

Thai is written using four levels, like this:

----- upper level
----- upper line

กะ มา นะ

----- base line
----- lower level

You can see that regular consonants and vowels, such as ก, ม, น, อะ and อา sit on the line and do not reach to the upper line.

----- upper level
----- upper line

ไ้ ปี ป่า ปี

----- base line
----- lower level

Tall characters, such as ไ้ and ป, extend almost to the upper line.

The second example shows a tall character with a vowel above. This can be just below or on the line.

The third example shows a tone mark above. Again, just below or on the line.

The fourth example shows a vowel and a tone mark above. This will certainly be on or above the upper line.

----- upper level
----- upper line

มู นู ฌู ญู ญู

----- base line
----- lower level

Vowels underneath will always be below the line, as in the first and second examples.

The third example is a consonant with a tail extending below the line.

The fourth example is another consonant with a part below the line. You can write a vowel under such a consonant, but when it is displayed on a screen the bottom part is covered by the vowel as in the final example.