Thai / ไทย Thai

romanization: UN 2002 + KNAB diacritics 1993
transliteration: ISO 11940: 1998

Thai-language place names are recorded in KNAB in a double format, using both transcription (romanization) and transliteration. The UN romanization has been modified to include diacritics denoting vowel length and tones but these modifications are not shown in the Internet version of KNAB. Below transliteration is marked by normal characters, *romanization* by italics.

Consonant characters

Consonants are romanized in two ways depending on whether they denote syllable-initials or syllable-finals. The romanization of syllable-finals is indicated in parentheses.

1 ก	k / *k(k)*	14 ฎ	ḍ / *d (t)*	26 บ	b / *b (p)*	34 ย	y / *y*
2 ข	k̄h / *kh (k)*	15 ฏ	ṭ / *t (t)*	27 ป	p / *p (p)*	35 ร	r / *r (n)*
3 ฃ	k̠h / *kh (k)*	16 ฐ	ṭ̄h / *th (t)*	28 ผ	p̄h / *ph (p)*	36 ล	l / *l (n)*
4 ค	kh / *kh (k)*	17 ฑ	t̠h / *th,d (t)*	29 ฝ	f̄ / *f (p)*	37 ว	w / *w*
5 ฅ	k'h / *kh (k)*	18 ฒ	t'h / *th (t)*	30 พ	ph / *ph (p)*	38 ศ	ṣ̄ / s (t)
6 ฆ	k̟h / *kh (k)*	19 ณ	ṇ / *n (n)*	31 ฟ	f / *f (p)*	39 ษ	s̄' / s (t)
7 ง	ng / *ng (ng)*	20 ด	d / *d (t)*	32 ภ	p̠h / *ph (p)*	40 ส	s̄ / s (t)
8 จ	c / *ch (t)*	21 ต	t / *t (t)*	33 ม	m / *m (m)*	41 ห	h̄ / *h*[B]
9 ฉ	c̄h / *çh (t)*	22 ถ	t̄h / *th (t)*			42 ฬ	ḷ / *l (n)*
10 ช	ch / *çh (t)*	23 ท	th / *th (t)*[A]			43 อ	x / *o*[C]
11 ซ	s / *s (t)*	24 ธ	ṭh / *th (t)*			44 ฮ	ḥ / *h*
12 ฌ	çh / *çh (t)*	25 น	n / *n (n)*				
13 ญ	ẏ / *y (n)*						

[A] Combination ทร thr is romanized *s* if so pronounced.
[B] See note 6.
[C] See note 7.

Vocalic nuclei and special characters (• stands for any consonant character)

1 •	- / *o*	5 •วย	-wy / *uai*	9 •̈•	-ạ- / *a*	13 •า	-ā / *a*
2 •รร	-rr / *an*	6 •อ	-x / *o*	10 •̈ย	-ạy / *ai*	14 •าย	-āy / *ai*
3 •รร•	-rr- / *a*	7 •อย	-xy / *oi*	11 •̈ว	-ạw / *ua*	15 •าว	-āw / *ao*
4 •ว•	-w- / *ua*	8 •ะ	-a / *a*	12 •̈วะ	-ạwa / *uă*	16 •ำ	-å / *am*

17	◌ิ	-i / *i*	28	เ◌ย	e-y / *oei*	39	เ◌ียะ	e-īya / *iă*	50	โ◌ะ	o-a / *o'*
18	◌ี	-ī / *i̱*	29	เ◌ว	e-w / *eo*	40	เ◌ือ	e-ụ̄x / *uea*	51	ไ◌	ı- / *ai*
19	◌ิว	-iw / *io*	30	เ◌็ว	e-˘w / *eo*	41	เ◌ือย	e-ụ̄xy /*ueai*	52	ใ◌	i̱- / *ai*
20	◌ึ	-ụ / *ue*	31	เ◌อ	e-x / *oe*	42	เ◌ือะ	e-ụ̄xa / *ueă*	53	ไ◌ย	i̱-y / *ai*
21	◌ื	-ụ̄ / *ue*	32	เ◌อะ	e-xa / *oe*	43	แ◌	æ- / *ae*	54	ฤ	v / *rue*^A
22	◌ือ	-ụ̄x / *ue*	33	เ◌ะ	e-a / *e*	44	แ◌็	æ-˘- / *ae*	55	ฤๅ	vi̱ / *rue*^A
23	◌ุ	-u / *u*	34	เ◌า	e-ā / *ao*	45	แ◌ว	æ-w / *aeo*	56	ฦ	ł / *lue*^A
24	◌ุย	-uy / *ui*	35	เ◌าะ	e-āa / *o*	46	แ◌็ว	æ-˘w / *aeo*	57	ฦๅ	łi̱ / *lue*^A
25	◌ู	-ū / *u̱*	36	เ◌	e-i- / *oe*	47	แ◌ะ	æ-a / *ae*			
26	เ◌	e- / *e̱*	37	เ◌ีย	e-īy / *ia*	48	โ◌	o- / *o'*			
27	เ◌็	e-˘- / *e*	38	เ◌ียว	e-īyw / *iao*	49	โ◌ย	o-y / *o'i*			

^A Also romanized *ri* and *roe*, according to pronunciation.

Diacritical signs and other symbols

	Sign	*Name*	*Explanation*
1	◌̊	พินทุ phinthu *phinthú*	In Pali words denotes syllable-final consonant or the first consonant (without a vowel) in a consonant combination
2	◌̊	นิคหิต nikh̄hit *níkkháhìt*	Denotes pronunciation *ang* or *am* above a consonant; together with a vowel sign denotes syllable ending -*m*: สงฆ์ s̄ngḳh° *săngkhăng*, ชุ่น̊ ch°un°u *chumnum*
3	◌̀	ไม้เอก i̱m^exk *mái èk*	Tone mark
4	◌̂	ไม้โท i̱m^oth *mái tho'*	Tone mark
5	◌́	ไม้ตรี i̱m^trī *mái tri̱*	Tone mark
6	◌̆	ไม้จัตวา i̱m^cạtwā *mái chàttàwa̱*	Tone mark
7	◌̒	การันต์ kāraṇt' *ka̱ran*	Character(s) under the silencing mark are not pronounced: พิมพ์ phimph' *phim*, รถยนตร์ r̄thyntr' *rótyon*, กรรมสิทธิ์ krrm s̄ithr'i *kammásìt*
8	◌̆	ไม้ไต่คู้ i̱m^i̱t`kh^ū *mái tài khu̱*	Vowel shortening mark: เป็น ep˘n *pen*

Sign	Name	Explanation
9 ๆ «	ไม้ยมก ịmˆymk *mái yámók*	Repeat mark; see note 2
10 ฯ ‡	ไปยาลน้อย ịpyālnˆxy *paiyạn nọ́i*	Abbreviation mark; see note 3
11 ̍ ~	ยามักการ yāmạkkār *yamákkạn*	Occurs in old texts, indicates that two consonants are read as a combination
12 ◉ §	ตาไก่ tāịkˋ *tạ kài*	Indicates the beginning of a paragraph
13 (ฯ) |	อ้างคานเดียว? xˆāngkhānedīyw *ângkhạ̌n diao*	Used at the end of a sentence, also in lunar calendar
14 ฯ‖ ‖	อ้างคานคู่? xˆāngkhānkhˋū *ângkhạ̌n khû*	In old texts the sign of the end of a paragraph; may combine with the following mark
15 ๏ »	โคมูตร okhmūtr *khọˈ mût*	In old texts: end of story or a book

Notes

1. In multi-syllable words, the final character of the preceding syllable and the initial character of the succeeding syllable may cause reading ambiguity. Therefore hyphen is used for syllable separation according to the following rules:

   1.1. Hyphen is inserted when the final character of the preceding syllable is a vowel and the initial character of the succeeding syllable is ng (ง), e.g. สง่า s̄ngˋā *sà-ngá*.

   1.2. Hyphen is inserted when the final character of the preceding syllable is ng (ง) and the initial character of the succeeding syllable is a vowel, e.g. บังอร bạngxn *Bang-ọn*.

   1.3. Hyphen is inserted when the initial character of the succeeding syllable is a vowel, e.g. สะอาด s̄ạxād *sà-àt*, สำอาง s̄åxng *sǎm-ang*.

2. A word followed by *maiyamok* (ๆ) is written twice according to the reading rules, e.g. ทำบ่อย ๆ thåbˋxy« *tham bòi bòi*, ไฟไหม้ ๆ ịfị̄hmˆ« *fai mâi fai mâi*.

3. Words followed by *paiyannoi* (ฯ) , which shortens forms of a well known word or words, are written in full according to the reading rules, e.g. กรุงเทพฯ krungethph‡ *Krung Thêp Máhạ̌ Nákhọn*, โปรดเกล้าฯ oprdeklˆā‡ *prọˈtklâo protkramon*.

4. Thai consonants that are not accompanied by vowel signs or diacritical marks are romanized with *a* or *o*: ปฐม pṭhm *pàthǒm*, พลบ phlb *phlóp*. See also note 9.3.

5. If one consonant character represents both syllable-final and syllable-initial characters (this may occur in words of Pali and Sanskrit origin) it is romanized twice according to the position rules: ศักราช ṣ̄krāch *sàkkàrạ̄t*, ราชสีห์ rāchs̄īhˈ *rậtchásị̌*.

6. A syllable-initial character ห h̄ functioning as a tone mark is not romanized but it converts the character into a high-class character (see tone rules): หวอ h̄wx *wǒ*, หลืบ h̄lụ̄b *lùep*; in other cases ห is romanized *h*: หวย h̄wy *hǔai*, โวหาร owh̄ār *wọˈhạ̌n*.

7. A syllable-initial character อ x usually denotes a glottal stop followed by a vowel: อรุณ xruṇ *àrun*; more rarely it functions as a tone mark that converts the character into a high-class character: อยาก xyāk *yàk*. In either case อ is not romanized. In a syllable-ending ฺอx อ is not pronounced: มือ mū̱x *mue*, คือ khū̱x *khue*. See also the table for vocalic nuclei.

8. In a syllable with two consonant characters short *o* is pronounced between the consonants; if the syllable ends with ร r (pronounced *n*) then the vowel is long: คน khn *khon*, กด kd *kòt*, จร cr *cho̱n*, กร kr *ko̱n*, พร phr *pho̱n*.

9. Syllable-initial consonant combinations are pronounced:

    9.1. as one sound: ทร thr *s*, ศร ṣ̌r *s*, สร s̄r *s*, จร cr *ch*, e.g. ทราบ thrāb *sâp*;

    9.2. as a consonant combination (the tone is determined by the first consonant): กร, ขร, คร, กล, ขล, คล, ปร, พร, ภร, ตร, ปล, ผล, พล, กว, ขว, คว kr, k̄hr, khr, kl, k̄hl, khl, pr, phr, p̣hr, tr, pl, p̄hl, phl, kw, k̄hw, khw, e.g. ผลาญ p̄hlāy *phla̱n*, กวาง kwāng *kwa̱ng*; as exception, the consonants may also be pronounced separately: ปรอด prxd *pàrò̱t*.

    9.3. into two syllables separated by short *a* (reduced in colloquial speech) – in other cases, e.g. ทหาร thh̄ār *tháha̱n*; if the second consonant character is ม, น, ง, ย, ร, ล, ว m, n, ng, y, r, l, w, then the tone is determined by the first character: นม nm *nom*, but ขนม k̄hnm *khàno̱m*; ลก lk *lók*, but ตลก tlk *tàlòk*; as exception, the inserted vowel may be *o*: บดี bdī *bodi̱*.

    9.4. as one sound if the first consonant is ห h̄ or (rarely) อ x, see notes 6 and 7.

10. In syllable-final consonant combinations only the first consonant is pronounced: บุตร butr *bùt*, บาตร bātr *bàt*.

11. When transliterating Thai-script words the original sequence of Thai characters must be rigidly followed, without taking pronunciation into account, i.e. vowel signs preceding consonant characters are transliterated first. Signs above or under a character are transliterated after the main character, starting with the uppermost sign and ending with the lowest sign.

Tones
1 – normal (without a mark), 2 – low (ˋ), 3 – falling (ˆ), 4 – high (ˊ), 5 – rising (ˇ).

Tone rules
When determining the tone, the class of the syllable-initial consonant character and the type of the syllable-ending are taken into account.
Character classes:

– high: ข, ฃ, ฉ, ฐ, ถ, ผ, ศ, ษ, ส, ห k̄h, ḳh, c̄h, ṭ̄h, t̄h p̄h, f̄, ṣ̌, s̄’, s̄, h̄ (in transliteration always marked by ¯);

– middle: ก, จ, ฎ, ฏ, ด, ต, บ, ป, อ k, c, ḍ, ṭ, d, t, b, p, x (unaspirated stops + x);

– low: ค, ฅ, ฆ, ง, ช, ซ, ฌ, ญ, ฑ, ฒ, ณ, ท, ธ, น, พ, ฟ, ภ, ม, ย, ร, ล, ว, ฬ, ฮ kh, k’h, ḳh, ng, ch, s, ç̌h, y̱, ṭh, t’h, ṇ, th, t̠h, n, ph, f, p̣h, m, y, r, l, w, ḷ, ḥ (the rest).

Types of syllable-endings (V - vowel, K - stop, N - sonorant, ¯ long vowel, ˘ short vowel):
"live": -V̄, -V̆N, -V̄N;
"dead": -V̆, -V̆K, -V̄K.

Class of initial cons.	Syllable ending	Without tone mark	◌̇ ˋ	◌̇ʲ ˆ	◌̇ʷ ´	◌̇‡ ˇ
High	"live"	5 ˇ	2 ˋ	3 ˆ	—	—
	"dead"	2 ˋ	—	3 ˆ	—	—
Middle	"live"	1	2 ˋ	3 ˆ	4 ´	5 ˇ
	"dead"	2 ˋ	—	3 ˆ	4 ´	5 ˇ
Low	"live"	1	3 ˆ	4 ´	—	—
	"dead" -V̄K	3 ˆ	—	4 ´	—	5 ˇ
	-V̆, -V̆K	4 ´	3 ˆ	—	—	5 ˇ

Numbers

໐ 0   ໑ 1   ໒ 2   ໓ 3   ໔ 4   ໕ 5   ໖ 6   ໗ 7   ໘ 8   ໙ 9

Pronunciation of romanized names

ae	[æ]	ia	[iːə]	oʻ	[ɔ]	ue	[ɯ]
aeo	[æw]	iă	[iə]	oe	[ə]	uea	[ɯːə]
ao	[aw]	io	[iw]	ph	[pʰ]	ueă	[ɯə]
ch	[c]	kh	[kʰ]	th	[tʰ]		
çh	[tʃ]	ng	[ŋ]	ua	[uːə]		
eo	[ew]	o	[o]	uă	[uə]		

A line under a vowel letter denotes vowel length; if a single vowel is denoted by a vowel combination, only the first vowel is underlined: ae [æː].

Conversion into conventional romanization (United Nations system):

All diacritical marks are omitted, incl.ç → c, ă → a, oʻ → o.