

## Chapter 2 : Mid tone consonant syllables and their live and dead sounds

บทที่ ๒ : พยางค์ที่ใช้พยัญชนะเสียงกลางและเสียงเป็นเสียงตายของพยางค์

### Section 1 : Reading the mid tone consonant letters and syllables

#### Part 1 : The principles of Thai vowels

Important grammar you must know : Thai vowel letters cannot be written on their own, a vowel letter must be combined with at least one consonant letter to form a syllable or a word.



R/W Practice audio 2.1.1

**Practice** : Practise the pronunciation of each vowel with your teacher

รูปสระ Rûub Sà-rà Vowel letter	ชื่อสระ Chûee Sà-rà Vowel letter's name	เสียงสระ Sěang Sà-rà Vowel letter's sound	ลักษณะของสระ Lúk-sà-ná Kŏrng Sà-rà Types & Characteristics of the vowel
-อ	สระออ : Sà-rà Or	Or (similar sound to the word 'or' in English)	<b>Type</b> : single vowel sound <b>Characteristic</b> : long sound = live sound Note : อ is also a mid tone consonant letter (see section 2 below)
-ะ	สระอะ : Sà-rà À	À (similar sound to the sound 'a' in the word 'adore' in English)	<b>Type</b> : single vowel sound <b>Characteristic</b> : short sound = dead sound <b>-ะ and -า are made from the same position and same movement in our mouth but -ะ is short and -า is long.</b>
-า	สระอา : Sà-rà Aa	Aa (similar sound to the sound 'a' in the word 'father' in English)	<b>Type</b> : single vowel sound <b>Characteristic</b> : long sound = live sound

**Note** :

1. During stage one (Thai consonants stage), we use the above vowels for you to practise reading Thai words.
2. **The hyphen ( - )** is used to indicate the position of the main consonants.  
For example, -อ (Sà-rà Or) must be added after a consonant to construct a word such as กอ, จอ, ปอ.  
As you can see Sà-rà Or comes after the main consonant.
3. The single vowel sound is an absolute sound that hasn't been mixed with other sounds (other single vowel sounds or consonant sounds)

**Homework** : Memorize the vowel letters, vowel names, vowel sounds and the characters of the vowels above

#### Part 2 : How to read syllables using mid tone consonant letters

Important grammar you must know :

##### 1. What is a syllable?

Answer : A syllable is a unit of organization for a sequence of speech sounds. For example,

- the word *water* is composed of two syllables: *wa* and *ter*,
- the word *elephant* is composed of three syllables: *e*, *le* and *phant*,
- the word *beginner* is composed of three syllables: *be*, *gin* and *ner*,
- the word *congratulations* is composed of five syllables : *con*, *grat*, *u*, *la* and *tions*.

A syllable is typically made up of a syllable nucleus (most often a vowel) with optional initial (main consonant) and final margins typically consonants (final consonant). Syllables are often considered the phonological "building blocks" of words. They can influence the rhythm of a language, its prosody, its poetic meter, its stress patterns, etc.

**Original Thai words have only one syllable.** However, there are words that have more than one syllable as we adapt some words from other languages. Also, time, region and society can change the way we pronounce some Thai words.

2. **Type of syllables** : Each syllable or each word in Thai is either a **live syllable** or a **dead syllable**.

3. **The combination of Thai syllables** : Thai syllables are constructed from 2, 3 or 4 nucleus sounds ;

• **Syllables with 2 nucleus sounds** : A consonant sound + A vowel sound

Examples:

- ด + ี = ดี : D + ee = Dee (good)
- ม + า = มา : M + aa = Maa (to come; coming)
- ล + ะ = เละ : L + é' = Lé' (soggy; mushy)

**Note** : Original Thai words have only one syllable. However, there are words that have more than one syllable as we adapt some words from other languages. Also, time, region and society can also change the way we pronounce some Thai words.

• **Syllables with 3 nucleus sounds** : A consonant sound + A vowel sound + A final consonant sound

Examples:

- ด + ี + ด = ดีด : D + ee + d = Dèed (to flick)
- ม + า + ก = มาก : M + aa + k = Mâak (very; much)
- ล + ะ + ก = เล็ก : L + é' + k = Lé'k (small)

**Note** : In this stage, you will learn how to read and write syllables with 2 nucleus sounds. You will learn more complex combinations in future stages.

• **Syllables with an extra nucleus sound or consonant cluster sounds** :

• 1st consonant sound + 2nd consonant sound + A vowel sound

Examples:

- ข + ว + า = ขวา : K + w + aa = Kwăa (right)
- ผ + ล + อ = ผลอ : P + l + er = Plěr (be careless; be negligent)
- ด + ร + า = ดรา : Dt + r + aa = Dtraa (brand; seal; imprint)

• 1st consonant sound + 2nd consonant sound + A vowel sound + A final consonant sound

Examples:

- ข + ว + า + ง = ขวาง : K + w + aa + ng = Kwăang (to obstruct)
- พ + ล + อ + น = เพลิน : P + l + er + n = Plern (be entertained; be enjoy; joyously)
- ด + ร + า + ด = ดรด : Dt + r + aa + d = Dtràad (province in southern Thailand)

4. **Live and Dead** :

- A **live sound** is a sound that **you can control the sound** with your mouth.
- A **dead sound** is a sound that **you can't control** with your mouth.

- A **long** vowel sound is a **live** sound
- A **short** vowel sound is a **dead** sound.

- **Live syllable formula 1** = Main consonant letter + **Long vowel sound** letter (live sound) = **Live** syllable
- Dead syllable formula 1** = Main consonant letter + **Short vowel sound** letter (dead sound) = **Dead** syllable

• **Mid consonant syllable formula** :

**Live syllable formula 1** = Mid consonant letter + **Long vowel sound** letter (live sound) = **Live** syllable = **Mid** tone

**Dead syllable formula 1** = Mid consonant letter + **Short vowel sound** letter (dead sound) = **Dead** syllable = **Low** tone

5. A dead syllable never has a mid tone.

*Learning Thai spelling is like learning Mathematics. There are set formulas used in spelling words regarding the tones.*

*When a main consonant is combined with a live sound, its sound/tone is still alive (the tone stays the same).*  
*When a main consonant is combined with a dead sound, its sound/tone is dead (the tone changes to another tone).*



**R/W Practice audio 2.1.2**

**Practice** : Pronounce the syllables below with your teacher

Consonant letters

A consonant letter with a vowel letter

ก (Pronounced Gor)	กอ (Read Gor)	กะ (Read Gà)	กา (Read Gaa)
จ	จอ	จะ	จา
ด	ดอ	ดะ	ดา
ฎ	ฎอ	ฎะ	ฎา

ต	ตอ	ตะ	ตา
ฏ	ฏอ	ฏะ	ฏา
บ	บอ	บะ	บา
ป	ปอ	ปะ	ปา
อ	ออ	อะ	อา

Note: The main consonant letters are black. The vowel letters are red.

**Homework** : Practise writing Thai syllables using the mid tone consonant letters below.

ก	กอ	กะ	กา
จ	จอ	จะ	จา
ด	ดอ	ดะ	ดา
ฎ	ฎอ	ฎะ	ฎา
ต	ตอ	ตะ	ตา
ฏ	ฏอ	ฏะ	ฎา
บ	บอ	บะ	บา
ป	ปอ	ปะ	ปา
อ	ออ	อะ	อา

## Section 2 : Reading and memorizing words



R/W Practice  
audio 2.2

**Practice** : Practise reading the words below with your teacher

See the definition of syllable and word, go to 'Getting started' page 2.

Word      Meaning

กอ      [Noun] clump ; tussock ; grove

กะ      [Verb] to estimate [Noun] shift; turn; duty [Preposition] and

กา      [Noun] crow      [Noun] kettle ; pot  
[Verb] to mark ; to make a mark/sign ; to put a cross on

จอ      [Noun] screen ; telescreen

จะ      [Tense word] will

Word	Meaning
ตอ	[Noun] <b>stump ; stub ; stubble ; butt</b> [Noun] <b>base ; foot ; root ; bottom</b>
ตา	[Noun] <b>eye</b> [Noun] <b>maternal grandfather ; grandfather</b>
ปอ	[Noun] <b>fibre crops</b>
ปา	[Verb] <b>to throw</b>

**Homework** : Practise reading, writing and memorize the meaning of the words above

### Section 3 : Writing basic Thai phrases and sentences

**Important grammar: You must know...**

**1. What is a word?**

**Answer** : A word is a single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others (or sometimes alone) to form a sentence and typically shown with a space on either side when written or printed in English.

**2. What is a phrase?**

**Answer** : A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit, typically forming a component of a clause. *e.g. Let's go, Go away!, Hurry up, Please be quick, etc.*

**3. What is a sentence?**

**Answer** : A sentence is a set of words that is complete in itself, typically containing a subject and predicate, conveying a statement, question, exclamation, or command, and consisting of a main clause and sometimes one or more subordinate clauses.

**4. There are no spaces between words in Thai sentences** but there are some exceptions for some particular words and situations.

**5. Thai sentence structures** or word order starts from left to right which is Subject + Verb + explanation part or Subject + Explanation part. When you want to construct a sentence, you must line up words from left to right as well as modify words or explanation words, such as Adverbs and Adjectives which come after the word that it clarifies. However, Thai grammar and sentence structure can be converted and is flexible depending on the context.

- The **Subject** is the main thing that you are talking about  
e.g. talking about oneself, 'ผม/ฉัน : Pǒ'm/Chǎn = I ' would be the first word of a sentence, talking about another female, 'เขา : Kǎo = She' would be the first word.
- The **Verb** is used to clarify what the subject is / does / have / act / feel / etc.
- The **Explanation part** is used to clarify the Verb.

For example, if we say 'ผมชอบ : Pǒ'm Chǒrb = I like.', it is a vague sentence, so one would add explanation part to clarify. 'ผมชอบแมว : Pǒ'm Chǒrb Maew = I like cats.' is a complete sentence. However, the Explanation part is optional, if the sentence can be completely understood with only the Subject word and a Verb word.

**Practice** : Practise writing basic Thai phrases or sentences using the words in Section 2 with your teacher

English phrase / Sentence	Thai writing
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Granddad and the crow	ตาทะกา
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Crow's eye

Granddad's eye

Granddad throws the stump.

Granddad will throw the stump.

Granddad will throw the crow.

Granddad and (Miss) Bpor.

## Chapter 2 Homework : Gaan~Bâan Bò'd Têe~Sörng

### Section 1 : Reading the mid tone consonant letters and syllables

#### Part 1 : The principles of Thai vowels

Q1. Where is the position of สระออ : Sà-rá Or, สระอะ : Sà-rà À, or สระอา : Sà-rà Aa? when mixed with a main consonant to make a word.

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q2. What type of vowel is สระออ : Sà-rà Or? What are its characteristics?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q3. Letter อ (Or) has two functions in Thai language, which are...?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q4. What type of vowel is สระอะ : Sà-rà À? What are its characteristics?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q5. What type of vowel is สระอา : Sà-rà Aa? What are its characteristics?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q6. What is a single vowel sound?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q7. What are the similarities and differences between สระอะ : Sà-rà À and สระอา : Sà-rà Aa?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

**Listening and pronunciation skills** : Tick the box when you have completed the tasks.

**R/W Practice audio 2.1.1**

Practise your pronunciation, listening skills and memorise the vocabulary in Chapter 2 Section 2 Part 1

**R/W Homework audio 2.1.1**

*Complete the tasks given below and check the correct answers with your teacher during your next lesson.*

**Task** : Listen to the names of vowel letters and write the letter below.

Letter 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ Letter 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ Letter 3 = \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part 2 : How to read syllables using mid tone consonant letters

Q1. What is a syllable?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q2. How many syllables are the words, **Dee**, **Sà-rà** and **beautiful** composed of?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q3. How many syllables do original Thai words have?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q4. Can original Thai words have more than one syllable? If yes, give some factors.

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q5. How many types of syllables do we have in Thai?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q6. What are the two basic nucleus sounds used to make up a Thai word? Give some examples.

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q7. What is a live sound?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q8. What is a dead sound?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q9. Each Thai syllable or Thai word is either a live syllable or a dead syllable, is that correct?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q10. What type of vowel is a live sound?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q11. What type of vowel is a dead sound?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q12. If we use a medium tone consonant letter mixed with a long vowel sound, what tone would we get?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q13. If we use a medium tone consonant letter mixed with a short vowel sound, what tone would we get?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q14. Is there a syllable that is a dead sound and has a medium tone in Thai language?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q15. What is the tone of the syllable/word จอ?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q16. What is the tone of the syllable/word จะ?


Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

Q17. Do the syllables/words ปา and กะ have the same tone? Explain.

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

## Section 2 : Reading and memorizing words

**Listening and pronunciation skills** : Tick the box when you have completed the tasks.

•  **R/W Practice audio 2.2**

Practise your pronunciation, listening skills and memorise the vocabulary in Chapter 2 Section 2

•  **R/W Homework audio 2.2**

Complete the tasks given below and check the correct answers with your teacher during your next lesson.

**Task 1** : Listen to the Thai words and write them in Thai script and translate the meaning into English.

Word 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ Word 2 = \_\_\_\_\_

Word 3 = \_\_\_\_\_ Word 4 = \_\_\_\_\_

Word 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ Word 6 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 2** : Listen to the words and write the tone of each word.

Word 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ Word 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ Word 3 = \_\_\_\_\_

Word 4 = \_\_\_\_\_ Word 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ Word 6 = \_\_\_\_\_

Translate these words into English

Word	Type of word	Meaning
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จอ		
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จะ		
----	--	--

ตา		
----	--	--

ปา		
----	--	--

กะ		
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## Section 3 : Writing basic Thai phrases and sentences

Translate these phrases / sentences into English

Thai phrase / Sentence	English translation
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ตาปาตอ	
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ตาคะปาตอ	
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ตาคะปากา	
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ตาคะปอ	
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