

Immersion Thai with Nine

Lesson Notes

M01-L002 — The Thai Sound System

After this lesson, you can...

- Distinguish consonant contrast, vowel length, and tone contour with practical beginner listening drills.

Consonant contrast at the start

- Train ear to hear aspirated vs unaspirated initials.

Helpful notes

- Compare ไก่ gài and ไข่ khài.
- One breathy consonant changes meaning immediately.

Self-practice drills

- Point to chicken/egg cards after hearing each word.
- Say gài / khài in alternating pairs.

Core phrases

Thai	Transliteration	English
ไก่	gài	chicken
ไข่	khài	egg

Tone contour changes meaning

- Feel how contour shifts semantic category.

Helpful notes

- ใกล้ glâi means near.
- ไกล glăi marks far in this lesson contrast set.

Self-practice drills

- Tutor says one; learner points near/far.
- Swap roles and repeat at natural speed.

Core phrases

Thai	Transliteration	English
ใกล้	glâi	near
ไกล	glăi	far

Mini role-play: Listening tutor session

Tutor: คำนี้คือ ไข่
kham-níí kheuu khài
This word is egg.

Learner: ไข่ khài
Egg.

Tutor: ใกล้ หรือ ไกล
glâi rúue glăi
Near or far?