

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. There are so few foreigners who speak Thai in Thailand that it doesn't take much to impress most Thais with a few words in their own language.

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 *thaan*, for example, is a more polite everyday word for 'eat' than *kin*, and *sii-sà* for 'head' is more polite than *húa*. When given a choice, it's better to use the polite terms, since these are less likely to lead to unconscious offence.

SCRIPT

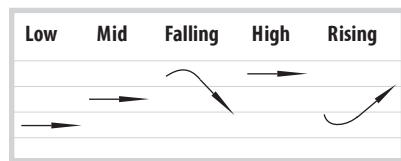
The Thai script, a fairly recent development in comparison with the spoken language, consists of 44 consonants (but only 21 separate sounds) and 48 vowel and diphthong possibilities (32 separate signs). Though learning the alphabet is not difficult, the writing system itself is fairly complex, so unless 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 included in this book are given in both Thai and

Roman script, so that you can at least 'read' the names of destinations at a pinch, 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, level or 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 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:



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 with no inflection, eg *bàat* (baht – the Thai currency).

level or mid tone – pronounced 'flat', at the relative middle of the speaker's vocal range, eg *dii* (good); no tone mark is used.

falling tone – sounds as if 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

is pronounced near the relative top of the vocal range, as level as possible, eg *máa* (horse).

rising tone – sounds like the inflection used by English speakers to imply a question – 'Yes?', eg *sáam* (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). It's based on the Royal Thai General System (RTGS). The dots indicate syllable breaks within words.

Consonants

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

k	as the 'k' in 'skin'; similar to the 'g' in 'good', but unaspirated (ie with no accompanying puff of air); similar to English 'g' but unvoiced (ie with no vibration in the vocal chords)
p	as the 'p' in 'stopper', unvoiced and unaspirated (not like the 'p' in 'put'); actually sounds closer to an English 'b', its voiced equivalent
t	as the 't' in 'forty', unaspirated; similar to 'd' but unvoiced
kh	as the 'k' in 'kite', aspirated (ie with an audible puff of air)
ph	as the 'p' in 'pie', aspirated (not to be confused with the 'ph' in 'phone')
th	as the 't' in 'tie', aspirated
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 often pronounced like 'l'

Vowels

i	as the 'i' in 'it'
ii	as the 'ee' in 'feet'
ai	as the 'i' in 'pipe'
aa	as the 'a' in 'father'
a	half as long as aa , as the 'a' in 'about'
ae	as the 'a' in 'bat' or 'tab'
e	as the 'e' in 'hen'
eh	as the 'ai' in 'air'
oe	as the 'er' in 'fern' (without the 'r' sound)

u	as the 'u' in 'put'
uu	as the 'oo' in 'food'
eu	as the 'u' in 'fur' (without the 'r' sound)
ao	as the 'ow' in 'now'
aw	as the 'aw' in 'jaw' or 'prawn'
o	as the 'o' in 'bone'
oh	as the 'o' in 'toe'
eua	a combination of eu and a
ia	as 'ee-ya', or as the 'ie' in French <i>rien</i>
ua	as the 'our' in 'tour'
uay	sounds like 'oo-way'
iu	as the 'ew' in 'new'
iaw	as the 'io' in 'Rio'
aew	like the 'a' in 'cat' followed by a short 'u' as in 'put'
ehw	as 'air-oooh'
awy	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 ...

phôm/di-chân kam-lang hǎa ...

ผม/ดิฉันกำลังหา...

guesthouse	บ้านพัก/
<i>bán pháak/</i>	เกสต์เฮาส์
<i>kèt hǎa</i> ('guest house')	เกสต์เฮาส์
hotel	โรงแรม
<i>rohng raem</i>	โรงแรม

youth hostel

bán yao-wá-chon บ้านเยาวชน

Where is a cheap hotel?

rohng raem thii raa-khaa thùuk yùu thii nǎi

โรงแรมที่ราคาถูกอยู่ที่ไหน

What is the address?

thii yùu keu a-rai

ที่อยู่คืออะไร

Could you write the address, please?

khian thii yùu hǎi dái mǎi

เขียนที่อยู่ให้ได้เลยไหม

Do you have any rooms available?

mii háwng wǎang mǎi?

มีห้องว่างไหม

I'd like (a) ...

tǎwng kaan ...

ต้องการ...

bed

tiang nawn เตียงนอน

single room

háwng diaw ห้องเดี่ยว

double room

háwng khúu ห้องคู่

room with two beds

háwng thii mii ห้องที่มีเตียงสองตัว

tiang sǎwng tua

room with a bathroom

háwng thii mii ห้องที่มีห้องน้ำ

háwng nám

ordinary room (with fan)

háwng tham-má- ห้องธรรมดา

daa (mii pák lom) (มีพัดลม)

to share a dorm

phák nai háwng pháak พักในหอพัก

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

per night *kheun lá* คืนละ

per person *khon lá* คนละ

May I see the room?

duu háwng dái mǎi

ดูห้องได้ไหม

Where is the bathroom?

háwng nám yùu thii nǎi

ห้องน้ำอยู่ที่ไหน

I'm/We're leaving today.

chán/phúak rao jà áwk wan nǎi

ฉัน/พวกเราจะออกวันนี้

toilet	<i>hâwng sâam</i>	ห้องส้วม
room	<i>hâwng</i>	ห้อง
hot	<i>râwn</i>	ร้อน
cold	<i>yen</i>	เย็น
bath/shower	<i>âap nám</i>	อาบน้ำ
towel	<i>phâa chét tua</i>	ผ้าเช็ดตัว

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

When being polite, the speaker ends his or her sentence with *kháp* (for men) or *khá* (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.
sà-wát-dii (kháp/khá) สวัสดี(ครับ/ค่ะ)

Goodbye.
laa kâwn ลาก่อน

Yes.
châi ใช่

No.
mâi châi ไม่ใช่

Please.
kà-rú-naa กรุณา

Thank you.
khâwp khun ขอบคุณ

That's fine. (You're welcome)
mâi pen rai/yin-dii ไม่เป็นไร/ยินดี

Excuse me.
khâw à-phai ขออภัย

Sorry. (forgive me)
khâw thòht ขอโทษ

How are you?
sa-bai dii rêu? สบายดีหรือ?

I'm fine, thanks.
sa-bai dii สบายดี

What's your name?
khun chêu à-rai? คุณชื่ออะไร?

My name is ...
phôm chêu ... (men) ผมชื่อ...

di-chân chêu ... (women) ดิฉันชื่อ...

Where are you from?
maa jâak nâi มาจากไหน

I'm from ...
maa jâak ... มาจาก...

See you soon.
diaw joe kan ná เจอกันนะ

I like ...
châwp ... ชอบ...

I don't like ...
mâi châwp ... ไม่ชอบ...

Just a minute.
raw diâw รอเดี๋ยว

I/me (for men)
phôm ผม

I/me (for women)
di-chân ดิฉัน

I/me (informal, men and women)
chân ฉัน

you (for peers)
khun คุณ

Do you have ...?
mii ... mâi?/... mii mâi? มี...ไหม?...มีไหม?

(I) would like ... (+ verb)
yâak jâ ... อยากจะ...

(I) would like ... (+ noun)
yâak dâi ... อยากได้...

DIRECTIONS

Where is (the) ...?
... yùu thii nâi? ...อยู่ที่ไหน?

(Go) Straight ahead.
trong pai ตรงไป

Turn left.
lîaw sâai เลี้ยวซ้าย

Turn right.
lîaw khwâa เลี้ยวขวา

at the corner
trong mum ตรงมุม

at the traffic lights
trong fai daeng ตรงไฟแดง

behind
khâng lâng ข้างหลัง

SIGNS

ทางเข้า	Entrance
ทางออก	Exit
ที่ติดต่อสอบถาม	Information
เปิด	Open
ปิด	Closed
ห้าม	Prohibited
มีห้องว่าง	Rooms Available
เต็มแล้ว	Full/No Vacancies
สถานีตำรวจ	Police Station
ห้องน้ำ	Toilets
ชาย	Men
หญิง	Women

in front of *trong nâa* ตรงหน้า

far *klai* ไกล

near *klâi* ใกล้

not far *mâi klai* ไม่ไกล

opposite *trong khâam* ตรงข้าม

left *sâai* ซ้าย

right *khwâa* ขวา

beach *chaai hàt* ชายหาด

bridge *sà-phaan* สะพาน

canal *khlawng* คลอง

castle *praa-sâat* ปราสาท

church *bòht* โบสถ์

countryside *chon-ná-bòt* ชนบท

hill *khâo* เขา

island *kâw* เกาะ

lake *thá-leh sâap* ทะเลสาบ

market *ta-lâat* ตลาด

mountain *phuu khâo* ภูเขา

museum *phí-phít-thá-phan* พิพิธภัณฑ์

old city *meuang kào* เมืองเก่า

paddy (field) *(thung) naa* (ทุ่ง) นา

palace *wang* วัง

pond *nâwng/beung* หนอง/บึง

river *mâe nám* แม่น้ำ

sea *thá-leh* ทะเล

temple *wát* วัด

tower *hâw* หอ

town *meuang* เมือง

track *thaang* ทาง

village *(mùu) bân* (หมู่บ้าน)

waterfall *nám tòk* น้ำตก

It hurts here.
jèp trong née เจ็บตรงนี้

I'm pregnant.
tâng khan láew ตั้งครรภ์แล้ว

I feel nauseous.
rúu-sèuk khhlèun sâi รู้สึกคลื่นไส้

I have a fever.
pen khâi เป็นไข้

I have diarrhoea.
thâwng sía ท้องเสีย

I'm ...
phôm/di-chân ...

ผม/ดิฉัน...

asthmatic
pen hêut เป็นหืด

diabetic
pen rôhk bao wân เป็นโรคเบาหวาน

epileptic
pen rôhk lom baa mùu เป็นโรคลมบ้าหมู

I'm allergic to ...
phôm/di-chân phâe ...

ผม/ดิฉันแพ้...

antibiotics
yaa pà-ti-chii-wa-ná ยาปฏิชีวนะ

aspirin
yaa âet-sa-phai-rin ยาแอสไพริน

penicillin
yaa phe-ni-sin-lin ยาเพนิซิลลิน

bees
phêung ผึ้ง

peanuts
thùu lí-sông ถั่วลิสง

antiseptic
yaa khâa chéua ยามาเชื้อ

aspirin
yaa kâe pùat ยาแก้ปวด

condoms
thung yaang a-naa-mai ถุงยางอนามัย

contraceptive
kaan khum kam-nòet การคุมกำเนิด

medicine
yaa ยา

mosquito coil
yaa kan yung bâep jùt ยากันยุงแบบจุด

mosquito repellent
yaa kan yung ยากันยุง

painkiller
yaa kâe pùat ยาแก้ปวด

sunblock cream
khriim kan dàet ครีมกันแดด

tampons
thaem-phawn แอมพอน

EMERGENCIES

Help! <i>chúay dúay!</i>	ช่วยด้วย
There's been an accident. <i>mii ù-bát-tì-hèt</i>	มีอุบัติเหตุ
I'm lost. <i>chán lòng thaang</i>	ฉันหลงทาง
Go away! <i>pai sí!</i>	ไปซิ
Stop! <i>yút!</i>	หยุด
Call ...! <i>riak ... nàwy</i>	เรียก...หน่อย
a doctor	<i>máw</i> หมอ
the police	<i>tam-rúat</i> ตำรวจ

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES**Do you speak English?**

khun phút phaa-sáa ang-krit dài mái
คุณพูดภาษาอังกฤษได้ไหม

Does anyone here speak English?

thii níi mii khrai bàng thii phút phaa-sáa ang-krit dài mái
ที่นี่มีใครบ้างที่พูดภาษาอังกฤษได้ไหม

How do you say ... in Thai?

... wáa yàng rai phaa-sáa thài
... ว่าจะอย่างไรภาษาไทย

What do you call this in Thai?

níi phaa-sáa thài riak wáa à-rai?
นี่ภาษาไทยเรียกว่าอะไร

What does ... mean?

... plae wáa à-rai
... แปลว่าอะไร

Do you understand?

kháo jai mái?
เข้าใจไหม

A little.

nít nàwy
นิดหน่อย

I understand.

kháo jai
เข้าใจ

I don't understand.

mái kháo jai
ไม่เข้าใจ

Please write it down.

kà-rú-naa khian hái nàwy
กรุณาเขียนให้หน่อย

Can you show me (on the map)?

hái duu (nai phæn thii) dài mái
ให้ดู(ในแผนที่)ได้ไหม

NUMBERS

0	<i>sún</i>	ศูนย์
1	<i>nèung</i>	หนึ่ง
2	<i>sáwng</i>	สอง
3	<i>sám</i>	สาม
4	<i>sii</i>	สี่
5	<i>háa</i>	ห้า
6	<i>hòk</i>	หก
7	<i>jèt</i>	เจ็ด
8	<i>pàet</i>	แปด
9	<i>káo</i>	เก้า
10	<i>síp</i>	สิบ
11	<i>síp-èt</i>	สิบเอ็ด
12	<i>síp-sáwng</i>	สิบสอง
13	<i>síp-sám</i>	สิบสาม
14	<i>síp-sii</i>	สิบสี่
15	<i>síp-háa</i>	สิบห้า
16	<i>síp-hòk</i>	สิบหก
17	<i>síp-jèt</i>	สิบเจ็ด
18	<i>síp-pàet</i>	สิบแปด
19	<i>síp-káo</i>	สิบเก้า
20	<i>yíi-síp</i>	ยี่สิบ
21	<i>yíi-síp-èt</i>	ยี่สิบเอ็ด
22	<i>yíi-síp-sáwng</i>	ยี่สิบสอง
30	<i>sám-síp</i>	สามสิบ
40	<i>sii-síp</i>	สี่สิบ
50	<i>háa-síp</i>	ห้าสิบ
60	<i>hòk-síp</i>	หกสิบ
70	<i>jèt-síp</i>	เจ็ดสิบ
80	<i>pàet-síp</i>	แปดสิบ
90	<i>káo-síp</i>	เก้าสิบ
100	<i>nèung ráwy</i>	หนึ่งร้อย
200	<i>sáwng ráwy</i>	สองร้อย
300	<i>sám ráwy</i>	สามร้อย
1000	<i>nèung phan</i>	หนึ่งพัน
2000	<i>sáwng phan</i>	สองพัน
10,000	<i>nèung mèn</i>	หนึ่งหมื่น
100,000	<i>nèung sǎn</i>	หนึ่งแสน
one million	<i>nèung láan</i>	หนึ่งล้าน
one billion	<i>phan láan</i>	พันล้าน

PAPERWORK

name	<i>chêu</i>	ชื่อ
nationality	<i>sán-cháat</i>	สัญชาติ
date of birth	<i>kòet wan thii</i>	เกิดวันที่
place of birth	<i>kòet thii</i>	เกิดที่
sex (gender)	<i>phêht</i>	เพศ
passport	<i>nàng-sêu doen</i>	หนังสือเดินทาง
visa	<i>thaang wii-sáa</i>	วีซ่า

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'd like to buy ... <i>yàak jà séu ...</i>	อยากจะทำ...
How much? <i>thào rai?</i>	เท่าไร
How much is this? <i>níi thào rai?/kii bàat?</i>	นี่เท่าไร/กี่บาท
How much is it? <i>thào rai</i>	เท่าไร
I don't like it. <i>mái chàwp</i>	ไม่ชอบ
May I look at it? <i>duu dài mái</i>	ดูได้ไหม
I'm just looking. <i>duu chõe chõe</i>	ดูเฉยๆ
It's cheap. <i>raa-khaa thùuk</i>	ราคาถูก
It's too expensive. <i>phaeng koen pai</i>	แพงเกินไป
I'll take it. <i>ao</i>	เอา

Can you reduce the price a little?

lót raa-khaa nàwy dài mái
ลดราคาหน่อยได้ไหม

Can you come down just a little more?

lót raa-khaa iik níi-nèung dài mái
ลดราคาอีกนิดหนึ่งได้ไหม

Do you have something cheaper?

mii thùuk kwàa níi mái
มีถูกกว่านี้ไหม

Can you lower it more?

lót iik dài mái
ลดอีกได้ไหม

How about ... baht?

... bàat dài mái
... บาทได้ไหม

I won't give more than ... baht.

jà hái mái koen ... bàat
จะให้ไม่เกิน...บาท

Do you accept ...?

<i>ráp ... mái</i>	รับ...ไหม
credit cards <i>bàt khreh-dít</i>	บัตรเครดิต
travellers cheques <i>chék doen thaang</i>	เช็คเดินทาง

more	<i>iik</i>	อีก
more	<i>màak khêun</i>	มากขึ้น
less	<i>náwy long</i>	น้อยลง
smaller	<i>lék kwàa</i>	เล็กกว่า
bigger	<i>yài kwàa</i>	ใหญ่กว่า
too expensive	<i>phaeng pai</i>	แพงไป
inexpensive	<i>thùuk</i>	ถูก

I'm looking for ...

<i>phòm/dì-chán háa ...</i>	ผม/ดิฉันหา...
a bank <i>thá-naa-khaan</i>	ธนาคาร
the church <i>bòht khrit</i>	โบสถ์คริสต์
the city centre <i>jai klaang meuang</i>	ใจกลางเมือง
the ... embassy <i>sà-thaan thút ...</i>	สถานทูต...
the market <i>ta-làat</i>	ตลาด
the museum <i>phí-phít-thá-phan</i>	พิพิธภัณฑ
the post office <i>prai-sà-níi</i>	ไปรษณีย์
a public toilet <i>hàwng nám</i>	ห้องน้ำสาธารณะ
<i>sáa-thaa-rá-ná</i>	
a restaurant <i>ráan aa-háan</i>	ร้านอาหาร
the telephone centre <i>sún thoh-rá-síp</i>	ศูนย์โทรศัพท์
the tourist office <i>sám-nák ngaan tháwng thiaa</i>	สำนักงานท่องเที่ยว

I want to change ...

<i>táwng kaan làek ...</i>	ต้องการแลก...
money <i>ngoan</i>	เงิน
travellers cheques <i>chék doen thaang</i>	เช็คเดินทาง

Can I/we change money here?*lâek ngoen thii nîi dâi mǎi*

แลกเงินที่นี่ได้ไหม

What time does it open?*rán pòet kii mohng*

ร้านเปิดกี่โมง

What time does it close?*rán pit kii mohng*

ร้านปิดกี่โมง

TIME & DATES**What time is it?***kii mohng lâew?* กี่โมงแล้ว?**It's (8 o'clock).***pàet mohng lâew* แปดโมงแล้ว

When?	<i>meua-rai</i>	เมื่อไร
today	<i>wan nîi</i>	วันนี้
tomorrow	<i>phrùng nîi</i>	พรุ่งนี้
yesterday	<i>mêua waan</i>	เมื่อวาน
Monday	<i>wan jan</i>	วันจันทร์
Tuesday	<i>wan ang-khaan</i>	วันอังคาร
Wednesday	<i>wan phút</i>	วันพุธ
Thursday	<i>wan phá-réu-hát</i>	วันพฤหัสบดี
Friday	<i>wan sùk</i>	วันศุกร์
Saturday	<i>wan sǎo</i>	วันเสาร์
Sunday	<i>wan aa-thít</i>	วันอาทิตย์

January	<i>má-ka-raa-khom</i>	มกราคม
February	<i>kum-phaa-phan</i>	กุมภาพันธ์
March	<i>mii-naa-khom</i>	มีนาคม
April	<i>meh-sǎo-yon</i>	เมษายน
May	<i>phréut-sà-phaa-khom</i>	พฤษภาคม
June	<i>mí-thù-naa-yon</i>	มิถุนายน
July	<i>ka-rák-ka-daa-khom</i>	กรกฎาคม
August	<i>sing-hǎa-khom</i>	สิงหาคม
September	<i>kan-yaa-yon</i>	กันยายน
October	<i>tù-laa-khom</i>	ตุลาคม
November	<i>phréut-sà-jí-kaa-yon</i>	พฤศจิกายน
December	<i>than-waa-khom</i>	ธันวาคม

TRANSPORT**Public Transport****What time does the ... leave?***...jà àwk kii mohng*

... จะออกกี่โมง

What time does the ... arrive?*...jà thǔng kii mohng*

... จะถึงกี่โมง

boat	<i>reua</i>	เรือ
bus	<i>rót meh/</i> <i>rót bát</i>	รถเมย์/ รถบัส
bus (city)	<i>rót meh</i>	รถเมย์
bus (intercity)	<i>rót thua</i>	รถทัวร์
plane	<i>khreuang bin</i>	เครื่องบิน
train	<i>rót fai</i>	รถไฟ

I'd like ...*phôm/di-chǎn yàak dâi ...*

ผม/ดิฉันอยากได้...

a one-way ticket	<i>túa thiaw diaw</i>	ตั๋วเที่ยวเดียว
a return ticket	<i>túa pai klòp</i>	ตั๋วไปกลับ
two tickets	<i>túa sǎwng bai</i>	ตั๋วสองใบ
1st class	<i>chán nèung</i>	ชั้นหนึ่ง
2nd class	<i>chán sǎwng</i>	ชั้นสอง

I'd like a ticket.*yàak dâi túa*

อยากได้ตั๋ว

I want to go to ...*yàak jà pai ...*

อยากจะไป...

The train has been cancelled.*rót fai thùuk yók lôek lâew*

รถไฟถูกยกเลิกแล้ว

The train has been delayed.*rót fai jà cháa weh-laa*

รถไฟจะช้าเวลา

airport*sa-nǎam bin* สนามบิน**bus station***sa-thǎa-nii man yùu thii nǎi* สถานีขนส่ง**bus stop***pǎai rót meh*ป้ายรถเมย์**taxi stand***thii jàwt rót thǎek-sǐi* ที่จอดรถแท็กซี่**train station***sa-thǎa-nii rót fai* สถานีรถไฟ**platform number***chaan-chaa-laa thii* ชานชาลาที่**ticket office***túu khǎi túa*

ตู้ขายตั๋ว

timetable*taa-raang weh-laa* ตารางเวลา**the first***thii ráek* ที่แรก**the last***sút thǎai* สุดท้าย**Private Transport****I'd like to hire a/an ...***phôm/di-chǎn yàak cháow ...*

ผม/ดิฉันอยากเช่า...

car*rót yon* รถยนต์**4WD***rót foh wiin* รถโฟร์วิล**motorbike***rót maw-toe-sai* รถมอเตอร์ไซด์**bicycle***rót jàk-kà-yaan* รถจักรยาน**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
ขับช้าลง	Slow Down
ทางเดียว	One Way
ทางออก	Exit

Is this the road to ...?*thaang nîi pai ... mǎi*

ทางนี้ไป...ไหม

Where's a service station?*pǎm nám man yùu thii nǎi*

ปั้มน้ำมันอยู่ที่ไหน

Please fill it up.*khǎw toem hái tem*

ขอเติมน้ำมันให้เต็ม

I'd like (30) litres.*aa (sǎam síp) lít*

เอา(สามสิบ) ลิตร

diesel*nám man soh-lǎa*

น้ำมันโซล่า

unleaded petrol*nám man rái sǎn tò-kua*

น้ำมันไร้สารตะกั่ว

Can I park here?*jàwt thii nîi dâi mǎi*

จอดที่นี่ได้ไหม

How long can I park here?*jàwt thii nîi dâi naan thǎo-rai*

จอดที่นี่ได้นานเท่าไร

Where do I pay?*jàai ngoen thii nǎi*

จ่ายเงินที่ไหน

I need a mechanic.*tǎwng kaan cháang*

ต้องการช่าง

The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...)*rót/maw-toe-sai sía thii ...*

รถ/มอเตอร์ไซด์เสียที่...

The car/motorbike won't start.*rót/maw-toe-sai sa-táat mǎi tít*

รถ/มอเตอร์ไซด์สตาร์ทไม่ติด

I have a flat tyre.*yaang baen*

ยางแบน

I've run out of petrol.*mòt nám man*

หมดน้ำมัน

I've had an accident.*mii ù-pàt-tì-hèt*

มีอุบัติเหตุ

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN**Is there a/an ...***mii ... mǎi* มี...ไหม**I need a/an ...***tǎwng kaan ...* ต้องการ...**baby change room***hǎwng plian pháa dèk*

ห้องเปลี่ยนผ้าเด็ก

car baby seat*bǎw náng nai rót sǎm-ràp dèk*

เบาะนั่งในรถสำหรับเด็ก

child-minding service*baw-rí-kaan liàng dèk*

บริการเลี้ยงเด็ก

child-minding service

บริการเลี้ยงเด็ก

children's menu*raai kaan ah-háan sǎm-ràp dèk*

รายการอาหารสำหรับเด็ก

(disposable) nappies/diapers*pháa àwm (bàep cháí láew tǐng)*

ผ้าอ้อม(แบบใช้แล้วทิ้ง)

formula (milk)*nom phǎng sǎm-ràp dèk*

นมผงสำหรับเด็ก

(English-speaking) babysitter*phii láng dèk (thii phút phaa-sǎa ang-krit dái)*

พี่เลี้ยงเด็ก(ที่พูดภาษาอังกฤษได้)

highchair*káo ii súng*

เก้าอี้สูง

potty*krà-thǎhn*

กระโถน

stroller*rót khǎn dèk*

รถเข็นเด็ก

Do you mind if I breastfeed here?*jà rang-kiat mái thǎa hái nom lúuk thii nǐi*

จะรังเกียจไหมถ้าให้นมลูกที่นี่

Are children allowed?*dèk à-nú-yáht khào mái*

เด็กอนุญาตเข้าไหม



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 p83.

aaahan – food
aaahan pàa – ‘jungle food’, usually referring to dishes made with wild game
ajahn – (*aaajaan*) respectful title for teacher; from the Sanskrit term *acarya*
amphoe – district, the next subdivision down from province; also written *amphur*
amphoe meuang – provincial capital
ao – bay or gulf
AUA – American University Alumni

bàat – a unit of weight equal to 15g; rounded bowl used by monks for receiving food alms
baht – (*bàat*) the Thai unit of currency
bai sii – sacred thread used by monks or shamans in certain religious ceremonies
ban – (*bàan*) house or village
bàw nàam ràwn – hot springs
benjarong – traditional five-coloured Thai ceramics
BKS – Baw Khaw Saw (Thai acronym for the Transport Company)
BMA – Bangkok Metropolitan Authority
bodhisattva (S) – in Theravada Buddhism, the term used to refer to the Buddha during the period before he became the Buddha, including his previous lives
bòt – central sanctuary in a Thai temple used for official business of the Order (Pali: *sangha*) of monks, such as ordinations; from the Pali term *uposatha*; see also *wihaan*
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 fai fáa*

CAT – Communications Authority of Thailand
chao leh – sea gypsies; also *chao nàam*
chao naa – farmer
chedi – *stupa*
CPT – Communist Party of Thailand

doi – (*dawý*) the word for mountain in the northern regions

faràng – Western, a Westerner

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

hat – (*hàat*) beach; also *chaihàat*
haw phii – spirit shrine
haw trai – a Tripitaka (Buddhist scripture) hall
hâwng – room; see also *hong*
hâwng thaew – two- or three-storey shophouses arranged side-by-side along a city street
hin – stone
hong – (*hâwng*) room; in southern Thailand this refers to semi-submerged island caves

Isan – (*isaan*) general term used for northeastern Thailand

jào meuang – political office in traditional Thai societies throughout Southeast Asia; literally ‘principality chief’
jataka (P) – (*chaadòk*) stories of the Buddha’s previous lives
jiin – Chinese
jiin haw – Yunnanese

kàthoey – lady boys, transvestites and transsexuals
khaen – reed instrument common in northeastern Thailand
khao – hill or mountain
khào – rice
khlong – (*khlawng*) canal
khohn – masked dance-drama based on stories from the *Ramakian*
khon isaan – the people of northeastern Thailand
KMT – Kuomintang
KNU – Karen National Union
ko – (*kàw*) island; also *koh*
kràbii-kràbawng – a traditional Thai martial art employing short swords and staves
ku – small *chedi* that is partially hollow and open
kúay hàeng – Chinese-style work shirt
kùti – meditation hut; a monk’s dwelling

laem – cape
làk meuang – city pillar, isthmus
lákhn – classical Thai dance-drama
lào khao – ‘white spirit’, an often homemade brew
lào thèuan – homemade (ie illegal) liquor
lék – little, small (in size); see also *noi*
lí-keh – Thai folk dance-drama
loi krathong – (*lawý kràthong*) the ceremony celebrated on the full moon of the end of the rainy season

longyi – Burmese sarong
lúuk thúng – Thai country music

mâe chii – Thai Buddhist nun
mâe nám – river
Mahanikai – the larger of the two sects of Theravada Buddhism in Thailand
mahathat – (*máhaa tháat*) common name for temples containing Buddha relics; from the Sanskrit-Pali term *mahadhatu*
málaeng tháp – collages made from metallic, multicoloured beetle wings
mánohraa – an Isan musical tradition
traditional dance-drama
masjid – (*mátsáyít*) a mosque
mát-mii – 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
mâw háwm – see *séua mâw háwm*
mâw lam – an Isan musical tradition
mawn khwaan – wedge-shaped pillow popular in northern and northeastern Thailand
metta (P) – (*mêt-taa*) Buddhist practice of loving-kindness
meuang – city or principality
mondòp – small square, spired building in a *wat*; from Sanskrit *mandapa*
MRTA – Metropolitan Rapid Transit Authority
muay thai – Thai boxing

nám – water
nám tòk – waterfall
naga (P/S) – (*nâak*) a mythical serpentlike being with magical powers
nákhon – city; from the Sanskrit-Pali *nagara*
nang – Thai shadow play
néua – north
ngaan thêtsàkaan – festival
nirvana (S) – (Pali: *nibbana*, Thai: *níp-phaan*) in Buddhist teachings, the state of enlightenment; escape from the realm of rebirth
noen – hill
noi – (*náwy*) little, small (amount); also *noy*; see also *lék*
nok – (*nâwk*) outside; outer

paa-té – batik
pàk tâi – southern Thailand
phâa mát-mii – thick cotton or silk fabric woven from tie-dyed threads
phâakhamáa – piece of cotton cloth worn as a wraparound by men
phâasin – same as above for women
phansaa – ‘rains retreat’ or Buddhist Lent; a period of three months during the rainy season that is traditionally a

time of stricter moral observance for monks and Buddhist lay followers
phrá phim – magical charm amulets
phii – ghost, spirit
phíksù – a Buddhist monk; from the Sanskrit *bhikshu*, Pali *bhikkhu*
phin – small, three-stringed lute played with a large plectrum
phleng khoráat – Khorat folk song
phleng phéua chii-wít – ‘songs for life’, modern Thai folk music
phrá – an honorific term used for monks, nobility and Buddha images
phrá khréuang – amulets of monks, Buddhas or deities worn around the neck for spiritual protection; also called *phrá phim*
phrá phuum – earth spirits
phuu khao – mountain
phúu yài bân – village chief
pii-phâat – classical Thai orchestra
PLAT – People’s Liberation Army of Thailand
ponglang – (*ponglaang*) northeastern Thai marimba (percussion instrument) made of short logs
prang – (*praang*) Khmer-style tower on temples
prasada – blessed food offered to Hindu or Sikh temple attendees
prasat – (*praasát*) small ornate building with a cruciform ground plan and needlelike spire, used for religious purposes, located on *wat* grounds; any of a number of different kinds of hall or residence with religious or royal significance
PULO – Pattani United Liberation Organisation

râi – an area of land measurement equal to 1600 sq metres
reua haang yao – long-tailed boat
reuan thaew – longhouse
reusii – an ascetic, hermit or sage (Hindi: *rishi*)
rót fai fáa – Skytrain
rót fai tâi dín – subway, Metro
rót pràp aakàat – air-con vehicle
rót thammádaa – ordinary bus (non air-con) or ordinary train (not rapid or express)
rót thua – tour bus

sàalaa – open-sided, covered meeting hall or resting place; from Portuguese term *sala*, literally ‘room’
sàamláw – (also written *samlor*) three-wheeled pedicab; see also *túk-túk*
samnák song – monastic centre
samnák wípàtsànaa – meditation centre
samsara (P) – in Buddhist teachings, the realm of rebirth and delusion
sàtàang – A Thai unit of currency; 100 sàtàang equals 1 *baht*

sáwngthâew – (literally ‘two rows’) common name for small pick-up trucks with two benches in the back, used as buses/taxis; also written *songthaew*
sémaa – boundary stones used to consecrate ground used for monastic ordinations
serow – Asian mountain goat
séua mâw háwm – blue cotton farmer’s shirt
soi – (*sawý*) lane or small street
Songkran – (*songkraan*) Thai New Year, held in mid-April
SRT – State Railway of Thailand
stupa – conical Buddhist monument used to inter sacred Buddhist objects
suan aahaan – outdoor restaurant with any bit of foliage nearby; literally ‘food garden’
sù-saan – cemetery

tâi – south
tàlàt nám – floating market
tambon – precinct, next subdivision below *amphoe*; also written *tambol*
TAT – Tourism Authority of Thailand
tha – (*thâa*) pier, landing
thâat – four-sided, curvilinear Buddhist reliquary, common in northeastern Thailand; also *that*
thâat kràduuk – bone reliquary, a small *stupa* containing remains of a Buddhist devotee
THAI – Thai Airways International
thâm – cave
tham bun – to make merit
thammájàk – Buddhist wheel of law; from the Pali *dhammacakka*
Thammyayut – one of the two sects of Theravada Buddhism in Thailand; founded by King Rama IV while he was still a monk
thâm reusii – hermit cave
thànon – street

thêtsàbaan – a division in towns or cities much like ‘municipality’
thúdong – 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
tràwk – alley; also *trok*
trimurti – collocation of the three principal Hindu deities, Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu
Tripitaka (S) – Theravada Buddhist scriptures; (Pali: *Tipitaka*)
túk-túk – motorised *sàamláw*

ùtsànit – flame-shaped head ornament on a Buddha
Vipassana – (*wípàtsànaa*) Buddhist insight meditation

wài – palms-together Thai greeting
wan phrá – Buddhist holy days, falling on the days of the main phases of the moon (full, new and half) each month
wang – palace
wat – temple-monastery; from the Pali term *avasa* meaning ‘monk’s dwelling’
wát pàa – forest monastery
wáthánátham – culture
wihāan – any large hall in a Thai temple, but not the *bòt*; from the Sanskrit term *vihara*, meaning ‘dwelling’; also *wihan* or *viharn*

yām – shoulder bag
yài – big
Yawi – the traditional language 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

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