

# Mon / မာသာမန် phèsa Mawn

transcription (romanization): KNAB 2003  
 transliteration: Burmese (KNAB 2003) + modifications

Mon-language place names are recorded in KNAB in a double format, using both transcription (romanization) and transliteration. Below transliteration is marked by normal characters, *transcription (romanization)* by italics.

## I. Consonant characters

1 က k / ka	11 ငူ ṭ / ta	21 ဝ p / pa	31 ဟ h / ha
2 ခ kh / kha, ha	12 ငှု ṭh / tha	22 ဖ ph / pha	32 င္ဂ l / la
3 ဂ g / kè	13 ငူ ḍ / da	23 ဗ b / pè	33 ဝဲ ḃ / ba
4 ဃ gh / khè	14 ဗ ḍh / thè	24 ဘ bh / phè	34 ဒေ x / a
5 င ṅ / ngè <sup>A</sup>	15 ဏ ṇ / na	25 မ m / mè	35 မှ ḃ / bè
6 ဇ c / cha	16 တ t / ta	26 ယ y / yè	
7 ဆ ch / chha	17 ထ th / tha	27 ရ r / rè	
8 ဇ j / chè	18 ဒ d / tè	28 လ l / lè	
9 ဣ jh / chhè	19 ဓ dh / thè	29 ဝ w / wè	
10 ည ṅ / nyè	20 န ṅ / nè	30 သ s / sa	

<sup>A</sup> Without the lower part if accompanied by a subscript consonant character or by the end-of-syllable mark (ငံ).

## II. Irregular subscript consonant characters (regular subscripts are only smaller, • stands for any principal consonant)

1 • ṅ -ṅ	3 • -m	5 [•] -r	7 • -w
2 • -n	4 • -y	6 • -l	8 • -h / h-

Other irregular compounds: ငူ ṭt, ငူ ḍḍ, ဖ ḍḍh, ဏ ṅth, ဏ ṅd.

## III. Independent vowel characters

1 ၵ ṁ / i	3 ဥ ṁ / u	5 ဇ e / e	7 ၵ ... / ...
2 ၶ ṁ / i	4 ဥ ṁ / u	6 [•] au / ao	

## IV. Abbreviated vowel characters (a-series before the hyphen, è-series after it)

1 • ā / a-è	4 • u / au, u-u	7 • ai / oa	10 • am / awm
2 • i / ei, i-i	5 • ū / au, u-u	8 ဇ au / ao-ü	11 • ah / ah-èh
3 • î / ei, i-i	6 • e / e	9 • ao / ao-eo	12 • o / (-) <sup>A</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Used in combination with an end-of-syllable consonant; see Table V.

**V. Syllable endings** (vowels+consonants; a-series before the hyphen, è-series after it)

Mon syllable endings are characterized by many abbreviated forms; these are given below after the respective long forms together with transliteration.

Long form	Abbreviation	Examples
•က်	်	် (•က်), ဝ် (•ော်)
•င်	်	် (•င်), ဝ် (•ိုင်)
•ယ်	်	် / ဝ် (•ယ်), ဝ် (•ယ်), ဝ် (•ယ်)
•ဝ်	်	် (•ဝ်)
•တ်	်	် (•တ်), ဝ် (•ော်)
•အ်	်	် (•အ်), ဝ် (•ော်)

1 •က်	ak" / ak-eak	= ဝ်	ī / im	44 ဝော်	aut" / ot
2 •င်	añ" / ang-eang	24 ဝ်	uk" / auk	45 ဝန်	aun" / on
3 •တ်	at" / awt	25 ဝ်	un" / ung	46 ဝပ်	aup" / op
4 ဝန်	an" / awn	26 ဝ်	ut" / ut	47 ဝမ်	aum" / om
5 ဝပ်	ap" / awp	27 ဝန်	un" / un	= ဝံ	aun" / om
6 ဝမ်	am" / awm	28 ဝပ်	up" / up	48 ဝယ်	auy" / oa
7 ဝယ်	ay" / oa	29 ဝမ်	um" / um	= ဝဲ	auai / oa
8 ဝပ်	aw" / aw	= ဝ်	un" / um	49 ဝပ်	auw" / o
9 ဝတ်	ah" / awh	30 ဝယ်	uy" / ui	50 ဝတ်	auh" / oh
= ဝ်	'h" / awh	= ဝ်	uai / ui	51 ဝအ်	aux" / oe
10 •အ်	ax" / aw'	31 ဝတ်	uh" / uh	= ဝံ	aun" / oe
= ဝ်	añ" / aw'	32 ဝက်	ek" / eak-oit	52 ဝ်	añk" / awk
11 ဝက်	āk" / ait	33 ဝင်	eñ" / eang-oin	53 ဝ်	aññ" / awng
= ဝ်	ā" / ait	34 ဝတ်	et" / et	54 ဝ်	ok" / âk
12 ဝင်	āñ" / ain	35 ဝန်	en" / en	55 ဝ်	on" / âng
13 ဝတ်	āt" / at	36 ဝပ်	ep" / ep	56 ဝ်	ot" / ât-üt
14 ဝန်	ān" / an	37 ဝမ်	em" / em	57 ဝန်	on" / ân-ün
15 ဝပ်	āp" / ap-èp	= ဝ်	eñ" / em	58 ဝပ်	op" / âp- üp
16 ဝမ်	ām" / am-èm	38 ဝယ်	ey" / ei, eo	59 ဝမ်	om" / âm-üm
= ဝံ	añ" / am-èm	= ဝဲ	eai / ei, eo	= ဝ်	uī / âm-üm
17 ဝယ်	āy" / ai	39 ဝပ်	ew" / e, i	60 ဝယ်	oy" / oe
= ဝဲ	āi / ai	40 ဝတ်	eh" / eh	= ဝ်	oi / oe
18 ဝ်	ik" / oit	= ဝ်	'he" / eh	61 ဝယ်	ow" / â-ü
19 ဝင်	iñ" / oin	41 ဝအ်	ex" / e'	= ဝ်	uë / â-ü
20 ဝတ်	it" / it	= ဝ်	eñ" / e'	62 ဝတ်	oh" / oeh-üh
21 ဝန်	in" / in	42 ဝက်	auk" / ok	63 ဝအ်	ox" / oe
22 ဝပ်	ip" / ip	= ဝ်	au" / ok		
23 ဝမ်	im" / im	43 ဝင်	aun" / ong		

## VI. Other symbols

◌̣ " (marks the absence of the inherent vowel)

### Notes

- Graphic conjuncts (compounds) may be romanized differently according to pronunciation:
  - both consonants are preserved (mainly in the case when the subscript is r, l, w): ပြဝါ prawā *prawa*, ကောင် klauṇ *klong*, ကွာန် kwāṇ *kwan*;
  - a vowel *a* is added in between: တူ tūa *tanga*, ကိုင် kōiṇ *kadâng*, ကွတ် kḥaṭ *kabawt*;
  - compound is modified: ချေဟ် khyeḥ *chheh*, ခြုံ jruiṇ *sum*;
  - compound is simplified: သိုင် sjoṇ *sâng*, ကမုန် kamhaụ *kamok*;
  - the second consonant is assimilated with the following vowel: မွဲ mwaï *moa*, ဟွံ hwañ *hu'*.
- In transliteration subscript consonant characters are not usually distinguished but if necessary, these may be marked by a preceding apostrophe (this may become necessary to avoid ambiguous combinations): ဂ် g'ḥ *kawh*, ခ် c'hẹ *cheh*. If a subscript character occurs in its regular form, not as a modification (e.g. ဝ̣, not ဝ̣), then it may be marked by `: မွဲဒိတ် jam`mutiṭ *Chawmmutit*.
- The *a*- or *è*-series in consonant compounds is determined by the first consonant: ကွာ kwa *kwa*, ကွာ kla *kla*. In multi-syllable words there are also instances when the first syllable determines the series of the following syllables: တမုဲ tamuẹ̈ *tamâ*.
- Mon orthography represents earlier pronunciation and contains several irregularities that are not represented in the tables above. Vowel length as reflected in the transcription of Halliday is not distinguished in modern speech, also there are several other pronunciation shifts in the modern language. KNAB romanization is based mainly on the transcription of Halliday.

### Pronunciation of romanized names

â	[ʌ]	ea	[ea]	ny	[ɲ]	ôi	[oj]
aw	[ɔ]	eo	[ew]	oa	[ɔa]	t	[t],[c] <sup>^</sup>
b	[β]	è	[e]	oe	[ɔe]	ü	[ʏ],[u]
d	[d]	n	[n],[ɲ] <sup>^</sup>	oi	[ɔj]		

<sup>^</sup> At the end of a syllable after *ai* or *oi*.

Marked intonation is not usually indicated, this is mostly characteristic of the syllables in the *è*-series. If necessary, it may be indicated by an underline: ပုဂ္ဂို ပုဂ္ဂို *paukü*.

### Conversion of the Halliday transcription into KNAB romanization

ā > a; ä > â; ao > au; āo > au; ć > ch; čh > chh; e > è~e; ē > è~e; ēī > ei; è > e; ë > ü; ī > i; oi > ôi; ò > aw; òi > oi; ū > u; ü = ü.

### Sources

R. Halliday. *A Mon-English Dictionary*. Published by The Mon Cultural Section, Ministry of Union Culture, Government of the Union of Burma. Rangoon 1955. (First published by the Siam Society, Bangkok in 1922.)

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