

The Thai Alphabet

	Mid Class		High Class			Low Class				
Voicing	Voiced ¹	Tenuis	Unvoiced			(Used to be) Voiced ²			Voiced	
Aspiration	Unaspirated		Aspirated			Un ³	Aspirated		Unaspirated	
Type	Plosive		Fricative			Plosive	Fricative ⁴	Plosive	Nasal	Approx.
Guttural		k ⁵ ก	kh ฏ	(x) ⁶ ฆ	h ฃ	g ฅ	(ɣ) ฆ	gh ฆ	ṅ(ŋ) ง	(ŋ) ฌ
Palatal		c จ	ch ฎ		ś ณ	j ด	(z) ต	jh ถ	ñ ญ	y ย
Retroflex ⁷	(d) ฎ	t ฏ	th ฐ		ʂ พ	ɖ ฑ		ɗh ฒ	ṇ พ	r/ɽ ภ/ม
Dental	(d) ฅ	t ฆ	th ง		s จ	ɖ ฉ		ɗh ช	n ซ	l/ɭ ฌ/ฏ
Labial	(b) ฐ	p ฑ	ph ฒ	(f) ณ		b ด	(v) ต	bh ถ	m ธ	v(w) น
Miscellaneous		อ							m̥ °	l̥ (l) น

Alphabetical Order: Read the chart from left to right, top to bottom, leaving the ฃ and ฌ columns for last (in Palatal to Labial order) and then finishing the alphabet off with: ฃ, น, อ, and ฌ.

Note: As an abugida, vowels (◌̄, ◌̂, ◌̆, etc) are not considered part of the Thai “alphabet”

¹ This column was added later, to replace the lost voiced plosives (see footnote 2).

² Around the 15th century, these lost their voice.

³ As these lost their voice, they gained an aspiration.

⁴ Old Thai had more fricatives than Sanskrit. Today, only (f) remains.

⁵ Original pronunciation is given in Romanized Sanskrit. Pāli and Sanskrit are still written accordingly.

⁶ Pronunciation in parentheses is IPA.

⁷ These have merged down over time. ภ => ม is ongoing today.