



**thai conversation**  
david smyth

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The conversations on CD 3 are not transcribed in this booklet, as this CD teaches listening skills.

## Track listing

### CD1

track 1: introduction  
 track 2: introduction to tones  
 tracks 3–7: conversation 1, part 1  
 tracks 8–11: conversation 1, part 2  
 tracks 12–15: conversation 2, part 1  
 tracks 16–19: conversation 2, part 2  
 tracks 20–23: conversation 3, part 1  
 tracks 24–27: conversation 3, part 2  
 tracks 28–31: conversation 4, part 1  
 tracks 32–35: conversation 4, part 2  
 tracks 36–39: conversation 5, part 1  
 tracks 40–43: conversation 5, part 2

### CD2

tracks 1–4: conversation 6, part 1  
 tracks 5–8: conversation 6, part 2  
 tracks 9–12: conversation 7, part 1  
 tracks 13–16: conversation 7, part 2  
 tracks 17–20: conversation 8, part 1  
 tracks 21–24: conversation 8, part 2  
 tracks 25–28: conversation 9, part 1  
 tracks 29–32: conversation 9, part 2  
 tracks 33–36: conversation 10, part 1  
 tracks 37–40: conversation 10, part 2

### CD3

track 1: introduction  
 tracks 2–5: conversation 1 (track 3: part 1; track 5: part 2)  
 tracks 6–9: conversation 2 (track 7: part 1; track 9: part 2)  
 tracks 10–14: conversation 3 (track 11: part 1; track 13: part 2)  
 tracks 15–17: conversation 4 (track 15: part 1; track 17: part 2)  
 tracks 18–21: conversation 5 (track 19: part 1; track 21: part 2)  
 tracks 22–25: conversation 6 (track 23: part 1; track 25: part 2)  
 tracks 26–29: conversation 7 (track 27: part 1; track 29: part 2)  
 tracks 30–33: conversation 8 (track 31: part 1; track 33: part 2)  
 tracks 34–37: conversation 9 (track 35: part 1; track 37: part 2)  
 tracks 38–41: conversation 10 (track 39: part 1; track 41: part 2)

## Romanization and pronunciation of Thai

There is no generally accepted system for romanizing Thai. The system used in this booklet, like any other system, can only offer an approximate representation of the Thai sound. You should therefore learn pronunciation from what you hear on the recording, rather than what you see in this accompanying booklet.

Although the vast majority of sounds in the Thai language have a near equivalent in English, there are a few sounds that do not exist in English and may require special attention.

### Consonants

At the beginning of a word, most consonants are pronounced much as they would be in English. But note the following:

- 'g' as in *get* (not *gin*)
- 'ng' easy to pronounce at the end of a word like *sing*, but in Thai also occurs at the beginning of a word.
- 'bp' a sound somewhere between 'b' and 'p', which many learners find difficult to hear and produce at first. Persevere!
- 'dt' a sound somewhere between 'd' and 't' which, again, many learners find difficult to hear and produce at first. Again, persevere!

At the end of a word, the consonant sounds 'k', 'p' and 't' are not 'released'. An example of an 'unreleased' final consonant in English would be the 'p' in the informal pronunciation of *yep!*; many English speakers don't release the final 't' in *yet*, either.

The 'r' sound is difficult for some Thais and they will often substitute an 'l' sound instead. Thus the word **rao** (*we*) is sometimes pronounced 'lao'.

When a word begins with two consonant sounds, some Thai speakers simplify the pronunciation by omitting the second consonant sound. Thus, for example, **krai** (*who?*) and **bplah** (*fish*) are sometimes pronounced 'kai' and 'bpah'.

## Vowels

In the system of romanization used in this booklet, vowels are pronounced as follows:

'a'	as in <i>ago</i>
'e'	as in <i>pen</i>
'i'	as in <i>bit</i>
'o'	as in <i>cot</i>
'u'	as in <i>fun</i>
'ah'	as in <i>father</i>
'ai'	as in <i>Thai</i>
'air'	as in <i>fair</i>
'ao'	as in <i>Lao</i>
'ay'	as in <i>may</i>
'ee'	as in <i>fee</i>
'er'	as in <i>number</i>
'ew'	as in <i>few</i>
'oh'	as in <i>go</i>
'OO'	as in <i>book</i>
'oo'	as in <i>food</i>
'oy'	as in <i>boy</i>

Special attention needs to be given to listening to words written with the following vowels, because the sounds do not occur in English:

'eu' 'eu-a' 'air-o' 'er-ee'

## Tones

In this booklet the following symbols are used above the first vowel of a syllable to indicate its tone.

(no symbol)	mid tone
`	low tone
ˊ	high tone
ˋ	falling tone
ˊˋ	rising tone

## Conversation 1: meeting and greeting people

### Part 1: This is Sakiko, my wife

**Kanchana** kOOn Martin, châi mái ká?

**Martin** châi krúp. nêe Sakiko, fairn kǒrng pǒm.

**Kanchana** fairn chêu a-rai ká?

**Martin** Sakiko krúp.

**Kanchana** chêu a-rai ná?

**Martin** Sa-ki-ko krúp.

**Kanchana** ôr ... Sakiko, châi mái ká?

**Martin** châi krúp.

### Part 2: Hello. Excuse me, what's your name?

**Kanchana** sa-wùt dee kâ, kOOn Sakiko.

**Sakiko** sa-wùt dee kâ. kǒr-tôht, kOOn chêu a-rai ká?

**Kanchana** chún chêu Kanchana kâ.

**Sakiko** kOOn Kanha, châi mái ká?

**Kanchana** mâi châi kâ. chêu Kanchana, mâi châi Kanha.

**Sakiko** ôr ... kǒr-tôht kâ, kOOn Kanchana châi mái ká?

**Kanchana** châi kâ. kǒr-tôht, kOOn Sakiko, bpen kon yêe-bpOOn, châi mái ká?

**Sakiko** châi kâ.

**Kanchana** 'Mr' Martin, right?

**Martin** Yes. This is Sakiko, my wife.

**Kanchana** What's your wife's name?

**Martin** Sakiko.

**Kanchana** What's her name again?

**Martin** Sa-ki-ko.

**Kanchana** Oh ... Sakiko, right?

**Martin** Yes.

**Kanchana** Hello, Khun Sakiko.

**Sakiko** Hello. Excuse me, what's your name?

**Kanchana** My name is Kanchana.

**Sakiko** Khun Kanha, right?

**Kanchana** No. My name is Kanchana, not Kanha.

**Sakiko** Oh ... forgive me, Khun Kanchana, right?

**Kanchana** Yes. Excuse me, Khun Sakiko, you're Japanese, right?

**Sakiko** Yes.

## Conversation 2: Taking a taxi

### Part 1: Will you go to the Victory Monument?

**Kanchana** a-nÓO-săh-wa-ree chai bpai mái ká?

**Taxi driver** bpai krúp ... kÓOn ja long têe-năi krúp?

**Kanchana** têe-nôhn kà ... OK, chún long têe-nêe kà.

**Taxi driver** têe-nêe, châi mái krúp?

**Kanchana** châi kà. tâo-rài ká?

**Taxi driver** gâo-síp bəht krúp.

**Kanchana** gâo-síp, châi mái ká?

**Taxi driver** châi krúp.

### Part 2: Do you know the Mayfair Hotel?

**Sakiko** rohng rairm Mayfair rÓo-júk mái?

**Taxi driver** mái rÓo-júk krúp.

**Sakiko** yÒo têe ta-nŏn sÓO-kÓOm-wít, soy sip-gâo.

**Taxi driver** ôr ... sÓO-kÓOm-wít soy sip-gâo, châi mái krúp?

**Sakiko** châi kà. bpai mái?

**Taxi driver** bpai krúp.

**Kanchana** *Will you go to the Victory Monument?*

**Taxi driver** *Yes ... Where will you get out?*

**Kanchana** *Over there ... OK, I'll get out here.*

**Taxi driver** *Here, right?*

**Kanchana** *Yes. How much is that?*

**Taxi driver** *Ninety baht.*

**Kanchana** *Ninety, right?*

**Taxi driver** *Yes.*

**Sakiko** *Do you know the Mayfair Hotel?*

**Taxi driver** *No I don't.*

**Sakiko** *It's on Sukhumwit Road, Soi 19.*

**Taxi driver** *Oh ... Sukhumwit Soi 19, right?*

**Sakiko** *Yes. Will you go?*

**Taxi driver** *Yes.*

## Conversation 3: Going shopping

### Part 1: Can I try them on?

- Sakiko** nêe tâo-rài ká?  
**Sales assistant** sèe róy bàht kà.  
**Sakiko** tâo-rài ná?  
**Sales assistant** sèe róy bàht kà.  
**Sakiko** kǒr lorng doo, dâi máí?  
**Sales assistant** dâi kà. sài ber a-rai?  
**Sakiko** ber hòk kà.  
**Sales assistant** bpen yung-ngai ká? sài dâi máí?  
**Sakiko** mâi dâi kà. lék bpai nòy kà.

### Part 2: How about 90 baht?

- Martin** nêe tâo-rài krúp?  
**Vendor** róy bàht krúp.  
**Martin** gâo-síp dâi máí krúp?  
**Vendor** mâi dâi krúp. róy bàht mâi pairng krúp. chôrp sèe a-rai krúp?  
**Martin** sèe dairng mee máí?  
**Vendor** mâi mee krúp. sèe kǎe-o ao máí krúp?  
**Martin** mâi ao krúp. mâi chôrp.

- Sakiko** *How much are these?*  
**Sales assistant** *Four hundred baht.*  
**Sakiko** *How much was that again?*  
**Sales assistant** *Four hundred baht.*  
**Sakiko** *Can I try them on, please?*  
**Sales assistant** *Yes. What size do you take?*  
**Sakiko** *Size six.*  
**Sales assistant** *How are they? Can you wear them? [Do they fit?]*  
**Sakiko** *No. They're a bit too small.*

- Martin** *How much is this?*  
**Vendor** *A hundred baht.*  
**Martin** *How about 90?*  
**Vendor** *No I can't. A hundred baht isn't expensive. What colour do you like?*  
**Martin** *Do you have red?*  
**Vendor** *No [I don't]. Do you want green?*  
**Martin** *No thank you. I don't like it.*

## Conversation 4: Ordering food

### Part 1: We'd like two plates of shrimp fried rice, please

**Martin** kǒr kâo pùt gŏŏng sǒng jahn krúp.

**Waitress** gŏŏng mâi mee kâ. mee gâi gùp mǒo tâo-nún.

**Martin** gâi gôh dâi krúp.

**Waitress** kâ. ao náhm a-rai ká?

**Martin** kóhk sǒng kòo-ut krúp.

### Part 2: Excuse me, where's the toilet?

**Martin** gèp sa-dtung dŏo-ay krúp.

**Waitress** gâo sip bàht kâ.

**Sakiko** kǒr-tóht kâ, hông náhm yòo tēe-năi?

**Waitress** yòo tēe-nôhn kâ. sái meu.

**Sakiko** kòrp-kŏŏn kâ.

## Conversation 5: Going for a meal

### Part 1: It's a treat if you order

**Martin** *Can we have two plates of shrimp fried rice, please?*

**Waitress** *We don't have any shrimps. We only have chicken and pork.*

**Martin** *Chicken will do.*

**Waitress** *Right. What would you like to drink?*

**Martin** *Two bottles of Coke, please.*

### Part 2: How's the food?

**Martin** *Can I have the bill, please?*

**Waitress** *Ninety baht.*

**Sakiko** *Excuse me, where's the toilet?*

**Waitress** *It's over there. On the left hand side.*

**Sakiko** *Thank you.*



## Conversation 5: Going for a meal

### Part 1: It's better if you order

**Chartchai** kOOn Martin, tahn a-hähn tai bpen mái krúp?

**Martin** bpen krúp.

**Chartchai** yàhk ja tahn a-rai krúp?

**Martin** a-rai gôr dâi krúp. kOOn chât-chai sùng dee gwàh krúp.  
pôm sùng a-hähn tai mái gèng.

**Chartchai** ôr, lér krúp? tahn pèt bpen mái?

**Martin** bpen krúp, tâh mái pèt mâhk.

### Part 2: How's the food?

**Chartchai** nórng, nórng krúp! ao dtôm yum gÔOng, gàì pùt kǐng  
láir-o gôr pùt pùk roo-um mít.

ao kâo dōo-ay ná krúp.

*(After the food has arrived.)*

a-hähn bpen yung-ngay? pèt mái?

**Martin** mái kôy pèt krúp.

**Chartchai** a-ròy mái?

**Martin** a-ròy mâhk krúp.

**Chartchai** mmm, a-ròy ná.

**Chartchai** *Martin, can you eat Thai food?*

**Martin** Yes.

**Chartchai** *What would you like to eat?*

**Martin** *Anything you like. It's better if you order.  
I'm not good at ordering Thai food.*

**Chartchai** *Oh, really? Can you eat spicy food?*

**Martin** *Yes if it's not very hot.*

**Chartchai** *Waiter! We'd like shrimp 'tom yam', chicken fried with  
ginger and mixed fried vegetables.*

*We'd like rice, too, OK?*

*(After the food has arrived.)*

*How's the food? Is it hot?*

**Martin** *Not very hot.*

**Chartchai** *Is it tasty?*

**Martin** *Yes, very tasty.*

**Chartchai** *Mmm, it is tasty, isn't it?*

## Conversation 6: Getting to the post office

### Part 1: Is there a post office around here?

**Sakiko** kǒr-tôht kâ. tǎir-o nêe mee bprai-sa-nee mái?

**Passer-by** mee krúp. yòo têe-nôhn. yòo kwǎh meu krúp.

**Sakiko** glai mái ká?

**Passer-by** mái glai ròrk krúp. dern bpai sórng sǎhm nah-tee tǎo-nún.

**Sakiko** kòrp-kOOn máhk kâ.

**Passer-by** mái bpen rai krúp.

### Part 2: How much does it cost to send this to England?

**Sakiko** nêe sòng bpai ung-grít tǎo-rài ká?

**PO clerk** bpàirt síp bàht krúp.

**Sakiko** kǒr aerogramme dōo-ay kâ.

**PO clerk** gèe pàirn krúp?

**Sakiko** hǎh pàirn kâ.

**PO clerk** túng mòt róy sǎhm síp bàht krúp.

**Sakiko** *Excuse me. Is there a post office around here?*

**Passer-by** *Yes. It's over there. On the right hand side.*

**Sakiko** *Is it far?*

**Passer-by** *Not far at all. Just two or three minutes' walk.*

**Sakiko** *Thank you very much.*

**Passer-by** *Don't mention it.*

**Sakiko** *How much does it cost to send this to England please?*

**PO clerk** *Eighty baht.*

**Sakiko** *I'd like some aerogrammes too.*

**PO clerk** *How many?*

**Sakiko** *Five please.*

**PO clerk** *That's altogether 130 baht.*

## Conversation 7: Booking a coach ticket

### Part 1: I want to book a ticket to Hua Hin

- Martin** yàhk ja jorng dtöo-a bpai hõo-a hĩn krúp.  
**Clerk** ja bpai mêu-rài ká?  
**Martin** prÔOng née krúp.  
**Clerk** prÔOng née cháo, way-lah sip nah-li-gah kà. dee mái ká?  
**Martin** dee krúp.  
**Clerk** bpai gèe kon ká?  
**Martin** sǒrng kon krúp.  
**Clerk** sǒrng róy bpàirt sip bàht kà.  
**Martin** kòrp-kOOn krúp.

### Part 2: Is this the bus for Hua Hin?

- Sakiko** kǒr-tóht kâ, rót bpai hõo-a hĩn òrk jàhk tée nãi?  
**Official** hõo-a hĩn, châi mái? òrk jàhk tée-nõhn krúp.  
**Sakiko** kòrp-kOOn ká ... kǒr-tóht kâ, rót nêe bpai hõo-a hĩn, châi mái ká?  
**Driver** châi krúp. chern krúp, chern krúp! gra-bpǎo wái tée-nêe krúp.

- Martin** *I'd like to book tickets to Hua Hin.*  
**Clerk** *When are you going?*  
**Martin** *Tomorrow.*  
**Clerk** *Tomorrow morning, at 10 o'clock. Is that OK?*  
**Martin** *Yes.*  
**Clerk** *How many people are going?*  
**Martin** *Two.*  
**Clerk** *Two hundred and eighty baht.*  
**Martin** *Thank you.*

- Sakiko** *Excuse me, where does the Hua Hin bus leave from?*  
**Official** *Hua Hin, right? It leaves from over there.*  
**Sakiko** *Thank you ... Excuse me, this is the bus for Hua Hin, isn't it?*  
**Driver** *Yes. On you get! Leave your bag here.*

## Conversation 8: In the taxi

### Part 1: You speak Thai well

**Martin** sa-năhm bin sŏO-wun-na-poom bpai mái krúp?

**Taxi driver** bpai krúp. kŌOn pŏot tai gèng.

**Martin** mái gèng ròrk krúp. pŏot dâi nít-nòy tâo-nún.

**Taxi driver** kŌOn bpen kon châht a-rai krúp?

**Martin** bpen kon ung-grít krúp.

**Taxi driver** ôr ... kon ung-grít lěr? mee fairn kon tai mái krúp?

**Martin** mái mee krúp.

**Taxi driver** ôr ... mái mee lěr? yòo meu-ung tai nahn mái?

**Martin** mái nahn krúp.

**Taxi driver** láir-o kŌOn kêe-un pah-săh tai bpen mái?

**Martin** mái bpen krúp.

### Part 2: You're from Bangkok, right?

**Martin** kŏr-tŏht krúp, kŌOn bpen kon grŌOng-tăyp châi mái?

**Taxi driver** mái châi krúp. bpen kon dtàhng jung-wùt.

**Martin** ôr, lěr krúp? jung-wùt a-rai krúp?

**Taxi driver** jung-wùt na-korn pa-nom krúp.

**Martin** yòo pâhk ee-săhn châi mái?

**Taxi driver** châi krúp. ker-ee bpai mái?

**Martin** mái ker-ee krúp.

**Martin** *Will you go to Suvarnabhumi Airport?*

**Taxi driver** *Yes. You speak Thai well.*

**Martin** *No I don't. I only speak a little.*

**Taxi driver** *What nationality are you?*

**Martin** *I'm English.*

**Taxi driver** *Oh ... English, eh? Do you have a Thai girlfriend?*

**Martin** *No I don't.*

**Taxi driver** *Oh ... so you don't then? Have you been in Thailand long?*

**Martin** *No not long.*

**Taxi driver** *And can you write Thai?*

**Martin** *No I can't.*

**Martin** *Excuse me, you're from Bangkok, right?*

**Taxi driver** *No. I'm from outside Bangkok.*

**Martin** *Oh, really? Which province?*

**Taxi driver** *Nakhorn Phanom province.*

**Martin** *That's in the North East, isn't it?*

**Taxi driver** *Yes. Have you ever been there?*

**Martin** *No I haven't.*

## Conversation 9: Talking about travel

### Part 1: Where are you going this weekend?

- Kanchana** sǎo ah-tít kOOn Sakiko ja bpai tēe-o tēe-nǎi ká?  
**Sakiko** wun sǎo rao ja bpai tēe-o sǎo-un ja-dtǎo-jùk kà.  
**Kanchana** lér ká? ja bpai yung-ngai ká? bpai rǒt fai loi fáh chǎi mái?  
**Sakiko** gǒr ... kít wǎh ja bpai táirk-sēe kà. sa-dòo-uk dee.  
**Kanchana** chún wǎh bpai rǒt fai dee gwǎh kà. tòok gwǎh táirk-sēe. láir-o rǒt mái dtít.  
**Sakiko** chún mái ker-ee chǎi rǒt fai loy fáh.  
**Kanchana** ngái dee kà. sa-tǎh-nee yòo glái glái rohng rairm dǎo-ay.

### Part 2: Have you ever been outside Bangkok?

- Kanchana** kOOn Martin ker-ee bpai tēe-o dtǎhng jung-wùt mái ká?  
**Martin** ker-ee krúp. ker-ee bpai gòh dtào gùp gra-bpèe.  
**Kanchana** bpai gùp krai ká?  
**Martin** bpai gùp pēu-un fa-rùng krúp.  
**Kanchana** sa-nǒok mái ká?  
**Martin** sa-nǒok dee krúp. chǒrp tēe-o chai ta-lay. chǒrp dum nǎhm.  
**Kanchana** láir-o a-hǎhn ta-lay bpen yung-ngai ká?  
**Martin** a-ròy máhk krúp.  
**Kanchana** bpai tēe-o chee-ung mài réu yung ká?  
**Martin** yung krúp.

- Kanchana** *Where are you going this weekend Sakiko?*  
**Sakiko** *On Saturday we're going to visit Jatuchak Park.*  
**Kanchana** *Really? How are you going? By skytrain, right?*  
**Sakiko** *Well ... I think we'll go by taxi. It's nice and convenient.*  
**Kanchana** *I think it's better to go by train. It's cheaper than taxi. And there are no traffic jams.*  
**Sakiko** *I've never used the skytrain.*  
**Kanchana** *It's nice and easy. The station is near the hotel, too.*

- Kanchana** *Have you ever been outside Bangkok?*  
**Martin** *Yes. I've been to Koh Tao and Krabi.*  
**Kanchana** *Who did you go with?*  
**Martin** *I went with some farang friends.*  
**Kanchana** *Was it fun?*  
**Martin** *Yes, it was good fun. I like going to the beach. I like diving.*  
**Kanchana** *And what was the seafood like?*  
**Martin** *Very tasty.*  
**Kanchana** *Have you been to Chiang Mai yet?*  
**Martin** *No not yet.*

## Conversation 10: Dealing with stressful situations

### Part 1: I feel lousy!

- Kanchana** kOOn Martin, bpen a-rai ká? doo mâi kôy sa-bai.  
**Martin** gôr ... róo-sèuk yâir mâhk krúp.  
**Kanchana** bpen a-rai ká?  
**Martin** jèp kor láir-o bpòo-ut hõo-a krúp.  
**Kanchana** lér ká? gin yah réu yung ká?  
**Martin** yung krúp.  
**Kanchana** tórng sêe-a máí?  
**Martin** sêe-a krúp.  
**Kanchana** bpai hãh mör dee gwàh.  
**Sakiko** mâi dtôngrng kâ. são ah-tít kOOn Martin gin bee-a mâhk bpai.

### Part 2: I'm sorry, I don't understand!

- Sakiko** hello, kôr pòot gùp kOOn Nóy dâi máí ká?  
**Thai voice** krai ná ká?  
**Sakiko** a-rai ná ká?  
**Thai voice** kOOn yàhk ja pòot gùp krai ná ká?  
**Sakiko** hello, kOOn Nóy yòo máí ká?  
**Thai voice** mâi dâi yin a-rai kâ.  
**Sakiko** kôr-tòht, chún mâi kâo jai. pòot cháh cháh nòy, dâi máí, ká?  
**Thai voice** mâi dâi yin kâ.  
**Sakiko** kOOn pòot pah-sãh ung-grít bpen máí ká?  
**Thai voice** ror sùk krôo kâ.

- Kanchana** *Martin, what's the matter? You don't look very well.*  
**Martin** *Well ... I feel really lousy.*  
**Kanchana** *What's the matter?*  
**Martin** *I've got a sore throat and a headache.*  
**Kanchana** *Really? Have you taken any medicine?*  
**Martin** *No not yet.*  
**Kanchana** *Have you got diarrhoea?*  
**Martin** *Yes.*  
**Kanchana** *You'd better go and see a doctor.*  
**Sakiko** *There's no need. At the weekend Khun Martin drank too much beer.*

- Sakiko** *Hello, can I speak to Khun Noi, please?*  
**Thai voice** *Who did you say?*  
**Sakiko** *Pardon?*  
**Thai voice** *Who do you want to speak to?*  
**Sakiko** *Hello, is Khun Noi in?*  
**Thai voice** *I can't hear a thing.*  
**Sakiko** *I'm sorry, I don't understand. Could you speak slowly, please?*  
**Thai voice** *I can't hear.*  
**Sakiko** *Do you speak English?*  
**Thai voice** *Wait a moment.*

- Sakiko** a-rai ná ká?
- Chartchai** hello, kOOn Sakiko châi mái krúp?
- Sakiko** châi kâ. yàhk ja pōot gúp kOOn Nóy kâ.
- Chartchai** ôr ... kOOn Nóy mâi yòo krúp. ao ber toh-ra-sùp meu têu mái?
- Sakiko** ao kâ. cháh cháh, ná ká?
- Chartchai** OK, ber ... 0-1-5-6-4 5-6-6-4.
- Sakiko** kōrp kOOn mâhk kâ. sa-wùt dee kâ.
- Chartchai** 'wùt dee krúp.

- Sakiko** Pardon?
- Chartchai** Hello, is that Khun Sakiko?
- Sakiko** Yes. I want to speak to Khun Noi.
- Chartchai** Ah ... Khun Noi isn't in. Do you want her mobile number?
- Sakiko** Yes please. Slowly, right?
- Chartchai** OK, the number is 01 564 5664.
- Sakiko** Thank you very much. Goodbye.
- Chartchai** Bye.

## Cultural information

### The Thai language

Thai, the national language of Thailand, is based on the dialect spoken in the Central Region and Bangkok; this is the language used throughout the country in schools and in the mass media. However, distinct dialects of Thai are spoken in the North, North East and South. Many Thais, in addition to speaking the national language and a regional dialect, also speak one or more other languages, such as Chinese, Cambodian or a language of one of the ethnic minorities.

Thai is a *tonal* language, which means the meaning of a word is determined by the pitch at which it is pronounced. It uses an alphabet system of writing and has its own unique script, which originated in India. It is written across the page from left to right, with few spaces between words. Some vowel symbols appear above the line of letters and others below. The match between spelling and pronunciation in Thai is much closer than in English (cf. *cough*, *through*, *though*, *bough*, *brought*). Learning to read and write Thai is by no means as difficult as many learners imagine; becoming literate enables you to learn more quickly and effectively.

### Polite language

In Thai, polite *particles* (untranslatable words) are added to the end of a sentence to convey politeness. Male speakers use **krúp** and female speakers use **kā** or **kà** at the end of statements and **ká** at the end of questions.

Thais are normally addressed and referred to by their first or personal name. To avoid the risk of sounding inappropriately casual or even disrespectful, it is safest to use the word **khun** (**kOOn** – *Mr, Mrs, Miss*) before a person's name. Thai friends may address each other by their nicknames, yet still use **khun** before the nickname.

Thais can also choose between a formal and informal word to show respect or politeness. Thus **tahn** and **gin** both have the same meaning, *to eat*, but the former is more appropriate in formal situations.

## Body language

The head is regarded as sacrosanct: never attempt to ruffle a Thai's hair, nor offer a friendly pat on the head. Thais show respect to older people by trying to keep their head at a lower level when talking to them or passing them. In the traditional Thai greeting, the **wāi**, the head is bowed and the hands held in a prayer-like position in front of the face; the deeper the bow, the more the respect conveyed. Feet are regarded as lowly; it is extremely impolite to sit with your feet pointing directly at someone, or to point with the foot. Shoes should be removed when entering Thai homes and designated parts of certain buildings, such as temples and museums.

## Geography

Thailand is divided into 76 provinces (**jung-wüt**) which are spread across four regions (**pāhk**): the Central Region (**pāhk glahng**), the Northern Region (**pāhk nĕu-a**) the North East Region (**pāhk ee-sāhn**) and the Southern Region (**pāhk dtāi**). Each region has its own distinctive dialect, regional culture and culinary specialities. Bangkok (**grOong-tāyp**) has always been a magnet for Thais from the provinces seeking to make their fortune, or simply a more comfortable life-style. In the past, many Thais migrated seasonally to the capital when the rice had been harvested. Now, however, many have settled in the city, and its sprawling suburbs, where the estimated population is now around 10 million, or about one sixth of the country's total population.

## Getting around

Travelling around in Thailand is cheap and convenient. In Bangkok, there are buses, the skytrain, an underground train, taxis and **tuk-tuk** (**dtÓOk dtÓOk**) – the motorized pedicab with the distinctive-sounding motor. City maps detailing bus-routes are readily available in English-language bookstores; instructions for using the skytrain and underground train are displayed in stations in English; taxis have meters and, with luck, the possibility of practising your Thai; and *tuk-tuk*, if you like a bit of noise and a bit of danger, can offer both, for a pre-agreed price.



Outside Bangkok air-conditioned coaches or 'tour buses' (**rót too-a**) provide frequent and extraordinarily cheap services, both to and from Bangkok, and between neighbouring provinces. They tend to be quicker and cheaper than train travel. Internal flights have become more readily available in recent years.

## Thai food

The Thai tourism boom, which began in the 1980s, created a huge interest in Thai food in the West. For Thais moving to, or already living in the West, opening a Thai restaurant suddenly became a financially viable prospect, and Thai restaurants have now spread rapidly beyond the big cities into small provincial towns. Once, it was only specialist oriental stores that imported foods from Thailand; now the large supermarket chains have entered the market, with their own brands of 'authentic' bottled, tinned or packaged Thai curry sauces.

## Grammar notes

### Nouns

A noun is a type of word which is used as the name of things (e.g. *bus, coffee*) and people (e.g. *friend, sister, policeman*). Nouns in Thai have a single fixed form that does not distinguish between singular and plural. Thus the word **pêu-un** can mean either *friend* or *friends*. Often the context will make it clear whether the noun has a singular or plural reference; sometimes a number, or a quantifier word (e.g. *many, some, a few* etc.) is used for clarification; and sometimes clarification is not regarded as relevant by either speaker or listener.

When nouns are used with numbers – in expressions such as *two children* – a classifier has to be used. The classifier for **lôok** (*child*) is **kon**. The order of words is:

NOUN + NUMBER + CLASSIFIER

**lôok**    **sǒng**                    **kon**            *two children*

### Pronouns

Pronouns are used instead of nouns (e.g. *it* instead of *the bus*). In English, the words *I, you, he, she, we, they* are called personal pronouns. Thai has many more personal pronouns than English. However it is possible to operate quite effectively with just the following:

<b>pǒm</b>	<i>I, me</i> (male)
<b>chún</b>	<i>I, me</i> (female)
<b>kOOn</b>	<i>you</i> (singular and plural)
<b>káo</b>	<i>he, him, she, her, they, them</i>
<b>rao</b>	<i>we, us</i>
<b>mun</b>	<i>it</i>

However, pronouns are very frequently omitted. This can be disconcerting for the learner at first. But the context will usually clarify who is being addressed or referred to. Thus, the question, **chêu a-rai?** ('*name-what?*') can mean *What's your name?* or *What's her name?*, depending on the situation.

## Verbs

Verbs state what a person or thing does or experiences (e.g. *do*, *fear*). In Thai verbs have a single fixed form; unlike verbs in European languages, they do not change their form to show tense nor to agree with the preceding pronoun. Time expressions like *last week* or *tomorrow* can be used to clarify a situation, but often context alone is sufficient for the listener to understand whether the past, present or future is being referred to. Thai does, however, use certain particles and auxiliary verbs to indicate when an action took place, and whether it is a completed or continuous action. Among these are:

- ja** used before a verb to indicate future actions  
**kOOn ja long tēe-nǎi krúp?** *Where will you get out?*
- ker-ee** used before a verb to indicate that an action occurred either once or habitually in the past  
**kOOn ker-ee bpai mái?** *Have you ever been there?*
- láir-o** used after a verb to indicate that an action has been completed or after an adjective to indicate that a state has been attained  
**sung (a-hǎhn) láir-o** *I've ordered (food).*  
**im láir-o** *I'm full.*

## Adjectives

Adjectives are used to describe nouns (e.g. a *big piece*). In Thai they follow the noun that they modify:

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>a-hǎhn pèt</b>     | <i>spicy food</i> |
| <b>rót sǎe dairng</b> | <i>a red car</i>  |

Adjectives also function as verbs with the meaning *to be ...*; thus **pèt** means both *spicy* and *to be spicy*, while **sǎe dairng** means both *red* and *to be red*. Adjectives cannot be used with the verb **bpén** *to be*.

## Adverbs

Adverbs provide information about the verb they modify, for example, the manner in which the action of the verb is performed (e.g. he ran *quickly*). In Thai adverbs follow the verb that they modify:

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>kOOn pòot tai gèng</b> | <i>You speak Thai well.</i> |
| <b>chún gin cháh</b>      | <i>I eat slowly.</i>        |

## Questions

### 1 Yes/No questions

Note that *yes* and *no* answers are determined by the form of the question.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>a bpén kon yēe-bpòOn chái mái?</b>      | <i>You're Japanese, right?</i>          |
| <b>chái</b>                                | <i>Yes.</i>                             |
| <b>mái chái</b>                            | <i>No.</i>                              |
| <b>b róo-jùk mái?</b>                      | <i>Do you know it?</i>                  |
| <b>róo-jùk</b>                             | <i>Yes.</i>                             |
| <b>mái róo-jùk</b>                         | <i>No.</i>                              |
| <b>c bpai tēe-o chee-ung mài réu yung?</b> | <i>Have you been to Chiang Mai yet?</i> |
| <b>bpai láir-o</b>                         | <i>Yes.</i>                             |
| <b>yung</b>                                | <i>No.</i>                              |

### 2 Wh ...? questions

Note that the question word in **a-e** occurs at the end of the question; in **f**, the pattern is (VERB) + **gèe** + CLASSIFIER.

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>a kOOn chēu a-rai?</b>         | <i>What's your name?</i>                 |
| <b>b ja bpai mēu-rài ?</b>        | <i>When are you going?</i>               |
| <b>c hōrng nǎhm yòo tēe-nǎi?</b>  | <i>Where's the toilet?</i>               |
| <b>d bpén yung-ngai?</b>          | <i>How are they?</i>                     |
| <b>e túng mòt tào-rài?</b>        | <i>How much is that altogether?</i>      |
| <b>f ao aerogramme gèe pàirn?</b> | <i>How many aerogrammes do you want?</i> |

## Listening skills: Survival phrases

Sorry.	kõr-tôht
Pardon?	a-rai ná
Please speak slowly.	pòot chách chách nòy dâi máí?
I don't understand.	mâi kâo jai
I don't speak Thai.	pòot pah-săh tai mâi bpen
Do you speak English?	pòot pah-săh ung-grit bpen máí?
It doesn't matter; never mind.	mâi bpen rai
How much is it?	tâo-rài?
Where is ...?	... yòo têe-nâi?

## Thai-English glossary

Numbers refer to the conversation number in which the word/phrase was first introduced.

a-hăhn (5) <i>food</i>	chêu (1) <i>personal name; to have the personal name</i>
a-hăhn ta-lay (9) <i>seafood</i>	chòrp (3) <i>to like</i>
a-nŌO-săh-wa-ree chai (2) <i>Victory Monument</i>	chún (1) <i>I (female speakers)</i>
a-rai? (1) <i>what?</i>	dâi (3) <i>yes in response to a ... dâi máí? question; can</i>
a-rai gôr dâi (5) <i>anything you like; anything will do</i>	dâi jin (10) <i>to hear</i>
a-ròy (5) <i>tasty</i>	dee (7) <i>good; fine</i>
ao (3) <i>to want</i>	dee gwăh (5) <i>better</i>
băht (2) <i>baht</i>	dern (6) <i>to walk</i>
bee-a (10) <i>beer</i>	doo (10) <i>to look, to appear</i>
ber (3) <i>size; number</i>	dôo-ay (4), (5) <i>particle used in commands; too, also</i>
bpai (2) <i>to go</i>	dum năhm (9) <i>to dive</i>
... bpai nòy (3) <i>a bit too ...</i>	dtăhng jung-wùt (8) <i>upcountry, outside Bangkok, the provinces</i>
bpàirt sip (6) <i>eighty</i>	dtôm yum gŌng (5) <i>shrimp 'tom yam'</i>
bpen (1) <i>to be</i>	dtôo-a (7) <i>ticket</i>
bpen a-rai ? (10) <i>what's the matter?</i>	fairn (1) <i>husband; wife; boyfriend; girlfriend; partner</i>
... bpen máí? (5) <i>can you ...?</i>	fa-rùng (9) <i>farang; Caucasian</i>
bpen yung-ngai? (3) <i>how are they/is it?</i>	gài (4) <i>chicken</i>
bpòo-ut hōo-a (10) <i>to have a headache</i>	gài pùt kĭng (5) <i>chicken fried with ginger</i>
bprai-sa-nee (6) <i>post office</i>	gâo-sip (2) <i>ninety</i>
chách (10) <i>slow</i>	gèe (+ classifier)? (6) <i>how many ...?</i>
chăht (8) <i>nation</i>	gèng (5) <i>to be good at</i>
châi (1) <i>yes answer to a ... châi máí? question</i>	gèp (4) <i>to collect</i>
... châi máí? (1) <i>question 'particle' used after a statement to seek confirmation that the statement is correct; cf. English ' ... , right?'</i>	gin (5) <i>to eat; to drink</i>
cháí (9) <i>to use</i>	glai (6) <i>far</i>
chai ta-lay (9) <i>seaside; beach</i>	glâi (9) <i>near</i>
cháo (7) <i>morning</i>	gòh dtào (9) <i>Koh Tao</i>
chee-ung mài (9) <i>Chiang Mai</i>	gôr ... (9) <i>well ...</i>
chern (7) <i>this way please; after you; on you get, etc.</i>	... gôr dâi (4) <i>... will do; is satisfactory</i>

gŌong (4) *shrimp*  
 gra-bpāo (7) *bag; luggage*  
 gra-bpèe (9) *Krabi*  
 grŌong-tāyp (8) *Bangkok*  
 gúp (4) *with, and*

hāh mōr (10) *to see a doctor*  
 hōk (3) *six*  
 hōo-a hīn (7) *Hua Hin*  
 hōrng náhm (4) *toilet*

ja (2) *particle used before a verb to indicate the action will occur in the future*

jāhk (7) *from*  
 jahn (4) *plate*  
 jèp kor (10) *to have a sore throat*  
 jorgng (7) *to book*  
 jung-wùt (8) *province*  
 jung-wùt na-korn pa-nom (8)  
*Nakhorn Phanom province*

... ká? (1) *polite particle used by female speakers at the end of questions*

kā, kà (1) *polite particle used by female speakers at the end of statements*

kāo (5) *rice*  
 káo pút (4) *fried rice*  
 káo jai (10) *to understand*  
 kēe-un (8) *to write*  
 ker-ee (8) *to have ever done something*

kít (wāh ...) (9) *to think (that ...)*

kóhk (4) *Coke*  
 kon (1) *person*  
 kòo-ut (4) *bottle*  
 kór + NOUN (4) *I'd like ...; can I have ...?*

kōr pōot gúp (10) *can I speak to ...?*  
 kōr + VERB + dāi mái? (3) *can I ..., please?*

kōrng (1) *of*  
 ... kōrng pōm (1) *my (male speaker) ...*

kōr-tōht (1) *excuse me*  
 kōrp-kŌon (4) *thank you*  
 kŌon (1) *polite title placed in front of personal names of both males and females, roughly corresponding to Mr, Mrs or Miss; you (it is usually written **Khun** in English)*

krai? (9) *who?*  
 ... krúp (1) *polite particle used by male speakers at the end of both questions and statements*  
 kwāh meu (6) *right hand side*

lāir-o (8) *and; already*  
 lāir-o gōr (5) *and*  
 lék (3) *small*  
 lér?/ lēr? (5) *Really?*  
 long (2) *to get off (a bus)/out (of a car)*  
 lorng doo (3) *to try out/on*

māhk (5) *very*  
 ... māhk bpai (10) *too much ...*  
 mâi (2) *not*  
 mâi bpen rai (6) *don't mention it; you're welcome*  
 mâi châi (1) *no answer to a ... **châi mái?** question*

mâi dāi (3) *no in response to a ... **dāi mái?** question*

mâi dtōrng (10) *there's no need*  
 mâi kōy ... (5) *not very ...*  
 mâi ... ròrk (6) *not ... at all*

... mái? (2) *question particle used when asking 'yes/no' questions*

mee (3) *to have*  
 (toh-ra-sùp) meu tēu (10) *mobile phone*  
 méu-rài? (7) *when?*

meu-ung tai (8) *Thailand*  
 mōo (4) *pork*

ná? (1) *question particle used when asking someone to repeat a piece of information*

ná (5) *right; OK?*  
 nah-li-gah (7) *o'clock*  
 náhm (4) *water*  
 nahn (8) *a long time*  
 nah-tee (6) *minute*  
 nēe ... (1), (3) *this is ...; this, these*  
 nīt-nòy (8) *a little*  
 nōrng (5) *younger brother/sister – used for addressing young waiters/waitresses*

ngāi (9) *easy*

ōr (1) *oh (exclamation of realization)*  
 òrk (7) *to leave; to depart*

pah-sāh (8) *language*  
 pāhk (8) *region*  
 pāhk ee-sāhn (8) *the North East*  
 páirn (6) *classifier for aerogrammes*  
 pairng (3) *expensive*  
 pèt (5) *spicy; hot*  
 pēu-un (9) *friend*  
 pōm (1) *I (male speaker)*  
 pōot (8) *to speak*  
 pōot cháh cháh nòy dāi mái ká? (10)  
*could you speak slowly, please?*  
 prŌong nēe (7) *tomorrow*  
 pút pùk roo-um mít (5) *mixed fried vegetables*

rao (9) *we*  
 ...réu yung? (9) *... yet?*  
 rōhng rairm (2) *hotel*  
 rōo-jùk (2) *to know; to be familiar with*

rōo-sèuk (10) *to feel*  
 ror (10) *to wait*  
 rôt (7) *bus; car*  
 rôt dtit (9) *traffic jam*  
 rôt fai loi fáh (9) *skytrain*  
 rōy (3) *hundred*

sa-bai (10) *to be well*  
 sa-dòo-uk (9) *convenient*

sa-dtung (4) *money*  
 sa-nāhm bin (8) *airport*  
 sa-nāhm bin sŌo-wun-na-poom (8)  
*Suvarnabhumi Airport*  
 sa-nŌok (9) *fun*  
 sa-tāh-nee (9) *station*  
 sa-wùt dee (1) *hello; good morning/afternoon/evening; formal and informal greeting which can be used at any time of the day or night*  
 sām (6) *three*  
 sài (3) *to wear*  
 sái meu (4) *left hand side*  
 sào ah-tít (8) *weekend*  
 sēe (3) *colour*  
 sēe dairng (3) *red*  
 sēe kēe-o (3) *green*  
 sēe (3) *four*  
 sip nah-li-gah (7) *ten o'clock (a.m.)*  
 sip-gāo (2) *nineteen*  
 soy (2) *soi*  
 sòng (6) *to send*  
 sōo-un ja-dtŌo-jùk (9) *Jatuchak Park*  
 sōrng (4) *two*  
 sùk krōo (10) *just a moment*  
 sùng (5) *to order*

ta-nōn (2) *road*  
 ta-nōn sŌo-kŌOm-wit (2)  
*Sukhumwit Road*  
 tǎh (5) *if*  
 tahn (5) *to eat*  
 tai (5) *Thai*  
 tǎir-o nēe (6) *this vicinity; around here*

táirk-sēe (9) *taxi*  
 tào-nún (4) *only*  
 tào-rài? (2) *How much?*  
 tēe (2) *at*  
 ... tēe-nǎi? (2) *Where ...?*  
 tēe-nēe (2) *here*  
 tēe-nōhn (2) *over there*  
 tēe-o (9) *to visit*  
 toh-ra-sùp (10) *telephone*

ber toh-ra-sùp (10) *telephone number*

(toh-ra-sùp) meu têu (10) *mobile phone*

tòok (9) *cheap*

tórng sêe-a (10) *diarrhoea*

túng mòt (6) *altogether*

ung-grit (6) *England*

wâh (9) *to think; to have the opinion*

wái (7) *to leave*

way-lah (7) *time*

wun sào wun ah-tít (9) *Saturday and Sunday; weekend*

'wùt dee (10) *contraction of sa-wùt dee: bye*

yah (10) *medicine; pills; ointment*  
yâhk ja ... (5) *to want to; would like to*

yâir (10) *lousy*

yêe-bpÔOn (1) *Japan, Japanese*

yòo (2) *to be situated; to be located*

yòo (8) *to live; to stay*

yòo têe ... (2) *(it) is (situated) at/on ...*

yung-ngai? (9) *How?*

## English-Thai glossary

*able to, to be ...* dài (3); ... bpen (5)

*airport* sa-nâhm bin (8)

*also* dòo-ay (5)

*altogether* túng mòt (6)

*and* láir-o (8); láir-o gôr (5)

*anything (you like/will do)* a-rai gôr

dâi (5)

*at têe* (2)

*bag* gra-bpăo (7)

*baht* bâht (2)

*Bangkok* grOOnng-tâyp (8)

*be, to* bpen (1)

*beer* bee-a (10)

*better* dee gwâh (5)

*book, to* jorng (7)

*bottle* kòo-ut (4)

*bus* rôt (7)

*can (to be able to) ...* dài (3); ...

bpen (5)

*can I have ...?* kôr + NOUN (4)

*can I ... ?* kôr + VERB (3)

*can I speak to ...?* kôr pòot gúp (10)

*car* rôt (7)

*cheap* tòok (9)

*Chiang Mai* chee-ung mài (9)

*chicken* gài (4)

*chicken fried with ginger* gài pùt

kíng (5)

*Coke* kóhk (4)

*collect, to* gèp (4)

*colour* sêe (3)

*convenient* sa-dòo-uk (9)

*could you speak slowly, please?*

pòot cháh cháh nòy dâi mái ká?

(10)

*diarrhoea* tórng sêe-a (10)

*dive, to* dum náhm (9)

*doctor: to see a doctor* hâh mör (10)

*drink, to* gin (5); tahn (5)

*easy* ngái (9)

*eat, to* gin (5); tahn (5)

*eighty* bpâirt sip (6)

*England* ung-grit (6)

*ever: to have ever done something*

ker-ee + VERB (8)

*excuse me* kôr-tòht (1)

*expensive* pairing (3)

*far* glai (6)

*farang, Caucasian* fa-rùng (9)

*feel, to* rỏo-sẻuk (10)

*food* a-hâhn (5)

*four* sẻe (3)

*fried rice* káo pùt (4)

*friend* pêu-un (9)

*from* jâhk (7)

*fun* sa-nOOk (9)

*get off (a bus)/out (of a car), to* long

(2)

*go* bpai (2)

*good* dee (7)

*good at, to be* gẻng (5)

*green* sẻe kẻe-o (3)

*have, to* mee (3)

*headache, to have a* bpỏo-ut hỏo-a

(10)

*hear, to* dâi jin (10)

*hello* sa-wùt dee (1)

*here* tẻe-nẻe (2)

*hotel* rohng rairm (2)

*how?* yung-ngai? (3)

*how are they/is it?* bpen yung-ngai?

(3)

*how many ...?* gẻe (+ classifier)? (6)

*how much?* tâo-rài? (2)

*Hua Hin* hỏo-a hỉn (7)

*hundred* rỏy (3)

*I (female speakers)* chún (1)

*I (male speaker)* pỏm (1)

if tãh (5)

Japan, Japanese yêe-bpÖOn (1)  
Jatuchak Park sôo-un ja-dtÖÖ-jük (9)

know (people, places), to róa-jük (2)  
Koh Tao gòh dtào (9)  
Krabi gra-bpèe (9)

language pah-säh (8)  
leave; depart, to òrk (7)  
leave (something somewhere), to wái (7)

left hand side sái meu (4)  
like, to chòrp (3)  
like to, would yàhk ja ... (5)  
little: a little nit-nòy (8)  
live, to yòo (8)

located, to be yòo (2)  
look, to doo (10)  
lousy yáir (10)

medicine yah (10)  
minute nah-tee (6)  
mobile phone (toh-ra-sùp) meu têu (10)

moment: just a moment sùk krôo (10)  
money sa-dtung (4)  
morning cháo (7)  
much, a bit too ... bpai nòi (3)  
my (male speaker) ... ... kóng pòm (1)

Nakhorn Phanom province jung-wüt na-korn pa-nom (8)

name (personal) chêu (1)  
nation chãht (8)  
near glâi (9)

need: there's no need mãi dtòrng (10)  
never mind mãi bpen rai (6)  
nineteen sip-gâo (2)  
ninety gâo-sip (2)

North East Region pãhk ee-sähn (8)  
not mãi (2)

not ... at all mãi ... ròrk (6)  
not very ... mãi kôy ... (5)  
number (telephone) ber (3)

o'clock: 10 o'clock (a.m.) sip nah-li-gah (7)  
of kóng (1)  
oh ôr (1)  
only tão-nún (4)  
order, to sùng (5)

partner fairn (1)  
person kon (1)  
plate jahn (4)  
pork mөө (4)  
post office bprai-sa-nee (6)  
province jung-wüt (8)

really? lér?/lër? (5)  
red sêe dairng (3)  
region pãhk (8)  
rice kão (5)  
right hand side kwãh meu (6)  
road ta-nôn (2)

seafood a-hãhn ta-lay (9)  
seaside chai ta-lay (9)  
send, to sòng (6)  
shrimp gÖOng (4)  
shrimp 'tom yam' dtôm yum gÖOng (5)

situated, to be yòo (2)  
six hòk (3)  
size (clothes, shoes) ber (3)  
skytrain rót fai loi fáh (9)  
slow cháh (10)  
small lék (3)  
soi soy (2)  
sore throat, to have a jèp kor (10)

speak, to pòot (8)  
spicy pèt (5)  
spouse fairn (1)  
station sa-tãh-nee (9)  
Sukhumwit Road ta-nôn sÖO-kÖOm-wit (2)

Suvarnabhumi Airport sa-nãhm bin sÖO-wun-na-poom (8)

tasty a-ròy (5)  
taxi táirk-sêe (9)  
telephone toh-ra-sùp (10)  
telephone number ber toh-ra-sùp (10)  
Thai tai (5)  
Thailand meu-ung tai (8)  
thank you kòrp-kÖOn (4)  
there: over there têe-nôhn (2)  
these nêe (3)  
think, to kít (9); wãh (9)  
this nêe (3)  
three sãhm (6)  
ticket dtöö-a (7)  
time way-lah (7)  
time, a long nahn (8)  
toilet hòrng náhm (4)  
tomorrow prÖOng nêe (7)  
too dōo-ay (5)  
too (much) ... mãhk bpai (10)  
traffic jam rót dtít (9)  
try out/on, to lornng doo (3)  
two sörng (4)

understand, to kão jai (10)  
upcountry dtãhng jung-wüt (8)  
use, to cháí (9)

vegetables: mixed fried vegetables pút pùk roo-um mít (5)  
very mãhk (5)  
vicinity: this vicinity (around here) táir-o nêe (6)  
Victory Monument a-nÖO-sãh-wa-ree chai (2)  
visit, to têe-o (9)

wait, to ror (10)  
walk, to dern (6)  
want (something), to ao (3)  
want (to do something) yàhk ja ... (5)  
water náhm (4)  
we rao (9)

wear, to sài (3)  
weekend são ah-tít (9)  
welcome, you're mãi bpen rai (6)  
well ... gòr ... (9)  
well, to be sa-bai (10)  
what? a-rai? (1)  
what's the matter? bpen a-rai? (10)  
when? mêu-rài? (7)  
where ...? ... têe-nãi? (2)  
who? krai? (9)  
with gúp (4)  
write, to kêe-un (8)

yes chãí (1)  
... yet? ...rêu yung? (9)  
you kÖOn (1)

**Days of the week**

wun jun	<i>Monday</i>
wun ung-kahn	<i>Tuesday</i>
wun pÓOt	<i>Wednesday</i>
wun pa-réu-hùt	<i>Thursday</i>
wun sÓOk	<i>Friday</i>
wun são	<i>Saturday</i>
wun ah-tít	<i>Sunday</i>

**Months**

mók-ga-rah-kom	<i>January</i>
gÓOm-pah-pun	<i>February</i>
mee-nah-kom	<i>March</i>
may-sãh-yon	<i>April</i>
préut-sa-pah-kom	<i>May</i>
mí-tÓO-nah-yon	<i>June</i>
ga-rúk-ga-dah-kom	<i>July</i>
sĩng-hah-kom	<i>August</i>
gun-yah-yon	<i>September</i>
dtÓO-lah-kom	<i>October</i>
préut-sa-ji-gah-yon	<i>November</i>
tun-wah-kom	<i>December</i>

**Telling the time**

Telling the time in Thai is rather complicated. The hour times are given below. For a fuller explanation, see *Teach Yourself Thai*.

têe-ung keun	<i>midnight</i>
dtee nèung	<i>1 a.m.</i>
dtee sǒrng	<i>2 a.m.</i>
dtee sãhm	<i>3 a.m.</i>
dtee sèe	<i>4 a.m.</i>
dtee hãh	<i>5 a.m.</i>
hòk mohng cháo	<i>6 a.m.</i>
jèt mohng cháo/ mohng cháo	<i>7 a.m.</i>
bpàirt mohng cháo/ sǒrng mohng cháo	<i>8 a.m.</i>
gão mohng cháo/ sãhm mohng cháo	<i>9 a.m.</i>
sip mohng cháo/ sèe mohng cháo	<i>10 a.m.</i>
sip-èt mohng cháo/ hãh mohng cháo	<i>11 a.m.</i>
têe-ung wun	<i>midday</i>
bài mohng	<i>1 p.m.</i>
bài sǒrng mohng	<i>2 p.m.</i>
bài sãhm mohng	<i>3 p.m.</i>
bài sèe mohng	<i>4 p.m.</i>
hãh mohng yen	<i>5 p.m.</i>
hòk mohng yen	<i>6 p.m.</i>
tÓOm nèung	<i>7 p.m.</i>
sǒrng tÓOm	<i>8 p.m.</i>
sãhm tÓOm	<i>9 p.m.</i>
sèe tÓOm	<i>10 p.m.</i>
hãh tÓOm	<i>11 p.m.</i>

**Numbers**

sǒn	0	yêe sip	20
nèung	1	yêe sip èt	21
sǒrng	2	yêe sip sǒrng	22
sãhm	3	yêe sip sãhm	23
sèe	4	sãhm sip	30
hãh	5	sèe sip	40
hòk	6	hãh sip	50
jèt	7	(nèung) róy	100
bpàirt	8	(nèung) róy èt	101
gão	9	(nèung) róy sǒrng	102
sip	10	sǒrng róy	200
sip èt	11	sãhm róy	300
sip sǒrng	12		
sip sãhm	13		

**Further reading**

If you are interested in developing your knowledge of Thai further, you may find the following books of interest:

*Teach Yourself Thai* (2nd ed.) by David Smyth, London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2003.

*Thai: An Essential Grammar* by David Smyth, London: Routledge, 2002.

*Linguistic Diversity and National Unity: Language Ecology in Thailand* by William A. Smalley, Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1994 – This book offers a fascinating insight into the relationship between the national language, regional dialects and minority languages in Thailand.

## Subject index

Numbers in bold refer to the conversation numbers on the first course element that include the material.

### Adjectives/adverbs

(a little) too ... ADJ./ADV. + **bpai**

(**nòy**) (3)

more ... ADJ./ADV. + **gwàh** (5)

not ... **mái** + ADJ./ADV (3)

not very ... **mái kôy** + ADJ./ADV (5)

reduplication (9)

can: VERB + **dâi** (3); VERB + **bpen** (5)

classifiers (4)

colours (3)

food (4), (5)

... **gôr dâi** (4)

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negative:

**mái** + VERB (2)

**mái ... ròrk** (6)

**mái dtòrng** (+ VERB) (10)

numbers (2)

opinions: **kit wâh** ... (9)

place names (2), (8)

polite particles (1)

post office (6)

questions

Wh-?

... **a-rai?** (1) *what?*

(VERB) + **gèe** + CLASSIFIER (6)

*how many?*

... **mêu-rài?** (7) *when?*

... **tâo-rài?** (2) *how much?*

... **têe-nâi?** (2) *where?*

... **yung-ngai?** (3) *how?*

### yes/no

... **châi mái?** (1)

... **lér/lêr** (5)

... **mái?** (2)

... **réu yung?** (9)

### requests

asking to do something: **kôr** + VERB + **dâi mái?** (3)

asking for something: **kôr** + NOUN (4)

shopping (3)

taxis (2), (8)

telephone calls (10)

time (7)

travel (7), (9)

verbs

**ja** + VERB (2) *will ...*

**ker-ee** + VERB (8) *have ever ...*

**yâhk ja** + VERB (5) *would like to ...*

teach  
yourself

**thai**  
david smyth

- Do you want to cover the basics then progress fast?
- Do you want to communicate in a range of situations?
- Do you want to reach a high standard?

**Thai** starts with the basics but moves at a lively pace to give you a good level of understanding of both spoken and written Thai. You will have lots of opportunity to practise the kind of language you will need to be able to communicate with confidence and understand the culture of Thailand.