

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR THAI

BGN/PCGN 1970 System

This system is a restatement of the Thai general system, as set forth in Romanization Guide for Thai Script, Royal Institute, Bangkok, Thailand, April 1968. Indications of vowel length and tone are not included in the system.

Word boundaries are not ordinarily shown in Thai writing. Consonant characters and occasionally vowel characters are at times misrepresented or appear in misleading order. Phonologically superfluous characters are occasionally written, and the characters ห and อ are employed at the beginning of many words to indicate tone.

Since correct identification of the words which appear in any particular name and knowledge of their correct pronunciation are essential in the romanization of Thai, each word should be verified in a dictionary which provides indication of pronunciation, or the name should be verified in an official Thai place names document which provides Roman-script spellings.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

For some consonant characters, two different Roman equivalents are shown in the table. The first equivalent is for use in syllable-initial position and the second, for use in syllable-final position. The Thai characters น and ณ (row 4), ม (row 12), ร (row 13), ฎ (row 19), and อ (row 20) do not appear at the end of syllables in Thai words.

	Thai	Romanization (See note 1.)
1	ก	k
2	ข ก ฃ ข* ฅ*	kh, k
3	ง	ng
4	จ ฉ ช ซ ฌ	ch, t
5	ญ	y, n
6	ด ฎ ฏ ฐ	d, t

* rare or obsolete character

	Thai	Romanization
7	ต ฏ	t
8	ถ ฐ ท ² ฑ ฒ	th, t
9	น ณ	n
10	บ	b, p
11	ป	p
12	ผ พ ภ	ph, p
13	ฝ ฟ	f, p
14	ม	m
15	ย	y (See the vowel table, rows 9-14 and 20.)
16	ร ²	r, n
17	ล ฬ	l, n
18	ว ³	w (See the vowel table, rows 14-20.)
19	ซ ศ ษ ส	s, t
20	ห ⁴ ฮ	h
21	อ ⁵	(See the vowel table, rows 8 and 12-15, and note 6.)

VOWEL CHARACTERS

Each □ shown below represents a Thai consonant character.

	Thai	Romanization
1	□ ะ □ □ □ □ ¹	a
2	□ ำ	am
3	□ ิ □	i

	Thai	Romanization
4	อ ออ ออ ออ ออ	u
5	เอ เอะ เออ	e
6	แเอ แเอะ แเออ	ae
7	โ ओ โอะ โอ โอะ โ	o
8	เออ เออเอะ เออ	oe
9	เีย เียะ	ia
10	ไ ไอ ไอะ ไออ ไอ	ai
11	อุ	ui
12	โ ไอ โออ	oi
13	เออ เอออ *	oei
14	เียว โว	uai
15	เือ เือะ ัวะ ัว ัวว ³	ua
16	อ าว	ao
17	อัว	iu
18	อัว เัว	eo
19	แัว	aeo
20	เียว	ieo

SPECIAL CHARACTERS

1	ฤ รั	ru, ri, roe (according to pronunciation)
2	ฦ ฼	lu

* rare or obsolete character

Tone Marks

□^ˊ □^{ˊˊ} □^{ˊˊˊ} □^{ˊˊˊˊ} (See note 9.)

Vowel Shortening Mark

□^{ˊˊˊˊ} (See note 9.)

Silencing Mark

□^{ˊˊˊˊˊ} (See note 8.)

Reduplicating Mark

๑ (See note 10.)

NUMERALS

๐	๑	๒	๓	๔	๕	๖	๗	๘	๙
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

NOTES

1. A Thai consonant character with no accompanying vowel mark or diacritical mark may be romanized with the vowel letter **a** or **o**: ปฐม → **pathom**, พลป → **phlop**. Pronounced consonants and vowels which are omitted in Thai writing should be reflected in romanization: ศีลป → **sinlapa**, ทศนะ → **thatsana**.

When a single consonant character represents both the final consonant of one syllable and the initial consonant of the next syllable, both consonants should be reflected in romanization: ศกรรฐ → **sakkarat**, ราชสีห์ → **ratchasi**.

Consonant and vowel characters written in misleading order should be romanized as pronounced: แขนง → **khanaeng**, เขียว → **khayao**; but note: ทewa → **thewa**.

2. ทร may be romanized **s**, **thora**, or **thr** at the beginning of a word, according to pronunciation: ทราย → **sai**, ไทร → **sai**, ทรราช → **thorarat**, ทรวิ → **thrat**; but note: ทรวิ → **thirap**. At the end of a word, ทร should be romanized **thon** (สุนทร → **sunthon**) or, if silent, should not be romanized.

กัฏ should generally be romanized **a** or **an**: กัฏม → **kam**, กัฏไกร → **kankrai**; but note: กัฏมกัฏ → **kammakan**.

จ should not be romanized, if silent: จิง → **ching**, สามารจ → **samat**; but note: จิต → **charit**.

Otherwise, ฎ at the beginning of a syllable, whether or not preceded in the same syllable by a character from the consonant table, row 1, 2, 7, 8, 11, or 12, should generally be romanized **r**: ฎักไฎก → **rakraek**, ตรัฎก → **trakan**. At the end of a syllable, ฎ should generally be romanized **n** or **on**: กัฎ → **khuan**, นัฎ → **nakhon**.

3. ง at the beginning of a syllable should be romanized **w**: งเวียง → **wongwian**.

Between two consonant characters in a single syllable, ง should be romanized either **ua** or **w**: จูง → **chuang**, กัวน → **khwan**. See the vowel table, rows 14-20.

4. ห at the beginning of a syllable and serving as a tone mark should not be romanized: หอ → **wo**, หลัฎ → **lup**; otherwise, ห should be romanized **h**: หวย → **huai**, โหวหาร → **wohan**.

5. อ at the beginning of a syllable generally represents a glottal stop followed by a vowel: อรุณ → **arun**; less frequently it serves as a tone mark: อปาก → **yak**. In both instances, อ should not be romanized. See the vowel table, rows 4, 7, 8, and 12-15.

6. If the Roman-script vowel letters in the sequences **ae**, **aeo**, **ai**, **ao**, **eo**, **ia**, **ieo**, **iu**, **oe**, **oei**, **oi**, **ua**, **uai**, and **ui** belong to two different syllables, a hyphen should be inserted

at the syllable boundary: ไพรสนีย้อากาศ → **praisani-akat**, อายุอานาม → **ayu-anam**. A hyphen should also be inserted between the two consonant letters in the sequences **kh**, **ph**, and **th**, if those letters belong to different syllables: สิบหก → **sip-hok**, ลูกให้ป → **luk-hep**.

7. The rare character ฦ at the beginning of a syllable is romanized **th** or **d**, depending on pronunciation: นาฦ → **nathi**, บัณฦต → **bandit**.

8. The silencing mark ๋ written over the final character of a word, together with the vowel and/or consonant character(s) to which the mark applies, should not be romanized: กัรรวมสิทธีร์ → **kammasit**, พระอินทร์ → **Phra-in**.

9. The vowel shortening mark ั and the tone marks ้, ๊, ๋, and ่ should not be romanized: กั → **ko**, ยี่ห่อ → **yiho**, กัระต๊อป → **kratop**. See the vowel table, rows 5, 6, and 18.

10. The reduplicating mark ๋ indicates repetition of a syllable: ไหน → **nai**, ไหน๋ → **nainai**.