



SIMPLE THAI GRAMMAR



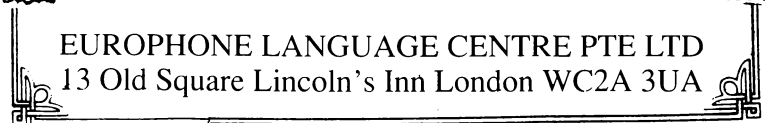
CHARACTERISTICS OF
THE THAI LANGUAGE,
PRONUNCIATION GUIDE AND
THE ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF GRAMMAR

by

Mr. Werachai Setthapun,
B.Ed., Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand
M.Ed., Sardar Patel University, India



EUROPHONE LANGUAGE CENTRE PTE LTD
13 Old Square Lincoln's Inn London WC2A 3UA



CONTENTS

	Page
Users of Our Courses	iv
Way to Better Thai	v
About the Thai Language	vii
Pronunciation Guide	ix
About the Author	xi
Chapters	
1 Nouns	1
2 Pronouns	3
3 Verbs	8
4 Adverbs	14
5 Adjectives	18
6 Articles	21
7 Prepositions	23
8 Coordinators	25
9 Word Order	27
10 Tenses	29
11 Basic Sentences	36
12 The Passive Voice	42
13 Forming Questions	48
14 Final Particles	51
15 Counting	54
16 Dates and Time	55
17 Classifiers	59
18 Interjections	61
19 Idiomatic Expressions	63
Distribution Opportunities	66
List of Simple Book-Cassettes	67
List of Eurotone Classic Courses	68
List of Europack Courses	69
Order Form	70

USERS OF OUR COURSES

SOME UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS WORLDWIDE WHICH USE EUROPHONE LANGUAGE COURSES

UNIVERSITIES

Srinakhrinwiron University,
Thailand
University of Oregon, USA
University of Madison, Wisconsin,
USA
University of Malaya
University of Technology
University Sains Malaysia,
Penang
University of Singapore
University of Brunei, Darussalam

HIGH SCHOOLS

Kong Yiong High School
Presbyterian High School
Hai Sing Girls High School
St Theresa's High School
Chung Hwa High School
Tuan Mong High School
Anglican High School

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Willow Avenue Secondary School
Westlake Secondary School
Woodlands Secondary School
Naval Base Secondary School
Boon Lay Secondary School
Yuan Ching Secondary School
Manjusri Secondary School
Tanjong Katong Girls' School
Victoria School
Yuying Secondary School
New Town Secondary School
Whampoa Secondary School
Telok Kurau Secondary School
Sekolah Menengah
Alirshad, Pow
Sekolah Menengah Sultanah
Shuqun Secondary School

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

New Zealand High Commission,
Singapore
UNESCO, Bangkok
Telecoms, Singapore
Foreign Language Pte Ltd, Melbourne
Intertaal, Amsterdam
Asian Inst of Technology, Bangkok
POSB, Singapore
Ministry of Defence, Singapore
Petronas, Malaysia
Arab-Malaysian Development Bank
Arkib Negara, Malaysia
Sime Darby Plantations Bhd
Dunlop Malaysian Industry
Shell Malaysia Sdn Bhd
Canadian High Commission (KL)
American Embassy, Thailand

COLLEGES AND INSTITUTES

Institute Piawian Dan Penyelidikan
Forest Research Institute
Institute Penyelidikan dan Pertanian
Institute Technology Mara
Maktab Kerjasama Malaysia
SEAMO Regional Centre, Penang
Institute Perdagangan Mara
Ngee Ann Polytechnic
Institute Kemahiran Mara, PJ (MARA)
Vocational & Industrial Training Board

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Yuqun Primary School
Jin Tai Primary School
Qifa Primary School
Poi Ching Primary School
Beatty Primary School
Fuchun Primary School
Nan Hua Primary School
Beng Wan Primary School
Haig Boys' Primary School

WAY TO BETTER THAI



For tourists, and students of Thai.

A system of rules guiding the use of a language is called grammar. It comprises explanations on changes to the form of single words (accidence) and the joining of words to form meaningful expressions (syntax). It follows therefore that to use a word wrongly or link words incorrectly is bad grammar. These guidelines are as relevant to Thai as they are to any other language.

The Approach

This book has been written for tourists, resident foreigners in Thailand and students of Thai wherever they may be. It is with their needs in mind, that the Institute has published this book in English as the first of its kind. Thai grammar is introduced step by step in 19 simple and easy to understand chapters. The author, Mr Werachai Setthapun, who has had the benefit of tertiary English Education in America has lucidly presented the subject with copious examples. First a casual reading of the book is encouraged for a quick overview. Serious students can then focus their attention on areas they wish to study.

Learning Thai

To supplement their study of Thai, learners may also obtain two other books with cassettes for speech practice, by the same publishers. They are:

1 Simple Thai

by Mr Werachai Setthapun, B.Ed., M.Ed.

2 Basic Thai

by Prof Sunthorn Kohtbantau, Ph.D.

These books are available at popular bookshops in the ASEAN countries. Should there be any difficulty getting them, they may be ordered from our Singapore Mail Order Office. An Order Form is included in this book for this purpose.

Academic Advisory Board

ABOUT THE THAI LANGUAGE

Akin to English Grammar

Languages are grouped into families on the basis of common characteristics. Thai is a member of the Tibeto-Burman family that includes tonal languages such as Burmese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian and is linked to the Indo-European group of languages. Each Thai word is free to enter into the construction of a sentence without any modification to indicate gender, number, mood or tense. It is an independent unit in the sentence. Although Thai and English belong to different families they are similar in many ways. The arrangement of words in a Thai sentence as with English, is usually subject + verb + object. Qualifying adjectives and adverbs are added where necessary. Thai has not as many grammatical rules and is less complex than English.

A Firm Foundation

This introductory book on **Simple Thai Grammar** covers all the essential points. Rare verb forms have been excluded for advanced study while many useful aspects of modern Thai are presented. Every point of grammar is described in a concise manner and is accompanied by examples of usage. As a reference book it is valuable for unravelling the mysteries of the language. Students of Thai will find in it responses to the many doubts they have not been able to clear. The book will give you a sound foundation for the mastery of written and spoken Thai.

Salient Points

The ardent learner would do well to study the following list of salient characteristics which distinguish the language.

- 1 There is no punctuation in the Thai language.
- 2 Capital letters are not used.
- 3 Thai is a tonal language. There are five tones.
The middle tone is shown by no mark.
The low tone is indicated by (`).
The falling tone is indicated by (^).
The high tone is indicated by (´).
The rising tone is indicated by (ˇ).

- 4 To make sentences more polite, final particles are always used. **Khráp** is a polite particle used as the final element of statements and questions. It is used by males. **Khâ** and **khá** are particles used at the end of statements and questions respectively only by females. eg.

ph^om jà **b**pai h^á m^áw khráp
 I am going to see doctor
 I am going to see a doctor.

dich^hñ h^a **b**pai h^á m^áw kh^á
 I am going to see doctor
 I am going to see a doctor.

- 5 There is no distinction in the form between the singular and plural of nouns. They remain the same. The Thai word, **bpakka**, can mean *a pen, the pen, pens, or the pens*.
- 6 Please take note that each verb has only one form no matter what the subject. **Bpai** (to go) is the word for go in any of these situations: *I go, you go, he/she goes, they go* and so on.
- 7 There are short and long vowel sounds in Thai as in English. The long sound is indicated by a mark (-) under the vowels. eg.

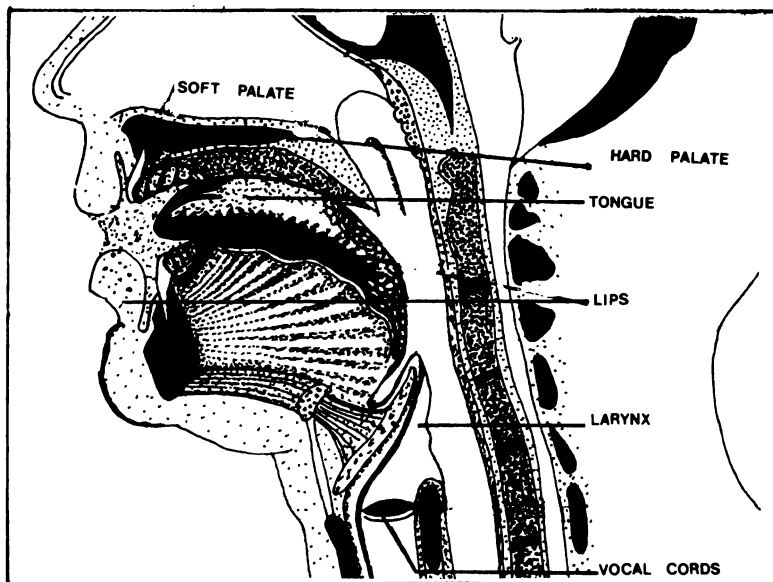
dù = fierce
du = look

- 8 Thai has borrowed many words from Sanskrit. Similarly English owes much to Latin. Both these languages are related to a group of languages called Indo-European. Their connection can be seen through some words in the two languages. eg.

Thai Words	English Words
n asik	nose
b un	boon
s âp	homosapiens

- 9 There is no final sound in Thai. Hence there is no difference between the final sounds of the words **hut** and **mud**, **top** and **mob**, etc.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE



Speaking apparatus, lips to larynx.

Vowels and Diphthongs

There are short and long vowel sounds as in English. Long vowel sounds are indicated by a mark (-), under the vowel. Use these examples to guide your reading of Thai words. Audio cassettes to learn spoken Thai may be ordered from the publisher.

Symbols	Examples	Symbols	Examples
a	hut, cut	<u>a</u>	card, hard
i	sit, hit	<u>i</u>	meet, weed
u	cook, look	<u>u</u>	food, wood
e	set, met	<u>e</u>	may, say
o	cohere, obey	<u>o</u>	go, so
ai	five, sight	<u>ai</u>	cry, sign
ae	fat, cat	<u>ae</u>	sad, mad

au	mouth, south	<u>au</u>	cow, how
aw	hot, clock	<u>aw</u>	more, core
ea	ago, under	<u>ea</u>	her, fur
eu	bleu*	<u>eu</u>	dieu*
ia	hear, fear	<u>ia</u>	near
ua	**	<u>ua</u>	sure, tour
eua	**	<u>eua</u>	neuf*

Consonants

Most consonants are pronounced as in English. Use the table below for your guidance.

Symbols	Examples
th	talk, time
dt	unaspirated t as stay
ph	pain, pad
bp	unaspirated p as spin
kh	come, comb
k	unaspirated k as skin, skit
ch	chess, chin
ng	sing, song

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Mr Werachai Setthapun

Mr Werachai Setthapun is an English instructor at Uttaradit Teachers College, Thailand. He has been working there since he received his B.Ed from Sri Nakharinwirot University in 1972. He received his Masters Degree in Education from Sardar Patel University, India and also received a diploma in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from the Regional English Language Centre, Singapore. He is currently studying for his Ph.D in Reading and Language Studies at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois, U.S.A.

Mr Werachai is the author of *Simple Thai* which was published in 1986.

CHAPTER 1 NOUNS



Thai fruits, the name of each is a noun.

There is no distinction between the singular and plural noun. It has only one form which does not change to indicate number, gender or the role that the noun plays within the sentence. To state plurality, numerals are used as modifiers to the noun. Generally, nouns must precede the numerals. It is necessary to use classifiers to identify different groups of things.

rót	sǎwng	khan
car	two	classifier for car
two cars		
nékthai	sám	sên
necktie	three	classifier for necktie
three neckties		

1

Gender

To indicate gender, no inflections are used as in English. We have some words to indicate gender as in the following examples.

- 1 For human beings, **chai** or **phûchai** and **yǐng** or **phûyǐng** are used to indicate males and females, respectively.

man	phûchai	woman	phûyǐng
boy	dèk phûchai	girl	dèk phûyǐng

- 2 For animals, **dtuaphû** is used to indicate males and **dtuamia** for females.

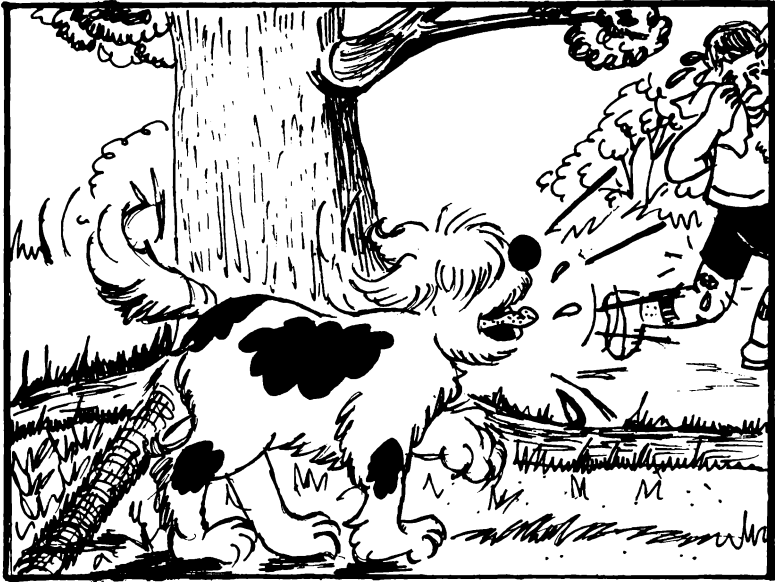
bull	wua dtuaphû
mare	má dtuamia

Forming Nouns

Nouns are formed by placing the word **kan** or **kwam** before active verbs. They form noun derivatives signifying acts of doing. eg.

kan kin	eating
kan róp	fighting or battling
kwam sámrèt	success
kwam rák	love

CHAPTER 2 PRONOUNS



mả kàt thawm (The dog bit Tom.)

In English pronouns are used as a substitute for nouns. eg.

John went home.

He went home.

He substitutes for *John*.

It is somewhat different in the Thai language. The pronoun does not always substitute for the noun. We can have a pronoun without it substituting for the noun.

Similarly in English, we have:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| a | thawm | klàp | bân |
| | Tom | went | hom |
| b | khâu | klàp | bân |
| | He | went | home. |
| c | mả | kàt | thawm |
| | dog | bit | Tom |
| | The dog bit Tom. | | |

2

d **man** **kàt** **khǎu**
It bit him.

Unlike English, we have:

a **thaym** **khǎu** **klàp** **bán**
Tom he went home
Tom went home.

b **mǎ** **man** **kàt** **khǎu**
dog it bit him
The dog bit him.

Personal Pronouns

In modern colloquial Thai, there are personal pronouns. Each personal pronoun used will be determined by sex, age, situation of the conversation, and the relationship between the persons who are conversing.

The following are some of the **polite** pronouns in Thai.

phòm *I* is used only by males.

dichǎn *I* is used by females.

khun *you* is used for both male and female.

chǎn *I* is used by male and female.

khǎu *he* is a third person pronoun, singular and plural. It refers to *he*, *she*, and *they*, but *not it*.

rau *we* is also a first person plural pronoun used as a common term for *we*. In addition, it is sometimes used to mean *I* when speaking to oneself or to intimates and inferiors.

man *it* is used for animals.

Polite Use

Note that in standard Thai (**phòm**) *I*, (**dichǎn**) *I*, and (**khun**) *you* are accepted as polite personal pronouns.

phóm *rák* *khun*
I love you.

dichǎn *jà* *bpai* *hǎ* *khun* *yen* *ní*
I will go see you evening this
I'll (go to) see you this evening.

Unnecessary Use

Sometimes personal pronouns are omitted if the meaning of the sentence is clear without them.

jà *bpai* *nǎi*
will go where
Where will you go?

Indicating Possession

To indicate possession, the word *khǎwng* (of or belonging to) is placed after the thing possessed and before the possessor.

nalíka *khǎwng* *khun*
watch of you
your watch

ya *khǎwng* *phóm*
medicine of I
my medicine

Optional Use

The occurrence of *khǎwng* in the noun phrase is optional.

bpakka *khǎwng* *khun*
pen of you
your pen

or *bpakka* *khun*
pen you
your pen

2

Kinship Terms



Kinship among the Thais.

Apart from the polite pronouns mentioned earlier, there are other personal pronouns which are used in different situations.

Person Speaking	First person	Second person
Adult to child	chǎn or kinship terms	nŭ or name of the child
Child to adult	nŭ (girls) phǒm (boys)	kinship term
Parent to child	kinship term	lŭk or name of child
Child to parent	nŭ (girls) phǒm (boys)	kinship term
Intimates (boys to girls and girls to boys)	chǎn	thea
Intimates (among boys and adults)	khâ ku	eng meung

2

Generally, when Thai people converse amongst themselves they use kinship terms though they may not know each other. e.g.

Child: **bpâ** **ma** **hǎ** **khrai** **kh ráp**
 aunt come see who
 Who do you want to meet?

Old woman: **bpâ** **ma** **hǎ** **phǎw** **khǎwng** **nǔ**
 aunt come see father of child
 I come to meet your father.

Father: **daeng** **jà** **bpai** **nai**
 name of will go where
 daughter
 Where will you go, Daeng?

Daeng: **nǔ** **jà** **bpai** **dtalàt** **khâ** **lǎew** **phâw** **là**
 child will go market and father
 I will go to the market. And how about you?

Boy: **thea** **tham** **kanbân** **sèt** **yang**
 you do homework finish yet
 Have you finished your homework?

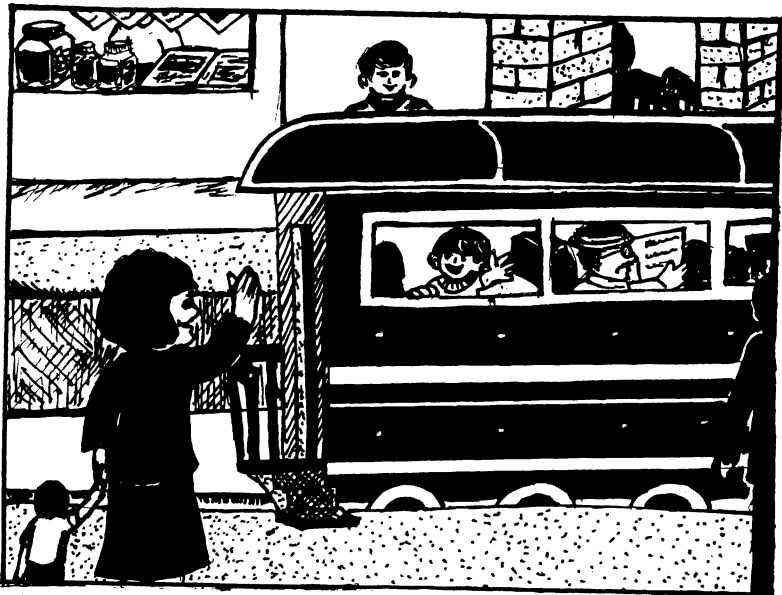
Girl: **chǎn** **yang** **mai** **sèt**
 I yet not finish
 I haven't finished it yet.

First boy: **meung** **tham** **kanbân** **yang**
 you do homework yet
 Have you done your homework?

Second boy: **ku** **yang** **meung** **là**
 I yet you
 I haven't. And you?

The last pair of personal pronouns, (**ku**) *I* and (**meung**) *you*, are considered rude in Thai. However, they are accepted among intimate friends.

CHAPTER 3 VERBS



The Thai verb has only one form. **Bpai** = I go, you go, she goes.

There is only one form of the Thai verb. It does not change according to the case, gender or number of the noun. The verb **bpai** go, can mean *I go, you go, he goes, she goes*.

a **thea khaw** **phǒm thî^hnî^h** **túk wan**
 she wait me here everyday
 She waited for me here everyday.

b **athít thî^hlǎew jaw** **séu bpakka** **mài**
 week last John buy pen new
 Last week John bought a new pen.

Thai and English sentences are similar. Both are structured as follows:

Sentence = Subject + Verb + Object

a **phǒm thǎn khǎu**
 I eat rice
 I eat rice.

b **khru thamthót nákrîan**
 teacher punish student
 The teacher punished the student.

c **nók bin** = Bird(s) fly.

It was mentioned earlier that verbs can be converted into participles by the addition of the prefixes **kan** or **khwam**.

phŭt	speak	kanphŭt	speaking
khian	write	kankhian	writing
rian	learn	kanrian	learning
rú	know	khwamrú	knowledge
hén	see	khwamhén	opinion

khwamrú phasá angkrít khǎwng khǎu dj mâk
 knowledge language English of he good very
 His knowledge of English is very good.

Apart from **kan** and **khwam**, there are two more words, **phŭ** (a person who) and **nák** (one who is skilled). Study the following examples.

tháwngthiaw	travel	nák tháwngthiaw	traveller
khian	write	nák khian	writer
rian	study	nákrian	student
bin	fly	nákbin	pilot
fang	listen	phŭfang	listener, audience
phŭt	speak	phŭphŭt	speaker
àn	read	phŭàn	reader
phŭkhian	nǎngsŭu	lêm ní	bpen nákbin
writer	book	this	is pilot

The writer of this book is a pilot.

Double Verbs

This may be an unfamiliar construction but in Thai it is very common.

3

a **khǎu** **jà** **bpai** **séu** **bpakka**
he will go buy pen
He will go and buy a pen.

b **phǒm** **jà** **bpai** **àn** **nǎngséu**
I will go read book
I will go and read a book.

c **thawm** **ma** **khǎwyeum** **wittayú** **jàk** **phǒm**
Tom come borrow radio from me
Tom came and borrowed the radio from me.

In these sentences each verb has its own meaning. In English, it is necessary to have the word *to* or *and* between the pair of verbs.

Of the verbs **bpai** (go) and **ma** (come), the former is considered to have less meaning. It expresses action away from the speaker while the latter, towards him.

a **pha** **jawn** **bpai** **thi** **bân** **khǎwng** **phǒm**
take John go at house of I
Take John **to** my house.

Here, the speaker is not in the house but instructed someone to take John to his house.

b **pha** **jawn** **ma** **thi** **bân** **khǎwng** **phǒm**
take John come at house of I
Take John **to** my house.

Here, the speaker is in his house and he instructs someone to take John to his house.

Idiomatic Use

Sometimes we cannot find the proper meaning of the verb **bpai** (go). It can be said that it has no meaning of its own. It is only an idiomatic expression. eg,

a **tham^hmai ma^hi kh^hian jòtm^hai th^héung ph^hóm**
 why not write letter to me
 Why didn't you write a letter to me?

b **ph^hóm le^hum bpai**
 I to forget go
 I forgot to go.

It does not only mean *I forgot to go*. Instead, it means *I completely forgot*.

c **kh^hau kin m^hak ke^han bpai.**
 he eat much too go
 He ate too much.

d **tham^hmai thea^h dai^h kh^hék chin^h dia^hw th^hau^hnán**
 why she get cake piece one only
 Why did she get only one piece of cake?

e **ph^hráw^ha thea^h ma^h chá^h bpai (keanbpai)**
 because she come late go (too)
 Because she came too late.

Duplication of verbs

Sometimes verbs are duplicated to emphasize the meaning of the sentence. To do this, we have to change the tone of the first verb to high tone no matter what tone it usually is. Generally, this kind of sentence is spoken rather than written and used more by women than men.

a **dich^hăn kli^hát kli^hát kh^hau**
 I hate hate him
 I really hate him.

b **dich^hăn yá^hk yà^hk bpai ameríka**
 I want want go America
 I really want to go to America.

3

Verbs to be

There are three, **bpen**, **yù** and **kheu** and their meanings depend on the context of each sentence.

a **kháu** **bpen** **khru**
he is teacher
He is a teacher.

b **phóm** **yù** **thìni**
I am here
I am here.

c **nì** **kheu** **wittayú**
this is radio
This is a radio.

In some cases, it is not necessary to translate the meaning of the verb *to be*. eg,

a **kháu** **khikiàt**
he lazy
He is lazy.

b **thawm** **mai** **sabai**
Tom not well
Tom is not well.

c **thawng** **phaeng**
gold expensive
Gold is expensive.

d **ngean** **thùk**
silver cheap
Silver is cheap.

Verbs of Intensification

It is often a verb of two words in which some aspect of one of the words is changed. It may be the consonant, vowel, tone or other aspect.

English:	zig zag	wimsy wamsy
	tick tock	fuzzy wuzzy
	hodge podge	
Thai:	ngua ngia	– drowsy
	kràdùk kràdìk	– move
	kràjàt kràjài	– scatter, disperse
	jâmjî jâmchai	– to prod repeatedly
	dtali dtalan	– hurry
	wítòk wíjan	– to worry

Examples

a **yà wítòk wíjan māk kean bpai**
 don't worry much too go
 Don't worry too much.

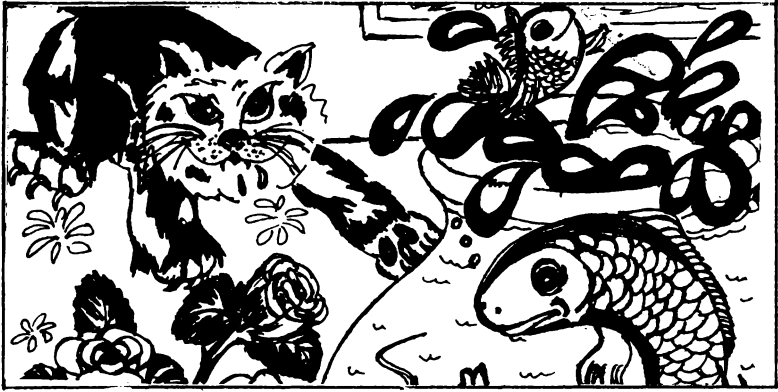
b **khâu dtali dtalan klàp bân**
 he hurry return home
 He hurried home.

c **thawm yangkong ngua ngia**
 Tom still drowsy
 Tom is still drowsy.

d **yà kràdùk kràdìk húa khǎwng khun sî**
 don't move head of you
 Don't move your head.

4

CHAPTER 4 ADVERBS



The cat moves slowly (adverb).

Most English adverbs have the suffix **-ly**. eg,

Adjective	Adverb
slow	slowly
careless	carelessly

Thai adverbs use the words **đoi** or **yàng** before their adverbs. eg,

rew	fast	yàng rew, đoi rew	fast
ngài	easy	yàng ngài , đoi ngài	easily
chàpplan	sudden	yàng chàpplan , đoi chàpplan	suddenly

However, not all English or Thai adverbs have such indicators. eg, **điawní** (now), **phrúng ní** (tomorrow), **thịní** (here) and **thịnán** (there).

- a **kháu** **jà** **má** **phrúng ní**
 he will come tomorrow
 He will come tomorrow.

- b **thea dtèun sǎi**
 she get up late
 She got up late.

Positioning of Adverbs

In English the position of the adverb is variable as shown in the sentences below.

The boy is studying *now*.

The boy is *now* studying.

Now the boy is studying.

Although the position of English adverbs is variable, usually they appear after the words they modify or at the end of a sentence. eg,

He sang a song *happily*.

In this case, it is like the Thai adverb of time which comes at the end of the sentence.

- a **khǎu wǐng rew**
 he run fast
 He ran fast.
- b **jawn thamngan (*yàng) chá (*yàng may be omitted.)**
 John work slowly
 John works slowly.

A Thai adverb can also be placed at the beginning of a sentence without a change of meaning.

- a **phrûng ní thea jà ma hǎ phôm**
 tomorrow she will come see me
 Tomorrow she will come to see me.

4

b **thea** **jà** **ma** **hǎ** **phǒm** **phrûng ní**
 she will come see me tomorrow
 She will come to see me tomorrow.

Most English adverbs can be classified into three categories – place, manner and time. If the three categories are in the same sentence, the order of the adverbs will be: place, manner, time. This is similar to the practice for Thai adverbs.

Please look at the following table:

Sentences	Place	Manner	Time
thawm khàp Tom drive Tom drove to	krungthép Bangkok Bangkok	yàng rìpráwn hurriedly hurriedly	mêuawan ní yesterday yesterday.
maerî yù Mary stay Mary stayed	nai háwng in room in the room	kàp phǒm with me with me	tawn cháu morning in the morning.

Adverbs of Frequency

In English adverbs of frequency come before or after verbs *to be*. eg,

His sister usually
 always
 sometimes goes to the movies with me.
 often
 rarely

In Thai these adverbs may be placed after the verb or at the end of the sentence. eg,

a **khun** *kheay* **bpai** **rongnǎng** **lídô** **mái**
 you ever go theater Lido question word
 Have you ever been to the Lido Theatre?

b *kheay* **khàp** **phǒm** **bpai** *bàwy*
 ever I go often
 Yes, I have often been to the Lido Theatre.

c *kheay* **khàp** **phǒm** **bpai** **thínân** *saměa*
 ever I go there always
 Yes, I always go there.

Except for the adverbs, **mái** *kheay* (never) and **thâepjâmâi** (rarely), all other adverbs must be placed after the noun in a sentence.

a **mái** **khàp** **phǒm** **mái** *kheay* **bpai** **thínân**
 no I never go
 No, I have never been there.

b **phǒm** **thâepjâmâi** **bpai** **thínân**
 I rarely go there
 I rarely go there.

Note that Thai adverbial clauses seldom come in the middle of a sentence.

bpai **séu** **dinsǎw** **thî** **rán** **nǎngséu**
 go buy pencil at bookstore
 Go to the bookstore and buy a pencil.

5

CHAPTER 5 ADJECTIVES



It's a hot (adjective) day for Tom.

As Intransitive Verbs

Thai adjectives have almost the same function as verbs and most of them are used as intransitive verbs. Nouns and adjectives may be used to form sentences without verbs *to be*. Generally adjectives follow the nouns they modify.

a **thawm** **sabai di**
Tom fine
Tom *is* fine.

b **phǒm** **ráwn**
I hot
I *am* hot.

c **khǎu** **bpùay**
he sick
He *is* sick.

Comparatives and Superlatives

Adjectives may be separated from verbs by the use of the comparative **kwà** (more than) and the superlative **thìsùt** (the most).

a **khá** **sŭng** **kwà** **phóm**
 he tall more I
 than
 He is taller than I.

b **phóm** **chalàt** **kwà** **khá**
 I clever more he
 than
 I am more clever than he.

c **maerî** **sŭay** **thìsùt**
 Mary beautiful most
 Mary is the most beautiful.

Forming Nouns

An adjective may be converted to a noun by the addition of the prefix **khwam** as with Thai verbs.

sŭay	beautiful	khwamsŭay	beauty
jing	true	khwamjing	truth
yindj	glad	khwamyindj	gladness
hiw	hungry	khwamhiw	hunger
ráwn	hot	khwamráwn	heat

Duplication of Adjectives

Adjectives, like verbs, can be doubled to emphasise their meaning in a sentence. The tone of the first adjective is changed to high tone.

5

a **ph^ˇom** **hiw** **hiw^ˇ**
I hungry hungry
I am *really* hungry.

b **ak^ˆat** **ra^ˆwn** **ra^ˆwn**
weather hot hot
The weather is *really* hot.

c **d^ˆek** **khon** **na^ˆn** **chal^ˆat** **chal^ˆat**
child classifier that clever clever
That child is *really* clever.

Omission of Commas

When there is more than one adjective in a sentence, the order of the adjectives is no different from that in English but commas are omitted.

ph^ˇom **ne^ˆay** **hiw^ˇ** **lae** **ma^ˆisaba^ˆi**
I tired hungry and unwell
I am tired, hungry and unwell.

CHAPTER 6 ARTICLES



He is writing a (indefinite article) letter.

Articles, *a*, *an* and *the* are important devices in English grammar for expressing the definite and indefinite. In Thai it is not necessary to use such noun determiners. eg,

nǎngsǔu	yù	bon	tó
book	locate	on	table

The book is on the table.

khǎu	kamlang	khǎn	jòtmǎi
he	-ing	write	letter

He is writing a letter.

khru	thamthôt	nákrián
teacher	punish	student

The teacher punished the student.

6

To emphasise a noun or indicate a definite object, place adjectives like **ní** (this), **nán** (that), **lànuní** (these) or **lànúnán** (those) after the noun or object they modify.

a **khru** **thamthôt** **dèk** **khon** **nán**
teacher punish boy classifier that
The teacher punished that boy.

b **bân** **lâng** **ní** **súay**
house classifier this beautiful
This house is beautiful.

c **phūchaj** **khon** **nán** **bpen** **tháhǎn**
man classifier that is soldier
That man is a soldier.

d **phūchaj** **lànúnán** **bpen** **tháhǎn**
man those are soldier
Those men are soldiers.

Note that *a* is not an article in the example given below. Instead, it functions as a number.

a **phóm** **mj** **bpakka** **nèung** **dám**
I have pen one classifier
for pen
I have a pen.

b **phóm** **mj** **bpakka** **sǎwng** **dám**
I have pen two classifier
for pens
I have two pens.

CHAPTER 7 PREPOSITIONS



He slept *under* (preposition *dtái*) the tree.

The functions of Thai and English prepositions are not very different as the following sentences reveal.

a phǒm yù nai hâwng khăwng thea
 I locate in room of she
 I am in her room.

b khău nawn dtái dtônmai
 he sleep under tree
 He slept under the tree.

c jawn nâng klái maeri
 John sit near Mary
 John sits near Mary.

Indicating Time

For telling time, day and date three prepositions are used. They are **meua** (when), **nai** (in) and **dtawn** (a period of time).

Mêua shows the past tense.

7

Nai can be omitted. It usually shows futurity.

Dtawn is used only with time.

- a **khǎu mathěung mēua athít thīlaéw**
 he arrive when week last
 He arrived last week.
- b **khǎu mathěung mēua wan athít thīhā**
 he arrive when Sunday fifth
 He arrived on Sunday, the fifth.
- c **khǎu mathěung mēua deuan mókàrakhom**
 he arrive when January
 He arrived in January.
- d **khǎu mathěung dtawn klangwan**
 he arrive a period noon
 He arrived at noon.
- e **khǎu mathěung dtawn bpaet nalíka**
 he arrive a period 8 o'clock
 He arrived at 8 o'clock.

When we speak, however, the word **mēua** may be omitted; the meaning of the sentence will remain unchanged.

- a **khǎu mathěung mēua wanthī hā deuan mesáyon**
 he arrive when the fifth month April
 He arrived on April, the fifth.
- b **khǎu mathěung wanthī hā deuan mesáyon**
 he arrive the fifth month April
 He arrived on April, the fifth.

Indicating the Future

If we want to show futurity, the word **nai** (in) is used.

- a **khǎu jà mathěung nai wansúk**
 he will arrive in Friday
 He will arrive on Friday.
- b **thawm jà mathěung nai deuan kanyayon**
 Tom will arrive in month September
 Tom will arrive in September.

CHAPTER 8 COORDINATORS



*John **and** (coordinator) Tom are students.*

Basic sentences can be enlarged by coordination. Coordinators may be words, nouns, verbs, adjectives or phrases. English coordinators and their Thai equivalents are given below.

English	Thai
and	lái
but	dtài
nor	mai [^]
neither ... nor	mai [^] ... reá ^v
or	reá ^v
either ... or	mai [^] ... káw
both ... and	tháng ... lái
not only ... but ... also	mai [^] phiangdtài ... yang ... duáy [^]

8

1 Noun and Noun Coordination

a **jawn** **lái** **thawm** **bpen** **nákrián**
John and Tom are student
John and Tom are students.

b **phǒm** **mái** **châwp** **kafae** **rěa** **cha**
I not like coffee or tea
I neither like coffee nor tea.

c **khǎu** **mái** **kin** **thúrian** **rěa** **mamúang**
he not eat durian or mango
He neither eats durian nor mango.

tháng **khon** **lái** **sət** **kin** **ahán**
both man and animal eat food
Both man and animal eat food.

2 Adjective and Adjective Coordination

a **dèk** **khon** **nán** **sǔng** **lái** **phǎwm**
child classifier that tall and thin
That child is tall and thin.

b **mái****phiangdtàe** **dèk** **sǔng** **yang** **phǎwm** **dúay**
not only child tall but thin also
Not only is the child tall but it is also thin.

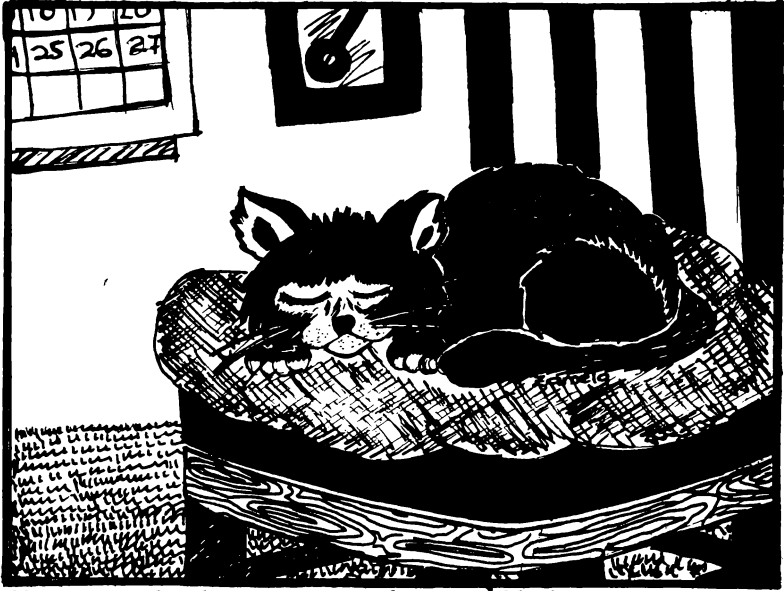
- 3 Verb and Verb Coordination

khǎu **nànglong** **lái** **sùp** **bùrì**
he sit down and smoke cigarette
He sat down and smoked a cigarette.

4 Adverb and Adverb Coordination

thea **thamngan** **rew** **dtàe** **sàphrau**
she work fast but carelessly
She worked fast but carelessly.

CHAPTER 9 WORD ORDER



Nouns precede adjectives. (*maew dam* = cat black)

The order of words in a sentence is governed by the following rules:

- 1 Nouns always precede adjectives.

a **maew dam**
 cat black
 black cat

b **khâu sũam seûa sũay**
 he wear shirt beautiful
 He wears a beautiful shirt.

- 2 Classifiers follow the nouns they relate to.

nãngsêu sãm lêm
 book three classifier of books
 three books

- 3 **Degrees of Comparison**

The word **kwà** (more than) is used for comparing two things. Usually the word is placed next to the adjective.

9

maew **súay** **kwà** **má**
cat beautiful than dog
The cat is more beautiful than the dog.

- 4 When a sentence has an adjective that modifies another, the modifier will follow the adjective.

nàtàng **bpèat** **kwàng**
window open wide
The window is wide open.

- 5 When a noun modifies an adjective that noun should be placed after the adjective.

tó **kwàng** **nèung** **fút**
table wide one foot
The table is one foot wide.

- 6 In English the conjunctives, *how*, *what*, *which*, *when*, *whether*, *where*, etc. are placed before infinitives. eg,

I don't know *how* to cook.

She doesn't know *where* to go.

It is quite different in Thai. These words do not function as conjunctives. Instead, they become adjuncts and will be placed at the end of the sentence. The infinitives indicate futurity.

phóm **mái** **sáp** **wá** **jà** **seú** **arai**
I not know (that) will buy what
I don't know what to buy.

khâu **mái** **sáp** **wá** **jà** **bpai** **thínái**
he not know (that) will go where
He doesn't know where to go.

CHAPTER 10 TENSES



He goes to school everyday (time particle).

It is difficult to compare English and Thai tenses but if we consider both form and meaning, they might be compared. There are similarities. Since there are no changes in the Thai forms that correlate with time in English, it may be said that there are no tenses in Thai. The state of action is indicated by the use of time and aspect *particles*. eg

a **khǎu** **bpai** **rongrian** **túkwan**
 he go school everyday
 He goes to school everyday.

b **khǎu** **bpai** **rongrian** **mêua wanní**
 he go school yesterday
 He went to school yesterday.

c **khǎu** **jà** **bpai** **rongrian** **phrúngní**
 he will go school tomorrow
 He will go to school tomorrow.

d **khǎu** **bpai** **rongrian** **láew**
 he go school already
 He has gone to school.

10

Thai verbs and their English equivalents.

1	He runs. He run + s	1	kháu wíng wíng
2	He is running. He is + run + ing	2	kháu kamlang wíng kamlang + wíng
3	He has run. He has + run	3	kháu wíng láew wíng + láew
4	He has been running.	4	—
5	He ran.	5	—
6	He was running.	6	—
7	He had run.	7	—
8	He had been running.	8	—

Time Words

From the table you will note that only three forms of Thai verbs are akin to English. The verb in item 2 shows the *on-going-ness* aspect. **Kamlang** shows action in progress while **láew** in item 3 shows the perfective aspect of the verb. Tense and form are not considered important in Thai as each Thai verb may by itself show tense. By studying the context we will know when the event occurred. eg.

a **thea ma dtawnthî phǒm mai yù bân**
 she come when I not stay home
 She came when I was not at home.

b **thawm kamlang dean dtawnthî phǒm phóp kháu**
 Tom -ing walk when I meet him
 Tom was walking when I met him.

c **jawn phút wâ kháu jà bpai dtalàt**
 John say that he will go market
 John said that he would go to the market.

Past Tense

Although no adverbs of time are used in the above examples, the past tense is inferred from the context. We know that the events occurred in the past from the characteristics of the verbs **dtawnthî** and **phûtwâ**. The word **dâi** used with the negative **mai** states the past.

- a **athít thîláew khun bpai du nǎng rǎa**
 week last you go see movie
 Did you (go) see the movie last week?
- b **mai khráp phǒm maidâi bpai**
 no I not go
 No, I didn't.
- c **meua wanní khun khàp rót ma rongrian rǎa bplâu**
 yesterday you drive car come school or not
 Did you drive to school yesterday?
- d **bplâu khráp phǒm maidâi khàp**
 no I not drive
 No, I didn't.

Past and Perfect Tenses

Another way of distinguishing between the past and perfect tenses is to use the words **mêua ... kàwn** (when ... before) or **meua ... thîláew** (when ... ago). When these words are separated by a period of time, their meaning becomes *ago*. eg.

- a **khǎu bpai krungthép mêua sǎwnng wan kàwn**
 he go Bangkok when two day before
 He went to Bangkok two days ago.

10



It rained (past tense) heavily.

b fǒn tòk nàk mēua sǎwng wan thîláew
 rain fall heavy when two day ago
 It rained heavily two days ago.

To show the perfect tense, the word **ma** (come), **láew** (already), or **maláew** (come already) is used in a sentence. **Ma** means *come*, but in this case it has no meaning.

dèk dèk tham kanbân láew
 children do homework already
 The children have done their homework.

phóm bpai angkrit ma
 I go England
 I have been to England.

khun khián jòtmai sèt láew reá yang
 you write letter finish already or yet
 Have you written the letter?

yang khráp	ma	láew khráp
yet	come	already
No, it hasn't.	Yes, it has.	

rótfai ma reá yang
 train come or yet
 Has the train come (yet)?

Modal Auxiliary

In Thai there is no *modal auxiliary* as in English, but there are several words functioning as auxiliaries. The English modal auxiliary and the Thai equivalent are compared below.

English	Thai
1 will/shall	1 jà + verb
2 may/might (contingency)	2 àtjà + verb
3 can (potentiality)	3 verb + dâi/bpen
4 should (advisability)	4 khuanjà
5 must (obligation)	5 dtâwng + verb
6 would rather	6 yàkjà + verb
7 had better	7 verb + dikwà
8 used to	8 kheay + verb

Examples

- 1 **Jà** (*will, shall*) shows futurity.

phǒm jà bpai thamngan
 I will go work
 I will go to work.

- 2 **Àtjà** (*may, might*) indicate contingency.

thea jà ma thîni
 she will come here
 She will come here.

- 3 **Daî** and **bpen** (*can*) express one's ability to do something. The first, **daî** states that one has the ability to do it but something may be preventing it.

10

khun ma thamngan wanathít dâi maí
you come work Sunday can
Can you come to work on Sunday?

The speaker knows well that you can come on Sunday but he is not sure whether you are free.

In its other role **bpen** simply states that one has the ability to do something.

khun wainám bpen maí
you swim can
Can you swim?

The speaker wants to know whether you have the ability to swim.

- 4 **Khuanjá** means *should* (advisability).

thea khuanjà thamngan djawní
she should work now
She should work now.

- 5 **Dtáwng** (*must, have to*) expresses obligation.

phǒm dtáwng bpai
I must go
I must go.

khun já dtáwng kin ya ná
you will have to take medicine
You will have to take medicine.

6 **Yàkjà** means *would rather*.

thawm yàkjà nawn
 Tom would rather sleep
 Tom would rather sleep.

dèk dèk yàkjà lên mắkkwà nawn
 children would rather play than sleep
 Children would rather play than sleep.

7 **Dìkwà** means *had better*.

phỏm nawn dìkwà
 I sleep had better
 I had better sleep.

phỏm yùt lên dìkwà phráwâ phỏm nệuay
 I stop play had better because I tired
 I had better stop playing because I'm tired.

8 **Kheay** means *used to*.

khẩu kheay sùp bừì
 he used to smoke cigarettes
 He used to smoke cigarettes.

khẩu kheay bpai amerika
 he had been go America
 He had been to America.

CHAPTER 11 BASIC SENTENCES



The girl is attractive.

In English, we form basic sentences by combining nouns, verbs and adjectives. Each noun, verb and adjective can be modified to make the sentences more complete.

The man walked.

The man walked rapidly across the street.

The girl is attractive.

The girl I met yesterday is very attractive.

The following four examples reveal the similarities and differences between Thai and English basic sentences.

English Basic Sentence Structure			Thai Basic Sentence Structure		
1	determiner	+ N + Vt	1	N	+ Vt + N
	The	dog bit		mǎ	kàt dèk
	+ determiner	+ N		dog	bite boy
	the	boy.		The dog	bit the boy.

<p>2 determiner + N + Vi The man walks .</p> <p>3 determiner + N The table + V to be + Adj is big.</p> <p>4 determiner + N That man + V to be + determiner is a + N soldier.</p>	<p>2 N + Vi khǎu dean He walks.</p> <p>3 There is no such form.</p> <p>4 N + bpen + N khǎu bpen khru he is teacher He is a teacher.</p>
--	--

Example 1

The structure of the sentence in the first example is common to Thai.

khau **ying** **nók**
he shoot bird

He shoots a bird. or

He shoots the bird. or

He shot a bird. or

He shot the bird.

No determiner is used in Thai sentences.

If there are two objects in the same sentence, the indirect object will be placed at the end of the sentence and after the preposition or it will be put after the verb of the sentence.

He gave me a book. or

He gave a book to me.

11

Thai has only one form. Look at the following examples.

phâw	sòng	jòtmǎi	hâi	phỏm
father	mail	letter	give	me

My father sent me a letter.

phỏm	hâi	ngean	kàe	khẩu
I	give	money	to	him

I gave some money to him.

Sometimes, the word **kàe** too can be omitted.

phỏm	hâi	ngean	khẩu
I	give	money	him

I gave him some money.

Example 2

Note the sentence given below.

mǎ	hàu
dog	bark

The dog barks.

It is quite different from English because it is not necessary to indicate the number of the noun. To express the plural, classifiers are used.

The above Thai sentence may be rendered in the following ways.

A dog barks.

A dog barked.

The dog barks.

The dog barked.

The dogs bark.

The dogs barked.

English verbs have many forms while Thai verbs have only one. Noun determiners are not necessary.

Example 3

The third Example of sentence structure is foreign to Thai. There is no verb to link a noun and an adjective. In this case, the adjective functions as a verb.

thawng **phaeng**
gold expensive
Gold is expensive.

dèk **bpùay**
child sick
The child is sick.

dèk dèk **bpùay**
children sick
The children are sick.

Sometimes in English the words *look, seem, taste, feel, become*, etc. are used instead of the *verb to be*.

He looks serious.

I feel hot.

Such structures are like Thai but they are not exactly the same.

khǎu **đu** **aujing aujang**
he look serious
He looks serious.

11

phỏm **rủsèuk** **ráwn**
I feel hot
I feel hot.

mả **đtau** **nán** **thậthang** **bpùay**
dog that appear sick
That dog appears sick.

Emphasis of the verb in English is done by putting the auxiliary, *do, does* or *did*, before the linking verbs, *look, seem, taste, feel, and become*, etc.

He *does look* serious.

The coffee *does taste* sweet.

This is not the case with Thai. Instead, the adjective in a sentence is doubled and the tone of the first adjective is changed to high tone.

kafae **rótchâ** **wán** **wắ**
coffee taste sweet sweet
The coffee does taste sweet.

khâwsàwp **đu** **yák** **yắk**
test look difficult difficult
The test does look difficult.

Example 4

The fourth example resembles a Thai sentence. There are no determiners.

khẩu **bpen** **khru**
he is teacher
He is a teacher.

ph^hu^hak^hkh^hau bpen khru
 they are teacher
 They are teachers.

ph^hom bpen khru
 I am teacher
 I am a teacher.

kh^hau bpen khru s^ham bpi laew
 he is teacher three year already
 He has been a teacher for three years.

Note that in Thai no agreement is necessary between noun, verb and complement.

Apart from the four examples, there are some other important structures.

12

CHAPTER 12 THE PASSIVE VOICE



The thief was arrested.

Generally, the word **thùk** is put before the verb of a sentence. **Thùk** is used as an auxiliary verb to indicate the passive voice and is equivalent to the English *verb to be*. The sentence with **thùk** will refer to an unpleasant or violent event.

khẩu **thùk** **thaeng**
he was stab
He was stabbed.

khàmoy **thùk** **jàp**
thief was arrest
The thief was arrested.

1 The Agent

When there is an agent in the sentence, the order of the words differs from English. The agent will be placed between the auxiliary **thùk** and the principal verb.

khàmqy thùk dtamrùat jàp
 thief was policeman arrest
 The thief was arrested by the policeman.

jawn thùk mǎ kàt
 John was dog bite
 John was bitten by a dog.

thawm thùk rót chon
 Tom was car hit
 Tom was hit by a car.

Besides **thùk**, the other meaning of the *verb to be* in the passive construction is **dâi** or **dâiráp** (receive). This word is employed in the passive construction, and has a sense favorable to the subject of the sentence.

khǎu dâiráp rangwan
 He receive reward
 He was rewarded.

thawm dâiráp nǎngsǎu jak maeri
 Tom receive book from Mary
 Tom was given a book by Mary.

khǎu dâi lêuan yót bpen phandtri
 he receive promote rank to be major
 He was promoted to the rank of major.

2 Have + Someone + Do + Something

In this construction the subject of the sentence is not the doer. The doer asks someone to do something for him.

khru hâi nákrián àn nǎngsǎu
 teacher give student read book
 The teacher has given the students the book to read.

12

phỏm **hâi** **thawm** **lạng** **rót** **khảwng** **phỏm**
I give Tom clean car of I
I have given Tom my car to clean.

3 Have + Something + Done

There is no such construction in Thai. However, there is another construction that is comparable.

khảu **pbai** **dtàt** **phỏm**
he go cut hair
He has his hair cut.

phỏm **au** **phimdjít** **bpai** **sảwm**
I get typewriter go fix
I got my typewriter fixed.

maeri **bpai** **dtàt** **chút**
Mary go cut dress
Mary has her dress made.

4 Negative questions

Such a sentence may be confusing unless read carefully.

khun **wảinám** **mái** **bpen** **chảimái**
you swim not can can you
You can't swim, can you?

bpen **kháp**
can
Yes, I can.

He can swim. But if he is unable the answer will be as follows:

chải **kháp**
yes
No, I can't.

Here, *yes* means *he can swim*, but in Thai it means, *He can't swim*.

If you are still confused, try to understand the following example.

meúa wanní khun mǎidǎi bpai thamngan cháimai
 yesterday you not go work did you
 You didn't go to work yesterday, did you?

bpai khráp

go

Yes, I did.

chai khráp

yes

No, I didn't.

5 Double Negatives

In some Thai sentences, although there may be two negative words, the meaning of that sentence does show negation.

phǎw hǎm mǎi hǎi phǒm sùp bùrì
 father forbid not allow I smoke cigarette
 My father forbids me to smoke.

khru hǎm mǎi hǎi dèk dèk len nai hǎwng
 teacher forbid not allow children play in classroom
 The teacher forbids the children to play in the classroom.

Although these two sentences are affirmative, as they are in English, it is an unusual event in Thai. Such sentences are well accepted as correct ones.

12

6 Negative Sentences

To make a sentence negative, the word **mâi** or **mâidâi** (*not*) is used as in these sentences.

- 1 The word **mâi** is used before the verb of the sentence. Sometimes, it is equivalent to the English suffix *-less* or equivalent to the prefixes *in-*, *un-*, *non-*, or *dis-*.

phôm khít wâ khǎu jà mâi ma
I think that he will not come
I don't think he will come.

khǎu mâi bpai rongriǎn
he not go school
He didn't go to school.

thea mâi phawjai
she dis- satisfied
She is dissatisfied.

- 2 The negative word can be placed before an adjective or adverb.

thea mâi suay
she not pretty
She is not pretty.

fôn tók mâi nàk
rain fall not heavy
It didn't rain heavily.

- 3 The negative is also used after the modal auxiliary to show inability. It is placed after the verb or at the end of the sentence.

thea wâinám mâibpen
 she swim not can
 She cannot swim.

phóm mə bpràchum mǎidǎi
 I come meeting not can
 I cannot come to the meeting.

khun jǎ mǎidǎi hěn thea ìk
 you will not see her again
 You will never see her again.

- 4 Sometimes, **mai** or **maidai** is placed before an auxiliary.

khun mǎi khuanjà mə
 you not should come
 You should not have come.

jawn mǎi khuanjà dtèun sǎi
 John not should get up late
 John should not have got up late.

13

CHAPTER 13 FORMING QUESTIONS

Complete Thai sentences, phrases and words can be turned into questions by adding to their very end the question words **rěa**, **kì**, **thînai**, **yang-ngai** and **khrai**.

Rěa is an interrogative particle that is used in a *yes-no* question.

khun jà bpai rongrian rěa
you are going to school
You are going to school.

Rea-yang and **rea-bplàu** are variants of **rea**. Both mean *or not*.

khun bpai hǎ mǎw rěa-yang
you go see the doctor or not
Have you seen the doctor yet?

mêuawanní khun thamngan rěa-bplàu
yesterday you work or not
Did you work yesterday?

Mǎi or **mái** is a question word that is used when a simple *yes* or *no* answer is expected.

(khuh) mǐ nǎngsǔu mǎi
you have book
Do you have a book?

Kì (*how many*) is usually followed by a classifier.

kì mông
how many times
At what time?

kì wan
 how many day
 How many days?

Thînai (short form is **nâi**) means *where*.

khun jà bpai thînai
 you will go where
 Where will you go?

Yang-ngai (*how*)

khun bpai thamngan yang-ngai
 you go work how
 How do you go to work?

Khrai (*who*) is an exception. It comes before the sentence.

khrai tham kâew tàek
 who make glass break
 Who broke the glass?

It may also occur at the end of the sentence.

khun ma kàp khrai
 you come with who
 Who did you come with?

Arai is equivalent to *what*. It can be placed in front of the sentence, at the end of the sentence, or after the principal verb of the sentence.

arai yù bon tó
 what is on table
 What is on the table?

13

khǎu dtâwngkan arai
 he want what
 What does he want?

khǎu thĕu arai nai meu
 he hold what in hand
 What does he have in his hand?

Look at the table below to understand the use of the following question words any of which may be placed at the end of the specimen sentence.

Specimen Sentence	Question Words
khun jà bpai hǎ mǎw you will go see doctor	maí (yes or no)
	re<u>a</u> (yes or no)
	re<u>a</u> yang (now or not)
	re<u>a</u> bpl<u>au</u> (or not)
	th<u>i</u>nai (where)
	yang ngai (how)
	m<u>êu</u>arai (when)
	thammai (why)
	k<u>ap</u> khrai (with whom)
k<u>i</u> m<u>ong</u> (what time)	

Exception

Note this exception in which **khrai** appears at the beginning of the sentence.

khrai jà bpai hǎ mǎw
 who will go see doctor
 Who will see the doctor?

CHAPTER 14 FINAL PARTICLES



Nang long ná (Sit down.)

It is important to remember that final particles are much used in Thai.

The following final particles are often used:

Khráp is a particle used as the final element of statements and questions. It is used by males only.

phǒm jà bpai hǎ mǎw khráp
 I am going to see doctor
 I am going to see the doctor.

Khráp is added at the end of the sentence to make it more polite.

Kha/khá are polite particles used at the end of statements and questions respectively. These two particles are used only by females.

14

dichǎn jà bpai thamngan khâ
I am going to work
I am going to work.

khun jà bpai thamngan rěa khâ
you are going to work (question word)
Are you going to school?

mái rằwk phỏm jà bpai bậ
no I am going home
No. I'm going home.

Jang is used with statements or phrases to emphasize the feelings of the speaker.

rắwn jang
hot
It's very hot.

phỏm hỷw jang
I hungry
I'm very hungry.

khẩu dĩ jang
he good
He's very good.

Ná is a particle that is used to make an utterance more gentle. Sometimes it is used to express a command.

khun khuan bpai hẩ mắw na
you should go see doctor
You should see a doctor.

nang long ná
sit down
Sit down.

Na/nàwy or **nàwy na** are particles used to make a request of the speaker.

chuay phom nàwy na
 help me
 Help me, please./Would you please help me?

bpìt bpradtù nàwy
 shut door
 Shut the door, please.

Si or **sí** is a particle that indicates that the speaker is able to do or is willing to do whatever is asked.

khun kin ahan phèt daj mái
 you eat food hot
 Can you eat hot food?

daj si
 can
 Yes, I can.

khun jà bpai kàp phom mái khráp
 you are going with me
 Are you going with me?

bpai si
 go
 Yes, I am.

15

CHAPTER 15 COUNTING

Cardinal Numbers

The Thai numerical system is quite easy to understand. If you are able to count one to ten correctly, you will not have a problem with the rest of the numbers.

1	nèung	16	sìp-hòk
2	sǎwng	17	sìp-jèt
3	sám	18	sìp-bpeat
4	sì	19	sìp-kâu
5	hâ	20	yi-sìp
6	hòk	100	nèung - ráwy
7	jèt	200	sǎwng - ráwy
8	bpeat	300	sám - ráwy
9	kâu	1,000	nèung - phan
10	sìp	10,000	nèung - mènun
11	sìp-èt	100,000	nèung - sǎen
12	sìp-sǎwng	1,000,000	nèung - lán
13	sìp-sám		
14	sìp-sì		
15	sìp-hâ		

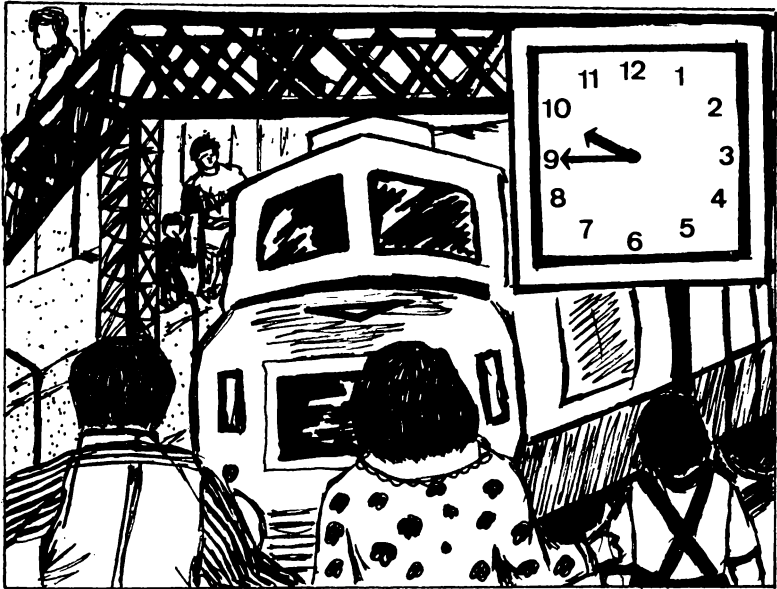
Ordinal Numbers

Ordinal numbers are formed by placing the word **thi** before a cardinal number.

Examples

thì - sǎwng	second
thì - sì	fourth
thì nèung - ráwy	hundredth

CHAPTER 16 DATES AND TIME



9.45 a.m. = kâu nalîka sî-sip-ha nathî

English uses a two-way division of time as it is divided into a.m. and p.m. In Thailand there is a four-way system and each division has its own special words for the telling of time.

The following table shows the time division of the day.

	ENGLISH	THAI	
Time (Hours)	Time of Day	Time of Day	Time Word
2400 - 0600	night-morning	dùk	dîj
0600 - 1200	morning	cháu	mongcháu
1200 - 1800	afternoon - evening	bài - yen	bài ... mong
1800 - 2400	night	kâm	thum

16

How to Tell Time

TIME	IN ENGLISH	IN THAI
2400	midnight	thiàng kheun
0100	one a.m.	dti nèung
0500	five a.m.	dti hâ
0600	six a.m.	hòk mọng châu
0700	seven a.m.	nèung mọng châu
0800	eight a.m.	sảwng mọng châu
0900	nine a.m.	sảm mọng châu
1000	ten a.m.	sì mọng châu
1100	eleven a.m.	hâ mọng châu
1200	noon	thiàng wan
1300	one p.m.	bài nèung mọng
1400	two p.m.	bài sảwng mọng
1500	three p.m.	bài sảm mọng
1600	four p.m.	bài sì mọng
1700	five p.m.	hâ mọng yen
1800	six p.m.	hòk mọng yen
1900	seven p.m.	nèung thum
2000	eight p.m.	sảwng thum
2100	nine p.m.	sảm thum
2200	ten p.m.	sì thum
2300	eleven p.m.	hâ thum

The above system is most particular for the telling of time. However the official system is easier to use. Only the word **nalíka** (*o'clock*) is added.

0100	nèung nalíka
0200	sảwng nalíka
0300	sảm nalíka
1200	sì sảwng nalíka
1300	sì sảm nalíka
2400	yì-sì-sì nalíka

To state minutes, the word **nathj** is used.

Example

09.45 a.m. **kâu nalika sî-sîp-hâ nathj**
 or **sâm mông sî-sîp-hâ nathj**

Days of the week (Wan)

wan athít **wan jan** **wan angkhan** **wan phút**
 Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

wan pharéuhàt **wan sùk** **wan sǎu**
 Thursday Friday Saturday

wan nǐ **wan arai**
 day this day what
 What day is it today?

wan nǐ **wan sùk**
 day this Friday
 Today is Friday.

Months of the Year

January	mókàrakhom
February	kumphaphan
March	minakhom
April	mesǎyon
May	phéusàphakhom
June	míthùnayon
July	karákadakhom
August	singhǎkhom
September	kanyayon
October	dtùlakhom
November	phéusàjikayon
December	thanwǎkhom

16

wan ní pen wanthî sîp-hòk deuan singhakhom
day this is sixteenth month August

bpi nèung phan kâu ráwy bpaet sîp-jèt
year one thousand nine hundred eighty seven
Today is 16th August, 1987.

When referring to a year in the Buddhist Era, dating from the death of the Buddha and 543 years before Christ, it is called **phútthásàkàràt** or **phaw sǎw**. A year in the Christian Era is called **khritsàkàràt** or **khaw sǎw**.

Example

A.D. 1986
It is spoken as: **khaw sǎw nèung phan kâu ráwy bpaet sîp-hòk**

B.E. 2530
It is spoken as: **phaw sǎw sǎwng phan hâ ráwy sǎm-sìp**

CHAPTER 17 CLASSIFIERS



Bai is used as a classifier for poultry.

The frequent use of classifiers in Thai is a feature of the language, one that may appear peculiar to foreigners. Many classifiers are used to express plurality or to give a specific meaning to certain words. A classifier follows the noun it qualifies. It is used according to the size, shape or category of things.

Classifiers	Nouns
bai	glass, fruit, poultry eggs
chàbàp	letters
chín	pieces of meat, clothes
dám	pens, knives
dtua	animals, fish, insects, chairs, tables, shirts, pants
fawng	poultry eggs
khreúng	electric devices; TV, radio

17

khan	car, motorcycle, umbrella
lam	ships, boats
lêm	book
lau	flute
phêun	mats, blankets
reuan	clocks, watches
săi	roads, streets
sên	roads, streets, necklaces
wong	rings, music bands

Examples

phôm mi sâisâwy sâwng sên
I have necklace two
I have two necklaces.

khau khăi bpla sām dtua
he sell fish three
He sold three fish.

There are two classifiers for stating age.

1 **Khùap** is used for children up to 13 years.

jawn ayú hòk khùap
John age six years
John is six years old.

- 2 **Bpi** is for adults.

khru khăwng phôm ayú sî-sîp bpi
teacher of I age forty year
My teacher is forty years old.

CHAPTER 18 INTERJECTIONS



Khunphrá chúáy (Good Heavens!)

In Thai there is a very wide range of words and phrases that are equivalent to English interjections. They may be classified into categories according to their meanings.

1 Surprise and Fright

Dear me!	<u>wá</u>	
Oh dear!	<u>úidtai</u>	mostly used by women
Good Gracious!	<u>dtailaéw</u>	
Good Heavens!	<u>khunphrá chúáy</u>	
Oh my!	<u>háidtai sì</u>	
Gosh, Oh!	<u>oho</u>	
Eh!	<u>aw</u>	
Really!	<u>jing rea</u>	

2 Excitement and Satisfaction

Hurray! Bravo!	<u>chaiyó</u>	
Wow!	<u>mâejau woi</u>	(used by men)

18

Great! Splendid! wíset leay
Well done! ðimâk
Aha! yang-ngán sî

3 Dissatisfaction

For shame! nâ ai jang
Shame on you!
Bah! úwá (used by men)
Brother! yûng jing
Ugh! í
Nonsense! lèwlaí

4 Command

Keep silent! ngiap
Easy! bau nàwy
Shut up! yùt thi
Hurry up rew rew nàwy
Come, come mâi au nâ
Don't be kidding yâ lãw lèn nâ
Look out! ráwang

5 Pain, Sorrow and Sadness

Ouch! oí, uí
What a pity! nâsia^í ðai, nâsia^í jai
Alas! phúthhò

6 Other Interjections

Well? láew yang-ngai
O.K. dtòk long
By all means chean leay
Certainly nâenawn, ðâisi^í
Certainly not mai ràwk, maidâi^í ráwk
By the way âw
So what láew ngai lâ
Look here nî nâe^í
Let me see khít ðu kàwn

CHAPTER 19 IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS



Sawàtdj khráp (Good morning.)

One will hear these expressions many times a day in Thailand. It is therefore useful to know some of them.

1 Greetings

sawàtdj khà/khráp : good morning, good afternoon,
good evening, good night,
good bye.

jà bpai nǎi : Where are you going? Note that
this sentence is a kind of
greeting. Sometimes the one who
asks this question does not
really expect an answer.

sabàidj reá How are you?

19

l^hew phóp kan mài : See you later.

ch^hok dⁱ : Good luck.

2 Negative and Affirmative Answers

khráp/khà : Yes.

ch^hai khráp/khà : That's correct.

m^hai ch^hai : No, it's not.

m^hai bpen rai : Never mind, Don't mention it,
You're welcome.

ph^hom m^hai kh^hau jai : I don't understand.

3 General Questions and Answers

khun/kh^hau ch^heu arai : What's your/his name?

ph^hom/kh^hau ch^heu ... : My/his name is ...

khun t^hawngkan arai : What do you want?

kert arai kh^hun : What happened?

n^heuay m^hai : Are you tired?

4 Command, Request and Persuasion

ph^hut mài sí : Please speak again.

kh^hau m^ha sí : Come in.

n^hang long : Sit down.

rew rew khâu	: Hurry up.
ma ñi	: Come here.
ráwang nàwy	: Be careful.
raw sàk khru	: Wait a minute.

5 Other Useful Expressions

phỏm hiw	: I'm hungry.
phỏm ìm	: I'm full.
sia jai	: Sorry.
khaw thot	: Excuse me.
phỏm chawp ...	: I like ...
phỏm mại chawp ...	: I don't like ...