

# Language

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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 *s  e-s  * for 'head' is more polite than *h  o-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.

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

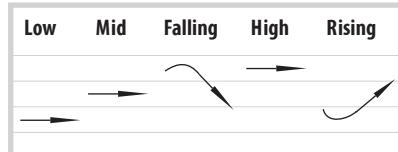
Thailand's official language is effectively the dialect spoken and written in central Thailand, which has successfully become the lingua franca of all Thai and non-Thai ethnic groups in the kingdom.

**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 *mai* can mean ‘new’, ‘burn’, ‘wood’, ‘not?’ or ‘not’; ponder the phrase *mái mài mài mài mài* (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 *bâht* (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 *mâi* (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 *mâh* (horse).

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

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

**Vowels**

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

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>ee-a</b>  | as ‘ee-ya’, or as the ‘ie’ in French <i>rien</i>          |
| <b>oo-a</b>  | as the ‘our’ in ‘tour’                                    |
| <b>oo-ay</b> | sounds like ‘oo-way’                                      |
| <b>ew</b>    | as the ‘ew’ in ‘new’                                      |
| <b>ee-o</b>  | as the ‘io’ in ‘Rio’                                      |
| <b>aa-ou</b> | like the ‘a’ in ‘cat’ followed by a short ‘u’ as in ‘put’ |
| <b>eh-ou</b> | like the ‘e’ in bed, followed by a short ‘u’ as in ‘put’  |
| <b>oy</b>    | 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 RTGS 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 for a ...

ผู้ดีชันกำลังหา...  
póm/dí-chán gam-lang hâh ...

**guesthouse**

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| บ้านพัก/<br>bâhn pák/           | bâhn pák/                 |
| เกสต์เฮาส์/<br>gést hów/        | gést hów/ ('guest house') |
| hotel                           | hotel                     |
| โรงแรม/<br>rohng raam           | rohng raam                |
| youth hostel                    | youth hostel              |
| บ้านเยาวชน/<br>bâhn yow-wá-chon | bâhn yow-wá-chon          |

**Where is a cheap hotel?**

โรงแรมที่ราคาถูกอยู่ที่ไหน  
rohng raam tée rah-kah tóok yòo tée nái?

**What is the address?**

ที่อยู่คืออะไร  
tée yòo keu à-rai?

Could you write the address, please?  
เขียนที่อยู่ให้ได้ไหม  
kée-an tée yòo hái dâi mäi?

Do you have any rooms available?  
มีห้องว่างไหม  
mee hâng wâhng mäi?

**I’d like (a) ...**

ต้องการ...  
dâng gahn ...

bed

เตียงนอน

dee-ang norm

single room

hâng dêe:o

ห้องดีเวย

hâng dêe:o

ห้องคู่

hâng kô

room with two beds

hâng tée mee dee-ang

ห้องตัว

sârng doo-a

room with a bathroom

hâng tée mee hâng nám

ordinary room (with fan)

hâng tam-má

(มีพัดลม)

dah (mee pát lom)

to share a dorm

pák nai hâng pák

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

per night

คืนละ

keun lá

per person

คนละ

kon lá

**May I see the room?**

ดูห้องได้ไหม

do hâng dâi mäi?

**Where is the bathroom?**

ห้องน้ำอยู่ที่ไหน

hâng nám yóo tée nái?

**I’m/We’re leaving today.**

ฉัน/พวกเราจะออกวันนี้

chân/pôo-ak row já òrk wan néé

toilet

ห้องส้วม

hâng sôo-am

room

ห้อง

hâng

hot

ร้อน

rórñ

cold	ເຢັນ	yen
bath/shower	ວາບນໍາ	âhp nám
towel	ຜ້າຊືດຕົວ	pâh chét doo-a

**CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS**

When being polite, the speaker ends his or her sentence with *kráp* (for men) or *kâ* (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.**ສະວັດດີ (ຄຣັບ/ຄະ) sà-wàt-dee (*kráp/kâ*)**Goodbye.**

ລາກ່ອນ lah gòrn

**Yes.**

ໃຈ châi

**No.**

ໄມ່ໃຈ mái châi

**Please.**

ກຽມນາ gà-rú-nah

**Thank you.**

ຂອບຄຸນ kòrp kun

**That's fine. (You're welcome)**

ໄມ່ເປັນໄຮ/ຍິນດີ mái ben rai/yin-dee

**Excuse me.**

ຂອບກັບຍໍ kör à-pai

**Sorry. (Forgive me)**

kör töht

**How are you?**

ສະບາຍດີທ່ວອ? sà-bai dee rêu?

**I'm fine, thanks.**

ສະບາຍດີ sà-bai dee

**What's your name?**

ຄູນເຊື່ອໂອະໄຣ? kun chêu à-rai?

**My name is ...**

ພັນຊື່ອ... póm chêu ... (men)

ດິນໜີ່ອ... di-chân chêu ... (women)

**Where are you from?**

ມາຈາກທີ່ໃຫນ mah jâhk têe nái?

**I'm from ...**

ມາຈາກ... mah jâhk ...

**See you soon.**

ເຄີຍວາເຈອກນັນ dée-o jeu gan ná

**I like ...**

ຂອບ... chôrp ...

**I don't like ...**

ໄມ່ໄໝຂອບ... mái chôrp ...

**Just a minute.**

ຮອເຄີ່ຍວ ror dée-o

ຜມ póm

**I/me (for women)**

ດິນໜັນ di-chân

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

ນັນ chân

**You (for peers)**

ຄຸນ kun

**Do you have ...?**

ມີ... ໃຫ້ມາ/... ມີໃຫ້ມາ? mee ... mái?/... mee mái?

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

ອຍາກຈະ... yâhk jâ ...

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

ອຍາກໄດ້... yâhk dâi ...

**DIRECTIONS****Where is (the) ...?**

... ອີ່ທີ່ໃຫນ? ... yòo têe nái?

**(Go) Straight ahead.**

ຕຽງໄປ drong bai

**Turn left.**

ເດືອຍວ້າ lée-o sái

**Turn right.**

ເດືອຍຂວາ lée-o kwâh

**At the corner**

ຕຽງນຸມ drong mun

**At the traffic lights**

ຕຽງໄຟແດງ drong fai daang

**behind** ຂ້າງໜັດງ kâhng lâng**in front of** ຕຽງໜ້າ drong nâh**far** ໄກດ glai**near** ໄກດໍ glâi**not far** ໄມ່ໄກດ mây glai**opposite** ຕຽງຂ້າມ drong kâhm**left** ຂ້າຍ sái**right** ຂວາ kwâh**beach** ຂ້າຍຫາດ chai hâht**bridge** ດະພານ sâ-pahn**canal** ກລອງ klörng**countryside** ຜ່ານບຖ chon-nâ-bót**SIGNS**

ທາງເຂົາ Entrance

ທາງອອກ Exit

ທີ່ຕົດຕ່ອສອບຄາມ Information

ເປີດ Open

ປິດ Closed

ທ້າມ Prohibited

ສຕານີຕໍ່າວຈ Police Station

ທ້ອງນໍາ Toilets

ໜາຍ Men

ໜັງ Women

**EMERGENCIES****Help!**

ຈ່ວຍຄ້າຍ chô-ay dô-ay!

**There's been an accident.**

ມູ້ບັດເຫຼຸດ mee ù-bât-di-hêt

**I'm lost.**

ជັນຫດ ດາວກ chän lóng tahng

**Go away!**

ໃບຈີ bai si!

**Stop!**

ຍຸດ yut!

**Call ...!**

ເຮັດວຽກ... ນໍາອຍ rée-ak ... nøy!

**a doctor**

ທ່ມອ the police mõr

**ຕໍ່າວຈ** dam-ròo-at**I have a fever.**

ເປັນໄຟ ben kâi

**I have diarrhoea.**

ທ້ອງ ເສີຍ tóng sée-a

**I'm allergic to ...**

ຜມ/ຄິດັນແພັ້... antibiotics póm/di-chân páa ...

ຢາປົກລື້ງຊຳວະ aspirin yah bâ-di-chee-wâ-nâ

ຢາອາສໄພຣິນ yah åat-sâ-pai-rin

**penicillin** yah pair-ní-sin-lin

ຢາເພັນືລິດິນ

bees

ຕ້ວັເສຶ່ງ doo-a pêung

**peanuts**

ຄ່ວັດືສິງ tòo-a lí-söng

**I'm ...**

ຜມ/ຄິດັນ... póm/di-chân ...

**asthmatic**

ເປັນໂຮກຫົດ ben rôhk hèut

**diabetic**

ເປັນໂຮກເບາຫວານ ben rôhk bow wâhn

**epileptic**

ເປັນໂຮກລົມນໍ້າຫຼຸມ ben rôhk lom bâh mõo

**antiseptic**

ยาฆ่าเชื้อ

*yah kâh chéu-a***aspirin**

ยาแอสไพริน

*yah àat-sâ-pai-rin***condoms**

ถุงยางอนามัย

*tüng yahng a-nah-mai***contraceptive**

การกุมกำเนิด

*gahn kum gam-nèut***medicine**

ยา

*yah***mosquito coil**

ยาแก้ไข้แมลงบิน

*yah gan yung bòap jùt***mosquito repellent**

ยาแก้ไข้แมลงบิน

*yaa gan yung***painkiller**

ยาแก้ปวด

*yaa gâe bòo-at***sunblock cream**

ครีมกันแดด

*kreem gan dàat***tampons**

แทมโพน

*taam-porn***LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES****Do you speak English?**คุณพูดภาษาอังกฤษได้ไหม  
*kun poot pah-sâh ang-grít dái mäi?***Does anyone here speak English?**ที่นี่มีใครพูดภาษาอังกฤษได้ไหม  
*tée née mee krai poot pah-sâh ang-grít dái mäi***How do you say ... in Thai?**

... ว่าอย่างไร

*... wâh yâhng rai pah-sâh tai***What do you call this in Thai?**

นี่ภาษาไทยเรียกว่าอะไร

*nee pah-sâh tai rée-ak wâh ô-rai?***What does ... mean?**

...แปลว่าอะไร

*... plaa wâh ô-rai?***Do you understand?**

เข้าใจไหม

*kow jai mäi?***A little.**

นิดหน่อย

*nít nöy***I understand.**

เข้าใจ

*kow jai***I don't understand.**

ไม่เข้าใจ

*mäi kow jai***Please write it down.**

กรุณาระบุให้หน่วย

*gâr-rú-nah kée-an hái nöy***Can you show me (on the map)?**

ให้ดู(ในแผนที่) ได้ไหม

*hái doo (nai pâan tee) dái mäi?***NUMBERS****0**

ศูนย์

*söon***1**

หนึ่ง

*nèung***2**

สอง

*sörng***3**

สาม

*sâhm***4**

สี่

*sêe***5**

ห้า

*hâh***6**

หก

*hòk***7**

เจ็ด

*jét***8**

แปด

*bâat***9**

เก้า

*gôw***10**

สิบ

*sip***11**

สิบเอ็ด

*sip-èt***12**

สิบสอง

*sip-sörng***13**

สิบสาม

*sip-sâhm***14**

สิบสี่

*sip-sêe***15**

สิบห้า

*sip-hâh***16**

สิบหก

*sip-hòk***17**

สิบเจ็ด

*sip-jét***18**

สิบแปด

*sip-bâat***19**

สิบเก้า

*sip-gôw***20**

ยี่สิบ

*yêe-sip***21**

ยี่สิบเอ็ด

*yêe-sip-èt***22**

ยี่สิบสอง

*yêe-sip-sörng***30**

สามสิบ

*sâhm-sip***40**

สี่สิบ

*sêe-sip***50**

ห้าสิบ

*hâh-sip***60**

หกสิบ

*hòk-sip***70**

เจ็ดสิบ

*jét-sip***80**

แปดสิบ

*bâat-sip***90**

เก้าสิบ

*gôw-sip***100**

หนึ่งร้อย

*nèung róy***200**

สองร้อย

*sörng róy***300**

สามร้อย

*sâhm róy***1000**

หนึ่งพัน

*nèung pan***How about ... baht?**

... บาทได้ไหม

*... bâht dái mäi?***I won't give more than ... baht.**

จะให้ไม่เกิน...บาท

*jâ hâi mäi geun ... bâht***PAPERWORK****name**

ชื่อ

*chêu***nationality**

สัญชาติ

*sân-châht***date of birth**

เกิดวันที่

*gèut wan tée***place of birth**

เกิดที่

*gèut tée***sex (gender)**

เพศ

*pêt***passport**

หนังสือเดินทาง

*nâng-sêu deun***visa**

วีซ่า

*wee-sâh***SHOPPING & SERVICES****I'd like to buy ...**

อยากรู้จะซื้อ...

*yâhk jâ séu ...***How much?**

เท่าไร

*tôw rai?***How much is this?**

นี่เท่าไร/กี่บาท

*née tôw rai?/gèe bâht?***I don't like it.**

ไม่ชอบ

*mâi chôrp***May I look at it?**

ดูได้ไหม

*doo dái mäi?***I'm just looking.**

ดูแต่ๆ

*doo chér-i chér-i***It's cheap.**

ราคาถูก

*rah-kah tòok***It's too expensive.**

แพงเกินไป

*paang geun bâi***I'll take it.**

เอา

*ow***Can you reduce the price a little?**

ลดราคาหน่อยได้ไหม

*lót rah-kah nöy dái mäi?***Can you come down just a little more?**

ลดราคากลับนิดหนึ่งได้ไหม

*lót rah-kah èek nít-nèung dái mäi?***Do you have something cheaper?**

มีสูตรก๋วยจั๊บถูกๆไหม

*mee tòok gwâh néé mäi?***Can you lower it more?**

ลดอีกได้ไหม

*lót èek dái mäi?***Do you accept ...?**

รับ...ได้ไหม

*ráp ... mäi?***credit cards**

บัตรเครดิต

*bât krair-dít***travellers cheques**

เช็คเดินทาง

*chék deun tahng***more**

อีก

*èek***less**

น้อยลง

*nóy long***smaller**

เล็กกว่า

*lék gwâh***bigger**

ใหญ่กว่า

*yâi gwâh***too expensive**

แพงไป

*paang bâi***inexpensive**

ราคาถูก

*rah-kah***language**

ประยุทธ์

*brâ-sâ-nee***a bank**

ธนาคาร

*tâ-nah-kahn***the city centre**

ใจกลางเมือง

*jai glahng meu-ang***the ... embassy**

สถานทูต...

*sâ-tâhn tóot ...***the museum**

พิพิธภัณฑ์

*pi-pít-tâ-pan***the post office**

ไปรษณีย์

*brai-sâ-nee***a restaurant**

ร้านอาหาร

*râhn ah-hâhn***a temple**

วัด

*wát***the telephone centre**

ศูนย์โทรศัพท์

*sâon toh-râ-sâp***the tourist office**

สำนักงานท่องเที่ยว

*sâm-nák ngahn törng***teé-o**

**I want to change ...**

ต้องการแลก...	dōng gahn lāak ...
money	
เงิน	ngeun
travellers cheques	
เช็คเดินทาง	chék deun tahng

**Can I/we change money here?**

แลกเงินที่นี่ได้ไหม

lāak ngeun tēe néé dái māi?

**What time does it open?**

เปิดกี่โมง

bèut gée mohng?

**What time does it close?**

ปิดกี่โมง

bit gée mohng?

**TIME & DATES**

Telling the time in Thai can be very challenging for an outsider to master. While the Western twelve-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 each hour of the twelve-hour clock translated into the Thai system.

**What time is it?**

กี่โมงแล้ว gée mohng lá-o

12 midnight	หกทุ่ม/ เที่ยงคืน	hòk túm/ tēe-ang keun
1am	ตีหนึ่ง	dee néung
2am	ตีสอง	dee sörng
3am	ตีสาม	dee sähm
4am	ตีสี่	dee sée
5am	ตีห้า	dee häh
6am	หกโมงเช้า	hòk mohng chów
7am	หนึ่งโมงเช้า	nèung mohng chów
11am	ห้าโมงเช้า	háh mohng chów
12 noon	เที่ยง	tēe-ang
1pm	บ่ายโมง	bài mohng
2pm	บ่ายสองโมง	bài sörng mohng
3pm	บ่ายสามโมง	bài sähm mohng

**4pm**บ่ายสี่โมง/ bái sée mohng  
(lit: afternoon four hours)สี่โมงเย็น sée mohng yen  
(lit: four hours evening)**5pm**

ห้าโมงเย็น háh mohng yen

**6pm**

หกโมงเย็น hòk mohng yen

**7pm**

หนึ่งทุ่ม nèung túm

**8pm**

สองทุ่ม sörng túm

**9pm**

สามทุ่ม sähm túm

**10pm**

สี่ทุ่ม sée túm

**11pm**

ห้าทุ่ม háh túm

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

**4.30pm**

บ่ายสี่โมงครึ่ง

bái sée mohng kréung (lit: four afternoon hours half)

**4.15pm**

บ่ายสี่โมงสิบห้านาที

bái sée mohng sít-hâh nah-tee (lit: four afternoon hours 15)

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

**3.45pm**

อีกสิบห้านาทีบ่ายสี่โมง

éek sít-hâh nah-tee bái sée mohng (lit: another 15 minutes  
four afternoon hours)**When?**

เมื่อไร mèu-a rai?

**today**

วันนี้ wan néé

**tomorrow**

พรุ่งนี้ prüng néé

**yesterday**

เมื่อวาน mèu-a wahn

**Monday**

วันจันทร์ wan jan

**Tuesday**

วันอังคาร wan ang-kahn

**Wednesday**

วันพุธ wan pút

**Thursday**

วันพฤหัสฯ wan pá-réu-hát

**Friday**

วันศุกร์ wan sük

**Saturday**

วันเสาร์ wan sów

**Sunday**

วันอาทิตย์ wan ah-tít

**January**

มกราคม mó-ga-rah-kom

**February**

กุมภาพันธ์ gum-pah-pan

**March**

มีนาคม mee-naa-kom

**April**

เมษายน mair-sád-yon

**May**

พฤษภาคม préut-sà-pah-kom

**June**

มิถุนายน mí-tú-nah-yon

**July**

กรกฎาคม ga-rák-gá-dah-kom

**August**

สิงหาคม síngh-háh-kom

**September**

กันยายน gan-yah-yon

**October**

ตุลาคม dù-lah-kom

**November**

พฤษจิกายน préut-sà-jígah-yon

**December**

ธันวาคม tan-wah-kom

**I want to go to ...**

อยาจจะไป...

yàhk jà bai ...

**The train has been cancelled.**

รถไฟถูกยกเลิกแล้ว rót fai túk yók lêuuk láu-ou

**The train has been delayed.**

รถไฟช้าเวลา rót fai cháh wair-lah

**airport**

สถานีบิน sa-náhm bin

**bus station**

สถานีขนส่งสั่ง sa-täh-nee kän sòng

**bus stop**

ป้ายรถเมล์ bái rót mair

**taxi stand**

ที่จอดรถแท็กซี่ tée jör tót táak-sée

**train station**

สถานีรถไฟ sa-täh-nee rót fai

**platform number ...**

ชานชาลาที่... chahn-chah-la tée ...

**ticket office**

ตู้ขายตั๋ว dôo kái dôo-a

**timetable**

ตารางเวลา dah-rahang wair-lah

**the first**

ที่แรก tée ráak

**the last**

สุดท้าย sút tái

**TRANSPORT****Public Transport****What time does the ... leave?**

...จะออกกี่โมง

...já örök gée mohng?

**What time does the ... arrive?**

...จะถึงกี่โมง

...já tèung gée mohng?

**boat**

เรือ reu-a

**bus**

รถเมล์ rót mair/

**bus (city)**

รถบัส rót bát

**bus (intercity)**

รถทัวร์ rót too-a

**plane**

เครื่องบิน kréu-ang bin

**train**

รถไฟ rót fai

**I'd like ...**

ผม/คุณน้อยากใจ...

póm/di-chán yáhk dái ...

**a one-way ticket**

ตั๋วเดียวเดียว dee-o

**a return ticket**

ตั๋วกลับ gláp

**two tickets**

ตั๋วสองใบ

**1st class**

ชั้นหนึ่ง chán néung

**2nd class**

ชั้นสอง chán sörng

**I'd like a ticket.**

อยาจได้ตั๋ว

yàhk dái dão-a

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

ผู้/คุณน้อยากเช่า...

**car**

รถยนต์ rót yon

**4WD**

รถฟอร์วีด rót fooh ween

**motorbike**

รถมอเตอร์ไซค์ rót mor-deu-sai

**bicycle**

รถจักรยาน rót ják-yahn

**Is this the road to ...?**

ทางนี้ไป...ไหน tahng néé bai ... māi?

**Where's a service station?**

ปั้มน้ำมันอยู่ที่ไหน bám nám man yòo tée nái?

**Please fill it up.**

ขอเติมให้เต็ม kör deum hái dem

**I'd like (30) litres.**

ເອາ(ສານສີບ) ລືຕຣ	<i>ow (sāhm sip) lit</i>
<b>diesel</b>	
ນ້ຳມັນໂຈລ່າ	<i>nám man soh-lâh</i>
<b>unleaded petrol</b>	
ນ້ຳມັນໄຮສາຣຕະກ່ວ	<i>nám man rái sǎan dâ-gòo-a</i>
<b>Can I park here?</b>	
ຂອດທີ່ນີ້ໄດ້ໄໝໝາຍ	<i>jōrt tēe néé dâi māi?</i>

**ROAD SIGNS**

ໃຫ້ຖາງ	Give Way
ຖາງເປົ້າ	Detour
ທ້າມເບ້າ	No Entry
ທ້າມແຂງ	No Overtaking
ທ້າມຂອດ	No Parking
ຖາງເບ້າ	Entrance
ທ້າມຂວາງທາງ	Keep Clear
ເກີບເງິນທາງຄ່າວຸນ	Toll
ວັນຕຣາຍ	Danger
ຂັບຂ້າລາງ	Slow Down
ທາງເດືອຍາ	One Way
ທາງອອກ	Exit

**How long can I park here?**ຂອດທີ່ນີ້ໄດ້ນານທ່າງໄຮ *jōrt tēe néé dâi nahn tōw-rai?***Where do I pay?**ຈ່າຍເງິນທີ່ໄຫນ *jài ngeun tēe nái?***I need a mechanic.**ຕ້ອງການຊ່າງ *dōng gahn châhung***I have a flat tyre.**ຢາງແບນ *yahng baan***I've run out of petrol.**ຮມຄົນນັ້ນ *mót nám man***I've had an accident.**ມີອຸປ່ຽນເຫດຸ *mee ù-bát-dâ-hèt***The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...)**ຮດ/ມອເຕອຣ໌ໃຈກໍເສີຍທີ່... *rót/mor-deu-sai sée-a tēe ...***The car/motorbike won't start.**ຮດ/ມອເຕອຣ໌ໃຈກໍສັດຕິບັດໄມ່ຕິດ *rót/mor-deu-sai sa-dâht māi dit***TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN****Is there a/an ...**

ມີ...ໄໝໝາຍ

*mee ... māi***baby change room**

ຫ້ອງ ກະບຶລີຍືນຜ້າເດັກ

*hôrng blée-an pâh dêk***car baby seat**

ເບາະນັ້ນໃນຮອດສໍາຫຼັບເດັກ

*bò nâng nai rót sām-râp dêk***child-minding service**

ບຣິກາຣເລີ້ຍ ຈັດັກ

*bor-rí-gahn lée-ang dêk***children's menu**

ຮາຍກາຣອາຫາຣສໍາຫຼັບເດັກ

*rai gahn ah-hâhn sām-râp dêk***(disposable) nappies/diapers**

ຜ້າວ້ອມ(ແບບໃໝ່ແດ້ວທີ່ງ)

*pâh ôrm (bâap chái lâa-ou ting)***formula (milk)**

ນັມເປັນສໍາຫຼັບເດັກ

*nom póng sām-râp dêk***(English-speaking) babysitter**

ພີເລີ້ຍ ຈັດັກ(ທີ່ພຸດກາຍາວັງການຢູ່ໄດ້)

*pêe lée-ang dêk (tee poot pah-sâh ang-grit dâi)***highchair**

ເກ້າວີສູ້ງ

*gôw-êe sâong***potty**

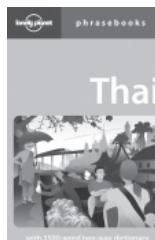
ກະະໂໂນ

*grâ-tôhn***stroller**

ຮອຕເບັນເດັກ

*rót kén dêk***Are children allowed?**

ເດັກອນຸຍາຕໃຫ້ເບ້າໄໝໝາຍ

*dek à-nú-yâht hâi kow māi?*

Also available from Lonely Planet:  
Thai Phrasebook

# Glossary

See the Food Glossary, p52, for culinary terms and Thai dishes. See the Language chapter, p429, for some other useful words and phrases.

**ah-hähn** – food

**ah-hähn jeh** – vegetarian food

**ah-hähn ுลະ** – ‘jungle food’; usually refers to dishes made with wild game

**ah-hähn บໍາກ ດ້າ** – also spelt *ah-hähn pâk tâi*; southern Thai food

**amphoe** – also *amphur*; district, the next subdivision down from province

**amphoe meu-ang** – provincial capital

**ao** – also *ow*; bay or gulf

**bâhn** – also *ban*; house or village

**bâht** – traditional measure for gold and silver, equivalent to 15g

**BMA** – Bangkok Metropolitan Authority

**bôht** – central sanctuary or chapel in a Thai temple

**CAT** – Communications Authority of Thailand

**chao leh** – also *chow lair* or *chow nám*; sea gypsies

**chedi** – stupa; monument erected to house a Buddha relic

**chow samûi** – ‘Samui folk’; rural people on Ko Samui

**chow lair** – also *chao leh* or *chow nám*; sea gypsies

**da-lâht** – also *tâlât*; market

**da-lâht nám** – also *tâlât nám*; floating market

**dhamma** – right behaviour and truth according to Buddhist doctrine

**drôrk** – also *trok* or *trâwk*; alley, smaller than a soi

**drùð jeen** – also *trùt jiin*; Chinese New Year

**Eid al-Fitr** – feasting at the end of the Muslim festival of Ramadan

**faràng** – foreigner of European descent

**gâa-ou** – also *kâew*; crystal, jewel, glass or gem

**ga-teu-i** – also *kâthoey*; ‘ladyboy’; transvestites and transsexuals

**gò** – also *ko* or *koh*; island

**gow-low** – also *kaw-lae*; traditional fishing boats of southern Thailand

**grâ-tôrm** – also *krâthâwm*; ‘natural’ drug, from the leaf of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree

**gù-đì** – also *kùti*; monk’s hut or living quarters

**hâht** – also *hat*; beach

**hörg** – also *hwâng* or *hong*; room or chamber; island caves semisubmerged in the sea

**isâhn** – also *isan*; general term for northeastern Thailand

**jang-wât** – province

**jataka** – stories of the Buddha’s previous lives

**jeen** – also *jiin*; Chinese

**kâew** – also *gâa-ou*; crystal, jewel, glass or gem

**kâthoey** – also *ga-teu-i*; ‘ladyboy’; transvestites and transsexuals

**kaw-lae** – also *gow-low*; traditional fishing boats of southern Thailand

**klong** – also *khlong* or *khlawng*; canal

**ko** – also *gò* or *koh*; island

**kôw** – also *khao*; hill or mountain

**krêu-ang tom** – nielloware; a silver-and-black alloy/ enamel jewellery technique borrowed from China many centuries ago

**krút** – mythical creature, half-man and half-bird (known as Garuda in Pali), a symbol of Thai Brahminism and royal patronage

**Kun** – also *Khun*; honorific used before first name

**krâthâwm** – also *grâ-tôrm*; ‘natural’ drug, from the leaf of the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree

**kùti** – also *gù-đì*; monk’s hut or living quarters

**lääm** – also *laem*; geographical cape

**lá-kon** – classical Thai dance-drama

**lí-gair bâh** – also *li-keh pâa* or *li-gair bòk*; Thai folk dance-drama

**longyi** – Burmese sarong

**mâa nám** – river

**masjid** – also *mâtsâyít*; mosque

**meu-ang** – also *muang*; city

**moo-ay tai** – also *muay thai*; Thai boxing

**muay thai** – also *moo-ay tai*; Thai boxing

**mòo** – also *míú*; short for *mòo bâhn*; village

**nám** – water or juice

**nám ðòk** – also *nám tòk*; waterfall

**ná-kon** – also *nakhorn*; city

**nâng ðâ-lung** – Thai shadow theatre; movies

**nibbana** – nirvana; the ‘blowing out’ or extinction of all desire and thus of all suffering

**nóy** – also *noi*; small

**nôo·at pän boh·rahn** – also *nút paen boh-raan*; Thai

massage

**ow** – also *ao*; bay or gulf

**pàk tâi** – also *bàk ðâi*; southern Thailand

**Pali** – language derived from Sanskrit, in which the Buddhist scriptures are written

**pêe** – also *phîi*; spirits

**prá** – also *phrá*; monk or Buddha image

**pi·phâat** – also *bèe·pâht*; classical Thai orchestra

**pôo nôy** – also *phûu náwy*; ‘little people’; those yet to attain social standing in the Thai system of deference and respect

**pôo yâi** – also *phûu yâi*; ‘big people’; those who have higher social standing, expected to sponsor and provide for *pôo nôy*

**prang** – also *brang*; Khmer-style tower on temples

**ráhn goh·bêe** – also *râhn ko-piï*; coffee shops (southern Thailand)

**râi** – an area of land measurement equal to 1600 sq m

**Ramakian** – Thai version of India’s epic literary piece, the Ramayana

**reu·a gow·low** – also *reua kaw-lae*; large painted fishing boats, peculiar to Narathiwat and Pattani

**reu·a hâhang yow** – also *reua hâhang yao*; long-tail taxi boat

**reu·an tâa·ou** – a longhouse

**reu·sêe** – also *reusii*; Hindu rishi or sage

**rót aa** – blue-and-white air-conditioned buses

**rót döo·an** – express trains

**rót tam·má·dah** – ordinary bus (no air-con) or ordinary train (not rapid or express)

**säämlâw** – also *sähm-lór*; three-wheeled pedicab

**sähm·lór** – also *säämlâw*; three-wheeled pedicab

**säh·lah** – also *sala* or *saalaa*; open-sided, covered meeting hall or resting place

**sahn jôw** – also *sân jâo*; Chinese shrine or joss house

**sâ·léung** – old system of Thai currency (one *sâ·léung* equals 25 satang)

**samatha** – meditation practice aimed at developing refined states of concentration

**säm·nák wí·bat·sâ·nah** – meditation centre

**sangha** – brotherhood of Buddhist monks; temple inhabitants (monks, nuns and lay residents)

**sà·nük** – fun

**sapahn** – bridge

**sâwngthæw** – also *sörng-tää·ou*; small pickup truck with two benches in the back, used as bus/taxi

**soi** – lane or small street

**Songkhran** – Thai New Year, held in mid-April

**sörng-tää·ou** – also *sâwngthæw*; small pickup truck with two benches in the back, used as bus/taxi

**SRT** – State Railway of Thailand

**stupa** – domed edifice housing Buddhist relics

**suttas** – discourses of the Buddha

**tâh** – also *tha* or *thâa*; pier, landing

**tâlaat** – also *ða·låht*; market

**tâlaat nám** – also *ða·låht nám*; floating market

**TAT** – Tourism Authority of Thailand

**tha** – also *tâh* or *thâa*; pier, landing

**Thai bàk ðâi** – also *Thai pâk tâi*; southern Thais

**tâm** – also *thâm*; cave

**thànöñ** – street, road, avenue (we use the abbreviation ‘Th’ in this book)

**trok** – also *ðròrk* or *träwk*; alley, smaller than a soi

**Tripitaka** – Theravada Buddhist scriptures

**Trüt Jeen** – also *ðruð jeen*; Chinese New Year

**tük·tük** – motorised *sähm-lór*

**Ummah** – the Muslim community

**vipassana** – Buddhist insight meditation

**wâi** – 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

**wí·hähn** – also *wihan* or *viharn*; counterpart to *bòht* in Thai temple, containing Buddha images but not circumscribed by sema stones

**WFT** – Wildlife Fund Thailand

**yah bâh** – ‘crazy-medicine’; methamphetamine

**yâi** – big

**bàk ðâi** – also *pâk tâi*; southern Thailand

**bèe·pâht** – also *pi·phâat*; classical Thai orchestra

**brang** – also *prang*; Khmer-style tower on temples