

# 1 Unit

## หน่วยที่ ๑

### *lesson* 1

**Learn basic courtesy expressions  
in social interaction**

### *lesson* 2

**Make self introductions; state  
one's own name; ask for a name;  
learn common polite pronouns  
Numbers 1-5**

### *lesson* 3

**Learn useful phrases for students  
of Thai in social interaction,  
and items in the classroom  
Numbers 6-10**

### *lesson* 4

**Provide and obtain information  
about nationality and language  
Numbers 11-20**

*Skill: To learn basic courtesy expressions in social interaction*

## Dialogs ...บทสนทนา /bòt sǎn-tha-naa/

### Dialog 1.1.1 Greetings

a. A male student (A) meets his teacher (B).



b. A female student (A) meets her teacher (B).

- |   |             |                   |                |
|---|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| A | สวัสดี ครับ | sa-wàt-dii khráp. | Hello teacher. |
| B | สวัสดี จ๊ะ  | sa-wàt-dii cá.    | Hello.         |

### Dialog 1.1.2 Greetings

Two acquaintances meet.

- |   |             |                   |        |
|---|-------------|-------------------|--------|
| A | สวัสดี ครับ | sa-wàt-dii khráp. | Hello. |
| B | สวัสดี ครับ | sa-wàt-dii khráp. | Hello. |

### Dialog 1.1.3 Greetings

a. Two friends meet.

- |     |                 |                  |            |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| A   | หวัดดี          | wàt-dii.         | Hi.        |
| B   | เป็น ยังไง บ้าง | pen yan-ṅay bâṅ. | What's up? |
| B,C | หวัดดี          | wàt-dii.         | Hi.        |

b. Two friends meet in the street.

- |                      |                    |                      |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>A</b> สวัสดี ครับ | wát-dii khráp.     | Hi.                  |
| ไป ไหน มา ครับ       | pay nǎy maa khráp. | Where have you been? |
| <b>B</b> สวัสดี      | wát-dii.           | Hi.                  |

### Dialog 1.1.4 Taking leave

A takes leave.

- |                           |                    |                     |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> ไป ก่อน นะ ครับ  | pay kòon ná khráp. | I've got to go now. |
| แล้ว เจอ กัน              | léew cəə kan.      | See you later.      |
| <b>B</b> แล้ว เจอ กัน จ๊ะ | léew cəə kan cá.   | See you later.      |

### Dialog 1.1.5 Thanks

A receives something from B.

- |                         |                    |                 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> ขอขอบคุณ ค่ะ   | khòwp-khun khâ.    | Thank you.      |
| <b>B</b> ไม่เป็นไร ครับ | mây-pen-ray khráp. | You're welcome. |

### Dialog 1.1.6 Apologies

A accidentally bumps into B.

- |                        |                  |                 |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> ขอโทษ ครับ    | khǒ-thòot khráp. | I'm sorry.      |
| <b>B</b> ไม่เป็นไร ค่ะ | mây-pen-ray khâ. | That's alright. |

### Dialog 1.1.7 Showing consideration.

a. Two students approach an empty chair at the same time. A invites B to use the seat.



b. A accidentally bumps into B. B drops something. A picks it up for her.

- |                         |                    |                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> ขอโทษ ครับ     | khǒ-thòot khráp.   | • I'm sorry.        |
| <b>B</b> ไม่เป็นไร ค่ะ  | mây-pen-ray khâ.   | • That's alright.   |
| <b>A</b> นี่ ครับ       | nîi khráp.         | • Here you are.     |
| <b>B</b> ขอขอบคุณ ค่ะ   | khòwp-khun khâ.    | • Thank you.        |
| <b>A</b> ไม่เป็นไร ครับ | mây-pen-ray khráp. | • Don't mention it. |



## Other commonly used greetings and replies

เป็น ยังไง	pen-yaŋ-ŋay	How are you?
สบายดี	sa-baay dii	Fine.
เรื่อย ๆ	rây-rây	So so. (Lit. Coming along)
ยังงั้น ๆ	yaŋ-ŋán yaŋ-ŋán	So so.
งั้น ๆ	ŋán-ŋán	So so. (shortened from /yaŋ-ŋán yaŋ-ŋán/)

## Songs ...เพลง /phleeng/

## สวัสดี /sa-wàt-dii/

สวัสดี เธอ จ๋า	sa-wàt-dii thəə cǎa.	Hello. Friend.
เรา มา พบ กัน	raw maa póp kan.	We meet each other.
เธอ กับ ฉัน	thəə káp chǎn	You and I.
สวัสดี สวัสดี	sa-wàt-dii sa-wàt-dii.	Hello, hello.

## สวัสดี เมืองไทย /sa-wàt-dii muaŋ-thay/

สวัสดี เมืองไทย	sa-wàt-dii muaŋ-thay	Hello, Thailand!
ฝึกฝน ฝึกฝน กัน เอา ไว้	fùk-fǒn fùk-fǒn kan ʔaw wáy	Let's all practice and practice!
อยู่ที่ เมืองไทย	yùu thii muaŋ-thay	Living in Thailand,
ใคร ใคร ก็ พูด สวัสดี	kh-ray kh-ray kó phúut sa-wàt-dii	Everyone says "Sawatdii."
ลา ลา ลา... ลา		La la la... la.
นี่ เมืองไทย	nii muaŋ-thay	This is Thailand.
สวัสดี กัน ไว้	sa-wàt-dii kan wáy	Let's all greet each other!
ยก มือ ไหว้ สวัสดี	yók mǎu wǎay sa-wàt-dii	Raise your hands in a "wai" of greeting.

## Vocabulary ...ศัพท์ /sàp/

◀ สวัสดี	sa-wàt-dii	Hello (neutral, formal)
◀ หวัดดี	wàt-dii	Hi (familiar)
◀ ครับ	kh-ráp	prt. polite particle for men
		(neutral)

◀ ค่ะ	khâ	prt. polite particle for women (neutral)
◀ จ๊ะ	câ	prt. particle used by men and women to show affection/ familiarity to person of lower status
◀ อาจารย์	ʔaa-caan (citation form) ʔa-caan (spoken form)	n. teacher, title of university professors, can be used as a term of address.
◀ ขอขอบคุณ	khòwp-khun (citation form) khòp-khun (spoken form)	Thank you.
◀ ขอโทษ	khòv-thòot (citation form) khv-thòot (spoken form)	I apologize. I'm sorry.
◀ ไม่	mây	neg. no, not
◀ ไม่เป็นไร	mây-pen-ray	That's alright; It doesn't matter.
◀ อย่างไร	yàaŋ-ray	q. How? What? In what way? (citation form)
◀ ยังไง	yaŋ-ŋay	q. How? (spoken form)
◀ เป็นยังไง	pen-yaŋ-ŋay	What's up?
◀ ไป	pay	v. to go
◀ ไหน	năy	q. Where?
◀ ที่ไหน	thii-năy	n., q. Where?
◀ ไปไหน	pay-năy	Where are you going?
◀ ไปไหนมา	pay-năy-maa	Where have you been?
◀ ไปก่อน	pay kòon	I'm leaving. (Lit. I leave first)
◀ นะ	ná	prt. particle used to make an utterance gentler.
◀ พบ	phóp	v. to meet
◀ กัน	kan	pron. each other
◀ ใหม่	mây	adv. again, new
◀ เชิญ	chòon	Please do; go ahead.
◀ นี่	nii	1. Here it is. Here you are. 2. d.p. this
◀ สบาย	sa-baay	v. to be comfortable, to be well

◀ ดี	dii	v. to be good
◀ สบายดี	sa-baay dii	I'm fine.
◀ เธอ	thəo	pron. you (familiar)
◀ จำ	ǎa	prt. particle used by men and women to show affection/familiarity. Used in addressing or replying.
◀ เรา	raw	pron. we
◀ เมืองไทย	muaŋ-thay	Thailand. Thais informally call the country by this name. See also unit 2.3 language notes.
◀ ฝึก	fùk	v. to practice
◀ ฝึกฝน	fùk-fǎn	v. to practice
◀ กัน	kan	pron. (reciprocal). each other, one another, mutually, together
◀ ไว้	wáiy	adv. adds a completive sense to the verb, often in the sense of to have on hand, ready.
◀ เอาไว้	ʔaw wáiy	
◀ อยู่	yùu	v. to be located at
◀ ที่	thii	prep. at
◀ ใคร	khray	pron. someone, anyone
◀ ใคร ใคร	khray khray	pron. everyone (see also Unit 6.1 Language Notes)
◀ พูด	phûut	v. to speak, to say
◀ ยก	yók	v. to raise
◀ มือ	mua	n. hand
◀ ไหว้	wáiy	See Culture Notes 1.

## Proverb ...สุภาษิต /su-phaa-sìt/

หมาเห่าไม่กัด      Dog + to bark + not + to bite      Dogs that bark do not bite.  
 mǎa hǎw mǎy kàt  
 “A barking dog never bites.”

## Language Notes

### 1. Greetings

สวัสดี /sa-wát-dii/ is used in greeting and saying goodbye, very much like the Hawaiian “aloha.” However, among friends a variant shortened form หวัดดี /wát-dii/ is normally used to show familiarity and solidarity.

สวัสดี /sa-wát-dii/ is a relatively new word in the language, coined in 1931 and officially adopted in 1941 as a formal and neutral greeting to accommodate formal and neutral social interaction. Traditionally, the phrases ไปไหน /pay nǎy/ “Where are you going?” ไปไหนมา /pay nǎy maa/ “Where have you been?” and กินข้าว แล้ว หรือ ยัง /kin khâaw léew rǔ yaŋ/ “Have you eaten?” were used as greetings and are still often used in rural areas today. These phrases are used as greetings and are not meant as intruding questions, so the person greeted does not need to answer these questions.

The phrase เป็น ยังไง /pen yaŋ-ŋay/ is used as a greeting for familiar parties who haven’t seen each other recently.

Thais normally don’t inquire about health as a greeting unless each interlocutor hasn’t seen each other for a long time.

In greetings, the junior should greet the senior first.

Thai greetings and thanks (by a junior to a senior) are normally accompanied by the ไหว้ /wǎay/ gesture. See cultural note 1.

### 2. Particles

Particles are small words that end a sentence or an utterance in Thai. Particles are important in Thai social interaction—they indicate politeness, as well as the emotions and attitudes of speakers. They also make an utterance softer and gentler. The most important are the formal polite particles. Men and women use different forms:

- **ครับ** /khráp/ for men. This particle is neutral with respect to formality;
- **ค่ะ** /khâ/ for women (end of a statement), **คะ** /khá/ for women (end of a question, or when following another particle).
- **จ๊ะ** /câ/, **จ้ะ** /cá/, **จ้า** /caa/ are a set of gender-neutral particles for showing familiarity and affection among equals, or used by seniors to juniors (in age and status).

จ้ะ /câ/ is used to end a statement or acknowledgement, as seen used by the professors to students in Dialog 1.1.1.

จ๊ะ /cá/ is used in a similar way to คะ /khá/ i.e., at the end of a question or following another particle.

จ้า /cǎa/ is a particle of affection used in replying to an address or after the pronoun of address.

Finally, there is an attitude particle, นะ /ná/, which is used at the end of a suggestion or a statement. It can be followed by a polite particle, for example: นะคะ /ná khá/, นะครับ /ná khráp/, นะจ๊ะ /ná cá/.

### 3. Pronouns

Thai has a complicated set of personal pronouns. The usage varies with the relationship of the interlocutors and the situation of the speech event. The following are some formal and neutral pronouns. Only two formal pronouns are gender specific: ผม /phǒm/ (male); ดิฉัน /dichán/ (female).

1 <sup>st</sup> person	ผม /phǒm/ (m), polite, neutral ดิฉัน /dichán/ (f), polite, formal ฉัน /chán/ (m, f) polite, neutral
2 <sup>nd</sup> person	คุณ /khun/ (m,f) polite เธอ /thəə/ (m,f) polite, familiar
3 <sup>rd</sup> person	เขา /kháw/ (m, f) he, she, they เธอ /thəə/ (f) she

คุณ /khun/ is also used as a title of address before a name to show politeness and deference (equivalent to Mr. or Ms.) when addressing others. One does not use คุณ /khun/ as a title of address to refer to oneself. To do so is considered pretentious.

## Structure Note

### 1. Question words

The position of a question word in a sentence in Thai is also where the reply to the question word will be in non-expressional, regular questions. For example, the “where” question word ที่ไหน /thî-nǎy/ comes after the verb, which is where the answer will be too.



a. ไหน /nǎy/, ที่ไหน /thii-nǎy/ where

(Subject)	ไป pay	ไหน nǎy	Where do/does <i>Subject</i> go? Where is/are <i>Subject</i> going?
	(motion verbs)	where	

(Subject)	ไป pay	ไหน nǎy	มา maa	Where has/have <i>Subject</i> gone/been?
	(motion verbs)	where		

b. ยังไง /yaŋ-ŋay/ อย่างไร /yaaŋ-ŋay/ How?

(Subject)	เป็น pen	อย่างไร ยังไง yaaŋ-ray yaŋ-ŋay	How is/are ( <i>Subject</i> )?
(Subject)	to be	how	

สุดา suda	เป็น pen	ยังไง yaŋ-ŋay	How is Suda?
อาจารย์ ?aa-caan	เป็น pen	ยังไง yaŋ-ŋay	How is the teacher?
คุณ khun	เป็น pen	ยังไง yaŋ-ŋay	How are you?

## Culture Notes

### 1. ไหว้ /wâay/

ไหว้ /wâay/ is a gesture to show respect and courtesy in Thai. To “wâay,” one presses the palms together at chest level, accompanied by bowing the head towards the hands. The more one bows, the more respect it signifies. “Wâay” generally is used in greeting, especially greeting those more senior in status or greeting a non-acquaintance in a formal situation. A junior person should “wâay” first, then a senior person responds with a “wâay,” to acknowledge the junior’s

“wâay.” However, the senior’s “wâay” is not as deep as the junior’s “wâay”.

The “wâay” is also used in thanking those senior in status, or accompanying an apology.

(see also the “Wai” video clip in the CD.)

## 2. Politeness in Thai social interaction

Thailand is a hierarchical society. The two main factors that define one’s place in the hierarchy is age and social status (which is determined by such factors as family background, occupation or professional rank. ผู้ใหญ่ /phû yà/ (seniors) is a term for those higher in the hierarchy, either in age or status; those lower in the hierarchy are ผู้น้อย /phû nǒy/ (juniors). This hierarchical social system also governs social interactions. In general, ผู้น้อย /phû nǒy/ show deference towards ผู้ใหญ่ /phû yà/ as reflected in language use (such as choice of pronouns and particles) and gestures (such as the ไหว้ /wâay/). To show politeness and courtesy through language use and gestures therefore is to behave and interact appropriately to one’s relative status and social relationship. What is more, the choice of language use in Thai can reflect rank, age differences, social distance or the intimacy of a relationship.

## 3. Gratitude and smiling

Thais do not express thanks by using a verbal ขอขอบคุณ /khòp-khun/ “thank you” to the same extent as in English speaking culture. The “smile” is used instead to thank someone for small expected services such as those of waiters and maids. The verbal ขอขอบคุณ /khòp-khun/ is reserved for showing true gratitude.

However, this is changing, especially in the cities, due to English influence. Educated Thais now increasingly use the verbal thanks in the same way as in the Western world.

4. The first song introduced in this lesson, สวัสดี /sa-wàt-dii/, is a well known children’s song. The second song, สวัสดี เมืองไทย /sa-wàt-dii มหานครไทย/, is an edited version (by the author) from a TV commercial for AIS, a telephone service provider in Thailand, which was broadcast in October of 2006.