

## LESSON NOTES

# Thai Alphabet Made Easy #4

## Chaaw cháang, Saaw sôo, Short a, and Short i

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# 4

# VOCABULARY

Thai	Romanization	English	Class
ซัก	<i>sák</i>	to wash clothes	verb
นะ	<i>ná</i>	particle used to soften speech	particle
มัน	<i>man</i>	it	pronoun
นิด	<i>nít</i>	tiny	adjective
ชัด	<i>chát</i>	clear, clearly	adjective, adverb

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>คุณแม่ให้คุณซักเสื้อผ้าอะไรบ้าง <i>khun mâae hâi khun sák sùuea-phâa à-rai bâang</i></p> <p>"What clothing did your mother make you wash?"</p>	<p>คุณเป็นคนที่ไหนนะครับ <i>khun bpen khon thii-nâi ná khráp.</i></p> <p>"Where are you from, again?"</p>
<p>อย่าลืมบันทึกข่าวคืนนี้นะคะ <i>yàa luuem ban-thúek khàao khuuen níi ná khá</i></p> <p>"Don't forget to record tonight's news."</p>	<p>ไปก่อนนะครับ <i>bpai gàawn ná khráp.</i></p> <p>"I'm going now."</p>
<p>นี่คือแหวนแต่งงานของดิฉันค่ะ มันเป็นของที่มีค่ามากที่สุดในชีวิตของดิฉัน <i>níi khuue wăaen-dtâeng-ngaang khăawng dì-chăn khâ. man bpen khăawng thii mii khâa mâak thii sùt nai chii-wít khăawng dì-chăn</i></p> <p>"This is my wedding ring. It's the most precious thing in my life."</p>	<p>วันนี้ฉันมองเห็นดาวได้อย่างชัดเจน <i>wan-níi chăn maawng-hěn daao dâai yàang chát jeen</i></p> <p>"Today I can see the stars clearly."</p>

## GRAMMAR

## The Focus of This Lesson are the Consonants ช and ซ, the Short Vowels ะ and ั, and a new Tone Rule

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### ช (*chaaw cháang*)

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The first consonant in this lesson is ช (*chaaw cháang*). ช้าง (*cháang*) means "elephant." This is a low class consonant. As the initial sound of a syllable it makes a "ch" sound which is similar to the C-H in "China." When it's the final sound of a syllable, ช makes a "T stop" just like ต. This means any syllable that ends in ช will be a dead syllable. To write ช, start with a clockwise head then add a small curve and line going down similar to a question mark. Then the line goes to the right and back up. When it gets to the top you add a little tail that sticks out to the upper right.

### ซ (*saaw sôo*)

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The other letter that we're going to learn is also a low class consonant. It's called ซ (*saaw sôo*). The word โซ่ (*sôo*) means "chain." ซ makes an "s" sound like the "S" in "sun" when it's the initial sound of a syllable. And when it's the final sound of a syllable it also makes a "T stop," which is a dead sound.

### สระ ะ (*sà-rà à*)

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We've already learned two long vowels (สระ ำ and สระ ี). Now we're going to learn the short versions of these vowels. The first short one is สระ ะ (*sà-rà à*). It makes the sound ะ à which is similar to the U in "sun." สระ ะ is written as two small curls after a consonant.

For example, we can write น and สระ ะ to make นะ (*ná*), which is a particle used at the end of many sentences.

สระ ะ is only written this way when it is a final syllable. When a consonant follows, we need to write สระ ะ differently. In that case, we draw just one curl above and between the initial and final consonants. For example, in the word มัน (*man*) which means "it." We have a

special name for this symbol. It's called ไหม้หันอากาศ (*máai-hǎn-aa-gàat*)

## สระ อี (*sà-rà i*)

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The other short vowel is สระ อี (*sà-rà i*). It makes the sound "i" like the "i" in "sit." สระ อี goes above a consonant just like the long vowel สระ อี. The only difference is สระ อี doesn't have the vertical line.

## Tone Rule for Dead Ending-Syllables

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Now that we know some short vowels we can add a new tone rule. This rule will be about syllables with dead endings.

A dead syllable occurs when it ends with a short vowel or one of the stopping sounds of K, T, and P.

So the tone rule for this lesson is:

Low class consonants + dead syllables + short vowels = high tone.

For example:

น้ (ná). It has an initial low class consonant, and it has a dead syllable consisting of a short vowel. So it is high tone, น้. High tone starts at a high pitch and rises very slightly, น้.

นิด (*nít*), which means "tiny." It is written น, สระ อี, ด. It is also high tone because it has an initial low class consonant, has a dead ending, and the vowel is short.