

Language

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Learning some Thai is indispensable for travel in the kingdom; naturally, the more you pick up, the closer you get to Thailand's culture and people. Your first attempts to speak Thai will probably meet with mixed success, but keep trying. Listen closely to the way the Thais themselves use the various tones – you'll catch on quickly. Don't let laughter at your linguistic forays discourage you; this apparent amusement is really an expression of appreciation. Travellers are particularly urged to make the effort to meet Thai college and university students. Thai students are, by and large, eager to meet visitors from other countries. They will often know some English, so communication isn't as difficult as it may be with shop owners, civil servants etc, and they're generally willing to teach you useful Thai words and phrases.

DIALECTS

Thailand's official language is effectively the dialect spoken and written in central Thailand, which has successfully become the lingua franca of all Thai and non-Thai ethnic groups in the kingdom.

All Thai dialects are members of the Thai half of the Thai-Kadai family of languages. As such, they're closely related to languages spoken in Laos (Lao, Northern Thai, Thai Lü), northern Myanmar (Shan, Northern Thai), northwestern Vietnam (Nung, Tho), Assam (Ahom) and pockets of south China (Zhuang, Thai Lü).

Modern Thai linguists recognise four basic dialects within Thailand: Central Thai (spoken as a first dialect through central Thailand and throughout the country as a second dialect); Northern Thai (spoken from Tak Province north to the Myanmar border); Northeastern Thai (northeastern provinces towards the Lao and Cambodian borders); and Southern Thai (from Chumphon Province south to the Malaysian border). There are also a number of Thai minority dialects such as those spoken by the Phu Thai, Thai Dam, Thai Daeng, Phu Noi, Phuan and other tribal Thai groups, most of whom reside in the north and northeast.

VOCABULARY DIFFERENCES

Like most languages, Thai distinguishes between 'polite' and 'informal' vocabulary, so that *tahn*, for example, is a more polite everyday word for 'eat' than *gin*, and *sĕe-sà* for 'head' is more polite than *hōo-a*. When given a choice, it's better to use the polite terms, since these are less likely to lead to unintentional offence.

SCRIPT

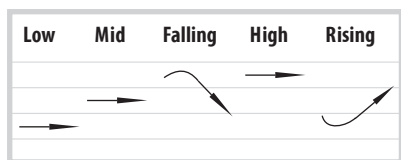
The Thai script, a fairly recent development in comparison with the spoken language, consists of 44 consonants (but only 21 separate sounds) and 48 vowel and diphthong possibilities (32 separate signs). Though learning the alphabet is not difficult, the writing system itself is fairly complex, so unless you're planning a lengthy stay in Thailand it should perhaps be foregone in favour of actually learning to speak the language. The names of major places and food items included in this book are given in both Thai and roman script, so that you can at least 'read' the names of destinations or dishes, or point to them if necessary.

TONES

In Thai the meaning of a single syllable may be altered by means of different tones – in standard Central Thai there are five: low tone, mid tone, falling tone, high tone and rising tone. For example, depending on the tone, the syllable *mái* can mean ‘new’, ‘burn’, ‘wood’, ‘not?’ or ‘not’; ponder the phrase *mái mòi mòi mòi mòi* (New wood doesn’t burn, does it?) and you begin to appreciate the importance of tones in spoken Thai. This makes it a rather tricky language to learn at first, especially for those of us unaccustomed to the concept of tones.

Even when we ‘know’ what the correct tone in Thai should be, our tendency to denote emotion, verbal stress, the interrogative etc through tone modulation often interferes with producing the correct tone. Therefore the first rule in learning to speak Thai is to divorce emotions from your speech, at least until you’ve learned the Thai way to express them without changing essential tone value.

The following is visual representation in chart form to show relative tone values:



The list below is a brief attempt to explain the tones. The only way to really understand the differences is by listening to a native or fluent non-native speaker. The range of all five tones is relative to each speaker’s vocal range so there is no fixed ‘pitch’ intrinsic to the language.

low tone – ‘Flat’ like the mid tone, but pronounced at the relative bottom of one’s vocal range. It is low, level and has no inflection, eg *bàht* (*baht* – the Thai currency).

mid tone – Pronounced ‘flat’, at the relative middle of the speaker’s vocal range, eg *dee* (good); no tone mark is used.

falling tone – Starting high and falling sharply, this tone is similar to the change in pitch in English when you are emphasising a word, or calling someone’s name from afar, eg *mái* (no/not).

high tone – Usually the most difficult for Westerners. It’s pronounced near the relative top of the vocal range, as level as possible, eg *máh* (horse).

rising tone – starting low and gradually rising, sounds like the inflection used by English speakers to imply a question – ‘Yes?’, eg *sáhm* (three).

PRONUNCIATION

The following is a guide to the phonetic system that’s been used for the words and phrases in this chapter (and throughout the rest of the book when transcribing directly from Thai). The dots indicate syllable breaks within words, including compound vowels.

Consonants

The majority of consonants correspond closely to their English counterparts. Here are a few exceptions:

- g** similar to the ‘g’ in ‘good’
- b** a hard ‘p’ sound, almost like a ‘b’; sounds something like the sound made when you say ‘hip-bag’
- đ** a hard ‘t’ sound, like a sharp ‘d’; sounds something like the sound made when you say ‘mid-tone’
- k** as the ‘k’ in ‘kite’
- p** as the ‘p’ in ‘pie’
- t** as the ‘t’ in ‘tip’
- ng** as the ‘nging’ in ‘singing’; can occur as an initial consonant (practise by saying ‘singing’ without the ‘si’)
- r** similar to the ‘r’ in ‘run’ but flapped (ie the tongue touches palate); in everyday speech it’s often pronounced like ‘l’

Vowels

- i** as in ‘bit’
- ee** as the ‘ee’ in ‘feet’
- ai** as in ‘aisle’
- ah** as the ‘a’ in ‘father’
- a** as in ‘about’; half as long as ‘ah’
- aa** as the ‘a’ in ‘bat’ or ‘tab’
- e** as in ‘hen’
- air** as in English but with no final ‘r’ sound (for American speakers)
- eu** as the ‘er’ in ‘fern’ (without the ‘r’ sound)
- u** as the ‘u’ in ‘put’
- oo** as the ‘oo’ in ‘food’
- ow** as the ‘ow’ in ‘now’
- or** as the ‘or’ in ‘torn’ (without the ‘r’ sound)
- o** as the ‘o’ in ‘hot’
- oh** as the ‘o’ in ‘toe’
- eu-a** a combination of ‘eu’ and ‘a’

ee-a	as 'ee-ya'
oo-a	as the 'our' in 'tour'
oo-ay	sounds like 'oo-way'
ew	as the 'ew' in 'new'
ee-o	as the 'io' in 'Rio'
aa-ou	like the 'a' in 'cat' followed by a short 'u' as in 'put'
eh-ou	like the 'e' in bed, followed by a short 'u' as in 'put'
oy	as the 'oi' in 'coin'

TRANSLITERATION

Writing Thai in roman script is a perennial problem – no wholly satisfactory system has yet been devised to assure both consistency and readability. The Thai government uses the Royal Thai General System of transcription for official government documents in English and for most highway signs. However, local variations crop up on hotel signs, city street signs, menus and so on in such a way that visitors often become confused. Added to this is the fact that even the government system has its flaws.

Generally, names in this book follow the most common practice or simply copy their roman script name, no matter what devious process was used in its transliteration! When this transliteration is markedly different from actual pronunciation, the pronunciation is included (according to the system outlined in this chapter) in parentheses after the transliteration. Where no roman model was available, names have been transliterated phonetically, directly from Thai.

ACCOMMODATION

I'm looking	ผม/ดิฉัน	<i>pôm/di-chăn</i>
for a ...	กำลังหา...	<i>gam-lang hăh ...</i>
guesthouse	บ้านพัก/ เกสต์เฮาส์	<i>băhn pāk/ gêst hów</i>
hotel	โรงแรม	<i>rohng raam</i>
youth hostel	บ้าน เยาวชน	<i>băhn yow-wá-čan</i>

Where is a cheap hotel?

โรงแรมที่ราคาถูกอยู่ที่ไหน
rohng raam tée rah-kah tòok yòo tée năi

What is the address?

ที่อยู่คืออะไร
tée yòo keu à-rai

Could you write the address, please?

เขียนที่อยู่ให้ฉันไหม
kĕe-an tĕe yòo hăi dăi măi

Do you have any rooms available?

มีห้องว่างไหม
mĕe hōng wăhng măi

I'd like (a) ...

อยากได้...
yăhk dăi ...

bed

เตียงนอน *đĕe-ang nom*

single room

ห้องเดี่ยว *hōng đĕe-o*

double room

ห้องคู่ *hōng koo*

room with two beds

ห้องที่มีเตียง *hōng tĕe mĕe đĕe-ang*

สองตัว

sōng đĕo-a

room with a bathroom

ห้องที่มีห้องน้ำ *hōng tĕe mĕe hōng nám*

ordinary room (with fan)

ห้องธรรมดา *hōng tam-má-*

(มีพัดลม)

dah (mĕe păt lom)

to share a dorm

พักในหอพัก *pāk nai hōr pāk*

How much is it ...? ...เท่าไร? ... tōw rai

per night คืนละ *keun lá*

per person คนละ *kon lá*

May I see the room?

ดูห้องได้ไหม
đoo hōng dăi măi

Where is the bathroom?

ห้องน้ำอยู่ที่ไหน
hōng nám yòo tĕe năi

I'm/We're leaving today.

ฉัน/พวกเราจะออกวันนี้
chăn/pôo-ak row jà òk wan nĕe

toilet ห้องส้วม/ *hōng sòo-am/*

ห้องน้ำ *hōng nám*

room ห้อง *hōng*

hot ร้อน *róm*

cold เย็น *yen*

bath/shower อาบน้ำ *àhp nám*

towel ผ้าเช็ดตัว *păh chĕt đĕo-a*

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

When being polite, the speaker ends his or her sentence with *kráp* (for men) or *ká* (for women). It is the gender of the speaker that is being expressed here; it is also the common way to answer 'yes' to a question or show agreement.

Hello. สวัสดี (ครับ/ค่ะ) *sà-wát-dee (kráp/ká)*

Goodbye. ลาก่อน *lah gòrn*

Yes. ใช่ *chái*

No. ไม่ใช่ *mái chái*

Please. ขอ *kôr*

Thank you. ขอบคุณ *kòrp kun*

That's fine. ไม่เป็นไร/ยินดี *mái ben rai/ yin-dee*
(You're welcome)

Excuse me. ขอภัย *kôr à-pai*

Sorry. (Forgive me) ขอโทษ *kôr tòht*

I'm from ... มาจาก... *mah jàhk ...*

I like ... ชอบ... *chòrp ...*

I don't like ... ไม่ชอบ... *mái chòrp ...*

Just a minute. รอเดี๋ยว *ror dèe-o*

I/me (for men) ผม *pòm*

I/me (for women) ดิฉัน *dì-chăn*

I/me (informal, men and women) นั้น *chăn*

You (for peers) คุณ *kun*

How are you?

สบายดีหรือ? *sà-bai dee rêu*

I'm fine, thanks.

สบายดี *sà-bai dee*

What's your name?

คุณชื่ออะไร? *kun chêu à-rai*

My name is ...

ผมชื่อ... *pòm chêu ... (men)*

ดิฉันชื่อ... *dì-chăn chêu ... (women)*

Where are you from?

มาจากที่ไหน *mah jàhk tée nài*

See you soon.

เดี๋ยวเจอกันนะ *dèe-o jêu gan nà*

Do you have ...?

มี...ไหม/...มีไหม? *mee ... mǎi/... mee mǎi*

SIGNS

ทางเข้า	Entrance
ทางออก	Exit
ที่ติดต่อสอบถาม	Information
เปิด	Open
ปิด	Closed
ห้าม	Prohibited
สถานีตำรวจ	Police Station
ห้องน้ำ	Toilets
ชาย	Men
หญิง	Women

(I) would like ... (+ verb)

อยากจะทำ... *yàhk jà ...*

(I) would like ... (+ noun)

อยากได้... *yàhk dái ...*

DIRECTIONS

Where is (the) ...?

...อยู่ที่ไหน? *... yò tée nài*

(Go) Straight ahead.

ตรงไป *đrong bai*

Turn left.

เลี้ยวซ้าย *lée-o sái*

Turn right.

เลี้ยวขวา *lée-o kwäh*

at the corner

ตรงมุม *đrong mum*

at the traffic lights

ตรงไฟแดง *đrong fai daang*

behind ข้างหลัง *kàhng lǎng*

in front of ตรงหน้า *đrong nàh*

far ไกล *glai*

near ใกล้ *glài*

not far ไม่ไกล *mài glai*

opposite ตรงข้าม *đrong kàhm*

left ซ้าย *sái*

right ขวา *kwäh*

beach ชายหาด *chai hàht*

bridge สะพาน *sà-pahn*

canal คลอง *klong*

countryside ชนบท *chon-ná-bòt*

hill	เขา	<i>kōw</i>
island	เกาะ	<i>gò</i>
lake	ทะเลสาบ	<i>tá-leh sàhp</i>
mountain	ภูเขา	<i>poo kōw</i>
paddy (field)	(ทุ่ง) นา	<i>(túng) nah</i>
palace	วัง	<i>wang</i>
pond	หนอง/บึง	<i>nǎng/beung</i>
river	แม่น้ำ	<i>mâi nám</i>
sea	ทะเล	<i>tá-lair</i>
temple	วัด	<i>wát</i>
town	เมือง	<i>meu-ang</i>
track	ทาง	<i>tahng</i>
village	(หมู่บ้าน)	<i>(mò) bǎhn</i>
waterfall	น้ำตก	<i>nám ðòk</i>

HEALTH

I need a (doctor).

ต้องการ (หมอ) *ðòng gahn (mǎ)*

dentist

หมอฟัน *mǎ fan*

hospital

โรงพยาบาล *rohng pá-yah-bahn*

chemist/pharmacy

ร้านขายยา *rǎhn kǎi yah*

I'm ill.

ฉันป่วย *chǎn bò-ay*

It hurts here.

เจ็บตรงนี้ *jèp ðrong née*

I'm pregnant.

ตั้งครรภ์แล้ว *ðǎng kan láa-ou*

I feel nauseous.

รู้สึกคลื่นไส้ *róo-sèuk klêun sǎi*

I have a fever.

เป็นไข้ *ben kǎi*

I have diarrhoea.

ท้องเสีย *tórng sǎe-a*

I'm ...

ผม/ดิฉัน... *pǎm/di-chǎn ...*

asthmatic

เป็นโรคหืด *ben rôhk hèut*

diabetic

เป็นโรคเบาหวาน *ben rôhk bow wǎhn*

epileptic

เป็นโรคลมบ้าหมู *ben rôhk lom bǎh mǎo*

EMERGENCIES

There's been an accident.

มีอุบัติเหตุ *mee ù-bàt-đi-hèt*

I'm lost.

ฉันหลงทาง *chǎn lǒng tahng*

Help!

ช่วยด้วย *chǎo-ay ðào-ay*

Go away!

ไปซิ *bai sí*

Stop!

หยุด *yùt!*

Call ...!

เรียก... *rée-ak ...*

หน่อย *nòy*

a doctor

หมอ *mǎo*

the police

ตำรวจ *ðam-rò-ot*

I'm allergic to ...

ผม/ดิฉันแพ้... *pǎm/di-chǎn pǎe ...*

antibiotics

ยาปฏิชีวนะ *yah bà-đi-chee-wá-ná*

aspirin

ยาแอสไพริน *yah àt-sǎ-pai-rin*

bees

ตัวผึ้ง *ðoo-a pèung*

peanuts

ถั่วลิสง *tò-a lí-sǒng*

penicillin

ยาเพนิซิลลิน *yah pair-ní-sin-lin*

antiseptic

ยาฆ่าเชื้อ *yah kǎh chéu-a*

aspirin

ยาแอสไพริน *yah àt-sǎ-pai-rin*

condoms

ถุงยางอนามัย *túng yahng a-nah-mai*

contraceptive

การคุมกำเนิด *gahn kum gam-nèut*

medicine

ยา *yah*

mosquito coil

ยากันยุงแบบจุด *yah gan yung bàp jùt*

mosquito repellent

ยากันยุง *yah gan yung*

painkiller

ยาแก้ปวด *yah gǎe bò-ot*

sunblock creamครีมกันแดด *kreem gan dàt***tampons**แทมพอน *taam-porn***LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES****Do you speak English?**

คุณพูดภาษาอังกฤษได้ไหม

*kun pòot pah-säh ang-grít dài mái***Does anyone here speak English?**

ที่นี่มีใครพูดภาษาอังกฤษได้ไหม

*têe née mee kraí pòot pah-säh ang-grít dài mái***How do you say ... in Thai?**

...ว่าอย่างไรภาษาไทย

*... wáh yàhng rai pah-säh tai***What do you call this in Thai?**

นี่ภาษาไทยเรียกว่าอะไร

*nee pah-säh tai rée-ak wáh à-rai***What does ... mean?**

...แปลว่าอะไร

*... plaa wáh à-rai***Do you understand?**

เข้าใจไหม

*kòw jai mái***A little.**

นิดหน่อย

*nít nòy***I understand.**

เข้าใจ

*kòw jai***I don't understand.**

ไม่เข้าใจ

*mái kòw jai***Please write it down.**

ขอเขียนให้หน่อย

*kòr kêe-an hái nòy***Can you show me (on the map)?**

ให้ดู(ในแผนที่)ได้ไหม

*hái doo (nai pǎan tée) dài mái***NUMBERS**

0	ศูนย์	<i>sǒon</i>
1	หนึ่ง	<i>nèung</i>
2	สอง	<i>sǒrng</i>
3	สาม	<i>sähm</i>
4	สี่	<i>sèe</i>
5	ห้า	<i>häh</i>
6	หก	<i>hòk</i>

7	เจ็ด	<i>jèt</i>
8	แปด	<i>bàat</i>
9	เก้า	<i>gòw</i>
10	สิบ	<i>sip</i>
11	สิบเอ็ด	<i>sip-èt</i>
12	สิบสอง	<i>sip-sǒrng</i>
13	สิบสาม	<i>sip-sähm</i>
14	สิบสี่	<i>sip-sèe</i>
15	สิบห้า	<i>sip-häh</i>
16	สิบหก	<i>sip-hòk</i>
17	สิบเจ็ด	<i>sip-jèt</i>
18	สิบแปด	<i>sip-bàat</i>
19	สิบเก้า	<i>sip-gòw</i>
20	ยี่สิบ	<i>yèe-sip</i>
21	ยี่สิบเอ็ด	<i>yèe-sip-èt</i>
22	ยี่สิบสอง	<i>yèe-sip-sǒrng</i>
30	สามสิบ	<i>sähm-sip</i>
40	สี่สิบ	<i>sèe-sip</i>
50	ห้าสิบ	<i>häh-sip</i>
60	หกสิบ	<i>hòk-sip</i>
70	เจ็ดสิบ	<i>jèt-sip</i>
80	แปดสิบ	<i>bàat-sip</i>
90	เก้าสิบ	<i>gòw-sip</i>
100	หนึ่งร้อย	<i>nèung ráy</i>
200	สองร้อย	<i>sǒrng ráy</i>
300	สามร้อย	<i>sähm ráy</i>
1000	หนึ่งพัน	<i>nèung pan</i>
2000	สองพัน	<i>sǒrng pan</i>
10,000	หนึ่งหมื่น	<i>nèung mèn</i>
100,000	หนึ่งแสน	<i>nèung sǎn</i>
one million	หนึ่งล้าน	<i>nèung lǎhn</i>
one billion	พันล้าน	<i>pan lǎhn</i>

PAPERWORK

name	ชื่อ	<i>chèu</i>
nationality	สัญชาติ	<i>sǎn-cháht</i>
date of birth	เกิดวันที่	<i>gèut wan tée</i>
place of birth	เกิดที่	<i>gèut tée</i>
sex (gender)	เพศ	<i>pèt</i>
passport	หนังสือเดินทาง	<i>nǎng-sèu deun tahng</i>
visa	วีซ่า	<i>wee-sáh</i>

SHOPPING & SERVICES**I'd like to buy ...**อยากจะทำซื้อ... *yàhk jà séu ...***How much?**เท่าไร *tôw rai***How much is this?**นี่เท่าไร/กี่บาท *née tôw rai/gèe bàht***I don't like it.**ไม่ชอบ *mái chòrp***May I look at it?**ดูได้ไหม *doow dai mǎi***I'm just looking.**ดูเฉยๆ *doow chǎi-i chǎi-i***It's cheap.**ราคาถูก *rah-kah tòok***It's too expensive.**แพงเกินไป *paang geun bai***I'll take it.**เอา *ow***Can you reduce the price a little?**

ลดราคาหน่อยได้ไหม

*lót rah-kah nòy dai mǎi***Can you come down just a little more?**

ลดราคาอีกนิดหนึ่งได้ไหม

*lót rah-kah èek nít-nèung dai mǎi***Do you have something cheaper?**

มีถูกกว่านี้ไหม

*mee tòok gwàh née mǎi***Can you lower it more?**

ลดอีกได้ไหม

*lót èek dai mǎi***How about ... baht?**

... บาทได้ไหม

*... bàht dai mǎi***I won't give more than ... baht.**

จะให้ไม่เกิน... บาท

*jà hǎi mǎi geun ... bàht***Do you accept ...?**รับ...ไหม *ráp ... mǎi***credit cards**บัตรเครดิต *bàt krair-dít***travellers cheques**เช็คเดินทาง *chék deun tahng***more** อีก *èek***less** น้อยลง *nóy long***smaller** เล็กกว่า *lék gwàh***bigger** ใหญ่กว่า *yài gwàh***too expensive** แพงไป *paang bai***inexpensive** ราคา *rah-kah*ประหยัด *brà-yàt***I'm looking for ...**ผม/ดิฉันกำลังหา... *pòm/di-chǎn gam-lang hǎh ...***a bank**ธนาคาร *tá-nah-kahn***the city centre**ใจกลางเมือง *jai glahng meu-ang***the ... embassy**สถานทูต... *sà-tǎhn tòot ...***the market**ตลาด *dà-làht***the museum**พิพิธภัณฑ์ *pí-pít-tá-pan***the post office**ไปรษณีย์ *brai-sà-nee***a public toilet**ห้องน้ำสาธารณะ *hòrng nám sǎh-tah-rá-ná***a restaurant**ร้านอาหาร *rǎhn ah-hǎhn***a temple**วัด *wát***the telephone centre**ศูนย์โทรศัพท์ *sōon toh-rá-sáp***the tourist office**สำนักงานท่องเที่ยว *sǎm-nák ngahn tòrng*เที่ยว *té-e***I want to change ...**ต้องการแลก... *dòrng gahn láak ...***money**เงิน *ngeun***travellers cheques**เช็คเดินทาง *chék deun tahng***Can I/we change money here?**

แลกเงินที่นี่ได้ไหม

*láak ngeun tée née dai mǎi***What time does it open?**

เปิดกี่โมง

*bèut gèe mohng***What time does it close?**

ปิดกี่โมง

bit gèe mohng

TIME & DATES

Telling the time in Thai can be very challenging for an outsider to master. While the Western 12-hour clock divides the day between two time periods, am and pm, the Thai system has four periods. The 24-hour clock is also commonly used by government and media. The list below shows hours of the 12-hour clock translated into the Thai system.

What time is it?

กี่โมงแล้ว *gèe mohng láa-ou*

12 midnight	หกทุ่ม/ เที่ยงคืน	<i>hòk tùm/ têe-ang keun</i>
1am	ตีหนึ่ง	<i>dee nèung</i>
2am	ตีสอง	<i>dee sǒng</i>
3am	ตีสาม	<i>dee sǎhm</i>
4am	ตีสี่	<i>dee sèe</i>
5am	ตีห้า	<i>dee háh</i>
6am	หกโมงเช้า	<i>hòk mohng chǎw</i>
7am	หนึ่งโมงเช้า	<i>nèung mohng chǎw</i>
11am	ห้าโมงเช้า	<i>háh mohng chǎw</i>
12 noon	เที่ยง	<i>têe-ang</i>
1pm	บ่ายโมง	<i>bài mohng</i>
2pm	บ่ายสองโมง	<i>bài sǒng mohng</i>
3pm	บ่ายสามโมง	<i>bài sǎhm mohng</i>
4pm	บ่ายสี่โมง/ (lit: afternoon four hours)	<i>bài sèe mohng</i>
	สี่โมงเย็น (lit: four hours evening)	<i>sèe mohng yen</i>
5pm	ห้าโมงเย็น	<i>háh mohng yen</i>
6pm	หกโมงเย็น	<i>hòk mohng yen</i>
7pm	หนึ่งทุ่ม	<i>nèung tùm</i>
8pm	สองทุ่ม	<i>sǒng tùm</i>
9pm	สามทุ่ม	<i>sǎhm tùm</i>
10pm	สี่ทุ่ม	<i>sèe tùm</i>
11pm	ห้าทุ่ม	<i>háh tùm</i>

For times after the hour, just add the number of minutes following the hour.

4.15pm

บ่ายสี่โมงครึ่ง
bài sèe mohng krèung (lit: four afternoon hours half)

4.15pm

บ่ายสี่โมงสิบห้านาที
bài sèe mohng sip-háh nah-tee (lit: four afternoon hours 15)

To give times before the hour, add the number of minutes beforehand.

3.45pm

อีกสิบห้านาทีบ่ายสี่โมง
èek sip-háh nah-tee bài sèe mohng (lit: another 15 minutes four afternoon hours)

When?	เมื่อไร	<i>mèu-a-rai</i>
today	วันนี้	<i>wan née</i>
tomorrow	พรุ่งนี้	<i>prǔng née</i>
yesterday	เมื่อวาน	<i>mèu-a wahn</i>
Monday	วันจันทร์	<i>wan jan</i>
Tuesday	วันอังคาร	<i>wan ang-kahn</i>
Wednesday	วันพุธ	<i>wan pút</i>
Thursday	วันพฤหัสบดี	<i>wan pá-réu-hát</i>
Friday	วันศุกร์	<i>wan sùk</i>
Saturday	วันเสาร์	<i>wan sǎw</i>
Sunday	วันอาทิตย์	<i>wan ah-tít</i>
January	มกราคม	<i>má-ga-rah-kom</i>
February	กุมภาพันธ์	<i>gum-pah-pan</i>
March	มีนาคม	<i>mee-naa-kom</i>
April	เมษายน	<i>mair-sáh-yon</i>
May	พฤษภาคม	<i>prút-sà-pah-kom</i>
June	มิถุนายน	<i>mí-tù-nah-yon</i>
July	กรกฎาคม	<i>ga-rák-gá-dah-kom</i>
August	สิงหาคม	<i>sing-háh-kom</i>
September	กันยายน	<i>gan-yah-yon</i>
October	ตุลาคม	<i>tù-lah-kom</i>
November	พฤศจิกายน	<i>prút-sà-jí-gah-yon</i>
December	ธันวาคม	<i>tan-wah-kom</i>

TRANSPORT

Public Transport

What time does the ... leave?

... จะออกกี่โมง

... jà òrk gèe mohng

What time does the ... arrive?

...จะถึงกี่โมง
...jà tɛ̀ung gèe mohng

boat	เรือ	reu-a
bus (city)	รถเมล์/ รถบัส	rót mair/ rót bát
bus (intercity)	รถทัวร์	rót too-a
plane	เครื่องบิน	krèu-ang bin
train	รถไฟ	rót fai

I'd like ...

ผม/ดิฉันอยากได้...

pǎm/di-chǎn yàhk dái ...

a one-way ticket

ตั๋วเที่ยวเดียว dǎo-a tée-o dee-o

a return ticket

ตั๋วไปกลับ dǎo-a bai glàp

two tickets

ตั๋วสองใบ dǎo-a sǎng bai

1st class

ชั้นหนึ่ง chán nèung

2nd class

ชั้นสอง chán sǎng

I'd like a ticket.

อยากได้ตั๋ว yàhk dái dǎo-a

I want to go to ...

อยากจะไป... yàhk jà bai ...

The train has been cancelled.

รถไฟถูกยกเลิกแล้ว rót fai tùk yók lèuk láa-ou

The train has been delayed.

รถไฟช้าเวลา rót fai cháh wair-lah

airport

สนามบิน sa-nǎhm bin

bus station

สถานีขนส่ง sa-tǎh-nee kǎn sǎng

bus stop

ป้ายรถเมล์ bǎi rót mair

taxi stand

ที่จอดรถแท็กซี่ tée jòt rót táak-sée

train station

สถานีรถไฟ sa-tǎh-nee rót fai

platform number ...

ชานชาลาที่... chahn-chah-lah tée ...

ticket office

ตู้ขายตั๋ว dǎo kǎi dǎo-a

timetable

ตารางเวลา dǎh-rahng wair-lah

the first

ที่แรก tée ráak

the last

สุดท้าย sùt tái

Private Transport**I'd like to hire a/an ...**

ผม/ดิฉันอยากเช่า...

pǎm/di-chǎn yàhk chòw ...

car

รถยนต์ rót yon

4WD

รถโฟร์วีล rót foh ween

motorbike

รถมอเตอร์ไซด์ rót mor-dieu-sai

bicycle

รถจักรยาน rót jàk-gà-yahn

Is this the road to ...?

ทางนี้ไป...ไหม tahng née bai ... mǎi

Where's a service station?

ปั๊มน้ำมันอยู่ที่ไหน bǎm nám man yòt tée nǎi

Please fill it up.

ขอเติมน้ำมัน kǎo tɛ̀um hái tɛ̀m

I'd like (30) litres.

เอา(สามสิบ)ลิตร ow (sǎhm sǐp) lít

diesel

น้ำมันโซล่า nám man soh-láh

unleaded petrol

น้ำมันไร้สารตะกั่ว nám man rái sǎan dǎ-gòo-a

Can I park here?

จอดที่นี่ได้ไหม jòt tée née dái mǎi

How long can I park here?

จอดที่นี่ได้นานเท่าไร jòt tée née dái nahn tǎw-rai

Where do I pay?

จ่ายเงินที่ไหน jài ngeun tée nǎi

I need a mechanic.

ต้องการช่าง dǎng gahn chǎhng

I have a flat tyre.

ยางแบน yahng baan

I've run out of petrol.

หมดน้ำมัน mòt nám man

I've had an accident.

มีอุบัติเหตุ

*mee ù-bàt-tì-hèt***The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...)**

รถ/มอเตอร์ไซค์เสียที่...

*rót/mor-đeu-sai sêe-a tée ...***The car/motorbike won't start.**

รถ/มอเตอร์ไซค์สตาร์ทไม่ติด

*rót/mor-đeu-sai sa-đáht mài đít***TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN****Is there (a/an) ...**

มี...ไหม

*mee ... mǎi***baby change room**

ห้องเปลี่ยนผ้าเด็ก

*hông biẻn-an pàh đek***car baby seat**

เบาะนั่งในรถสำหรับเด็ก

*bò nằng nai rót sằm-rằp đek***child-minding service**

บริการเลี้ยงเด็ก

*bor-rí-gahn lẻe-ang đek***children's menu**

รายการอาหารสำหรับเด็ก

*rai gahn ah-hằnh sằm-rằp đek***(disposable) nappies/diapers**

ผ้าอ้อม(แบบใช้แล้วทิ้ง)

*pàh òm (bằp chái láa-ou tít)***formula (milk)**

นมผงสำหรับเด็ก

*nom pỏng sằm-rằp đek***ROAD SIGNS**

ให้ทาง	Give Way
ทางเบี่ยง	Detour
ห้ามเข้า	No Entry
ห้ามแซง	No Overtaking
ห้ามจอด	No Parking
ทางเข้า	Entrance
ห้ามขวางทาง	Keep Clear
เก็บเงินทางด่วน	Toll
อันตราย	Danger
ช้าลง	Slow Down
ทางเดียว	One Way
ทางออก	Exit

(English-speaking) babysitter

พี่เลี้ยงเด็ก(ที่พูดภาษาอังกฤษได้)

*pẻe lẻe-ang đek (tẻe pỏot pah-sằh ang-grít dằi)***highchair**

เก้าอี้สูง

*gỏw-ẻe sỏong***potty**

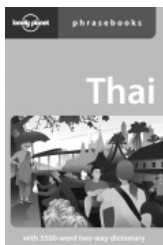
กระโถน

*grỏ-tỏhn***stroller**

รถเข็นเด็ก

*rỏt kẻn đek***Are children allowed?**

เด็กอนุญาตให้เข้าไปไหม

đek ù-nủ-yằht hằi kỏw mằi

Also available from Lonely Planet:
Thai phrasebook

Glossary

This glossary includes Thai, Pali (P) and Sanskrit (S) words and terms frequently used in this guidebook. For definitions of food and drink terms, see p92.

ah-hähn – food

ah-hähn b'ah – ‘jungle food’, usually referring to dishes made with wild game

ajahn – (*ajaan*) respectful title for ‘teacher’; from the Sanskrit term *acarya*

amphoe – (*amphur*) district, the next subdivision down from province

amphoe meu-ang – provincial capital

AUA – American University Alumni

bähn – (*ban*) house or village

baht – (*bàat*) the Thai unit of currency

bàht – a unit of weight equal to 15g; rounded bowl used by monks for receiving alms food

bai s'ee – sacred thread used by monks or shamans in certain religious ceremonies

ben-jà-rong – traditional five-coloured Thai ceramics

BKS – Baw Khaw Saw (Thai acronym for the Transport Company)

BMA – Bangkok Metropolitan Authority; Bangkok’s municipal government

bodhisattva (S) – in Theravada Buddhism, the term used to refer to the previous lives of the Buddha prior to his enlightenment

bòht – central sanctuary in a Thai temple used for the monastic order’s official business, such as ordinations; from the Pali term *uposatha* (*ubohsòt*); see also *wí-hähn*

bòr nám r'orn – hot springs

Brahman – pertaining to Brahmanism, an ancient religious tradition in India and the predecessor of Hinduism; not to be confused with ‘Brahmin’, the priestly class in India’s caste system

BTS – Bangkok Transit System (Skytrain); Thai: *rót fái fáh*

b'ah-dé – batik

b'ak d'ái – southern Thailand

b'èe-p'áht – classical Thai orchestra

b'ohng-lahng – northeastern Thai marimba (percussion instrument) made of short logs

CAT – CAT Telecom Public Company Limited (formerly Communications Authority of Thailand)

chedi – see *stupa*

chow – folk; people

chow lair – (*chow nám*) sea gypsies

chow nah – farmer

CPT – Communist Party of Thailand

doy – mountain in the Northern Thai dialect; spelt ‘Doi’ in proper names

đà-làht – market

đà-làht nám – water market

đam-bon – (*tambol*) precinct, next governmental subdivision under *amphoe*

đròrk – (*trok*) alley, smaller than a soi

fa-ràng – a Westerner (person of European origin); also *gava*

gà-teu-i – (*kàthoey*) Thailand’s ‘third gender’, usually cross-dressing or transsexual males; also called *ladyboys*

gopura (S) – entrance pavilion in traditional Hindu temple architecture, often seen in Angkor-period temple complexes

g'oo-ay h'ang – Chinese-style work shirt

grà-b'èe grà-b'ong – a traditional Thai martial art employing short swords and staves

g'ù-đi – monk’s dwelling

hàht – beach; spelt ‘Hat’ in proper names

hín – stone

h'or đ'rai – a Tripitaka (Buddhist scripture) hall

h'or gl'ong – drum tower

h'or rá-kang – bell tower

h'ong – (*hong*) room; in southern Thailand this refers to semi-submerged island caves

h'ong t'aa-ou – rowhouse or shophouses

Isan – (*ee-sáhn*) general term used for northeastern Thailand

jataka (P) – (*chah-dòk*) stories of the Buddha’s previous lives

jeen – Chinese

jeen hor – literally ‘galloping Chinese’, referring to horse-riding Yunnanese traders

j'ow meu-ang – principality chief; *j'ow* means lord, prince or holy being

kaan – reed instrument common in northeastern Thailand

kàthoey – see *gà-teu-i*

kl'ong – canal; spelt ‘Khlung’ in proper nouns

k'ohn – masked dance-drama based on stories from the Ramakian

kon ee-sǎhn – the people of northeastern Thailand; *kon* means person

kōw – hill or mountain; spelt ‘Khaō’ in proper names

kōw – rice

KMT – Kuomintang

KNU – Karen National Union

kràbii-kràbawng – see *grà-bèe grà-borng*

ku – small *chedi* that is partially hollow and open

kúay hâng – see *gáo-áy hâng*

kùti – see *gù-đi*

lām – cape; spelt ‘Laem’ in proper names

lāk meu-ang – city pillar

lá-kon – classical Thai dance-drama

lék – little, small (in size); see also *noi*

lí-gair – Thai folk dance-drama

longyi – Burmese sarong

lōok tǔng – Thai country music

lōw kōw – white whisky, often homemade rice brew

lōw tǔu-an – illegal (homemade) whisky

māa chee – Thai Buddhist nun

māa nám – river

Mahanikai – the larger of the two sects of Theravada Buddhism in Thailand

mahathat – (*má-hǎh tǎht*) common name for temples containing Buddha relics; from the Sanskrit-Pali term *mahadhatu*

má-noh-rah – Southern Thailand’s most popular traditional dance-drama

masjid – (*mát-sà-yít*) mosque

mát-mèe – technique of tie-dyeing silk or cotton threads and then weaving them into complex patterns, similar to Indonesian *ikat*; the term also refers to the patterns themselves

metta (P) – (*mét-đah*) Buddhist practice of loving-kindness

meu-ang – city or principality

mon-dòp – small square, spired building in a wát; from Sanskrit *mandapa*

moo-ay tai – (*muay thai*) Thai boxing

mōr lam – an Isan musical tradition akin to *lōok tǔng*

mōrn kwǎhn – wedge-shaped pillow popular in northern and northeastern Thailand

MRTA – Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority, Bangkok’s subway system; Thai: *rót fai fǎh đǎi đin*

naga (P/S) – (*nǎhk*) a mythical serpent-like being with magical powers

ná-kon – city; from the Sanskrit-Pali *nagara*; spelt ‘Nakhon’ in proper nouns

nám – water

nám ðòk – waterfall; spelt ‘Nam Tok’ in proper nouns

nǎng ðà-lung – Thai shadow play

neun – hill; spelt ‘Noen’ in proper names

ngahn tét-sà-gahn – festival

nibbana (P/S) – nirvana; in Buddhist teachings, the state of enlightenment; escape from the realm of rebirth; Thai: *níp-pahn*

noi – (*nóy*) little, small (amount); see also *lék*

nōrk – outside, outer; spelt ‘Nok’ in proper names

ow – bay or gulf; spelt ‘Ao’ in proper nouns

pǎh ka-máh – cotton sarong worn by men

pǎh mát-mèe – *mát-mèe* fabric

pǎh sǐn – cotton sarong worn by women

pǎhk glahng – central Thailand

pǎhk nǔua – northern Thailand

pǎhk tái – see *bàk đái*

pée – ghost, spirit

pin – small, three-stringed lute played with a large plectrum

pii-phǎat – see *bèe-pǎht*

pik-sù – a Buddhist monk; from the Sanskrit *bhikshu*, Pali *bhikkhu*

PLAT – People’s Liberation Army of Thailand

pleng koh-rǎht – Khorat folk song

pleng pǔu-a chee-wít – ‘songs for life’, Thai folk-rock music

ponglang – see *bōhng-lahng*

poo kōw – mountain

pōo yài bǎhn – village chief

prá – an honorific term used for monks, nobility and Buddha images; spelt ‘Phra’ in proper names

prá krǔu-ang – amulets of monks, Buddhas or deities worn around the neck for spiritual protection; also called *prá pim*

prá poom – earth spirits or guardians

prang – (*brahng*) Khmer-style tower on temples

prasada – blessed food offered to Hindu or Sikh temple attendees

prasat – (*brah-sàht*) small ornate building, used for religious purposes, with a cruciform ground plan and needle-like spire, located on temple grounds; any of a number of different kinds of halls or residences with religious or royal significance

PULO – Pattani United Liberation Organization

rài – an area of land measurement equal to 1600 sq metres

reu-a hǎhng yow – long-tail boat

reu-an tǎa-ou – longhouse

reu-sée – an ascetic, hermit or sage (Hindi: *rishi*)

rót aa – blue-and-white air-con bus

rót ‘bráp ah-gǎht – air-con bus

rót fai fǎh – Bangkok’s Skytrain system

rót fai tái đin – Bangkok’s subway system

rót norn – sleeper bus

rót tam-má-dah – ordinary (non air-con) bus or train

rót too-a – tour or air-con bus

săh-lah – open-sided, covered meeting hall or resting place; from Portuguese term *sala*, literally ‘room’
săhm-lór – three-wheeled pedicab
săhn prá poom – spirit shrine
săm-nák sǒng – monastic centre
săm-nák wí-bàt-sà-nah – meditation centre
samsara (P) – in Buddhist teachings, the realm of rebirth and delusion
sangha – (P) the Buddhist community
satang – (*sà-dahng*) a Thai unit of currency; 100 satang equals 1 baht
sêe yâak – intersection, often used to give driving directions
sěmaa – boundary stones used to consecrate ground used for monastic ordinations
serow – Asian mountain goat
sêua môr hǒm – blue cotton farmer’s shirt
soi – lane or small street
Songkran – Thai New Year, held in mid-April
sǒo-an ah-hăhn – outdoor restaurant with any bit of foliage nearby; literally ‘food garden’
sǒng-tăa-ou – (literally ‘two rows’) common name for small pick-up trucks with two benches in the back, used as buses/taxis; also spelt ‘*săwngthăew*’
SRT – State Railway of Thailand
stupa – conical-shaped Buddhist monument used to inter sacred Buddhist objects
sù-săhn – cemetery

tăh – pier, boat landing; spelt ‘Tha’ in proper nouns
tăht – four-sided, curvilinear Buddha reliquary, common in Northeastern Thailand; spelt ‘That’ in proper nouns
tăht grà-dòok – bone reliquary, a small *stupa* containing remains of a Buddhist devotee
tălăat năam – see *đà-lăht năam*
tâm – cave; spelt ‘Tham’ in proper nouns
tam bun – to make merit
tambon – see *đam-bon*
TAT – Tourism Authority of Thailand
tět-sà-bahn – a governmental division in towns or cities much like municipality
THAI – Thai Airways International; Thailand’s national air carrier

thammájàk – Buddhist wheel of law; from the Pali *dhammacakka*
Thammayut – one of the two sects of Theravada Buddhism in Thailand; founded by King Rama IV while he was still a monk
thanǒn – (*tà-nǒn*) street; spelt ‘Thanon’ in proper noun and shortened to ‘Th’
T-pop – popular teen-music
trăwk – see *đròk*
trimurti (S) – collocation of the three principal Hindu deities, Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu
Tripitaka (S) – Theravada Buddhist scriptures; (Pali: *Tipitaka*)
tú-dong – a series of 13 ascetic practices (for example eating one meal a day, living at the foot of a tree) undertaken by Buddhist monks; a monk who undertakes such practices; a period of wandering on foot from place to place undertaken by monks
túk-túk – (*đúk-đúk*) motorised *săhm-lór*

út-sà-nít – flame-shaped head ornament on a Buddha

vipassana (P) – (*wí-bàt-sà-nah*) Buddhist insight meditation

wăi – palms-together Thai greeting
wan prá – Buddhist holy days, falling on the days of the main phases of the moon (full, new and half) each month
wang – palace
wát – temple-monastery; from the Pali term *avasa* meaning ‘monk’s dwelling’; spelt ‘Wat’ in proper nouns
wá-tá-ná-tam – culture
wát bəh – forest monastery
wí-hăhn – (*wihan, viharn*) any large hall in a Thai temple, usually open to laity; from Sanskrit term *vihara*, meaning ‘dwelling’

Yawi – traditional language of Malay parts of Java, Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula, widely spoken in the most southern provinces of Thailand; the written form uses the classic Arabic script plus five additional letters
yăi – bag
yăhm – shoulder bag

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