-paa kom
June mi-tū-naa yon

July gā-rā-gā-daa kom
August sīng-hāa kom
September gan-yaa yon
October dtū-laa kom
November prūt-sā-jī-gaa yon
December tan-waa kom

Days

วัน อาทิตย์ S

วัน จันทร์ M

วัน อังคาร T

วัน พุธ W

วัน พฤหัสบดี T

วัน ศุกร์ F

วัน เสาร์ S

wan aa-tīt Sunday
wan jan Monday
wan ang-kaan Tuesday
wan pūt Wednesday
wan pā-rū-hāt (sā-bwa-dii) Thursday
wan sūk Friday
wan sāo Saturday

Cooking Methods

Combine the cooking methods with some ingredients and you'll have the names of many Thai dishes.

ข้าวต้ม kaào dtòm
RICE SOUP

ข้าวผัดไก่ kaào păt gǎi
CHICKEN FRIED RICE

ต้ม

ผัด

ย่าง

นึ่ง

ทอด

ปิ้ง

ดิบ

อบ

เผา

dtòm
BOILED

păt
FRIED

yaang
GRILLED

nging
STEAMED

tot
DEEP FRIED

ping
TOASTED

dip
RAW

op
BAKED

pao
BARBEQUED

Ingredients

หมู

ไก่

เนื้อ

เป็ด

ปลา

mūu
PORK

gai
CHICKEN

nea
BEEF

pet
DUCK

plaa
FISH

ปู

กุ้ง

ไข่

ข้าว

แกง

bpuu
CRAB

gung
SHRIMP

kai
EGG

kaao
RICE

geeng
CURRY

เกลือ

พริก

มะม่วง

ผัก

บะหมี่

glua
SALT

prik
CHILI

ma-muang
MANGO

pak
VEGETABLES

ba-mii
EGG NOODLE

Thai Towns

เชียงใหม่

อยุธยา

เชียงราย

กาญจนบุรี

แม่ฮ่องสอน

ทิวทัน

ยโสธร

ชุมพร

อุบลราชธานี

กระบี่

สุโขทัย

เกาะสมุย

chiang-mǎi

chiang-raai

mǎe-hǒng-sǒn

yá-sǒo-tǒn

ū-bon-raat-cha-taa-nii

sū-kǒo-tai

ā-yut-tā-yaa

gaan-jā-nā-bū-rii

húa-hín

chum-poon

grā-bii

gǔw-sā-mui

Signs

บาท

หญิง

ชาย

ราคา

ดึง

ผลัก

ขายยา

เปิด

ปิด

กด

เข้า

ออก

โทร

ห้าม

จอดรถ

baat
BAHT

raa-kaa
PRICE

kaai-yaa
DRUG STORE

gōt
PRESS

too (ra-sāp)
PHONE

yīng
WOMEN

dhng
PULL

bpwāt
OPEN

kāo
ENTRANCE

haam
NOT ALLOWED

chaai
MEN

plak
PUSH

bpit
CLOSED

wāk
EXIT

jwāt-rōt
PARKING

Oral Alphabet

These are the traditional names for the consonants taught in school and often used when spelling words verbally.

gai
CHICKEN

kai
EGG

kwaai
BUFFALO

fa-kang
TEMPLE BELL

nguu
SNAKE

jaan
PLATE

ching
CYMBAL

chaang
ELEPHANT

soo
CHAIN

chəə
TREE

ying
WOMAN

cha-daa
CROWN

bpa-dtak
SPEAR

taan
PLATFORM

mon-too
QUEEN MONTHO

puu-tao
OLD MAN

neen
YOUNG MONK

dek
CHILD

dtao
TURTLE

tung
BAG

fa-haan
SOLDIER

tong
FLAG

nuu
MOUSE

bai-maai
LEAF

bplaa
FISH

pung
BELL

faa
LID

paan
OFFERING TRAY

fan
TOOTH

sam-pao
SAMPAN

maa
HORSE

yak
GIANT

rua
BOAT

ling
MONKEY

ween
RING

saa-laa
PAVILION

ruu-sii
HERMIT

sua
TIGER

hiip
BOX

ju-laa
KITE

aang
BASIN

nok-huuk
OWL

ก ไก่

ข ไข่

ค ควาก

ฅ ฅม

ด ดู

จ จาน

ฉ ฉิ่ง

ช ช้าง

ซ โซ่

ฌ ฌอ

ฎ นลิง

ฉ ฉวาง

ฌ ปฏัก

ฐ ฐาน

ท มนโท

ฒ ผู้เฒ่า

ด เดธ

ด เด็ก

ด เต่า

ด ดุง

ท ทนาร

ด ดง

น นนุ

บ ใบไม้

ป ปลา

ผ ผิ่ง

ผ ผา

พ พาน

ฟ ฟัน

ภ สำเภา

ม ม้า

ง งัก

ร เรือ

ล ลิง

ว แฉว

ด ดาลา

ช ฉา

น เฉื่อ

น นีบ

พ จุฬ

อ อ่าง

ธ นกธ

๑

ก ก ล จ ม ท บ พ

Jarin

PAGE 98

ก ท ล จ ม ท บ พ

Mittrapap

PAGE 99

ก ด ล จ ม ท บ พ

Asadong

PAGE 100

ก ด ล จ ม ท บ พ

Pattriya

PAGE 101

ก ด ล จ ม ท บ พ

Passanum

PAGE 102

ก ด ล จ ม ท บ พ

Isara

PAGE 103

ก ท ล จ ม ท บ พ

Majestic

PAGE 104

ก ท ล จ ม ท บ พ

Yaowarat

PAGE 105

ก ท ล จ ม ท บ พ

Script

PAGE 106

ก ด ล จ ม ท บ พ

Kittitada

PAGE 107

Font folio

၂_{dt}

Jarin

၂_y

၂_d

၂_n

၂_p

၂_g

၂_t

၂_{ch}

၂_s

၂_k

၂_d

၂_{dt}

၂_t

၂_t

၂_r

၂_w

၂_l

၂_s

၂_h

၂_y

၂_၁

၂_j

၂_{ng}

၂_t

၂_m

၂_n

၂_{ch}

၂_k

၂_t

၂_h

၂_t

၂_k

၂_{ch}

၂_s

၂_b

၂_{bp}

၂_s

၂_f

၂_p

၂_p

၂_f

၂_l

၂_{dt}

Mittrapap

၂_y

၂_d

၂_n

၂_p

၂_g

၂_t

၂_{ch}

၂_s

၂_k

၂_d

၂_{dt}

၂_t

၂_t

၂_r

၂_w

၂_l

၂_s

၂_h

၂_y

၂_၁

၂_j

၂_{ng}

၂_t

၂_m

၂_n

၂_{ch}

၂_k

၂_t

၂_h

၂_t

၂_k

၂_{ch}

၂_s

၂_b

၂_{bp}

၂_s

၂_f

၂_p

၂_p

၂_f

၂_l

ဂ _{dt}	Asadong				လ _y
ဂ _d					လ _n
ဂ _p		ဂ _g	ဂ _t		လ _{ch}
ဧ _s	က _k	ဂ _d	ဂ _{dt}		လ _t
စ _t	စ _r	ခ _w	လ _l	ဧ _s	
စ _h	ယ _y	ဝ _o	ဂ _j	ဝ _{ng}	ဥ _t
	မ _m	မ _n	ဂ _{ch}		ပ _k
	ဂ _t	ဧ _h			တ _t
	ပ _k	ဝ _{ch}			ဝ _s
	ပ _b	ပ _{bp}			ဗ _s
ဖ _f	ဖ _p	ဖ _p	ဖ _f		ဖ _l

ဂ _{dt}	Pattriya				လ _y
ဂ _d					လ _n
ဂ _p		ဂ _g	ဂ _t		လ _{ch}
ဧ _s	က _k	ဂ _d	ဂ _{dt}		လ _t
စ _t	စ _r	ခ _w	လ _l	ဧ _s	
စ _h	ယ _y	ဝ _o	ဂ _j	ဝ _{ng}	ဥ _t
	မ _m	မ _n	ဂ _{ch}		မ _k
	တ _t	ဧ _h			တ _t
	ပ _k	ဝ _{ch}			ဝ _s
	ပ _b	ပ _{bp}			ဗ _s
ဖ _f	ဖ _p	ဖ _p	ဖ _f		ဖ _l

Passanum

၂ _{dt}		၂ _y
၂ _d		၂ _n
၂ _p	၂ _g ၂ _t	၂ _{ch}
၂ _s	၂ _k ၂ _d ၂ _{dt}	၂ _t
၂ _t ၂ _r ၂ _w ၂ _l ၂ _s		
၂ _h ၂ _y ၂ _o ၂ _j ၂ _{ng}	၂ _t	
	၂ _m ၂ _n ၂ _{ch} ၂ _k	
	၂ _t ၂ _h ၂ _t	
	၂ _k ၂ _{ch} ၂ _s	
	၂ _b ၂ _{bp} ၂ _s	
၂ _f	၂ _p ၂ _p ၂ _f	၂ _l

Isara

၂ _{dt}		၂ _y
၂ _d		၂ _n
၂ _p	၂ _g ၂ _t	၂ _{ch}
၂ _s	၂ _k ၂ _d ၂ _{dt}	၂ _t
၂ _t ၂ _r ၂ _w ၂ _l ၂ _s		
၂ _h ၂ _y ၂ _o ၂ _j ၂ _{ng}	၂ _t	
	၂ _m ၂ _n ၂ _{ch} ၂ _k	
	၂ _t ၂ _h ၂ _t	
	၂ _k ၂ _{ch} ၂ _s	
	၂ _b ၂ _{bp} ၂ _s	
၂ _f	၂ _p ၂ _p ၂ _f	၂ _l

ᳵ _{dt}	Majestic				ᳶ _y
ᳶ _d					᳷ _n
᳷ _p			᳸ _g	᳹ _t	ᳺ _{ch}
ᳺ _s	᳻ _k	᳼ _d	᳽ _{dt}		᳾ _t
᳽ _t	᳾ _r	᳿ _w	᳠ _l	᳡ _s	
᳡ _h	᳢ _y	᳣ _o	᳤ _j	᳥ _{ng}	᳦ _t
			᳧ _m	᳨ _n	ᳩ _{ch}
			ᳫ _t	ᳬ _h	᳭ _t
			ᳮ _k	ᳯ _{ch}	ᳱ _s
			ᳲ _b	ᳳ _{bp}	᳴ _s
ᳵ _f	ᳶ _p	᳷ _p	᳸ _f		᳹ _l

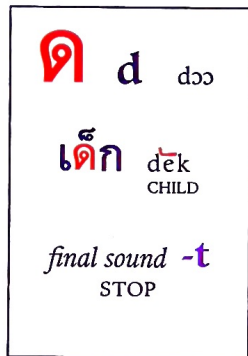
 _{dt}	Yaowarat				 _y	
 _d					 _n	
 _p		 _g	 _t		 _{ch}	
 _s	 _k	 _d	 _{dt}		 _t	
 _t	 _r	 _w	 _l	 _s		
 _h	 _y	 _o	 _j	 _{ng}	 _t	
			 _m	 _n	 _{ch}	 _k
			 _t	 _h		 _t
			 _k	 _{ch}		 _s
			 _b	 _{bp}		 _s
 _f	 _p	 _p	 _f		 _l	

Script					
ᨗ _{dt}					ᨙ _y
ᨚ _d					ᨛ _n
᨜ _p		᨞ _g	᨟ _t		᨝ _{ch}
ᨡ _s	ᨢ _k	ᨣ _d	ᨤ _{dt}		ᨦ _t
ᨨ _t	ᨩ _r	ᨪ _w	ᨫ _l	ᨬ _s	
ᨭ _h	ᨮ _y	ᨯ _o	ᨰ _j	ᨱ _{ng}	ᨲ _t
	ᨴ _m	ᨵ _n	ᨶ _{ch}		ᨷ _k
	ᨹ _t	ᨺ _h			ᨻ _t
	ᨼ _k	ᨽ _{ch}			ᨾ _s
	ᨿ _b	ᩀ _{bp}		ᩁ _s	
ᩃ _f	ᩄ _p	ᩅ _p	ᩆ _f		ᩇ _l

Kittitada					
ᨗ _{dt}					ᨙ _y
ᨚ _d					ᨛ _n
᨜ _p		᨞ _g	᨟ _t		᨝ _{ch}
ᨡ _s	ᨢ _k	ᨣ _d	ᨤ _{dt}		ᨦ _t
ᨨ _t	ᨩ _r	ᨪ _w	ᨫ _l	ᨬ _s	
ᨭ _h	ᨮ _y	ᨯ _o	ᨰ _j	ᨱ _{ng}	ᨲ _t
	ᨴ _m	ᨵ _n	ᨶ _{ch}		ᨷ _k
	ᨹ _t	ᨺ _h			ᨻ _t
	ᨼ _k	ᨽ _{ch}			ᨾ _s
	ᨿ _b	ᩀ _{bp}		ᩁ _s	
ᩃ _f	ᩄ _p	ᩅ _p	ᩆ _f		ᩇ _l

Flash Cards

These flash cards use the same system as this book and are available at www.readthai.com They include much of the information you'll need to begin reading Thai.



Consonant Card

Learn the **color** of the consonants. They can be red, gold, or black. You'll need to know the color to find the tone. PAGE 46

This is the **name** used when spelling Thai words verbally. PAGE 94

The **initial** sound and **final** sound are often different. **ด** sounds like **d-** when it's **initial**, and **-t** when it's **final**. PAGE 43

Does the **final** STOP or CONTINUE? This helps determine tone. PAGE 45

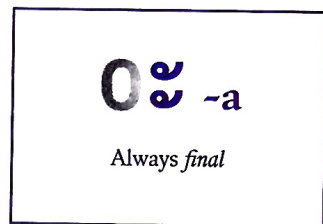
Vowels can be **long** or **short** PAGE 36

Long vowels are romanized with a double letter: **aa**

Short vowels are romanized with a single letter: **a**

Long **final** vowels CONTINUE
Short **final** vowels STOP PAGE 45

Vowels that are **always medial** or **always final** help you find the syllable borders. PAGES 38 & 54



Vowel Card

Afterword

On writing this book

While learning to read Thai, I created many many charts to help me learn. I kept the useful ones and kept making them better. This book combines those charts and explains how to use them. I've attempted to keep the material as simple and as complete as possible.

Acknowledgements

Many people helped with this book. I'll mention only three. Barry Natusch, whose expertise and advice showed me this book was on the right track. Elizabeth Olmsted, whose pithy observations helped the book appeal to a wider audience. And Pannapa Permpoon, whose knowledge of all things Thai kept the information accurate, while her unwavering encouragement pushed me to finish.

Two good dictionaries and a great children's book

Thai-English Dictionary, Domnarn-Sathienpong, Amarin Printing and Publishing, Thailand, 1999

Thai-English English-Thai Dictionary, Benjawan Poomsan Becker, Paiboon Publishing, Thailand, 2002

Ten Little Ants, Chewan Wisasa, Amarin Printing and Publishing, Thailand, 1998

เขียนภาษาไทยสนุกมาก

Thai Vowels

a ah o old u oops i eel ห yurt
 ๑ awl ๑ up e egg ๑ at

aa	๑	-a	๑๑	-a-	๑๑
oo	๑	-o	๑๑	-o-	๑๑
uu	๑	u	๑	-ua-	๑๑
ii	๑	i	๑		
-หห	๑	ห	๑	-หห-	๑๑
๑๑	๑	-๑	๑๑		
-๑๑	๑	-๑	๑๑	-๑๑-	๑๑
๑๑	๑	-๑	๑๑	-๑-	๑๑
๑๑	๑	-๑	๑๑	-๑-	๑๑

๑ -ai	๑ -ai	๑๑ -ai
๑ -am		๑๑ -ai
๑ -ao	๑ -aao	๑๑ -aai
		๑๑ -ooi
๑ -ua	๑ -ui	๑๑ -uay
๑ -iu	๑๑ ia	๑๑ -iao
	๑๑ ห	๑๑ -hay
๑ ห, ri, r๑		๑๑ -๑๑i
๑ -eo	๑ -eeo	๑๑ -๑๑i
๑ -๑๑o		๑๑ -๑๑n
		๑๑ -an, -a-

Thai Consonants

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ก _g	ข _k	ค _k	ฅ _k	ง _{ng}
จ _j	ฉ _{ch}	ช _{ch}	ซ _s	ฌ _{ch}
ฎ _d	ฏ _{dt}	ฐ _t	ฑ _t	ฒ _t
ด _d	ต _{dt}	ถ _t	ท _t	ธ _t
บ _b	ป _{bp}	ผ _p	ฝ _f	พ _p
		ฟ _f	ภ _p	

—	↗	—	CONTINUE
└	└	└	STOP

└	└	└	└	๗	└
↘	↘	└	๘	+	↗

ค _s	ซ _s	ส _s	ห _h
อ _o			ฮ _h

Thai Consonants

ORGANIZED BY SHAPE

The more common consonants are toward the middle.

ฎ _{dt}			ญ _y
ฏ _d			ณ _n
ภ _p	ก _g	ถ _t	ฌ _{ch}
ศ _s	ค _k	ด _d	ต _{dt}
ธ _t	ร _r	ว _w	ล _l
ฮ _h	ย _y	อ _o	จ _j
			ง _{ng}
			ฐ _t
	ม _m	น _n	ฉ _{ch}
			ฅ _k
	ท _t	ห _h	ฑ _t
	ข _k	ช _{ch}	ซ _s
	บ _b	ป _{bp}	ษ _s
ฝ _f	ผ _p	พ _p	ฟ _f
			ภ _p

Most Thai consonants begin with a small loop

Consonants on the left have loops that begin like this

Consonants on the right have loops that begin like this

Thai Consonants

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

ก g ข k ค k ฅ k
 จ j ฉ ch ช ch ซ s ฌ ch
 ฎ d ฏ dt ฐ t ท t ฒ t
 ด d ต dt ถ t ฑ t ฒ t
 บ b ป bp ผ p
 ฝ f พ p ฟ f ภ p

—	↗	—	CONTINUE
└	└	└	STOP
└	└	└	└
└	└	└	└

ค s ฅ s ฌ s ห h
 อ o ฮ h

ง ng
 ญ y
 ณ n
 น n
 ม m
 ย y
 ร r
 ล l
 ว w
 ฬ l

Thai Consonants

ORGANIZED BY SHAPE

The more common consonants are toward the middle.

ฎ dt ญ y
 ฏ d ณ n
 ภ p ฌ ch
 ศ s ค k ด d ต dt ฒ t
 ฐ t ร r ว w ล l ส s
 ฮ h ย y อ o จ j ง ng ฅ t
 ม m น n ฉ ch ฅ k
 ท t ห h ท t
 ข k ช ch ซ s
 บ b ป bp ฅ s
 ฝ f ผ p พ p ฟ f ฬ l

Most Thai consonants begin with a small loop

Consonants on the left have loops that begin like this
 Consonants on the right have loops that begin like this



The Thai Alphabet was designed over 700 years ago. The design was based on writing systems that evolved from scripts out of South India. The modern alphabet has 42 consonants, four tone marks, and many vowels.

Your Fast Fun Guide to Reading Thai



This book explains the elegant Thai writing system by using large letters, color, many fonts, and easy to read tone marks and charts.

ไม māi
NOT

"*My! My!* You look *fabulous*."

ไหม māi
QUESTION
WORD

"Are you sure you want to drive *my* car?"

ใหม่ māi
NEW

"You want to eat *my* *HAT*?!"

Includes 300 word dictionary

Plus numbers, colors, months, days, food...

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"The use of color to simplify the writing system is brilliant."

"Beautifully designed."

"Easy to understand."

ISBN 978-974-9823-94-1



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