SOAS LANGUAGE CENTRE
Thai Beginners 2


Overview of course contents

Basic phrases and sentences
- Coping strategies when seeking clarification
- Describing one’s family members
- Describing one’s home
- Expressing language fluency
- Telephone transactions

Vocabulary
- Kin terms and relations in a family
- Parts of the day
- Days of the week
- Types of rooms
- Numbers 100-1,000,000
- Some animal names

Sentence construction
- Asking someone to do something: hai
- Laew…la? questions (‘and you?’)
- The mood particle see
- The future tense (cha + verb)
- Actions in the past (khey + verb)

More basic writing rules
- More consonants and vowels
- Tone markers: mai ek ‘and’, mai ‘to’
- Words with unwritten vowels
- Consonant clusters
- Learning how to read basic signs in Thai
- Learning how to read reading a short passage

Synopsis

Students begin this course with a revision of Thai Beginners 1 to refresh their knowledge of the language. In the first half of the course, students learn how to use phrases and expressions describing the ability of someone to do something. Two scenarios including being able to eat spicy food and being able to speak Thai are employed as examples. Students also learn how to ask about a family and thus, kin terms are introduced. Moreover, students learn to use mood particles to convey their stance towards a statement. These mood particles enable learners to make a conversation flow and longer than before.

More complicated spellings and more tone marks are introduced in order to prepare students to read a text. In a mid-way revision and practice test, students have an opportunity to hone the language skills they have learned. During this revision, the ability to produce correct tones is emphasized, to reiterate this crucial aspect of the language.

In the second half, the course deals with telephone transactions, a polite request and coping strategies when learners do not understand what they hear and read. By the end of the course, students are able to demonstrate grammatical awareness – parts of speech, word order and grammatical structure of questions and statements. In the last two weeks, a short passage is introduced. In the first week of the reading practice, students use their previous skills in forming a word using Thai consonant and vowel symbols, to fathom out words from the passage and pronounce correctly, since there is no space between words in Thai text. In the following week, students are able to read and interpret the texts by incorporating previous skills learned in class. The course ends with revision of all skills.