

LESSON NOTES

Thai Alphabet Made Easy #7

Thaaw thá-hǎan, Haaw nók-hûuk, Short e, and Long e

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VOCABULARY

Thai	Romanization	English	Class
เฟะ	<i>fé</i>	rotten	adjective
เช็ค	<i>chék</i>	check	noun
เฮ้ง	<i>héng</i>	to be fortunate	verb
เทพ	<i>thêep</i>	god, angel	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

ที่นี่เป็นเมืองของเทพ

thîi-nîi bpen muueang khăawng thêep

"This here is a city of angels"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson are the Consonants ท and ฮ, and the Vowels เอะ and เอะ
เอะ

ท (*thaaw thá-hǎan*)

The first low class consonant of this lesson is ท (*thaaw thá-hǎan*). The word ทหาร (*thá-hǎan*) means "soldier." The sound of ท when it's an initial letter is "th" like the "T" in the word "top." This is an aspirated T, so there should be a puff of air coming out of your mouth when you make this sound. When it's the final consonant in a syllable, ท makes a T-stop just like ต.

ท is an easy letter to write. You begin with a clockwise head and then draw a line straight down. Then you draw an arch that goes from left to right. It looks like the shape of a hill. So

you can remember ห by thinking of a soldier standing on top of a hill.

ฮ (*haaw nók-hûuk*)

The second consonant of this lesson is ฮ (*haaw nók-hûuk*). นกฮูก (*nók-hûuk*) is the Thai for "owl." Maybe you didn't know that we have owls in Thailand too. ฮ makes a "h" sound, just like the H in "hoot," as in the sound that an owl makes. This letter is only used as an initial sound in a syllable, never as a final sound.

Maybe you can remember ฮ because it looks a little like the shape of an owl's eye. And owls make the sound "hoot-hoot," which starts with an H.

To write ฮ, you start with a counterclockwise head. Then the line keeps curling down and around on the right side. When you get to the top, you add a loop so that the line ends up pointing to the upper right.

สระ เอ (*sà-rà ee*)

First let's take a look at สระ เอ (*sà-rà ee*). This is a long vowel, that makes the sound "ee" like the "EY" in the British spelling of "grey."

Remember that some vowels are written above, below, in front, or behind a consonant. สระ เอ is one that is written in front of a consonant. This might seem strange at first, but with a little practice you'll get used to reading it like this.

สระ เออ (*sà-rà è*)

The shorter version of สระ เอ is สระ เออ (*sà-rà è*). It makes the sound "e" like the E in the word "red." สระ เออ can be written two different ways depending on whether or not there is a consonant following it.

The basic way is to write สระ เอ followed by a consonant, and then สระ ออ.

When there is a consonant following สระ เออ, we have to write it differently. Instead of writing สระ ออ after the consonant, we'll write a different symbol above the consonant. This little

symbol is called ไม้ไต่คู้ (*mái dtài-khúu*). It has the same shape as the number 8 in Thai. You write it as a squiggly line that starts with the head on the right-hand side.