

TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM FOR THAI (SIAMESE)
BGN/PCGN 1963 System

The BGN/PCGN 1963 System for transliterating the Thai language is a simplified version of the General System of the Thai Royal Institute of 1940. It has been used by the Board since 1943 and was adopted by the PCGN in 1963 when the Thai Government itself began to use it.

The simplification consists in the omission of diacritical marks and the writing of ~~ae~~ and ~~oe~~ as ae and oe.

In the writing of Thai there are certain conventional spellings which do not accurately correspond to pronunciation. Although these spelling conventions are discussed in the notes following the tables, the complicated nature of Thai spelling makes application of the system difficult for those not familiar with the pronunciation of the language.

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Thai Consonants	Syllabic Initial	Transliteration	Syllabic Final
ก	k		k
ข ฃ ก ฅ ฆ	kh		k
ง	ng		ng
จ ฉ ช ฌ	ch		t
ญ	y		n
ก ฎ	d		t
ต ฏ	t		t
ถ ฐ ฑ ฒ	th		t
น ฎ	n		n
บ	b		p
ป	p		p
ผ พ ภ	ph		p
ฝ ฟ	f		p
ม	m		m
ย	y		-
ร ภ	r		n
ล ฬ	l		n
ว ม	w		-
ซ ร ล ฦ	s		t
ห ฬ	h		-
อ ๓,๔,๕	-		-

Vowels 6/

-ဗ် -ဗ် -ာ - ၇/

-ာ

ဗ် ဗ်

ဗ် ဗ် ဗ် ဝ် ဝ်

ဗ် ဗ် ဗ်

ဗ် ဗ်

ဗ် - ၇ ဝ် - ဝ် - ဝ် ^{3,4,5/} - ၇/

ဗ် ဝ် ဝ်

ဗ် ဝ်

ဗ် ဝ် ဝ် - ဝ် - ဝ် - ၇/

ဗ် ဝ် - ဝ် ဝ် - ဝ်

ဗ် - ဝ်

ဗ်

ဗ် - ဝ်

ဗ် - ဝ်

ဗ် - ဝ် - ဝ်

ဗ်

ဗ်

ဗ်

ဗ်

Transliteration

a

am

i

u

e

ae

o

oe

ia

ua

ai

ao

ui

oi

oei

uai

iu

eo

aeo

ieo

Consonants plus Vowels

ဗ်. ဝ်

ဗ်. ဝ်


Transliteration

ru

lu

NOTES

1. ทิ is, according to its pronunciation, in initial position to be transliterated s, thoro, thr, and in final position thon, s (if voweléd) or, when silent, omitted.
2. ฐ when silent is to be omitted in transliteration; e.g., when it follows จ, ก, or ฌ in some words.
 ฐ is, according to its pronunciation, to be transliterated a or an:
a when followed by a pronounced consonant in the same syllable, an elsewhere.
3. ๓ and ๔ function both as consonants and as vowels.
4. ๕ and ๖ are to be omitted in transliteration when silent, used before consonants in initial position as tone indicators.
5. ๗ in initial position functions as a vowel-bearer, and is not itself transliterated. In this position it often bears the unwritten vowel o or a. Initial ๘๘ is thus transliterated simply o.
6. The hyphen is used here in the Thai column to indicate the position of the consonant bearing the vowel.
7. The hyphen is used here to indicate a consonant which, although pronounced with a following o or a bears no vowel-sign in the written system. Such a consonant is to be transliterated with an o or a following, according to the pronunciation; e.g., ๓๒ khon, ๓๓ nakhon.
8. ๙ is also transliterated ri and roe according to the pronunciation.
9. A final consonant with the silencing symbol ๐ above it is to be omitted in transliteration. This symbol may also silence the penultimate consonant (with its vowel, if any), and in such cases this also will be omitted in transliteration; e.g., ๒๓๐ ren,
 ๒๓๐๑ kasat.

10. The vowel-shortening symbol  is to be ignored in transliteration.
11. When a single written consonant is pronounced twice, as the final consonant of one syllable and the first of the succeeding syllable, it is to be rendered accordingly by the final and initial values respectively of the consonant. Such a doubled consonant will often be followed by the unwritten vowel a; e.g., ราชคราม Ratchakhram, but ราชบุรี Ratburi.
12. Names are to be transliterated word for word; i.e., in general monosyllabically in the case of native Thai words, mono- or polysyllabically as appropriate in the case of Indic borrowings.
13. The hyphen is to be used in transliteration to separate vowel or consonant combinations which would otherwise be confused with diphthongs or consonant clusters; e.g., Sa-ing, Pak-hat.