

Phonetic Thai Alphabet

This is the standardised spelling used in all PLS Thai study books and materials.

Consonants

initial consonants

g	as in <u>sky</u>	ng	as in <u>ring</u>
j	as in <u>jar</u>	n	as in <u>name</u>
d	as in <u>dog</u>	m	as in <u>man</u>
dt	as in <u>stop</u>	y	as in <u>yes</u>
b	as in <u>bog</u>	r	as in <u>burro</u>
bp	as in <u>spot</u>	l	as in <u>love</u>
s	as in <u>send</u>	h	as in <u>have</u>

ending consonants

w	as in <u>want</u>	m	as in <u>tim</u>
kh	as in <u>kiss</u>	n	as in <u>tin</u>
ch	as in <u>chat</u>	ng	as in <u>ting</u>
ph	as in <u>pet</u>	p	as in <u>top</u>
th	as in <u>tin</u>	k	as in <u>jock</u>
f	as in <u>fog</u>	d	as in <u>tod</u>

note: ph & th are soft 'p' and 't' sounds, bp and dt are hard 'p' and 't' sounds

Vowels

long vowels & combination

aa	<u>cart</u> , <u>heart</u>
aa <i>i</i>	<u>why</u> , <u>sky</u>
aa <i>o</i>	<u>chow</u> , <u>powder</u>
ae <i>h</i> / <i>ae</i>	<u>pay</u> , <u>pale</u>
ae <i>e</i>	<u>air</u>
ae <i>o</i>	baby <u>waeh</u> <u>waeh</u>
er	<u>learn</u> , <u>turn</u>
ae <i>y</i>	<u>sofa</u> <u>yawn</u>
ae <i>w</i>	<u>railway</u>
ee	<u>beet</u>
ii <i>a</i>	Mama <u>Mia</u>
ii <i>aa</i> <i>o</i>	<u>meow</u>
oo	<u>go</u> , <u>low</u>
oo <i>i</i>	<u>go</u> <u>yet</u>
aw	<u>law</u> , <u>taut</u>
oy	<u>lawyer</u>
uu	<u>boot</u>
uu <i>a</i>	<u>true</u> <u>ant</u>
uu <i>ai</i>	<u>true</u> <u>why</u>
eu <i>u</i>	<u>boot</u> , while smiling
eu <i>ua</i>	<u>too a</u> day, smiling
eu <i>uai</i>	<u>too why</u> , smiling

short vowels

a	<u>bat</u> , <u>fad</u>
ai	<u>bye</u> , <u>fly</u>
ao	<u>pout</u>
eh/ <i>e</i>	<u>pet</u> , <u>bent</u>
ae	<u>cat</u>
-	-
uh	<u>dirt</u>
iu	<u>few</u>
ew	Beowulf, stay over
i	bit, kid
ia	Mama <u>Mia</u>
-	-
oe	<u>poke</u>
-	-
o	<u>lot</u>
-	-
u	<u>put</u> , <u>took</u>
ua	<u>true</u> <u>ant</u>
-	-
eu	<u>yeuch!</u>
eua	<u>too a</u> day, smiling
euai	<u>too why</u> , smiling

Tones

Accents are placed above the first vowel in a word or syllable to indicate tone. Tones apply to syllables, not words, so a multi-syllable word may have more than one tone.

common tone lòw tòne fàlling tône hígh tóne rísing tǒne