

60 minutes to learn the Thai Alphabet!

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Now you can learn the Thai alphabet in minutes, with this advanced visual memory technique! Travellers to Thailand, tourists and Business people will all find this ebook essential for travelling or working in Thailand!

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About the Thai Alphabet

There are 44 consonants in the Thai alphabet, and 32 vowels. However, some of these vowels are just long and short versions of each other, so it is actually only necessary to learn around 20 different vowel shapes!

Thai Tones

Thai words are broken up into syllables, and each syllable has a distinct tone.

The five tones in Thai are as follows:

1. Low (said in the lower part of your voice's register)
2. Middle (said in the middle part of your register)
3. High (said in the higher part - as if you are calling someone at a distance)
4. Falling (like the word no , when saying oh no if you are disappointed)
5. Rising (like the tone used, when asking someone if they are coming along: coming?)

How consonants affect the syllable's Tone?

Thai consonants are broken into 3 groups or classes: called low, middle and high for convenience. These names don't mean that the syllable will be low, middle or high tone - the names of these groups might as well as be 1,2 and 3 - it's just a way of separating the consonants into three groups.

The reason you need to know the class, is because the class affects how the syllable is pronounced, so when you learn the thai consonant, you will have to recall its sound and its class.

The rules for determining the tone of a syllable are given in the Tones Section, at the end of the book, but we'll give a quick example here, to give you an idea of why you must learn the classes:

Example 1:

When a High Class consonant with the sound s , is followed by a dead-sound (ie a sound that ends quickly), like at or ad , then the tone of the syllable is Low.

Example 2:

When a High Class consonant with the sound s , is followed by an open sound (a sound that endures longer, like a long vowel or a nasal sound like n or m that kind of hums on), then the Tone of the syllable is a Rising Tone!

Seems complicated, but there is a memory technique to remember these rules in seconds, in the final chapter, that deals with the tones.

For now just be aware that you'll need to remember the class as well as the sounds of the thai letters - easy really, with the special technique you'll learn about in the next section.

Introduction to the consonants

For now, lets just concentrate on learning the sound of each letter, and its class.

Certain Thai letters also have different sounds, depending on whether the letter appears at the start or end of the syllable.

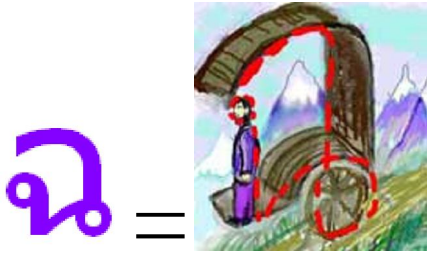
So in summary, when you look at a Thai Letter, you must be able to recall three things:

1. its sound when its at the start of a syllable
2. its sound at the end of a syllable
3. its class.

The memory Technique

The memory technique which we'll use to learn the alphabet, is best illustrated with an example.

Take a look at the thai letter below on the left, and notice how it resembles the image to the right:



Chariot Traveller

The similarity is high-lighted, by the dashed red-line in the image.

The picture resembles a Chariot with a Traveller onboard, driving through a High Mountainous Terrain.

This image encodes all the information that you need to recall, when looking at this Thai letter.

1. Its sound is Ch (chariot), when at the start of a syllable
2. Its sound is T (traveller), when at the end of a syllable
3. Its class is High, symbolised by the high mountainous terrain in the background

Memorising the Classes

To help you memorise the classes, we represent the three different classes, with different backgrounds:

1. High class consonants have a mountainous background
2. Middle class consonants have an urban background
3. Low class consonants have a sea level, sea-side background - simple and logical!

How it works in Practice:

1. You look at the Thai letter and automatically think of the image.
2. The easy-to-remember title will spring to mind and tell you the sounds.
2. The image's background will tell you the class (low, middle, high)

Easy and remarkably effective!

About Memorisation:

The key to memorisation is to get a foot-hold on what you are trying to remember. The Thai alphabet is something you've never seen before, and is pretty alien, so the best way to get your head around it, is to find things that it resembles, and create connections with what you know.

This book has done that already for you, so you have an automatic connection for every letter, shaving months off the learning process.

Concentrating on the letters

Concentrate on how the letter resembles the image, and how the image's title encodes the sounds of the Thai letter.

Visualise the situation in your mind until you clearly see the resemblances. Remember that the background will encode the consonant's class.

There are some explanatory notes to the right of each image, which should only be necessary the first time you look at the image.

So the next time you see the Thai character, just think of the image that the letter resembles. The title and background will spring to mind without effort. Then you'll automatically know the letter's sounds, and class!

How to approach the learning process

Visualise each image in your mind, and then move on to the next one - don't sweat or worry about it.

Don't overly tax yourself, instead just spend 20 to 30 minutes looking at some images, and then take a break for around 10 minutes. Come back and cover up the images, and try to remember the image, title and background, from looking at the Thai letter.

Don't worry about not memorising it perfectly first time off - just get an idea of things.

Revision

Move on, and try some new images, or take a break until the next day. The key to remembering though, is to repeat your exposure to the images often, until you remember them.

An example of a revision schedule would be something like this:

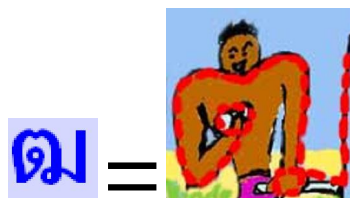
Practice and revise the images 10 minutes after the first exposure.

And then, 1 day after the first session, a couple of days after, a week after, a month after etc.

The images are like a scaffolding that will help you to build your memory of the letters, and will fall away after, as your mind automatically recognises the sounds and class of the letters.

Low Class Consonants

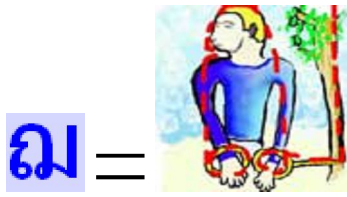
The 24 Low Class Consonants are grouped together in the following pages. In each of the images, there is a seaside (low-level) background, to help you to recall that you are looking at a low class consonant.



Training

Somebody Training with a dumbbell down at Venice Beach!

So the sound is T.



Chained Tree

The shape resembles:
the image of a person Chained to a Tree, at the beach.

So the sound is Ch when its at the start of a syllable, and T at the end of a syllable.

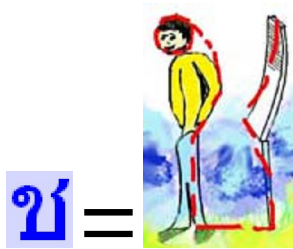
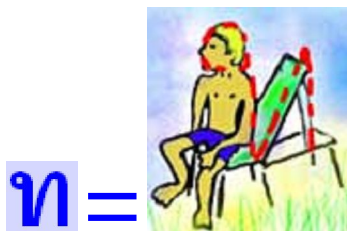


Chart Teacher

The shape resembles:
the image of a Chart and a Teacher, explaining marine life.

So the sound is Ch when its at the start of a syllable, and T at the end of a syllable.



Tanning

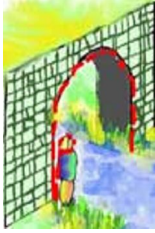
(note: we won't repeat the words the shape resembles from here on)

A man sitting on a deck chair Tanning, and looking out across the ocean.

So the sound is T.



=



Kwai

A man standing by the bridge over the river Kwai.

So the sound is K.

Download the complete version from Mobipocket.com now, to learn the entire Thai writing system, including the alphabet, symbols, numbers and tone rules. With this system, you'll begin to relate directly to Thai life and culture, greatly enhancing your experience in Thailand.

The book includes a complete treatment of the low class consonants, and all the following chapters:

Middle Class Consonants

High Class Consonants

Thai Vowels

Thai Numbers

Tone Marks

Other Symbols

The Tone Rules

Summary Pages

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