Good Vibes Learn Thai

FREE eBOOK

20 Thai phrases for meeting your partner's family



Before you start

The golden rule

End almost every sentence with a polite word. It depends on **who is speaking**:

ครับ

khráp — if you're a man

ค่ะ / คะ

khâ — if you're a woman (khá for questions)

Reading the pronunciation

- Accents show the tone: **à** low, **á** high, **â** falling, **ǎ** rising, no mark = middle.
- **kh**, **ph**, **th** are soft k, p, t with a puff of air — not "f" or English "th".
- Don't worry about perfect tones. Smile, be polite, and the family will love the effort.

Culture tips for the visit

- **Wai** the older relatives first: palms together, small bow.
- **Shoes off** before going inside the house.
- **Heads and feet:** don't touch heads, don't point with your feet.
- **Bring a small gift** — fruit or sweets are perfect.
- **Ask about nicknames.** Most Thais use a short nickname every day.

Saying hello

1

สวัสดีครับ / ค่ะ

sà-wàt-dee khráp / khâ

Hello

Use it any time of day. Add a wai for parents and older relatives.

2

ยินดีที่ได้รู้จักครับ / ค่ะ

yin-dee thêe dâai rúu-jàk khráp / khâ

Nice to meet you

Perfect for the very first meeting.

3

ผมชื่อ... / ฉันชื่อ...

phŏm chûe... / chăn chûe...

My name is...

Men say phŏm, women say chăn.

4

สบายดีไหมครับ / คะ

sà-baai dee măi khráp / khá

How are you?

Women use the rising khá for questions.

5

สบายดีครับ / ค่ะ

sà-baai dee khráp / khâ

I'm well

The easy answer when they ask you.

Being polite

6 ขอบคุณครับ / ค่ะ

khòp-khun khráp / khâ

Thank you

Add mâak (มาก) for 'thank you very much'.

7 ขอโทษครับ / ค่ะ

khŏr-thôht khráp / khâ

Sorry / excuse me

Also used to get someone's attention.

8 ไม่เป็นไร

mâi pen rai

No worries / it's OK

The perfect reply to thank you or sorry.

9 ผมพูดไทยได้นิดหน่อย

phŏm phûut thai dâai nít-nòi

I speak a little Thai

Women say chăn instead of phŏm.

10 พูดช้า ๆ ได้ไหมครับ / คะ

phûut cháa cháa dâai măi khráp / khá

Can you speak slowly?

Families love helping you learn.

At the table

11 กินข้าวหรือยัง

gin khâao rĕu yang

Have you eaten yet?

A caring 'how are you?' — not only about food.

12 กินแล้วครับ / ค่ะ

gin láew khráp / khâ

I've eaten

The usual reply to the question above.

13 อร่อยมากครับ / ค่ะ

à-ròi mâak khráp / khâ

It's very delicious

Say it often — food is love in a Thai family.

14 เผ็ดนิดหน่อย

phèt nít-nòi

A little spicy

Ask for mâi phèt (ไม่เผ็ด) for not spicy.

15 อิ่มแล้วครับ / ค่ะ

ìm láew khráp / khâ

I'm full

A polite way to stop them filling your plate.

Showing you care

16

คุณพ่อ / คุณแม่

khun phôr / khun mâe

Dad / Mum (polite)

Or use the names your partner uses for them.

17

บ้านสวยมากครับ / ค่ะ

bâan sŭai mâak khráp / khâ

Your home is beautiful

A lovely compliment for the hosts.

18

ดูแลสุขภาพด้วยนะครับ / คะ

duu-lae sùk-khà-phâap dûay ná khráp / khá

Take care of your health

A warm thing to say to older relatives.

19

ขอให้มีความสุขมาก ๆ

khŏr hâi mee khwaam-sùk mâak mâak

Wishing you lots of happiness

Great for birthdays, New Year and goodbyes.

20

แล้วเจอกันใหม่ครับ / ค่ะ

láew jer gan mài khráp / khâ

See you again

A friendly goodbye.

Keep going

Ready to say it out loud?

Reading phrases is a great start. Saying them with the right tones is what makes Thai families light up.

Free 20-minute trial lesson

Meet Ami, a native Thai teacher, set your goals and practise these phrases together. Live online on Google Meet, anywhere in Australia.

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