

**Chapter 1: In this chapter you will learn the following words and letters.**

New Letters		
consonants	low	ม น
	middle	ก ค ฑ อ
	high	
vowels	short	
	long	-า ็

New Vocabulary					
มานี่	girl's name	noun	กา	crow	noun
มี	To have	verb	ตา	eye	noun
อา	uncle	noun			

## 1.0 Structure

### Introduction to Thai Consonant Classes

All 44 Thai consonants fit into 1 of 3 classes. They are either **low class**, **middle class**, or **high class**. Each class of consonants has a set of pronunciation rules attached to them. You will learn the specifics of these rules later. For now, just remember which class each consonant belongs in.

In this chapter, you will learn 6 Thai consonants, 2 of which (**as you can see in the chart above**) are **low class**, and 4 of which are **middle class**.

### Introduction to Long and Short Vowels

Long and short vowels are simple.

Short vowels have a "short" sound, like this... **Ma**.

Long vowels have a "long" sound, like this... **Maaaa**.

As you can see in the chart above, this chapter has 2 new vowels. You need to remember that they are "long."

# 1.1 Writing Letters

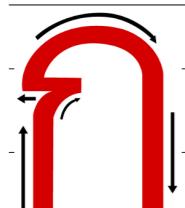
First practice writing the letters using the dotted letters. Then practice on your own.



Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** (low) medium high / **Vowel:** long short



Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** low medium high / **Vowel:** long short



Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** low medium high / **Vowel:** long short



Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** low medium high / **Vowel:** long short



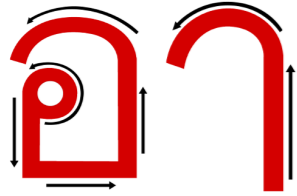
Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** low medium high / **Vowel:** long short



Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** low medium high / **Vowel:** long short

**Note!** This is the new letter you are learning. It's a vowel.

Thai vowels are never written alone. They are always paired with a consonant. If we want to write just the vowel, we usually pair it with the consonant ฃ, so it is not left alone. This is what we have done below—the vowel you are learning is only the character on the right.



Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** low medium high / **Vowel:** long short

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

**Note:** I mentioned above how we use spacers with vowels because they cannot be left alone. I showed you one way to do it using the letter ( ฃ ). Another way to do it is to use a dash ( - ) instead of the character I used above. For example, you will oftentimes see this -เ. Yet another way is to use a dotted circle, like this เ◌. The dotted circle, the dash, and the character ( ฃ ) are where the consonants will go when a real word is written. You'll get used to seeing these symbols very quickly.

**Practice!**

You may see the new vowel you are learning written in 2 of the 3 different ways mentioned above. **Hint**--it's not the circle! Try writing the vowel both ways.

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

**Note!** Notice, again, that this is the new letter we are learning.

It's a vowel and is again accompanied by its consonant friend. Also note where it is located. It's **above** the consonant. The consonant, however, has not moved up or down—and it never does. Vowels are written **above**, **below**, and **next to** consonants.



Letter Characteristics: **Consonant:** low medium high / **Vowel:** long short

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

**Heads Up!**

As mentioned above, vowels are always paired up with consonants. When reading words, **always speak the sound of the consonant FIRST**. For example, you've just learned to pronounce the consonant ฃ and the vowel เ◌

Now you're about to learn a word that combines them. The word is ฃเ (note that the dotted circle is gone and there is a consonant in its place). The sound of the consonant, as you know, is "m" and the sound of the vowel is "ee." Since you always pronounce the consonant first and the vowel second, the pronunciation of the word is "mee."

Also, in this chapter, you have learnt two new letters that sound very similar. As I'm sure you know, the two letters are ฃ and ฃ. Both letters make a "D" sound. The difference is that ฃ is pronounced with more emphasis—it sounds "harder."

Practice writing all the new letters you learned in chapter 1. Be sure to speak each letter as you write it. Again, you should **perfect your pronunciation** using the audio in your online course. Write the consonant classes / vowel lengths under the letters.

ส ข ก จ ฎ ฏ ด ฏ ฏ

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are four such sets of lines available for practice.

There are 6 consonants. Write them below and put "low" middle" or "high" on the lines below them.

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are three such sets of lines available for practice.

There are 2 vowels. Write them below and put "long" or "short" on the lines below them.

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. There are three such sets of lines available for practice.