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Thai script - Wikipedia

39-50 minutes

Thai	
อักษรไทย	
Type	 Abugida
Languages	<div>Standard form:</div> <div> Thai, Southern Thai</div> <div>Non-standard form:</div> <div> Lanna, Isan, Pattani Malay and others</div>
Creator	 Ramkhamhaeng the Great
Time period	1283–present
Parent systems	<div> Proto-Sinaitic alphabet</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phoenician alphabet Aramaic alphabet Brāhmī Tamil-Brahmi Pallava Khmer Thai</div>
Direction	Left-to-right
 ISO 15924	Thai, 352
Unicode alias	Thai
 Unicode range	 U+0E00–U+0E7F
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The **Thai script** (**Thai**: อักษรไทย, **RTGS**: *akson thai*) is the **abugida** used to write **Thai**, **Southern Thai** and many other **languages** spoken in **Thailand**. The Thai alphabet itself (as used to write Thai) has 44 consonant symbols (**Thai**: พยัญชนะ, *phayanchana*), 16 vowel symbols (**Thai**: สระ, *sara*) that combine into at least 32 vowel forms, and four tone diacritics (**Thai**: วรรณยุกต์ or วรรณยุต, *wannayuk* or *wannayut*) to create characters mostly representing syllables.

Although commonly referred to as the "Thai alphabet", the script is in fact not a true [alphabet](#) but an [abugida](#), a writing system in which the full characters represent consonants with diacritical marks for vowels; the absence of a vowel diacritic gives an implied 'a' or 'o'. Consonants are written horizontally from left to right, with vowels arranged above, below, to the left, or to the right of the corresponding consonant, or in a combination of positions.

Thai has its own set of [Thai numerals](#) ([Thai](#): เลขไทย, *lek thai*) that are a form of the Indic numeral system, but the western [Arabic numerals](#) ('0'-'9') ([Thai](#): เลขฮินดูอารบิก, *lek hindu arabik*) are used for most purposes. Major uses for the local set are in government documents, license plates of military vehicles, and hiding prices for Thais from tourists.

History[[edit](#)]

The Thai alphabet is derived from the Old **Khmer script** (Thai: อักษรขอม, *akson khom*), which is a southern **Brahmic** style of writing derived from the south Indian **Pallava alphabet** (Thai: ปัลลวะ).

Thai is considered to be the first script in the world that invented **tone markers** to indicate distinctive tones,^[1] which are lacking in the Mon-Khmer (**Austroasiatic languages**) and **Indo-Aryan languages** from which its script is derived. Although Chinese and other **Sino-Tibetan languages** have distinctive tones in their phonological system, no tone marker is found in their orthographies. Thus, tone markers are an innovation in the Thai language that later influenced other related Tai languages and some **Tibeto-Burman languages** on the Southeast Asian mainland.

Thai (along with its sister system, Lao) lacks conjunct consonants and independent vowels, while both designs are common among Brahmic scripts (e.g., **Burmese** and **Balinese**).^[2] In scripts with conjunct consonants, each consonant has two forms: base and conjoined. **Consonant clusters** are represented with the two styles of consonants. The two styles may form **typographical ligatures**, as in **Devanagari**. Independent vowels are used when a syllable starts with a vowel sign.

Thai tradition attributes the creation of the script to **King Ramkhamhaeng the Great** (Thai: พ่อขุนรามคำแหงมหาราช) in 1283, though this has been challenged.



Orthography^[edit]

There is a fairly complex relationship between spelling and sound. There are various issues:

1. For many consonant sounds, there are two different letters that both represent the same sound, but which cause a different tone to be associated. This stems from a major change (a **tone split**) that occurred historically in the phonology of the Thai language. At the time the Thai script was created, the language had three tones and a full set of contrasts between **voiced** and unvoiced consonants at the beginning of a syllable (e.g. *b d g l m n* vs. *p t k hl hm hn*). At a later time, the voicing distinction disappeared, but in the process, each of the three original tones split in two, with an originally voiced consonant (the modern "low" consonant signs) producing a lower-variant tone, and an originally unvoiced consonant (the modern "mid" and "high" consonant signs) producing a higher-variant tone.
2. Thai borrowed a large number of words from **Sanskrit** and **Pali**, and the Thai alphabet was created so that the original spelling of these words could be preserved as much as possible. This means that the Thai alphabet has a number of "duplicate" letters that represent separate sounds in Sanskrit and Pali (e.g. the **breathy voiced** sounds *bh, dh, gh, jh, kh* and the **retroflex** sounds *ṭ ṭh ḍ ḍh ṇ*) but which never represented distinct sounds in the Thai language. These are mostly or exclusively used in Sanskrit and Pali borrowings.
3. The desire to preserve original Sanskrit and Pali spellings also produces a particularly large number of duplicate ways of spelling sounds at the end of a syllable (where Thai is strictly limited in the sounds that can occur but Sanskrit allowed all possibilities, especially once former final /a/ was deleted), as well as a number of silent letters. Moreover, many consonants from Sanskrit and Pali loanwords are generally silent. The spelling of the words resembles Sanskrit or Pali orthography:
 - Thai สามารถ (spelled *sāmaarth* but pronounced *sa-mat* [sǎmā:t] with a silent r and a plain t that is represented using an aspirated consonant) "to be able" (Sanskrit समर्थ *samartha*)
 - Thai จันทร์ (spelled *chanthr* but pronounced *chan* [tʃan] because the th and the r are silent) "moon" (Sanskrit चन्द्र *chandra*)

Thai letters do not have **small** and **capital** forms like the Roman alphabet. Spaces between words are not used, except in certain linguistically motivated cases.

Punctuation^[edit]

Minor pauses in sentences *may* be marked by a comma (Thai: จุลภาค or ลูกน้ำ, *chunlaphak* or *luk nam*), and major pauses by a period (Thai: มหัพภาค or จุด, *mahap phak* or *chut*), but most often are marked by a blank space (Thai: วรฺก, *wak*). A bird's eye ● (Thai: ตาไก่, *ta kai*, officially called ฟองมัน, *fong man*) formerly indicated paragraphs, but is now obsolete.

A *kho mut* ๑๗ (Thai: โคมุตฺร) can be used to mark the end of a **chapter** or **document**.

Thai writing also uses quotation marks (Thai: อัฒปราคาต, *anyaprakat*) and parentheses (round brackets) (Thai: วงเล็บ, *wong lep* or Thai: นกขลิขิต, *nakha likhit*), but not square brackets or braces.

Alphabet listing[edit]

Consonants[edit]

There are 44 consonant letters representing 21 distinct consonant sounds. Duplicate consonants either correspond to sounds that existed in Old Thai at the time the alphabet was created but no longer exist (in particular, voiced obstruents such as *b d g v z*), or different Sanskrit and Pali consonants pronounced identically in Thai. There are in addition four consonant-vowel combination characters not included in the tally of 44.

Consonants are divided into three classes — in alphabetic order these are middle (กลาง, *klang*), high (สูง, *sung*), and low (ต่ำ, *tam*) class — as shown in the table below. These class designations reflect phonetic qualities of the sounds to which the letters originally corresponded in Old Thai. In particular, "middle" sounds were voiceless unaspirated stops; "high" sounds, voiceless aspirated stops or voiceless fricatives; "low" sounds, voiced. Subsequent sound changes have obscured the phonetic nature of these classes.^[nb 1] Today, the class of a consonant without a tone mark, along with the short or long length of the accompanying vowel, determine the base accent (พื้นเสียง, *pheun siang*). Middle class consonants with a long vowel spell an additional four tones with one of four tone marks over the controlling consonant: *mai ek*, *mai tho*, *mai tri*, and *mai chattawa*. High and low class consonants are limited to *mai ek* and *mai tho*, as shown in the Tone table. Differing interpretations of the two marks or their absence allow low class consonants to spell tones not allowed for the corresponding high class consonant. In the case of digraphs where a low class follows a higher class consonant, the higher class rules apply, but the marker, if used, goes over the low class one; accordingly, ห นำ *ho nam* and อ นำ *o nam* may be considered to be digraphs as such, as explained below the Tone table.^[nb 2]

Notes

- ↑ Modern Thai sounds /b/ and /d/ were formerly — and sometimes still are — pronounced /ʔb/ and /ʔd/. For this reason, they were treated as voiceless unaspirated, and hence placed in the "middle" class; this was also the reason they were unaffected by the changes that devoiced most originally voiced stops.
- ↑ Only low class consonants may have a base accent determined by the syllable being both *long* and *dead*.

To aid learning, each consonant is traditionally associated with an acrophonic Thai word that either starts with the same sound, or features it prominently. For example, the name of the letter ข is *kho khai* (ข ไช้), in which *kho* is the sound it represents, and *khai* (ไช้) is a word which starts with the same sound and means "egg".

Two of the consonants, ข (*kho khuat*) and ค (*kho khon*), are no longer used in written Thai, but still appear on many keyboards and in character sets. When the first Thai typewriter was developed by Edwin Hunter McFarland in 1892, there was simply no space for all characters, thus two had to be left out.^[?] Also, neither of these two letters correspond to a Sanskrit or Pali letter, and each of them, being a modified form of the letter that precedes it (compare ข and ค), has the same pronunciation and the same consonant class as the preceding letter (somewhat like the European long s). This makes them redundant. Set in 1890s Siam, a 2006 film titled in Thai: คนไฟฝัน *Flying Fire Person* (in English: Dynamite Warrior), uses ค *kho khon* to spell คน *Person*. Compare entry for ค in table below, where *person* is spelled คน.^[citation needed]

Equivalents for romanisation are shown in the table below. Many consonants are pronounced differently at the beginning and at the end of a syllable. The entries in columns *initial* and *final* indicate the pronunciation for that consonant in the corresponding positions in a syllable. Where the entry is '-', the consonant may not be used to close a syllable. Where a combination of consonants ends a written syllable, only the first is pronounced; possible closing consonant sounds are limited to 'k', 'm', 'n', 'ng', 'p' and 't'.

Although official standards for romanisation are the Royal Thai General System of Transcription (RTGS) defined by the Royal Thai Institute, and the almost identical ISO 11940-2 defined by the International Organization for Standardization, many publications use different romanisation systems. In daily practice, a bewildering variety of romanisations are used, making it difficult to know how to pronounce a word, or to judge if two words (e.g. on a map and a street sign) are actually the same. For more precise information, an equivalent from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is given as well.

Alphabetic[edit]

Symbol	Name			RTGS		IPA		Class
	Thai	RTGS	Meaning	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	
ก	ก ไก่	<i>ko kai</i>	chicken	k	k	[k]	[k̚]	mid
ข	ข ไช้	<i>kho khai</i>	egg	kh	k	[kʰ]	[k̚]	high

Symbol	Name			RTGS		IPA		Class
	Thai	RTGS	Meaning	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	
ช	ช ขวด	kho khuat	bottle (obsolete)	kh	k	[kʰ]	[k̚]	high
ค	ค ควาย	<i>kho khwai</i>	buffalo	kh	k	[kʰ]	[k̚]	low
ค	ค คน	<i>kho khon</i>	person (obsolete)	kh	k	[kʰ]	[k̚]	low
ฆ	ฆ ระฆัง	<i>kho ra-khang</i>	bell	kh	k	[kʰ]	[k̚]	low
ง	ง งู	<i>ngo ngu</i>	snake	ng	ng	[ŋ]	[ŋ̚]	low
จ	จ จาน	<i>cho chan</i>	plate	ch	t	[t͡ɕ]	[t̚]	mid
ฉ	ฉ ฉิ่ง	<i>cho ching</i>	cymbals	ch	—	[t͡ɕʰ]	—	high
ช	ช ช้าง	<i>cho chang</i>	elephant	ch	t	[t͡ɕʰ]	[t̚]	low
ซ	ซ โซ่	<i>so so</i>	chain	s	t	[s]	[t̚]	low
ฌ	ฌ เฌอ	<i>cho choe</i>	tree	ch	—	[t͡ɕʰ]	—	low
ญ ^[a]	ญ หญิง	<i>yo ying</i>	woman	y	n	[j]	[n]	low
ฎ	ฎ ขฎา	<i>do cha-da</i>	headdress	d	t	[d]	[t̚]	mid
ฏ	ฏ ปฏัก	<i>to pa-tak</i>	goad , javelin	t	t	[t]	[t̚]	mid
ฐ ^[b]	ฐ ฐาน	<i>tho than</i>	pedestal	th	t	[tʰ]	[t̚]	high
ฑ	ฑ มณโฑ	<i>tho montho</i>	Montho , character from Ramayana	th	t	[tʰ]	[t̚]	low
ฒ	ฒ ผู้เฒ่า	<i>tho phu-thao</i>	elder	th	t	[tʰ]	[t̚]	low
ณ	ณ เณร	<i>no nen</i>	samanera	n	n	[n]	[n]	low
ด	ด เด็ก	<i>do dek</i>	child	d	t	[d]	[t̚]	mid
ต	ต เต่า	<i>to tao</i>	turtle	t	t	[t]	[t̚]	mid
ถ	ถ ถุง	<i>tho thung</i>	sack	th	t	[tʰ]	[t̚]	high
ท	ท ทหาร	<i>tho thahan</i>	soldier	th	t	[tʰ]	[t̚]	low
ธ	ธ ธง	<i>tho thong</i>	flag	th	t	[tʰ]	[t̚]	low
น	น หนู	<i>no nu</i>	mouse	n	n	[n]	[n]	low
บ	บ ใบไม้	<i>bo baimai</i>	leaf	b	p	[b]	[p̚]	mid
ป	ป ปลา	<i>po pla</i>	fish	p	p	[p]	[p̚]	mid
ผ	ผ ผึ้ง	<i>pho phueng</i>	bee	ph	—	[pʰ]	—	high
ฝ	ฝ ฝา	<i>fo fa</i>	lid	f	—	[f]	—	high
พ	พ พาน	<i>pho phan</i>	phan	ph	p	[pʰ]	[p̚]	low
ฟ	ฟ ฟัน	<i>fo fan</i>	teeth	f	p	[f]	[p̚]	low
ภ	ภ สำเภา	<i>pho sam-phao</i>	Junk	ph	p	[pʰ]	[p̚]	low
ม	ม ม้า	<i>mo ma</i>	horse	m	m	[m]	[m]	low
ย	ย ยักษ์	<i>yo yak</i>	giant, yaksha	y	— or n ^[c]	[j]	— or [n]	low
ร	ร เรือ	<i>ro ruea</i>	boat	r	n	[r]	[n]	low
ล	ล ลิง	<i>lo ling</i>	monkey	l	n	[l]	[n]	low
ว	ว แหวน	<i>wo waen</i>	ring	w	<u>—[d]</u>	[w]	—	low

Symbol	Name			RTGS		IPA		Class
	Thai	RTGS	Meaning	Initial	Final	Initial	Final	
ศ	ศ ศาลา	<i>so sala</i>	pavilion, sala	s	t	[s]	[t̚]	high
ษ	ษ ฤๅษี	<i>so rue-si</i>	hermit	s	t	[s]	[t̚]	high
ส	ส เสือ	<i>so suea</i>	tiger	s	t	[s]	[t̚]	high
ห	ห หีบ	<i>ho hip</i>	chest, box	h	—	[h]	—	high
ฬ	ฬ จุฬา	<i>lo chu-la</i>	kite	l	n	[l]	[n]	low
อ	อ อ่าง	<i>o ang</i>	basin	_e	—	[ʔ]	—	mid
ฮ	ฮ นกฮูก	<i>ho nok-huk</i>	owl	h	—	[h]	—	low

Notes

- [^](#) The lower curves of the letter ฤ are removed when certain letters are written below them, such as ฤ + the mark [phinthu](#) (lower dot) = ฤ, etc.
- [^](#) The lower curves of the letter ฐ are removed when certain letters are written below them, such as ฐ + the vowel mark ุ = ฐ, etc.
- [^](#) When ย ends a [syllable](#), it is usually part of the [vowel](#). For example, *mai* (หม้าย, [maj.ɯ]), *muai* (หมวย, [muaj.ɯ]), *roi* (โรย, [roj.ɯ]), and *thui* (ทุย, [tʰuj.ɯ]). There are some cases in which ย ends a syllable and is not part of the vowel (but serves as an independent ending consonant). An example is *phinyo* (พิญโย, [pʰin.joːɯ]).
- [^](#) When ว ends a [syllable](#), it is always part of the [vowel](#). For example, *hio* (หิว, [hiw.ɯ]), *kao* (การว, [kaːw.ɯ]), *klua* (กลัว, [kluːa.ɯ]), and *reo* (เร้ว, [rew.ɯ]).
- [^](#) อ is a special case in that at the beginning of a word it is used as a [silent initial](#) for syllables that start with a vowel (all vowels are written relative to a consonant — see below). The same symbol is used as a vowel in non-initial position.

Phonetic[\[edit\]](#)

The consonants can be organised by place and manner of articulation according to principles of the [International Phonetic Association](#). Thai distinguishes among three voice/aspiration patterns for plosive consonants:

- unvoiced, unaspirated
- unvoiced, aspirated
- voiced, unaspirated

Where English has only a distinction between the voiced, unaspirated /b/ and the unvoiced, aspirated /pʰ/, Thai distinguishes a third sound which is neither voiced nor aspirated, which occurs in English only as an allophone of /p/, approximately the sound of the *p* in "spin". There is similarly an alveolar /t/, /tʰ/, /d/ triplet. In the velar series there is a /k/, /kʰ/ pair and in the postalveolar series the /tɕ/, /tɕʰ/ pair.

In each cell below, the first line indicates [International Phonetic Alphabet](#) (IPA),^{[[4](#)]} the second indicates the Thai characters in initial position (several letters appearing in the same box have identical pronunciation). Note how the conventional alphabetic order shown in the table above follows roughly the table below, reading the coloured blocks from right to left and top to bottom.

Pronunciation of Thai characters in initial position

	Bilabial		Labio-dental	Alveolar			Alveolo-palatal	Palatal	Velar		Glottal
Nasal			[m] ม			[n] ณ, น				[ŋ] ง	
Plosive	[p] ป	[pʰ] ผ, พ, ภ	[b] บ	[t] ฏ, ต	[tʰ] ฐ, ท, ฒ, ฒ, ฑ, ฒ	[d] ฎ, ด			[k] ก	[kʰ] ข, ฆ, ค, ฅ, ฆ	[ʔ] อ
Affricate							[tɕ] จ	[tɕʰ] ฉ, ช, ฌ			

Fricative		[f] ฝ, ฟ	[s] ซ, ศ, ส, ส					[h] ห, ฮ
Trill				[r] ร				
Approximant		[w] ว				[j] ญ, ย		
Lateral approximant				[l] ล, ฬ				
<p>Notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ^a ซ and ศ are no longer used. Thus, modern Thai is said to have 42 consonants. ^a Initial ฮ is silent and therefore considered as glottal plosive. 								

Although the overall 44 Thai consonants provide 21 sounds in case of initials, the case for finals is different. Note how the consonant sounds in the table for initials collapse in the table for final sounds. At the end of a syllable, all plosives are unvoiced, unaspirated, and have no audible release. Initial affricates and fricatives become final plosives. The initial trill (ร), approximant (ญ), and lateral approximants (ล, ฬ) are realized as a final nasal /n/.

Only 8 ending sounds, as well as no ending sound, are available in Thai pronunciation. Among these consonants, excluding the disused ซ and ศ, six (ณ ฬ ฟ ห อ ฮ) cannot be used as a final. The remaining 36 are grouped as following.

Pronunciation of Thai characters in final position

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal		[m] ม			[ŋ] ง
Plosive	[p] ป, ฝ, ฟ, พ, ภ	[t] จ, ช, ซ, ฉ, ฌ, ญ, ฐ, ฑ, ฒ, ต, ถ, ท, ษ, ฒ, ษ, ส		[k] ก, ข, ค, ฆ	[ʔ] ^[a]
Approximant		[w] ว		[j] ย	
<p>Notes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ^a The glottal plosive appears at the end when no final follows a short vowel. 					

Vowels^[edit]

Thai vowel sounds and diphthongs are written using a mixture of vowel symbols on a consonant base. Each vowel is shown in its correct position relative to a base consonant and sometimes a final consonant as well. Note that vowels can go above, below, left of or right of the consonant, or combinations of these places. If a vowel has parts before and after the initial consonant, and the syllable starts with a consonant cluster, the split will go around the whole cluster.

Twenty-one vowel symbol elements are traditionally named, which may appear alone or in combination to form compound symbols.

Symbol	Name		Combinations
	Thai	RTGS	
ะ	วิสรรชนีย์	Wisanchani (from Sanskrit <i>visarjanīya</i>)	ะ; ัวะ; ေး; ေးะ; ေးะ; ေးะ; ေးะ; ေးะ; ေးะ; ေးะ
ั	ไม้หันอากาศ	Mai han a-kat	ั; ัว; ัวะ
ุ	ไม้ไตคู่	Mai tai khu	ุ; ู; ู; ู; ู

า	ลากข้าง	Lak khang	า; อา; ำ; เอา; เอาะ
อิ	พินทุอิ	Phinthu i	อิ; เอ็; อี; อึ; เอีย; เอียะ; อึ; อือ; เอือ; เอือะ
อ๋	ฝนทอง	Fon thong ^[a]	อึ; อึ; เอีย; เอียะ
อ๊	พินทุ	Fan nu ^[a]	อึ; อึ; เอือ; เอือะ
อึ	นิกคหิต	Nikkhahit	อึ; อึ; ำ
อุ	ตินเหยียด	Tin yiat	อุ; อุ
อู	ตินคู้	Tin khu	อู; อู
เ	ไม้หน้า	Mai na	เ; เ; เอ็; เ; เอ; เอ; เอะ; เ; เาะ; เอ็; เอีย; เอีย; เอียะ; เอือ; เอือ; เอือะ; แ; แ; แ; แะ
โ	ไม้โอ	Mai o	โ; โ; เอะ
ไ	ไม้ม้วน	Mai muan	ไ
ไ	ไม้มลาย	Mai malai	ไ
อ	ตัว อ	Tua o	อ; อ็; อึ; เอ; เอ; เอะ; เอือ; เอือะ
ย	ตัว ย	Tua yo	เอีย; เอีย; เอียะ
ว	ตัว ว	Tua wo	ัว; ัวะ
ฤ	ตัว ฤ	Tua rue	ฤ
ฦ	ตัว ฦ	Tua rue	ฦ
ฦ	ตัว ฦ	Tua lue	ฦ
ฦ	ตัว ฦ	Tua lue	ฦ
Notes			
1. ^ Jump up to: ^a ^b These symbols are always combined with <i>phinthu i</i> (อิ).			

The [inherent vowels](#) are /a/ in [open syllables](#) (CV) and /o/ in [closed syllables](#) (CVC). For example, ถนน transcribes /tʰānǎn/ "road". There are a few exceptions in Pali loanwords, where the inherent vowel of an open syllable is /o/. The [circumfix](#) vowels, such as เ-าะ /ɔʔ/, encompass a preceding consonant with an inherent vowel. For example, /pʰɔʔ/ is written เพาะ, and /tɕʰapʰɔʔ/ "only" is written เฉพาะ.

The characters ฤ ฦ (plus ฦ ฦ, which are obsolete) are usually considered as vowels, the first being a short vowel sound, and the latter, long. As alphabetical entries, ฤ ฦ follow ร, and themselves can be read as a combination of consonant and vowel, equivalent to ริ (short), and รือ (long) (and the obsolete pair as ลี, ลือ), respectively. Moreover, ฤ can act as ริ as an integral part in many words mostly borrowed from [Sanskrit](#) such as ฤษณะ (*kṛitsana*, not *kruetsana*), ฤทธิ (*rit*, not *rueṭ*), and ฤษดา (*kṛitsada*, not *kruetsada*), for example. It is also used to spell อังกฤษ *angkrit* England/English. The word ฤกษ์ (*roek*) is a unique case where ฤ is pronounced like เรอ.

The pronunciation below is indicated by the [International Phonetic Alphabet](#)^[4] and the Romanisation according to the [Royal Thai Institute](#) as well as several variant Romanisations often encountered. A very approximate equivalent is given for various regions of English speakers and surrounding areas. Dotted circles represent the positions of consonants or consonant clusters. The first one represents the initial consonant and the latter (if it exists) represents the final.

Ro han (ร หัน) is not usually considered a vowel and is not included in the following table. It represents the *sara a* /a/ vowel in certain Sanskrit loanwords and appears as รร. When used without a final consonant (รร), /n/ is implied as the final consonant, giving [an].

Short vowels						Long vowels					
Name	Symbol	IPA	RTGS	Variants	Similar Sound (English RP pronunciation)	Name	Symbol	IPA	RTGS	Variants	Similar Sound (English RP pronunciation)

Simple vowels													
สระ อะ	Sara a	อะ อ	a	a	u	u in "nut"	สระ อา	Sara a	อา อาอ	a:	a	ah, ar, aa	a in "father"
สระ อิ	Sara i	อิ อิอ	i	i		y in "greedy"	สระ อี	Sara i	อี อีอ	i:	i	ee, ii, y	ee in "see"
สระ อี	Sara ue	อี อีอ	u	ue	eu, u, uh	Can be approximated by pronouncing the oo in "look" with unrounded lips German: the ü in Mücke	สระ อู	Sara ue	อู อูอ	u:	ue	eu, u	Can be approximated by pronouncing the oo in RP "goose" with unrounded lips
สระ อุ	Sara u	อุ อุอ	u	u	oo	oo in "look"	สระ อู	Sara u	อู อูอ	u:	u	oo, uu	oo in "too"
สระ เอะ	Sara e	เอะ เออ	e	e		e in "neck"	สระ เอ	Sara e	เอ เออ	e:	e	ay, a, ae, ai, ei	a in "lame"
สระ แอะ	Sara ae	แอะ แเออ	ɛ	ae	aeh, a	a in "at"	สระ แอ	Sara ae	แอ แออ	ɛ:	ae	a	a in "ham"
สระ โอะ	Sara o	โอะ ออ	o	o		oa in "boat"	สระ โอ	Sara o	โอ โออ	o:	o	or, oh, ô	o in "go"
สระ เอาะ	Sara o	เอาะ เอาอ	ɔ	o	o, aw	o in "not"	สระ ออ	Sara o	ออ อออ ออ[ɛ] เออ[ɛ]	ɔ:	o	or, aw	aw in "saw"
สระ เออะ	Sara oe	เออะ เออ	ʌ?	oe	eu	e in "the"	สระ เออ	Sara oe	เออ เออ เออ[ɛ]	ʌ: ʌ	oe	er, eu, ur	u in "burn"
Diphthongs													
สระ เอียะ	Sara ia	เอียะ	ia?	ia	iah, ear, ie	ea in "ear" with glottal stop	สระ เอีย	Sara ia	เอีย เอียอ	ia	ia	ear, ere, ie	ea in "ear"
สระ เอือะ	Sara uea	เอือะ	ua?	uea	eua, ua	ure in "pure"	สระ เอือ	Sara uea	เอือ เอืออ	ua	uea	eua, ua, ue	ure in "pure"
สระ อัวะ	Sara ua	อัวะ	ua?	ua		ewe in "sewer"	สระ อัว	Sara ua	อัว อัวอ	ua	ua	uar	ewe in "newer"
Phonetic diphthongs ^[d]													
สระ อิ + ว	Sara i + wo waen	อิว	iu; iw	io	ew	ew in "new"							
สระ เอะ + ว	Sara e + wo waen	เอว	eu; ew	eo	eu, ew		สระ เอ + ว	Sara e + wo waen	เอว	e:u; e:w	eo	eu, ew	ai + ow in "rainbow"

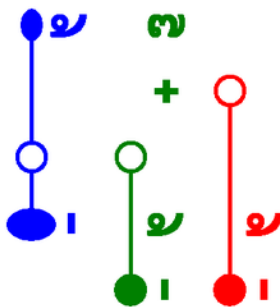
							สระ แอ + ว	Sara ae + wo waen	เว	ε:u; ε:w	aeo	aew, eo	a in "ham" + ow in "low"
สระ เอา	Sara ao ^[e]	เา	au; aw	ao	aw, au, ow	ow in "cow"	สระ อา + ว	Sara a + wo waen	าว	a:u	ao	au	ow in "now"
							สระ เอีย + ว	Sara ia + wo waen	เียว	iau; iaw	iao	eaw, iew, iow	io in "trio"
สระ อะ + ย	Sara a + yo yak	ัย	ai; aj	ai	ay	i in "hi"	สระ อา + ย	Sara a + yo yak	าย	ai; aj	ai	aai, aay, ay	ye in "bye"
สระ ไอ	Sara ai ^[e]	ไอ ^[f] , ไอ ^[g]											
สระ เอาะ + ย	Sara o + yo yak	็อย	oi; oj	oi	oy		สระ ออ + ย	Sara o + yo yak	็อย	oi; oj	oi	oy	oy in "boy"
							สระ โอ	Sara o + yo yak	โอย	oi; oj	oi	oy	
สระ อุ + ย	Sara u + yo yak	ุย	ui; uj	ui	uy								
							สระ เเอ + ย	Sara oe + yo yak	เย	rai; raj	oei	oey	u in "burn" + y in "boy"
							สระ อัว + ย	Sara ua + yo yak	วย	uai; uaj	uai	uay	uoy in "buoy"
							สระ เอือ + ย	Sara uea + yo yak	เอือย	wai; waj	ueai	uai	
Extra vowels ^[h]													
สระ อำ	Sara am	ำ	am	am	um	um in "sum"							
ฤ	Rue	ฤ	rw ri rr:	rue, ri, roe	ru, ri	rew in "grew", ry in "angry"	ฤ	Rue	ฤ	rw:	rue	ruu	
ฦ	Lue	ฦ	lw	lue	lu, li	lew in "blew"	ฦ	Lue	ฦ	lw:	lue	lu	

1. ◌ Only with ร (*ro ruea*) as final consonant, appearing as ◌ร [ɔːn].
2. ◌ Only with the word กั๊ [kǎ].
3. ◌ Used only in certain words.
4. ◌ Traditionally, these sets of diphthongs and triphthongs are regarded as combinations of regular vowels or diphthongs with *waen* (ว, /w/) or *yo yak* (ย, /j/) as the final consonant, and are not counted among the thirty-two vowels.
5. ◌ *Mai mai* (◌) is used for the [ai] vowel in most words, while *mai muan* (◌) is only used in twenty specific words.
6. ◌ ◌ is found in ไทย *Thai* and in Pali loanwords which contain *-eyya*. The ย is redundant, but may be pronounced in a compound word when joined by *samāsa*.

Tone[\[edit\]](#)

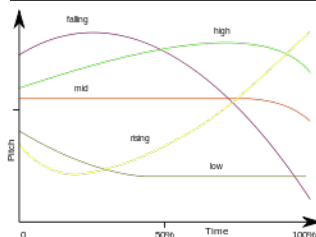
Central Thai[\[edit\]](#)

Thai is a [tonal language](#), and the script gives full information on the [tones](#). Tones are realised in the vowels, but indicated in the script by a combination of the class of the initial consonant (high, mid or low), [vowel length](#) (long or short), closing consonant ([plosive](#) or [sonorant](#), i.e., *dead* or *live*) and, if present, one of four tone marks, whose name derive from the name of the digits [1–4 borrowed from Pali or Sanskrit](#). The rules for denoting tones are shown in the following chart:



Tone type top to bottom: high, rising, mid, falling, low. Initial consonant class left to right: low (blue), middle (green), high (red). Syllable type: live (empty circle), dead (full circle), dead short (narrow ellipse), dead long (wide ellipse).

Symbol	Name		Syllable composition and initial consonant class			
	Thai	RTGS	Vowel and final	Low	Mid	High
	(ไม่มี)	(none)	live long vowel or vowel plus sonorant	mid	mid	rising
	(ไม่มี)	(none)	dead short short vowel at end or plus plosive	high	low	low
	(ไม่มี)	(none)	dead long long vowel plus plosive	falling	low	low
◌	ไม้เอก	<i>mai ek</i>	any	falling	low	low
◌	ไม้โท	<i>mai tho</i>	any	high	falling	falling
◌	ไม้ตรี	<i>mai tri</i>	any	-	high	-
◌	ไม้จัตวา	<i>mai chattawa</i>	any	-	rising	-





Flowchart for determining the tone of a Thai syllable. Click to enlarge

"None", that is, no tone marker, is used with the base accent (พื้นเสียง, *pheun siang*). *Mai tri* and *mai chattawa* are only used with mid-class consonants.

Two consonant characters (not diacritics) are used to modify the tone:

- **ห นำ *ho nam*, leading ho.** A silent, high-class ห "leads" low-class nasal stops (ง, ญ, น and ม) and non-plosives (ว, ย, ร and ล), which have no corresponding high-class phonetic match, into the tone properties of a high-class consonant. In polysyllabic words, an initial mid- or high-class consonant with an implicit vowel similarly "leads" these same low-class consonants into the higher class tone rules, with the tone marker borne by the low-class consonant.
- **อ นำ *o nam*, leading o.** In four words only, a silent, mid-class อ "leads" low-class ย into mid-class tone rules: อย่า (ya, don't) อยาก (yak, desire) อย่าง (yang, kind, sort, type) อยู่ (yu, stay). Note all four have long-vowel, low-tone *siang ek*; อย่าก, a dead syllable, needs no tone marker, but the three live syllables all take *mai ek*.

Low consonant	High consonant	IPA
ง	หง	[ŋ]
ญ	หญ	[j]
น	หน	[n]
ม	หม	[m]
ย	หย	[j]
ร	หร	[r]
ล	หล	[l]
ว	หว	[w]
Low consonant	Middle consonant	IPA
ย	อย	[j]

Some dialect where words are spelled with one tone but pronounced with another often occur in informal conversation (notably the pronouns ฉัน *chan* and เขา *khao*, which are both pronounced with a high tone rather than the rising tone indicated by the script). Generally, when such words are recited or read in public, they are pronounced as spelled.

Southern Thai[\[edit\]](#)

Spoken [Southern Thai](#) can have up to seven tones. When Southern Thai is written in Thai script, there are different rules for indicating spoken tone.

Tones	Nakhon Si Thammarat accent rules	IPA
First tone	An initial consonant class "high" with long sound, and an initial consonant class "low" after the word.	[ˈtɨ]
	An initial consonant class "high" with short sound, and an initial consonant class "low" with [k̚], [t̚], [p̚] finals after the word.	[ˈtɨ]
Second tone	An initial consonant class "high" both short long sound, and an initial consonant class "low" after the word.	[ˈtɨ]
Third tone	An initial consonant class "middle" long sound.	[ˈtɨ]
	An initial consonant class "middle" short sound with [k̚], [t̚], [p̚] finals.	[ˈtɨ]
Fourth tone	An initial consonant class "middle" both short long sound.	[ˈtɨ]
Fifth tone	An initial consonant class "low" with head word.	[ˈtɨ]

Sixth tone	An initial consonant class "low" long sound.	[-H]
Seventh tone	An initial consonant class "low" short sound.	[-L]

Diacritics[\[edit\]](#)

Other diacritics are used to indicate short vowels and silent letters:

- Mai taikhu* means "stick that climbs and squats". It is a miniature Thai numeral 8 ๘. *Mai taikhu* is often used with *sara e* (เ) and *sara ae* (แ) in closed syllables.
- Thanthakhat* means "killing as punishment".

Symbol	Name		Meaning
	Thai	RTGS	
ั	ไม้ไต่คู้	<i>mai taikhu</i>	shortens vowel
๋	ทัณทฆาต or การันต์	<i>thanthakhat</i> or <i>karan</i>	indicates silent letter

Fan nu means "rat teeth" and is thought as being placed in combination with short *sara i* and *fong man* to form other characters.

Symbol	Name		Use
	Thai	RTGS	
"	ฟันหนู	<i>fan nu</i>	combined with short <i>sara i</i> (ิ) to make long <i>sara ue</i> (ื)
			combined with <i>fong man</i> (๓) to make <i>fong man fan nu</i> (๓)

Numerals[\[edit\]](#)

The Thai script contains [decimal numerical digits](#).

Hindu-Arabic	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Thai	๐	๑	๒	๓	๔	๕	๖	๗	๘	๙

Other symbols[\[edit\]](#)

Symbol	Name		Meaning
	Thai	RTGS	
๑	ไปยาลน้อย	<i>pai-yan noi</i>	marks formal phrase shortened by convention (abbreviation)
๑๑	ไปยาลใหญ่	<i>pai-yan yai</i>	et cetera
๑๑	ไผ่ยมก	<i>mai ya-mok</i>	preceding word or phrase is reduplicated
๓	ฟองมัน, ตาไก่	<i>fong man, ta kai</i>	previously marked beginning of a sentence, paragraph, or stanza (obsolete); ^[5] now only marks beginning of a stanza in a poem; now also used as bullet point ^[6]
๓"	ฟองมันฟันหนู, ฟันหนู ฟองมัน, ฟันทอง ฟองมัน	<i>fong man fan nu, fan nu fong man, fon tong fong man</i>	previously marked beginning of a chapter (obsolete)
๓"	ฟองตัน	<i>fong dan</i>	
๑	อังคั่นเตี้ย, คั่นเตี้ย, ชั้นเตี้ย	<i>angkhan diao, khan diao, khan diao</i>	previously marked end of a sentence or stanza (obsolete) ^[5]
๑๑	อังคั่นคู่, คั่นคู่, ชั้นคู่	<i>angkhan khu, khan khu, khan khu</i>	marks end of stanza; marks end of chapter ^[5] or long section ^[6]

๖	อังคั่นวิสรรชนี	<i>angkhan wisanchani</i>	marks end of a stanza in a poem ^[6]
๗			
๘	โคมุตร, สุตรนารายณ์	<i>khomut, sutnarai</i>	marks end of a chapter or document; ^[6] marks end of a story ^[5]
๙	อังคั่นวิสรรชนี โคมุตร	<i>angkhan wisanchani khomut</i>	marks the very end of a written work
฿	บาท	<i>bat</i>	baht (the currency of Thailand)

Pai-yan noi and *angkhan diao* share the same character. *Sara a* (—ะ) used in combination with other characters is called *wisanchani*.

Some of the characters can mark the beginning or end of a sentence, chapter, or episode of a story or of a stanza in a poem. These have changed use over time and are becoming uncommon.

Sanskrit and Pali^[edit]

Brahmic scripts
The Brahmic script and its descendants
Northern Brahmic ^[show]
Southern Brahmic ^[show]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v t e

The Thai script (like all [Indic scripts](#)) uses a number of modifications to write Sanskrit and related languages (in particular, Pali). **Pali** is very closely related to Sanskrit and is the liturgical language of Thai Buddhism. In Thailand, Pali is written and studied using a slightly modified Thai script. The main difference is that each consonant is followed by an implied short a (อะ), not the 'o', or 'ə' of Thai: this short a is never omitted in pronunciation, and if the vowel is not to be pronounced, then a specific symbol must be used, the *pinthu* ุ (a solid dot under the consonant). This means that *sara a* (อะ) is never used when writing Pali, because it is always implied. For example, *namo* is written นะโม in Thai, but in Pali it is written as นโม, because the อะ is redundant. The Sanskrit word 'mantra' is written มन्ตร์ in Thai (and therefore pronounced *mon*), but is written มนฺตร in Sanskrit (and therefore pronounced *mantra*). When writing Pali, only 33 consonants and 12 vowels are used.

This is an example of a Pali text written using the Thai Sanskrit orthography: อรหํ สมมาสัมพุทโธ ภคาวา [*araham sammāsambuddho bhagavā*]. Written in modern Thai orthography, this becomes อะระหัง สัมมาสัมพุทโธ ภคาวา *arahang sammasamphuttho phakhawa*.

In Thailand, Sanskrit is read out using the Thai values for all the consonants (so ค is read as *kha* and not [ga]), which makes Thai spoken Sanskrit incomprehensible to sanskritists not trained in Thailand. The Sanskrit values are used in transliteration (without the [diacritics](#)), but these values are never actually used when Sanskrit is read out loud in Thailand. The vowels used in Thai are identical to Sanskrit, with the exception of ฤ, ฦ, ฦ, and ฦ, which are read using their Thai values, not their Sanskrit values. Sanskrit and Pali are not tonal languages, but in Thailand, the Thai tones are used when reading these languages out loud.

In the tables in this section, the Thai value (transliterated according to the Royal Thai system) of each letter is listed first, followed by the [IAST](#) value of each letter in square brackets. Remember that in Thailand, the IAST values are never used in pronunciation, but only sometimes in transcriptions (with the diacritics omitted). This disjoint between transcription and spoken value explains the romanisation for Sanskrit names in Thailand that many foreigners find confusing. For example, สุวรรณภูมิ is romanised as [Suvarnabhumi](#), but pronounced *su-wan-na-phum*. ศรีนครินทร์ is romanised as [Srinagarindra](#) but pronounced *si-nakha-rin*.

Plosives (*vargah*)^[edit]

Plosives (also called stops) are listed in their traditional Sanskrit order, which corresponds to Thai alphabetical order from ก to ม with three exceptions: in Thai, high-class ข is followed by two obsolete characters with no Sanskrit equivalent, high-class ฃ and low-class ฅ; low-class ฃ is followed by sibilant ฅ (low-class equivalent of high-class sibilant ฆ that follows ฅ and ฃ.) The table gives the Thai value first, and then the IAST value in square brackets.

class	unaspirated unvoiced	aspirated	voiced	aspirated voiced	nasal
velar	ก kà [ka]	ข khà [kha]	ค khá [ga]	ฆ khá [gha]	ง ngá [ña]
palatal	จ cà [ca]	ฉ chà [cha]	ช chá [ja]	ฌ chá [jha]	ญ yá [ña]
retroflex	ฏ tà [ta]	ฐ thà [tha]	ฑ thá [da]	ฒ thá [dha]	ณ ná [na]
dental	ต tà [ta]	ถ thà [tha]	ท thá [da]	ธ thá [dha]	น ná [na]
labial	ป pà [pa]	ฝ phà [pha]	พ phá [ba]	ภ phá [bha]	ม má [ma]
tone class	M	H	L	L	L

None of the Sanskrit plosives are pronounced as the Thai voiced plosives, so these are not represented in the table. While letters are listed here according to their class in Sanskrit, Thai has lost the distinction between many of the consonants. So, while there is a clear distinction between ข and ฉ in Sanskrit, in Thai these two consonants are pronounced identically (including tone). Likewise, the Thai phonemes do not differentiate between the retroflex and dental classes, because Thai has no retroflex consonants. The equivalents of all the retroflex consonants are pronounced identically to their dental counterparts: thus ฏ is pronounced like ต, and ฐ is pronounced like ถ, and so forth.

The Sanskrit unaspirated unvoiced plosives are pronounced as unaspirated unvoiced, whereas Sanskrit aspirated voiced plosives are pronounced as aspirated unvoiced.

Non-plosives (*avagah*)[[edit](#)]

Semivowels (กึ่งสระ *kueng sara*) and *liquids* come in Thai alphabetical order after ม, the last of the plosives. The term อวรรค *awak* means "without a break"; that is, without a plosive.

series	symbol	value	related vowels
palatal	ย	yá [ya]	อิ and อี
retroflex	ร	rá [ra]	ฤ and ฤๅ
dental	ล	lá [la]	ฤ and ฤๅ
labial	ว	wá [va]	อุ and อู

Sibilants[[edit](#)]

Inserted sound(s) (เสียดแทรก *siat saek*) follow the semi-vowel ว in alphabetical order.

series	symbol	value
palatal	ศ	sà [śa]
retroflex	ษ	sà [ṣa]
dental	ส	sà [sa]

Like Sanskrit, Thai has no voiced sibilant (so no 'z' or 'zh'). In modern Thai, the distinction between the three high-class consonants has been lost and all three are pronounced 'sà'; however, foreign words with an sh-sound may still be transcribed as if the Sanskrit values still hold (e.g., *ang-grit* อังกฤษ for *English* instead of อังกฤษ).

ศ ศาลา (so sala) leads words, as in its example word, ศาลา. The digraph ศรี (Indic *śrī*) is regularly pronounced สี (si), as in [Sisaket Province](#), Thai: ศรีสะเกษ.

ษ ฤๅษี (so rue-si) may only lead syllables *within* a word, as in its example, ฤๅษี, or to end a syllable as in ศรีสะเกษ *Sisaket* and อังกฤษ *Angkrit* English.

ส เสือ (so suea) spells native Thai words that require a high-class /s/, as well as [naturalized](#) Pali/Sanskrit words, such as สารท (สาท) in [Thetsakan Sat](#): เทศกาลสารท (เทศ-สะ-กาน-สาท), formerly สารท (สาท).

ซ โซ่ (so so), which follows the similar-appearing ช in Thai alphabetical order, spells words requiring a low-class /s/, as does ทร + vowel.

ทร, as in the heading of this section, เสียดแทรก (pronounced เสียดแซก *siat saek*), when accompanied by a vowel (implicit in ทรง (ซง *song* an element in forming words used with royalty); a semivowel in ทรวง (ซวง *suang* chest, heart); or explicit inทราย (ซาย *sai* sand). Exceptions to ทร + vowel = /s/ are the prefix โทร- (equivalent to *tele-* far, pronounced โทระ *to-ra*),

and phonetic re-spellings of English tr- (as in the phonetic respelling of *trumpet*: ทรัมเพ็ท.) ทร is otherwise pronounced as two syllables ทอระ-, as in ทรมาน (ทอระมาน *to-ra-man* to torment).

Voiced h[[edit](#)]

symbol	value
ห	hà [ha]

ห, a high-class consonant, comes next in alphabetical order, but its low-class equivalent, ฮ, follows similar-appearing อ as the last letter of the Thai alphabet. Like modern Hindi, the voicing has disappeared, and the letter is now pronounced like English 'h'. Like Sanskrit, this letter may only be used to start a syllable, but may not end it. (A popular beer is romanized as [Singha](#), but in Thai is สิงห์, with a *karan* on the ห; correct pronunciation is "[sing](#)", but foreigners to Thailand typically say "sing-ha".)

Voiced lla[[edit](#)]

symbol	value
ฬ	llá [la]

This represents the retroflex liquid of Pali and Vedic Sanskrit, which does not exist in Classical Sanskrit.

Vowels[[edit](#)]

symbol	value
อะ	a [a]
อา	a [ā]
อิ	i [i]
อี	i [ī]
อุ	u [u]
อู	u [ū]
เอ	e [e]
โ	o [o]
ฤ	ru [r]
ฦ	ru [r̥]
ฦ	lu [l]
ฦ	lu [l̥]

All consonants have an inherent 'a' sound, and therefore there is no need to use the *◌ะ* symbol when writing Sanskrit. The Thai vowels อี, โ, ใ, and so forth, are not used in Sanskrit. The [zero consonant](#), อ, is unique to the Indic alphabets descended from Khmer. When it occurs in Sanskrit, it is always the zero consonant and never the vowel *o* [ɔː]. Its use in Sanskrit is therefore to write vowels that cannot be otherwise written alone: e.g., อา or อี. When อ is written on its own, then it is a carrier for the implied vowel, *a* [a] (equivalent to อะ in Thai).

The vowel sign ำ occurs in Sanskrit, but only as the combination of the pure vowels *sara a* อา with *nikkhahit* ั.

Other symbols[[edit](#)]

There are a number of additional symbols only used to write Sanskrit or Pali, and not used in writing Thai.

Nikkhahit (anusvāra)[[edit](#)]

Symbol	IAST
◌ํ	<i>ṃ</i>

In Sanskrit, the [anusvāra](#) indicates a certain kind of nasal sound. In Thai this is written as an open circle above the consonant,

known as *nikkhahit* (นิคฺคหิต), from Pali *niggahīta*. Nasalisation does not occur in Thai, therefore, a nasal stop is always substituted: e.g. ตั *taṃ*, is pronounced as ตัง *tang* by Thai [sanskritists](#). If nikkhahit occurs before a consonant, then Thai uses a nasal stop of the same class: e.g. สัฏฺกฤตา [*saṃskṛta*] is read as สันสกฤตา *san-sa-krit-ta* (The ส following the nikkhahit is a dental-class consonant, therefore the dental-class nasal stop น is used). For this reason, it has been suggested that in Thai, nikkhahit should be listed as a consonant.^[5] *Nikkhahit* นิคฺคหิต occurs as part of the Thai vowels *sara am* อำ and *sara ue* อื.

Phinthu (virāma)^[edit]

อฺ

Because the Thai script is an [abugida](#), a symbol (equivalent to [virāma](#) in [devanagari](#)) needs to be added to indicate that the implied vowel is not to be pronounced. This is the phinthu, which is a solid dot (also called 'Bindu' in Sanskrit) below the consonant.

Yamakkan^[edit]

อํ

Yamakkan (ยามักการ) is an obsolete symbol used to mark the beginning of consonant clusters: e.g. พฺรหฺมณ *phramana* [*brāhmaṇa*]. Without the yamakkan, this word would be pronounced *pharahamana* [*barāhamana*] instead. This is a feature unique to the Thai script (other Indic scripts use a combination of ligatures, conjuncts or virāma to convey the same information). The symbol is obsolete because *pinthu* may be used to achieve the same effect: พฺราหฺมณ.

Visarga^[edit]

The means of recording [visarga](#) (final voiceless 'h') in Thai has reportedly been lost, although the character ๐๓ which is used to transcribe a short /a/ or to add a glottal stop after a vowel is the closest equivalent and can be seen used as a visarga in some Thai-script Sanskrit text.

Unicode^[edit]

Thai script was added to the [Unicode](#) Standard in October, 1991 with the release of version 1.0.

The Unicode block for Thai is U+0E00–U+0E7F. It is a verbatim copy of the older [TIS-620](#) character set which encodes the vowels ิ, ึ, ุ, ฺ, ็ and ๋ before the consonants they follow, and thus Thai, [Lao](#), [Tai Viet](#) and [New Tai Lue](#) are the only [Brahmic](#) scripts in Unicode that use visual order instead of logical order.

<div>Thai^{[1][2]}</div> <div>Official Unicode Consortium code chart (PDF)</div>																
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
U+0E0x		ก	ข	ฃ	ค	ฅ	ฆ	ง	จ	ฉ	ช	ฌ	ฎ	ญ	ฎ	ฏ
U+0E1x	ฐ	ฑ	ฒ	ณ	ด	ต	ถ	ท	ธ	น	บ	ป	ผ	ฝ	พ	ฟ
U+0E2x	ภ	ม	ย	ร	ฤ	ล	ฌ	ว	ศ	ษ	ส	ห	ฬ	อ	ฮ	า
U+0E3x	ะ	ั	า	ำ	ิ	ี	ึ	ุ	ู	เ	แ	๐๓				๐๔
U+0E4x	เ	แ	๐๓	๐๔	๐๕	๐๖	๐๗	๐๘	๐๙	๐๐	๐๑	๐๒	๐๓	๐๔	๐๕	๐๖
U+0E5x	๐	๑	๒	๓	๔	๕	๖	๗	๘	๙	๐๐	๐๑	๐๒	๐๓	๐๔	๐๕
U+0E6x																
U+0E7x																
Notes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ As of Unicode version 13.0 ↑ Grey areas indicate non-assigned code points 																

Keyboard Layouts^[edit]

Thai characters can be typed using the [Kedmanee layout](#) and the [Pattachote layout](#).

See also[\[edit\]](#)

- [Thai language](#)
- [Thai literature](#)
- [Thai language: Script: Transliteration](#)
- [Royal Thai General System of Transcription](#)
- [ISO 11940](#)
- [ISO 11940-2](#)
- [Thai numerals](#)
- [Thai braille](#)

References[\[edit\]](#)

- ↑ Anthony V. N. Diller, Thai Orthography and the History of Marking Tone, *Oriens Extremus*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (1996), pp. 228 - 248, . [JSTOR 24047473](#).
- ↑ Unicode Consortium. ["Southeast Asia"](#). In *The Unicode Standard Version 12.0* (p. 631).
- ↑ ["The origins of the Thai typewriter"](#). *Archived* from the original on December 19, 2010. Retrieved December 5, 2011.
- ↑ *Jump up to: [a](#) [b](#)* Tingsabadh, Kalaya; Arthur S. Abramson (1993). "Thai". *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*. **23** (1): 24–28. [doi:10.1017/S0025100300004746](#).
- ↑ *Jump up to: [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#)* Karoonboonyanan, Theppitak (1999). *"Standardization and Implementations of Thai Language"* (pdf). *National Electronics and Computer Technology Center*. Retrieved 2010-08-04.
- ↑ *Jump up to: [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#)* *"Thai"* (pdf). *Unicode*. 2009. Retrieved 2010-08-04.

External links[\[edit\]](#)

- [Comprehensive free Thai alphabet resource](#)
- [Comparing Thai script with Devanagari, Khmer, Burmese, and Tai Tham](#)
- [Omniglot - Thai](#)
- [Thai consonants](#)
- [Thai vowels](#)
- Transliterations for [Thai Vowels](#), [Thai Consonants](#)
- [Phonetic Organization of the Thai Consonants](#), by Richard Wordingham
- [Virtual Thai Keyboard](#) Freeware for the Windows operating system
- [Insert Zero-Width Space Character](#) – This utility prepares Thai text by inserting the Unicode "Zero-Width Space Character" between detected word breaks.