



## Thai Alphabet Chart

In the Rapid system there are three groups of consonant letters:

- Boys
- Girls
- **K<sup>g</sup>at<sup>h</sup>euys** กะเวย (pronounced a bit like *gut + turkey*, the *ur* said with teeth clenched and grinning slightly) – transvestites, ladyboys or men in drag.
- Most Thai consonants are **k<sup>g</sup>at<sup>h</sup>euys**.








The tone of each syllable is determined by the group the consonant letter belongs to. This will be dealt with later. In the meantime, just note whether the letter is boy, girl or k<sup>g</sup>at<sup>h</sup>euys.

In this chart, we do not display the letters in alphabetical order and it is not necessary to know the names of the letters – just what they sound like.

You can learn how to read Thai easily by downloading the ebook *Read Thai in a Day*. The basic introduction is free, and you can unlock the rest of the book by purchasing a key.




## Consonants

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	พ	พ	<b>P<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>p</b> izza
	ฟ	ฟ	<b>F</b> as in <b>ph</b> oto (a soft P)
	ผ	ผ	<b>P<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>p</b> ush
	ฝ	ฝ	<b>F</b> as in <b>ph</b> oto (a soft P)
	ค	ค	<b>K<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>c</b> actus
	ด	ด	<b>D</b> as in <b>d</b> ouble
	ต	ต	<b>D<sup>t</sup></b> as in <b>b</b> ottle
	ต	ต	<b>T<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>t</b> ied

## Consonants

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	ร	ร	<b>R/n</b> as in <b>r</b> un
	บ	บ	<b>B</b> as in <b>b</b> oat
	ป	ป	<b>B<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>sup</b> ple (soft B)
	ม	ม	<b>M</b> as in <b>m</b> editating
	น	น	<b>N</b> as in <b>n</b> ail
	ง	ง	<b>NG</b> as in <b>r</b> ing
	ว	ว	<b>W</b> as in <b>w</b> iggle
	ย	ย	<b>Y</b> as in <b>y</b> ellow

## Consonants









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	ล	ล	<b>L/n</b> as in loan
	ฬ	ฬ	<b>L/n</b> as in loan
	ฉ	ฉ	<b>CH/t</b> as in cheat
	จ	จ	<b>CH<sup>j</sup></b> as in ledge
	ฐ	ฐ	<b>T<sup>h</sup></b> as in tree
	ถ	ถ	<b>T<sup>h</sup></b> as in tree
	ท	ท	<b>T<sup>h</sup></b> as in tortoise
	ฑ	ฑ	<b>T<sup>h</sup></b> as in tortoise

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## Consonants

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	ห	ห	<b>(H)</b> as in hump – also used as a silent character to change following letter to girl
	อ	อ	<b>(Oh)</b> as in awe – also used as a silent character to change following letter to boy
	ฮ	ฮ	<b>H</b> as in happy
	ข	ข	<b>K</b> as in cackle
	ช	ช	<b>CH</b> as in chat
	ซ	ซ	<b>S</b> as in sort
	ฃ	ฃ	<b>K<sup>h</sup></b> as in cut
	ก	ก	<b>K<sup>g</sup></b> as in cockerel

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## Consonants

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	ถ	ท	<b>T<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>toe</b>
	ภ	พ	<b>P<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>puss</b>
	ฉ	ช	<b>CH/t</b> as in <b>chat</b>
	ณ	น	<b>N</b> as in <b>nail</b>
	ญ	ย	<b>Y/n</b> as in <b>yarn</b>
	ฎ	ฏ	<b>T<sup>d</sup></b> as in <b>bottle</b>
	ฏ	ฏ	<b>T<sup>h</sup></b> as in <b>tied</b>

## Consonants

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	ศ	ซ	<b>S/t</b> as in <b>sit</b>
	ส	ส	<b>S/t</b> as in <b>sit</b>
	ษ	ษ	<b>S/t</b> as in <b>sit</b>
	ทร	ร	<b>S</b> as in <b>steam</b>
	ร	ร	<b>(R)UN</b> as in <b>run</b> or <b>under</b>

## Vowels

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บา

บา

**Aah**

long **ah** as in **farther**

ปั๊บ

ปั๊บ

**Pup**

short **a** as in **pizza**

เก

เก

**Baguette**

long **eh** as in **care**

แบ

แบ

**Bad**

long **ae** as in **bad**

อิ

อิ

**Igloo**

short **i** as in **igloo**

นี่

นี่

**Chimney**

long **ee** as in **sleep**

บีด

บีด

**Bird**

Long **eh** as in **bird** said grinning slightly with teeth clenched like on an icy cold day

บึ๊บ

บึ๊บ

**Burp**

Short **eu** as in **burp** said grinning slightly with teeth clenched like on an icy cold day

## Vowels

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ลู

ลู

**Balloon**

Long **oo** as in **balloon**

หุ

หุ

**Hook**

Short **u** as in **hook**

โค

โค

**Coat Hanger**

Long **oah** as in **home** but with lips rounded as if about to say **oar**

ไอ

ไอ

**Eye**

Long **aai** as in **eye**

ไอ

ไอ

**Eye**

Long **aai** as in **eye**

อะ

อะ

**A**

**a** as in **buckle** – or used to **shorten** a vowel

...บึ๊

...บึ๊

**squeeze**

Used to **shorten** a vowel

เอา

เอา

**Ow**

**ao** as in **ow!**

## Vowels

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บ๋ำ	บำ	<b>Um</b> Um as in bum
เติส	เตส	<b>Dirt</b> Long <b>ir</b> as in <b>dirt</b> (or the <b>eur</b> in <b>coiffeur</b> – felt under the chin by setting your jaw slightly)
เกอ	เกอ	<b>Girl</b> <b>er</b> as in <b>girl</b> (felt under the chin by setting your jaw slightly)
เฮื่อ	เฮื่อ	<b>Girl Chutzpah</b> <b>eu-a</b> as in <b>girl chutzpah</b> ( <b>eu</b> said grinning slightly with teeth clenched)
บ้ว	บ้ว	<b>Skewer</b> <b>ua</b> as in <b>skewer</b> or <b>sure</b>
ฤ ฤา ฤ ฤา		<b>Ri/Rer</b> Short <b>ee/er</b> as in <b>reach</b> or <b>explorer</b>

## Special Characters

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ร๋	ร	<b>Silent</b> The letter underneath is silent
รข	รข	<b>Abbreviation</b> Signifies word is an abbreviation
รจ	รจ	<b>Repeat</b> The word is to be repeated
อ̀	อ	<b>Tone Mark</b> First ('dagger' in the Rapid System)
อ๋	อ	<b>Tone Mark</b> Second ('surfer' in the Rapid System)
อ๊	อ	<b>Tone Mark</b> Third ('bow tie' in the Rapid System)
อ+	อ	<b>Tone Mark</b> Forth ('flag' in the Rapid System)