

BASIC KHMER



Vathanak Sok
Michigan State University

Basic Khmer (Sok)

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Acknowledgments

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all my students for their active participation in learning Khmer language. Their feedback on my courses helped me to develop and tailor this online textbook according to their needs and concerns.

I am deeply grateful to Regina Gong and her team members, who work for Open Educational Resources (OER) at Michigan State University Libraries, for their support. I must also thank the Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures at MSU, particularly Danielle Steider and Dr. Ranjan, for their advice and many helpful suggestions during the preparation of this textbook.

Last, but not least, my thanks to my family. This work is dedicated to them: particularly to my father, my mother, and my wife, who have always been supportive.

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Foreword

The book called *Basic Hindu I*, by Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, gave me a scaffolding to start writing this book. Dr. Ranjan is a tech wizard and he has guided me through the H5P program to develop learning activities that provide immediate and constructive feedback.

Dr. Ranjan and Danielle Steider, Coordinator of Less Commonly Taught Languages Program, have helped me build the structure of the book including clear learning outcomes, so that learners come to a common understanding about the purpose and goals of each chapter; a review of previous chapters that provides a smooth transition to the next one; and a review of the vocabulary, grammar points, and cultural notes.

Danielle has carefully examined all the grammar points of each chapter to make sure they are presented in a meaningful context that fits the learning objective and learner's level. Danielle also helped to think of additional learning activities, providing more opportunities for the student to practice what they have learned.

Dr. Ranjan and Danielle Steider have been supportive during the entire development process of this textbook. Their expertise have shaped the knowledge I put into this book, and it has become an indispensable resource for both independent learners and students taking courses in Cambodian/Khmer.

Preface

Basic Khmer is funded by Open Educational Resources at Michigan State University. It is an online, interactive theme-based textbook for the beginner of the Khmer language. This book aims to provide a practical introduction to speaking, listening, and reading. By the end of this course, students will be at B1 level of the Common Framework for Language and at the low-intermediate level on the ACFTL proficiency scales.

This book contains eight chapters. In the first five chapters, each chapter is divided into two parts. The first part is based on a conversation and presents the grammar and vocabulary necessary to deal with everyday situations. The Cambodian script and sound system are introduced in the second part of each chapter.

Topics covered in Chapters 1 & 2 include: polite and colloquial greetings, introducing oneself; addressing people properly; the 16 individual consonants and their meanings; polite and colloquial farewells; question words “what” and “where”; numbers 1-10; kinship terms in combination with the verb to be “ជា”; and the combination of consonants and/or with diacritic.

Topics covered in Chapter 3 include: asking and talking about families; Khmer classifiers; question word “how many”; the verb “to have/has”; asking and talking about ages; possessive adjectives; numbers 11-100; an introduction to vowels and the position of vowels; and the first and second series of consonants.

Topics covered in Chapters 4 & 5 include: asking and telling time with particle “ហើយ” and “នៅ”, asking and talking about different days of the week and months of the year, time of the day, and other expressions related to time; asking and telling phone numbers using pattern “do you have?”; and numbers 100-1,000,000.

Topics covered in Chapters 6 & 7 include: past tense; “used to” to talk about habits or repeated actions in the past; past expressions; first and second series vowel sounds; occupations and professions in Khmer; the expressions “to want to be/become”; Khmer modifiers (not very much/not so and adverbs (too/as well); special pronoun “ឯង” and “គាត់”; and sub-consonants and consonant clusters.

Topics covered in Chapter 8 include: making appointments in-person and via telephone; making requests with the pattern “សុំ បានទេ?”; expressing politeness and respect with the word “សូម”; the adverb of time (before and after); diacritic “ ៉ ” and “ ្គ ”; and conjunctions “ប៉ុន្តែ” and “ដូច្នេះ” (“But” and “So”).

Each chapter has clear learning outcomes, a review of the previous chapter, a review of the previous vocabulary, grammar points, and cultural notes. The layout of each chapter is followed by three modes of communication (interpretative, interpersonal, and presentation mode) across the four skills. Each chapter also has a listening, speaking, reading, and grammar section, followed by interactive activities. Cultural notes and a few online materials related to the theme of the chapter are also introduced. Each chapter ends with key vocabulary/expressions and a grammar summary.

Vocabulary in reading and listening is built in the conversation with the English translation, so that learners can infer the meaning in the given context. Learning activities have been developed by using H5P so that learners can get immediate constructive feedback.

This book is an online resource; your constructive feedback will help me keep this book updated. If you find any errors and/or have suggestions, please do not hesitate to write to sokvatha@msu.edu. I hope that this textbook will be an indispensable resource that helps both independent learners and students who are taking courses in Cambodian/Khmer.

Introduction

1. General Information about the Language

Cambodian, also known as Khmer, is the official language of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Dialects are spoken by a few million people in north-eastern Thailand (Surin Khmer) and in the Mekong Delta region of Southern Vietnam (Khmer Kraom).

Cambodian has inevitably influenced the development of other languages in neighboring areas: western neighbour, Thai; eastern neighbour, Vietnamese. In the nineteenth century, Cambodia was colonized by France and most of the technical vocabulary used in science and medical practice today consists of transliterations of the French terms.

The majority of original Cambodian words consist of one or two syllables. Words with three or more syllables are almost certainly loanwords or newly coined ones using components borrowed from Sanskrit and Pali, two major ancient languages in India. Cambodian has borrowed much of its administrative, military, and literary vocabulary from Sanskrit, but with advent of Theravada Buddhism at the beginning of the fifteenth century, Pali became the major source of neologisms.

2. Regional Variants and Dialects

The modern Khmer language: “**ភាសាសរសេរ**” translates as ‘written Khmer’, a version of the language that tends to include a substantial number of words that are closer to Sanskrit and Pali forms than words in spoken Khmer. Secondly, “**ភាសានិយាយ**” refers to the language as ordinarily spoken; the standard spoken Khmer. It should be noticed that a few words principally used in written Khmer (rather than in spoken language) can, nevertheless, be found in conversation from time to time.

The spoken Khmer language is a confluence of three ‘languages’: standard or classroom version, slang, and rural dialect variations.

“Slang” (including rough or crude slang is referred to as “**ភាសាបាតសង្ការ**” or “bottom-of-the-market” talk) tends to add mainly new words (i.e. words not found in standard spoken Khmer) rather than changing the pronunciation of standard spoken words.

There are dialectal differences in the speech of Cambodian natives from Siem Reap, the north (Battambang), or other areas of Cambodia, as compared with the speakers in Phnom Penh. “Rural dialect” tends to add both new words and new pronunciations of standard spoken words, which vary from the generally standard pronunciation one would hear in Phnom Penh.

In Khmer, as indeed in most languages, words are subject to some variation in pronunciation from region to region and indeed, from individual to individual. While a Khmer word has a “standard pronunciation”, an additional pronunciation which is very widely used or commonly heard is considered an “alternate pronunciation” or AP.

The degree to which alternate pronunciation occurs is high and can present problems if a student of the language is unaware which sort of transformations he/she is hearing.

Alternate pronunciations aren’t new words, but non-standard pronunciations, which tend to change or drop beginning/ending consonants or syllables: Mook “**មក**” (to come), for example, becomes Moo “**ម**”. Alternate pronunciation, spoken rapidly, tends to compress the sound of the syllable or the word, e.g. Khnhom “**ខ្ញុំ**” (the pronoun ‘I’) becomes Nhom “**ញ៉ម**”.

3. Guide to Khmer Transliteration, Pronunciation

There is no standardization or universally accepted system for Cambodian in Romanization or transliteration. Therefore, different transliterations are used for Khmer script. However, the transliteration used in this book is adapted from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and the transliteration might not be the same as other sources.

Cambodian has 44 consonants including 33 regular symbols and 11 others modified by diacritics. While many of the vowel sounds have no comparable sound in English, many consonants have a corresponding sound in English, so they can be transliterated into the equivalent English symbol. For example: ស=S, ន=N, ល=l and វ=V. Other consonants have aspirated and unaspirated forms.

For example:

/kh/ aspirated “k” as the word “kettle”

/k/ unaspirated “k” as the word “skull”

/ch/ aspirated “ch” as the word “chalk”

/c/ unaspirated “ch” as the word “peach”
 /th/ aspirated “t” as the word “tell”
 /t/ unaspirated “t” as the word “stall”
 /ph/ aspirated “p” as the word “pull”
 /p/ unaspirated “p” as the word “spill”

Consonants and phonetic transcriptions

1. Velars	ក (koo)	ខ (khoo)	ក (koo)	ឃ (khoo)	ង (ngoo)
2. Palatals	ច (joo)	ឆ (choo)	ឈ (choo)	ជ (joo)	ញ (nhoo)
3. Retroflexes	ដ (doo)	ត (too)	ឌ (doo)	ឍ (thoo)	ណ (noo)
4. Dentals	ត (dtoo)	ថ (ttoo)	ទ (dtoo)	ធ (thoo)	ន (noo)
5. Labials	ប (btoo)	ផ (ptoo)	ព (bpoo)	ភ (phoo)	ម (moo)
6. Miscellaneous	យ (yoo) y-/-y	រ (roo) r-/-r	ល (loo) l-/-l	វ (voo) v-/-v	ស (soo) s-/-h-
	ហ (hoo) h-	ឡ (lao) l-	អ (oo) oo-		

There are 24 dependent vowel symbols. Cambodian vowels can be short and long, and each vowel can have two sounds depending on the consonant used. When combined with the first series consonant, it takes the first series value (in bold), and when combined with a second series consonant, it takes the second series value. Each vowel is pronounced in two different ways. However, there are five vowel symbols (in italic) that are pronounced the same regardless of the series of the consonants.

Vowels and phonetic transcriptions

Vowels		IPA	Examples
1	◌	o	តុ (table)
		u	លុយ (money)
2	◌	oo	អូរ (stream)
		uu	គូ (to draw)
3	◌	<i>ua</i>	សួរ (to ask)
4	◌	<i>ee</i>	ត្រី (otter)
5	◌	ae	ត្រឹម (to correct)
		ee	ត្រី (otter)
6	◌	ai	ដៃ (hand)
		ey	ងៃ (cicada)
7	◌	aa	កា (cup)
		ia	ទា (duck)
8	◌	am	ចាំ (to wait)
		oam	រាំ (to dance)
9	◌	ao	កោ (to shave)
		oo	អូរ (stream)
10	◌	au	ចៅ (grandson)
		ouw	ទៅ (to go)
11	◌	e	លិច (west)
		i	មីនា (March)
12	◌	ey	បី (three)
		ii	ពីរ (two)
13	◌	əə	ត្រី (to burp)
		eu	ឈឺ (sick)
14	◌	ə	ដឹក (to transport)
15	◌	eh	បេះ (to pick up fruit)
		ih	នេះ (this)
16	◌	ɔh	កោះ (island)
		uah	គោ (to knock)
17	◌	ɔm	ដំ (to pound)
		əm	ធំ (big)
18	◌	om	សុំ (to ask for something)

Vowels		IPA	Examples
		əʊ	ទំ (ripe)
19	ɑː	ah	ស្កៈ (to heal)
		eah	ទៈ (to slap)
20	oʊ	oh	ដុះ (to grow)
		uh	ពុះ (to be boiling water)
21	iə	ia	ប៊័រ (beer)
22	iə	œur	ជឿ (to believe)
23	i	aə	បើ (if)
		əə	លើ (on)
24	iː	ih	ជិះ (to ride)

Long and short vowels and diphthongs can be distinguished using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

For examples:

- a) Long vowels: /aa, ɔɔ, əə, uu, ee/
- b) Long diphthongs: /ia, au, ua, oa, ae/
- c) Short vowels: /ɔ, i, e, o, u, ə/
- d) Short diphthongs: /ai, ey/

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 1: What is your name?

- 1.1: Learning Objectives
- 1.2: Informal Conversation
- 1.3: Formal Conversation
- 1.4: The First 16 Consonants
- 1.5: The Question Words for "What and Where"
- 1.6: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

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1.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី១៖ តើអ្នកឈ្មោះអី?

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- greet social peers and elders/teachers appropriately in Khmer.
- use subject pronouns “I, you, he/she, and they”.
- read and write the first 16 individual consonants and their meanings.
- ask and respond to very basic questions regarding your name and country using the question words “what and where”.

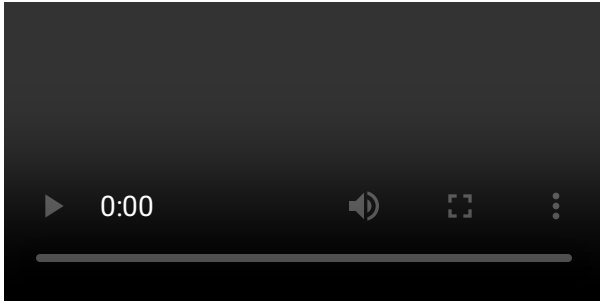
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1.2: Informal Conversation

Listening

Listen to the conversation between Sok (A) and John (B). Then pause, play, and practice saying the sentences out loud.



Speaking

Record yourself greeting and introducing in Khmer, then compare with the conversation above.

Reading

- Read the conversation below and then answer the following questions.

A: Sua-sdey[1]! Sok-sa-baay dtee?

B: Sua-sdey! Khnhom sok-sa-baay. ័័-kun.

A: Khnhom chmuah Sok. Neak chmuah ey?

B: Khnhom chmuah John. Khnhom mook bpïï bpr័័-dteh[2] aa-mee-rik. Neak mook bpïï bpr័័-dteh naa?

A: Oh! Khnhom mook bpïï bpr័័-dteh kam-bpu-jia.

B: Rik-riay dæl baan juab neak.

A: Khnhom k័័ ey-jəŋg daer.

- Read the conversation again, choose the expressions you think they are about exchanging personal information.

[1] The formal and polite greeting in Khmer is “**Jom-riab-sua**” and “**Sua- sdey**” is informal is reserved for casual situations and it is equivalent to the English word “**Hello**”.

[2] The expression **Bpr័័-dteh** “country” can be placed before a country name. However, it is often omitted in spoken language.

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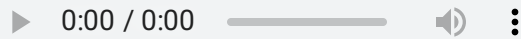
1.3: Formal Conversation

Reading

Read the conversation between Thida (A) and Visak (B) and then highlight words/expressions in the conversation where you think they are indicating the formal and polite languages.

Listening

After reading, listen to the conversation and answer the following questions.



Do you know?

Greeting in Cambodia

The formal and respectful way to say hello in Cambodia is “**Jom-riap-sua**”, with the salute gesture **sampeah** (clasping your hands together in a lotus bud form, as if in praying and bowing your head). Where you place the sampeah in front of your body depends on the age and relationship of the person you are greeting. The higher your sampeah, and the lower your bow, the more respect you are showing.



Reading

Read another conversation between a student (A) and a teacher (B) and fill in the blanks using the formal and polite languages.

[1] The formal and polite greeting in Khmer is “**Jom-riab-sua**”. “**Sua-sdey**” is informal, and is reserved for casual situations; it is equivalent to the English word “Hello”. “**Jom-riab-lia**” is also the formal good-bye.

[2] Title nouns such as “**Look**” (Sir, Mr., you for male speaker) and “**Look-srey**” (Madam, Mrs., you for female) can be used as pronouns to denote formality and politeness.

[3] **Baat** (for male speakers) and **Jaa** (for female speaker) are the terms for the English word “Yes”. When the word “**Baat**” or “**Jaa**” precedes the sentence, it denotes the politeness; for example, **Jaa/Baat**, jom-riab-lia, look. = Goodbye, Sir.

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1.4: The First 16 Consonants

Cambodian has 44 consonants including 33 regular symbols and 11 others modified by diacritics. In this chapter, we are focusing on the first 16 consonants. We will be discussing the other regular symbols and the 11 consonants modified by diacritics in the future chapters, and then we will move onto the vowels symbols.

The First 16 Consonants



Use the audio and Table 1 below to learn how to pronounce the consonants.

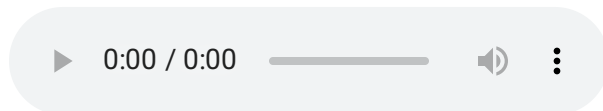


Table 1

Consonant	English	Consonant	English
1. ក	neck	9. ត	mute
2. ខ	to cheat	10. ច	the Year of Dog
3. ង	dock	11. ស	white
4. ត	to carry a baby	12. ឡ	baking oven
5. ត	to lie	13. ង	sulky
6. ល	to try something on	14. ឈ(្យ)	to stand
7. អ	to be happy, glad, joyful.	15. ត	to connect
8. ប	kind of thick stew	16. ទ	gutter

Speaking

Record yourself reading each consonant out loud and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Reading

Read through the consonants in Table 2 and decide whether each consonant corresponds with the translation in English. Then check your answers against the Table 1.

Table 2

Consonant	English	Consonant	English
ក	gutter	ត	to lie
ឆ	white	ថ	dock
ជ	the Year of Dog	ស	to cheat
ព	to stand	ឡ	mute
ភ	to connect	ង	sulky
ល	to try something on	ឈ(វ)	to carry a baby
អ	to be happy, glad, joyful.	គ	baking oven
ខ	kind of thick stew	ទ	neck

Writing

Download the worksheet below to practice writing consonants by following the directional arrows.

Worksheet 1

Reading

Read the first 16 consonants again. Please read the consonants that are highlighted in blue only, we will discuss the rest of the consonants in the next chapter. (List of highlighted consonants: ក, ខ, គ, ង, ថ, ឆ, ឈ, ជ, ត, ទ, ព, ភ, ល, ស, ឡ, អ.)

Consonants and phonetic transcriptions

Table 3

1. Velars	ក (kɔɔ)	ខ (khɔɔ)	គ (koo)	ឃ (khoo)	ង (ngoo)
2. Palatals	ច (jɔɔ)	ឆ (chɔɔ)	ឈ (choo)	ជ (joo)	ញ (nhoo)
3. Retroflexes	ដ (dɔɔ)	ថ (tɔɔ)	ឌ (doo)	ឍ (thoo)	ណ (nɔɔ)
4. Dentals	ត (ɔɔ)	ថ (tɔɔ)	ទ (dtoo)	ធ (thoo)	ន (noo)
5. Labials	ប (bɔɔ)	ផ (pɔɔ)	ព (bpoo)	ភ (phoo)	ម (moo)
6. Miscellaneous	យ (yoo) y-/-y	រ (roo) r-/-r	ល (loo) l-/-l	វ (voo) v-/-v	ស (sɔɔ) s-/h-
	ហ (hɔɔ) h-	ឡ (lɔɔ) l-	អ (ɔɔ) ɔɔ-		

Dictation

Please listen carefully and write what you hear. Note that you need to install Khmer fonts in order to complete this exercise.

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1.5: The Question Words for "What and Where"

The word for “what” is “**Ey**”. Sometimes it is pronounced **A-vey**, a formal word. In contrast to English, it comes at the end of a sentence.

Examples:

- Neak[1] chmuah **ey**? “**What** is your name?”

The word for “where” is “**Naa**”. Like “**Ey**”, this question word comes at the end of the sentence.

Examples:

- Neak mook bprii bprɔɔ-dteh **naa**? “**Where** are you from?”

Test Yourself

Speaking

Suppose you do not know the people in the pictures, how would you ask the following questions in Cambodian?



What's her name?

Where is she from?



What's her name?

Where is she from?

Listening

Listen to the conversation between Smith (A) and Sokha (B) and then indicate the order of the sentences by dragging a number to its corresponding sentence.

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Reading

[1] The word “**Neak**” is the general term for “you”. It is commonly used by both genders of the same age.

[2] “**Lia-sən-haəy**” is informal for “good-bye”. The formal and polite good-bye is “**Jom-riab-lia**”

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1.6: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

Key Vocabulary

IPA	English
bprᵛᵛ-dteh	country
ey/a-vey	what
naa	where
chmuah	name
juab	to meet

Useful Expressions

IPA	English
Rik-riay dael baan juab neak.	Nice to meet you.
Sok-sa-baay dtee?	How are you?
Khnhom sok-sa-baay, ᵛᵛ-kun.	I am fine, thank you.
Khnhom mook bpīi bprᵛᵛ-dteh ii-taa-lii.	I am from Italy.
Khnhom chumah ____.	My name is ____.
Joh-neak-venh?	What about you?
Khnhom kᵛᵛ ey-jəŋg daer.	Nice to meet you too.

Summary of Grammar Points

Grammar Points	Summary																					
Subject pronouns	There are some common pronouns used by beginners. However, bpuak-kee is replaced by bpuak-koat when the context is clear: the person who is referred to was previously mentioned. The word Niang (she) is not commonly used in spoken language and the word Koat is preferable.																					
	<table><tr><th>IPA</th><th>English</th><th>Khmer</th></tr><tr><td>Khnyom</td><td>I</td><td>ខ្ញុំ</td></tr><tr><td>Neak</td><td>You</td><td>អ្នក</td></tr><tr><td>Koat</td><td>He</td><td>គាត់</td></tr><tr><td>Niang/Koat</td><td>She</td><td>គាត់/នាង</td></tr><tr><td>Yəəng</td><td>We</td><td>យើង</td></tr><tr><td>bpuak-kee</td><td>They</td><td>ពួកគេ/ពួកគាត់</td></tr></table>	IPA	English	Khmer	Khnyom	I	ខ្ញុំ	Neak	You	អ្នក	Koat	He	គាត់	Niang/Koat	She	គាត់/នាង	Yəəng	We	យើង	bpuak-kee	They	ពួកគេ/ពួកគាត់
	IPA	English	Khmer																			
	Khnyom	I	ខ្ញុំ																			
	Neak	You	អ្នក																			
	Koat	He	គាត់																			
	Niang/Koat	She	គាត់/នាង																			
Yəəng	We	យើង																				
bpuak-kee	They	ពួកគេ/ពួកគាត់																				
Title nouns	Title nouns such as “ look ” (Sir, Mr., you for male speaker) and “ look-srey ” (Madam, Mrs., you for female speaker) can be used as pronouns to denote formality and politeness. • Look chmuah ey? = What is your name, sir? • Look-srey mook bpïi bprɔɔ-dteh naa? = Where are you from, madam? Similarly, when the term “ look ” is combined with kinship terms such as: Kruu “teacher”; Dtaa “Grandfather”; Bpuu “Uncle”, it denotes respect, politeness, and even endearment. • Look-dtaa sok-sa-baay dtee? = How are you, grandfather?																					
	Baat (for male speakers) and Jaa (for female speaker) are the terms for the English word “Yes”. When the word “Baat” or “Jaa” precedes the sentence, it denotes the politeness, for example: Jaa/baat , Jom-riab-lia, look. = Goodbye, Sir.																					
“Yes” in Khmer																						

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 2: What is your job?

- 2.1: Learning Objectives
- 2.2: Review from Chapter I
- 2.3: Conversation- I am a teacher.
- 2.4: Subject Pronouns with Verb "To be" in Khmer
- 2.5: Negative Formers- "ទត...dtee" and "មែន...dtee"
- 2.6: Conversation- Addressing People in Cambodia
- 2.7: Combination of Consonants and Combination of Consonants with Diacritic “៉”
- 2.8: Tell us more about yourself.
- 2.9: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

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2.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី២៖ តើអ្នកធ្វើការអ្វី?

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- use verb “to be” in Khmer.
- address people appropriately.
- greet others and say farewell appropriately in a variety of social contexts.
- respond appropriately with “Yes and No” in Khmer.
- seek confirmation with “មែនទេ”.
- learn the combination of consonants and the combination of consonants with diacritic “់”.

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2.2: Review from Chapter I

1. How do you say the following sentences in Cambodian?

Record yourself saying the following sentences in Cambodian and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

- How are you?
- What is your name?
- My name is John.
- I am fine. Thank you.
- Where are you from?
- I am from Cambodia.

2. Choose the correct translations for the following consonants.

3. Complete the following conversation with the correct words provided.

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2.3: Conversation- I am a teacher.

Simple Statements with Jia “to be”

Like English, the basic word order of a simple sentence with Jia “to be” consists of subject+to be+object.

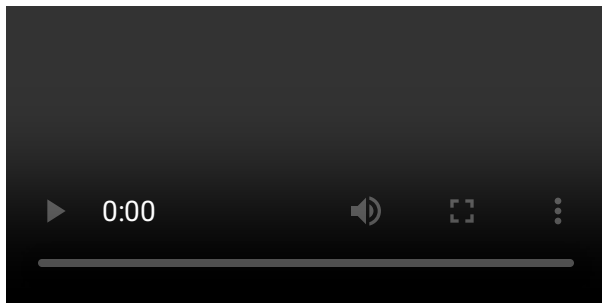
Examples:

- Khnhom **jia** kruu-bpeet. “I **am** a doctor”.
- Koat **jia** kruu-bɔŋg-rian. “He **is** a teacher.”

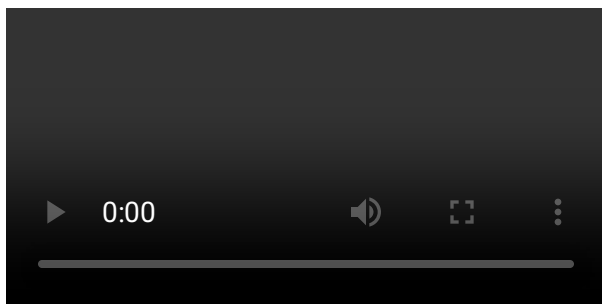
Listening

Listen to the following conversations and then spot the differences in the following conversations.

Conversation 1



Conversation 2

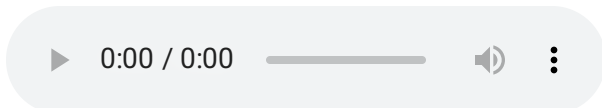


Speaking

Watch both conversations again and then merge the conversations where possible to create your own conversation. Record the conversation created and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Listening

Listen and compare your conversation created with the following conversation.



After listening, complete the conversation using the words provided.

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2.4: Subject Pronouns with Verb "To be" in Khmer

Personal Pronouns with Verb "to be"

The word for "To be" is **Jia**. However, **Jia** is omitted when it is used with adjective. For example, "she is beautiful" = Niang **jia** s'art.

Examples:

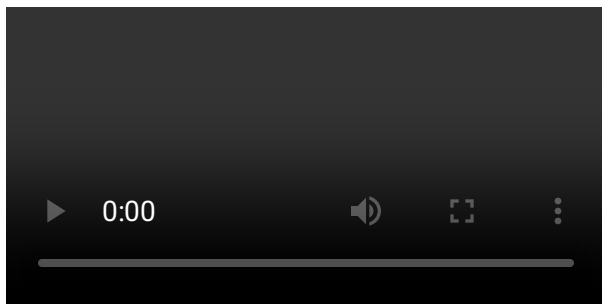
- Khnhom **jia** kruu-bɔŋ-rian. "I **am** a teacher."
- Koat **jia** kruu-bpeet. "He **is** a doctor."

Table 1

Singular Pronouns and Verb "to be"			Plural Pronouns and Verb "to be"		
Transliteration	English	Khmer	Transliteration	English	Khmer
Khnhom jia_.	I am_.	ខ្ញុំ	Neak jia_.	You are_.	អ្នកជា
Neak jia_.	You are_.	អ្នកជា	Yeəŋg jia_.	We are_.	យើងជា
Koat jia_.	He is_.	គាត់ជា	Bpuak-kee jia_.	They are_.	ពួកគេ/ពួកគាត់ជា
Niang/Koat jia_.	She is_.	នាងជា			

Listening and Reading

Listen to following conversation and put the sentences of the conversation in the correct order.



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2.5: Negative Formers- ច្ប...dtee" and "mən...dtee"

The negative former “**ច្ប...dtee**” and “**mən...dtee**” are used interchangeably. “**ច្ប**” or “**mən**” are placed before the main verb and “**dtee**” is placed at the end of the statement. However, “**Dtee**” is optional and is omitted in spoken language.

Examples:

- khnhom ច្ប mook bpil bprɔɔ-dteh thai **dtee**. “I **do not** come from Thailand.”
- Koat ច្ប bɔŋg-rian pia-saa Khmer **dtee**. “He **does not** teach Khmer.”

However, when **jia** “to be” is the main verb of the sentence, the negative “**mən**” or “**ច្ប**” is replaced with “**mən-meen**”.

Examples:

- Koat **mən-meen** jia kru-bɔŋg-rian **dtee**. “He is **not** a teacher.”
- Khnhom **mən-meen** jia kru-bpeet **dtee**. “I am **not** a doctor.”

Listening

Listen to the conversation between Sokha (A) and John (B) and say what John felt sorry about.

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Reading

Read the conversation again and choose the correct responses.

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2.6: Conversation- Addressing People in Cambodia

Title Nouns and Kinship Terms

Title nouns such as **“look”** (Sir, Mr., you for male speaker) and **“look-srey”** (Madam, Mrs., you for female) can be used as pronouns to denote formality and politeness.

Examples:

- **Look** chmuah ey? “What is your name, sir?”
- **Look-srey** mook bpïi bprɔɔ-dteh naa? “Where are you from, madam?”

Similarly, when the term **“look”** is combined with kinship terms, such as **Kruu** “teacher”; **Dtaa** “Grandfather”; **Bpuu** “Uncle”; and **Kmuay** “Nephew/Niece”, it denotes respect, politeness, and even endearment.

Examples:

- **Look-dtaa** sok-sa-baay dtee? “How are you, grandfather?”
- **Look-bpuu** sok-sa-baay dtee? “How are you, uncle?”

Figure 1:

Kinship terms:

Oon “**ប្អូន/អ្នក**”= This term is used when speaking to someone younger than yourself, but not young enough to be your own children.

Bpuu “**ពូ**”= This means “uncle” and is used to address males who are approximately as old as your father, or who have the same age as your uncle.

Ming “**មីង**”= This means “aunt” and is used to address females who are approximately as old as your father, or who has the same age as your aunt.

Kmuay “**ក្មួយ**”= This word means “niece” or “nephew” and used to address someone about the same age as your children.

Yiay “**យាយ**”= This means “grandmother” and is used to address someone who is the same age as your grandmother.

Dtaa “**តា**”= This means “grandfather” and is used to address someone who is the same age as your grandfather.

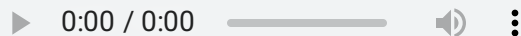
Om “**អី**”= This is used to address someone who is older than your parents, regardless of gender.

Look-kruu “**លោកគ្រូ**”= This term is used when speaking to a male teacher.

Neak-kruu “**អ្នកគ្រូ**”= This term is used when speaking to a female teacher.

Listening

Listen to a conversation between Sokha (A) and a senior teacher (B) at a school in Phnom Penh where Sokha (A) first started teaching.



After listening, answer the following questions.

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2.7: Combination of Consonants and Combination of Consonants with Diacritic “៉”

Combination of Consonants

Please note that when final consonants—**ក** (k), **ង** (ngoo), **ត** (dt), **ញ** (nhoo), **ម** (moo), **ប** (b), **ល** (loo), **ន** (noo)—occur at the end of a word, their sounds are slightly changed from when they occur at the beginning.

Examples:

- បង = bng (not b-ngoo)
- សក = sk (not s-k)
- ចត = dt (not j-dt)
- សម = sm (not s-moo)

Use the audio and Table 1 below to learn how to pronounce the words and the final consonants.

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Table 1

No.	Combination of Consonants	English
1	ចក	to park
2	សក	to shed
3	លង	to haunt
4	ទង	stem
5	គង	type of Khmer musical instrument
6	កង	bracelet
7	កក	frozen
8	ឆក	bald
9	ដក	to subtract (from)
10	ពក	bump
11	ដង	carrying stick
12	ចង	to tie up
13	សង	to pay back
14	ពង	egg

Reading and Writing

Read the words in Table 2 and provide the missing consonants. Then check your answer against Table 1.

An example is given.

Table 2

Word	Missing consonants
to park	ប្រ+ក
to tie up	—+—
to pay back	—+—
to haunt	—+—
to subtract from	—+—
to shed	—+—
bald	—+—
frozen	—+—
egg	—+—
carrying stick	—+—
bracelet	—+—
bump	—+—

Combination of Consonants with Diacritic ប៉្រ

The diacritic ប៉្រ is placed over the final consonant symbol to shorten the vowel sound of that syllable and change the meaning of the word completely.

Examples:

- កក “frozen” to កក់ “to book”.
- ចង “to tie up” to ចង់ “to want”.

Use the audio and Table 3 below to learn how to pronounce the combination of consonants with diacritic ប៉្រ.

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Table 3

No.	Combination of consonants with diacritic	English
1	សង់	to build
2	សក់	hair
3	ទង់	flag
4	លង់	to drown
5	កក់	to book
6	ឆក់	to be electrocuted
7	កង់	bicycle
8	ចង់	to want
9	ចត់	bitter

Reading

Match the Khmer words with the English words.

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2.8: Tell us more about yourself.

Writing and Speaking

Write something about the following people using the information provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1

No.	Chmuah (Name)	Jon-jiat [1] (Nationality)	Bprɔɔ-dteh (Country)	Kaa-ngia (Occupation)	Kɔn-laeng tvəə-kaa (Workplace)
1	Francesco	ii-dtaa-lii	ii-dtaa-lii	kruu-bpeet	maa-lee-sii
Example 1	Francesco mook bp̄ii bprɔɔ-dteh ii-dtaa-lii. Koat jia jon-jiat ii-dtaa-lii. Koat jia kruu-bpeet. Koat tvəə-kaa nouw maa-lee-sii. Francesco is from Italy. He is Italian. He is a doctor. He works in Malaysia.				
2	Jasmine	in-dia	in-dia	kruu-bɔŋ-rian	thai
3	Andrew	bpree-sil	bpree-sil	ni-sət	aa-mee-rik
4	John	ɔŋ-lee	ɔŋ-lee	kruu-bpeet	kam-bpu-jia

Then record yourself answering the following questions and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Question:	Neak chmuah ey?	Neak jia jon-jiat ey?	Neak mook bp̄ii bprɔɔ -dteh naa?	Neak tvəə-kaa ey?	Neak tvəə-kaa nouw [2] naa?
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[1] The word **Jon-jiat** “Nationality” is placed in front of the country and it is often omitted in spoken language. For example: jon-jiat kaa-naa-daa “Canadian”.

[2] **Nouw** “at” is placed before **Naa** when asking about the location. For example: saa-laa neak nouw naa? “Where is your school?”

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2.9: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

Key Vocabulary

IPA	English
kruu-bɔŋg-rian	teacher
kruu-bpeet	doctor
jon-jiat	nationality
tvəə-kaa	to work
kɔn-laeng tvəə-kaa	workplace
kaa-gnia	occupation/job

Useful Expressions

IPA	English
khnhom jia kruu-bɔŋg-rian	I am a teacher.
joh-neak-venh?	how about you?
lia-səŋ-haəy!	bye!
khnhom məŋ-meen jia kruu-bɔŋg-rian dtee.	I am not a teacher.
som-toh	I am sorry.
ɔt-ey-dtee	That is alright.

Summary of Grammar Points

Grammar Point	Summary
“Yes” in Khmer:	Baat (for male speaker) and Jaa (for female speaker) are the terms for the English word “Yes”
Question sentence with “Dtau” and “Dtee”	“Dtau” is the initial particle in a question sentence. However, it is commonly used in written language and in formal situations. “Dtee” is another question particle placed at the end of the question sentence. · Dtau neak sok-sab-baay dtee? = How are you? · Neak sok-sa-baay dtee? = How are you?
Seeking confirmation with question mee- dtee “Is that right?”	The word “ meen-dtee ” can be translated as “right?” or “isn’t that so?”, and is placed at the end of a statement to seek confirmation or to confirm that you have made a correct assumption. There are several ways to respond to meen-dtee questions. You can either say meen-haəy or baat (if it is male) and jaa (if it is female).
Negative formers: ័t-dtee and men-dtee	The negative former “ ័t-dtee and mən-dtee ” are placed before the main verb and dtee at the end of the statement.
Question word: “Where”	The word Naa is the contraction of Ae-naa. However, Naa and Ey can be interchangeable when asking about the country you are from. Nouw “at” is placed before Naa when asking about the location. For example: saa-laa neak nouw naa? “Where is your school?”

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 3: I have one sibling.

- 3.1: Learning Objectives
- 3.2: Review from Chapter II
- 3.3: Khmer Numbers 1-100
- 3.4: The First and Second Series of Consonants
- 3.5: Family Relationships
- 3.6: Conversation- How many siblings do you have?
- 3.7: Question Word- Bpon-maan “How many?”
- 3.8: Introduction to Khmer Vowels
- 3.9: Possessive Adjective and Apostrophe + "s" ('s)
- 3.10: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

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3.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី៣៖ ខ្ញុំមានបងប្អូនម្នាក់។

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- read and write the second series of consonants.
- ask and talk about families and ages.
- count to 100.
- use the question word “how many” in different contexts.
- begin using Khmer classifiers appropriately.
- use the possessive adjective properly.
- read and write vowels.
- understand the combination of consonant and vowel (CV).

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3.2: Review from Chapter II

1. Choose the correct responses.
 2. Provide answers that fit the following questions.
 3. Complete the conversation with the negative former.
 4. Match Khmer words with English words.
-

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3.3: Khmer Numbers 1-100

The table below compares Cambodian numerals to their Arabic numeral counterparts. Listen to the audio below to learn the pronunciation.

Please note that numbers 6 through 9 are formed by adding 5: 5+1; 5+2; 5+3; and 5+4.

Table 1: Number 1-10

IPA	Khmer	English
soon	សូន្យ	zero
muay	មួយ	one
bp̥ii	ពីរ	two
bey	បី	three
buan	បួន	four
bpram	ប្រាំ	five
bpram-muay	រាំមួយ	six
bpram-bp̥ii	រាំពីរ	seven
bpram-bey	ប្រាំបី	eight
bpram-buan	ប្រាំបួន	nine
dɔp	ដប់	ten

Speaking

Record yourself counting from number 1 to 10 out loud and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Reading

Writing: Number 1–10

Download the worksheet below to practice writing numbers by following the directional arrows.

[Worksheet 1](#)

Listen to the audio below to learn how to pronounce numbers 11 to 20. Please note that 11 through 19 are formed by adding 10: 10+1; 10+2; 10+3; 10+4; and so on.

Table 2: Numbers 11-20

IPA	Khmer	Arabic numeral
dɔp-muay	ដប់មួយ	11
dɔp-bpii	ដប់ពីរ	12
dɔp-bey	ដប់បី	13
dɔp-buan	ដប់បួន	14
dɔp-bpram	ដប់ប្រាំ	15
dɔp-bpram-muay	ដប់ប្រាំមួយ	16
dɔp-bpram-bpii	ដប់ប្រាំពីរ	17
dɔp-bpram-bey	ដប់ប្រាំបី	18
dɔp-bpram-buan	ដប់ប្រាំបួន	19
m'phey	ម្ភៃ	20

Speaking

Record yourself saying numbers 11 through 20 in reverse order and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Listen to the audio below to learn how to pronounce numbers 30 through 100.

Table 3: Numbers 30-100

IPA	Khmer	Arabic numeral
saam-seb	សាមសិប	30
sae-seb	សែសិប	40
haa-seb	ហាសិប	50
hok-seb	ហុកសិប	60
jet-seb	ចិតសិប	70
bpaet-seb	ប៉ៃតសិប	80
kau-seb	កៅសិប	90
mauy-rooy	មួយរយ	100

Reading

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3.4: The First and Second Series of Consonants

Cambodian consonants are classified into two groups: Group “គ” (low registered sound or first series) and Group “ឃ” (high registered sound or second series).

The First and Second Series of Consonants

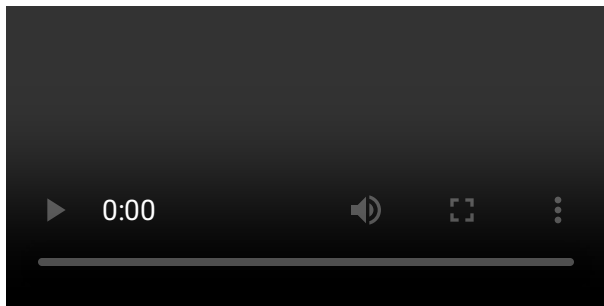
Table 1: First Series Consonants

	ក (k)	ក (k)	ក (k)	ក (k)	ក (k)
	ក (k)	ក (k)	ក (k)	ក (k)	ក (k)
6 consonants modified by diacritics Mousekatoan (“)	ក (y)	ក (r)	ក (v)	ក (gn)	ក (m)
	ក (nh)				
	ក (k)	ក (kh)	ក (caa)	ក (ch)	ក (d)

Table 1: Second Series Consonants

	ក (khoo)	ក (gnoo)	ក (doo)	ក (thoo)	ក (noo)
	ក (dtoo)	ក (thoo)	ក (bpoo)	ក (roo) r-/-r	ក (yoo) y-/-y
	ក (loo) l-/-l	ក (phoo)	ក (moo)	ក (nhoo)	ក (koo)
	ក (choo)	ក (joo)	ក (voo) v-/-v		
4 consonants modified by diacritics Treysap (្រ)	ក (hoo)	ក (soo)	ក (boo)	ក (oo)	

Watch the video tutorial and repeat each consonant out loud.



Writing

Download the worksheet below to practice writing consonants by following the directional arrows.

[Worksheet 1](#)

Reading

Watch the video again and match each of the first series consonant with its second series.

[1] The first series consonants “उ “ and “ऊ” have the same pronunciation. The words that are borrowed from Sanskrit are more often used with consonant उ .

[2] The second series consonants “ल “ and “ळ” have the same pronunciation. The consonant “ळ” is rarely used.

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3.5: Family Relationships

Reading and Writing

- Read through the list of vocabulary related to family (See Figure 1).
- Put the words on the arrows to show the relationships between the members of the family. An example (bpr័័-bpon= Wife) is provided.

 Family tree. Arrows of relationships point between father and his brother, parents and their three children (2 boys, one girl), and between the children. An already labeled arrow is between the father and mother.

 The same family tree is copied again, except arrows go both directions between the uncle and a nephew, and from the husband to his wife.

Figure 1:

Jii-dtaa : Grandfather
Jii-doon : Grandmother
Koon-srey : Daughter
Koon-bproh : Son
Koon-srey-bpouw : Youngest daughter
Koon-srey-jb័័ng : Oldest daughter
B័័ng-srey : Older sister
B័័ng-bproh: Older brother
P'oon-bproh : Younger brother
P'oon-srey: Younger sister
Bpr័័-bpon : Wife
Bdey: Husband
Bpuu : Uncle
Ming : Aunt
Kmuay-srey: Niece
Kumay-bproh: Nephew
B័័ng-p'oon jii-doon-muay: Cousin

Test Yourself:

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3.6: Conversation- How many siblings do you have?

The Classifier “Neak”

The classifier “**Neak**” is used for people. However, when **Muay** (one/a) is used with a classifier, it is contracted to **M’neak**.

Examples:

Khnhom mian koon-bproh **bpii neak**. “I have two sons.”

Compare with:

Koat mian koon-bproh **m’neak**. “He has a son.”

Listening

- Listen to Vathanak who is describing his siblings. After listening, answer the following questions.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 ————— 🔊 ⋮

- Listen to Vathanak’s friend Sophiap, who is talking about his siblings, and then compare his siblings to Sokha’s siblings.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 ————— 🔊 ⋮

- After listening to Sophiap’s description, answer the following questions:

Speaking

After listening to Sophiap and Vathanak, tell us about your siblings and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

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3.7: Question Word- Bpon-maan “How many?”

Bpon-maan is placed at the end of a statement to ask “How many?” and “How much?”. However, when asking about number of people, the classifier “**Neak**” is placed at the end of the statement. “**Neak**” is also placed at the end of the statement when answering to the question.

Examples:

- Q: Niang mian ប៉ាង-p’oon bpon-maan **neak**? “How many siblings does she have?”
- A: Niang mian ប៉ាង-p’oon bpil **neak**. “She has two siblings.”

Bpon-maan is also used to ask for a person’s age and the word **Chnam** “year” is placed at the end of question sentence. The word **Chnam** “year” is optional.

Examples:

- Neak mian koon **bpon-maan** neak? “How many children do you have?”
- Neak aa-yu **bpon-maan** chnam? “How old are you?”

Reading

- Vothy is writing a letter to his friend Nicolas, who is living in the U.S. Read his letter below and put the sentences in the correct order.



- After reading, answer the following questions:

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3.8: Introduction to Khmer Vowels

The Positions of Khmer Vowel Symbols

There are 24 dependent vowel symbols. The vowel symbol can be placed in front of, on top of, below, or around the consonant. However, the consonant sound always precedes the vowel sound. Vowels can either have long or short sounds. Please note that the dotted zero represents the position of the consonant.

Vowel Symbols: ្ដ/្ដ/្ដ/្ដ/្ដ/្ដ

Vowel symbols with phonetic scripts.

Use the audio and Table 1 to learn how to pronounce the vowel symbols.

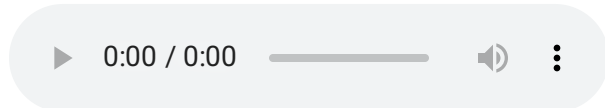
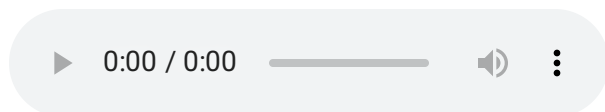


Table 1

No.	Vowel Symbol	Phonetic Script	Example
1	្ដ	/o/	ត្រី (table)
2	្ដ	/oo/	អ្នក (stream)/ដូរ (to exchange) /រ្ដ (to stir)
3	្ដ	/ua/	សួរ (to ask)/ខួរ (brain)
4	្ដ	/ee/	ត្រី (Otter)
5	្ដ	/ae/	ខែ (moon)/ត្រី (to mark)/ត្រី (tea)
6	្ដ	/ai/	ដៃ (hand)/ល្អ (lice)

Listening

In the following audio clip, one of the three words will be read out loud. Mark the word you hear using the following app.



Writing

Download the worksheet below to practice writing the first 6 vowels by following the directional arrows.

[Worksheet 1](#)

Reading

Match the Khmer words with their English translations.

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3.9: Possessive Adjective and Apostrophe + "s" ('s)

Possessive Adjectives

The word for “possessive adjectives” is **Roo-bɔh**. The possessive adjective is frequently omitted in spoken language.

Examples:

- Roo-bɔh Khnhom “my”
- Roo-bɔh koat “his”
- Roo-bɔh yəəng “our”

Table 1

Possessive Adjective with Singular Pronouns			Possessive Adjective with Plural Pronouns		
Transliteration	English	Khmer	Transliteration	English	Khmer
roo-bɔh khnhom	My	របស់ខ្ញុំ	roo-bɔh neak	Your ^[1]	របស់អ្នក
roo-bɔh neak	Your	របស់អ្នក	roo-bɔh yəəng	Our	របស់យើង
roo-bɔh koat	His	របស់គាត់	roo-bɔh bpuak-koat/bpuak-kee	Their	របស់ពួកគាត់/របស់ពួកគេ
roo-bɔh niang	Her	របស់នាង			

Apostrophe + "s" ('s)

The word for “of” is roo-bɔh and possession can be expressed using the pattern: noun+roo-bɔh+ possessor. The word roo-bɔh is frequently omitted in spoken language.

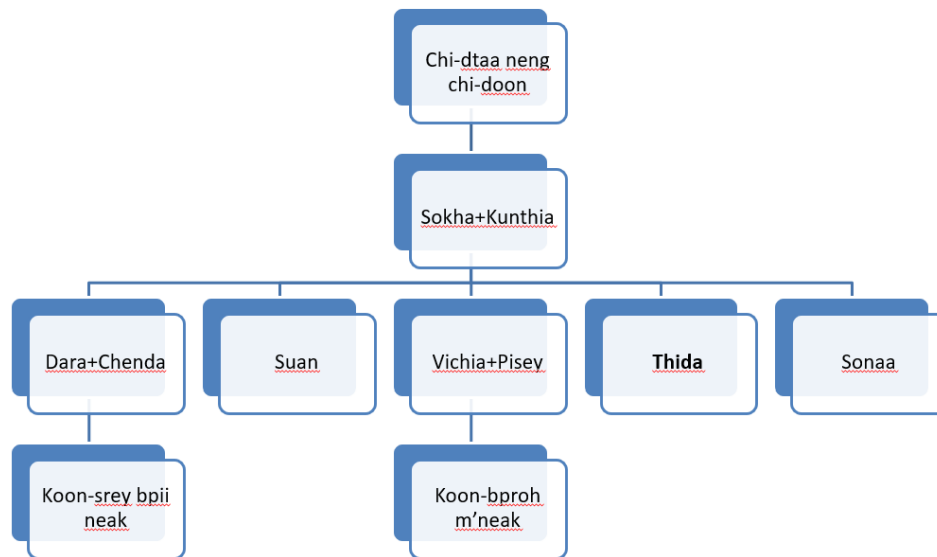
Examples:

- Laan roo-bɔh Thida= Thida’s car
- M’daay roo-bɔh Thida= Sokha’s mother

Listening

- Listen to the following passage about Thida’s family. Use the chart below to compare and spot mistakes in the passage.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 ———— 🔊 ⋮



Writing

After listening, rewrite the correct description of Thida's family and compare with the description below.

📌 The correct description of Thida's family

Ouw-bpok roo-bɔh Thida chmuah **Sokha** haəy koat aa-yu 45 chnam. M'daay roo-bɔh Thida chmuah Kunthia haəy koat aa-yu 42 chnam. Jii-dtaa roo-bɔh Thida aa-yu 75 chnam haəy jii-doon roo-bɔh Thida aa-yu 70 chnam. Thida mian bɔɔng-p'oon buan neak. Bpuak koat chmuah: Dara, **Piseth**, Vichia, Sonaa. Bprɔɔ-bpon roo-bɔh Dara chmuah Chenda haəy bpuak-koat mian koon-srey bpïï neak. Vichia riab-kaa jia-maay Pisey haəy bpuak-koat mian **koon-bproh** m'neak.

Reading

Read the correct description of Thida's family again and then the answer the true-false questions.

1. The possessive adjective for second-person plural pronoun is Roo-bɔh neak-taeng-bpïï "your". However, when referring to more than two people the second-person plural pronoun is "Roo-bɔh neak-taeng-ah-kina". ↩

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3.10: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

Useful Vocabulary

IPA	English
leek	number
krua-saa	family
sa-maa-chək	member
bɔɔŋg-p'oon	sibling
bpon-maan	how many/how much
mo-haa-vi-jia-lai	university
vi-jia-lai	high school
koon	children/kids
nəŋg	and
haəy	already

Useful Expressions

IPA	English
Khnhom mian bɔɔŋg-p'oon bpīi neak.	I have two siblings.
Koat mian koon-bproh m'neak.	I have a son.
Khnhom aa-yu sam-seb-buan chnam.	I am 34 years old.
koat riab-kaa haəy.	He got married already.
koat jia m'daay roo-bɔɔh khnhom.	She is my mother.

Grammar Point	Summary
Question word: bpon-maan	Bpon-maan is placed at the end of a statement to ask “How many?” and “How much?”. bpon-maan is also used to ask for a person’s age. For example: - Neak mian koon bpon-maan neak? “How many children do you have?” - Neak aa-yu bpon-maan? “How old are you?”
The classifier “Neak”	The classifier “ Neak ” is used for people with the question bpon-maan. However, when Muay (one) is used with a classifier, it is contracted to M'neak . For example: Koat mian koon-bproh m'neak. “He has a son.”
Possessive adjective “roo-bɔɔh”	The word for “of” is Roo-bɔɔh and possession can be expressed using the pattern: noun+roo-bɔɔh+ possessor. The word roo-bɔɔh is frequently omitted in spoken language.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 4: What time is it?

- 4.1: Learning Objectives
- 4.2: Review from Chapter III
- 4.3: What time is it in Phnom Penh?
- 4.4: The Abbreviations "a.m." and "p.m." in Khmer
- 4.5: Conversation- What time does your Khmer class start?
- 4.6: Vowel Symbols- ា/ាំ/ៃ/ើ
- 4.7: Conversation- What is your phone number?
- 4.8: Vowel Symbols- ី/ ឺ/ ឺ/ ឺ
- 4.9: The Combination of Consonants and Vowels
- 4.10: Key vocabulary and useful expressions

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4.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី៤៖ ម៉ោងប៉ុន្មានហើយ?

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

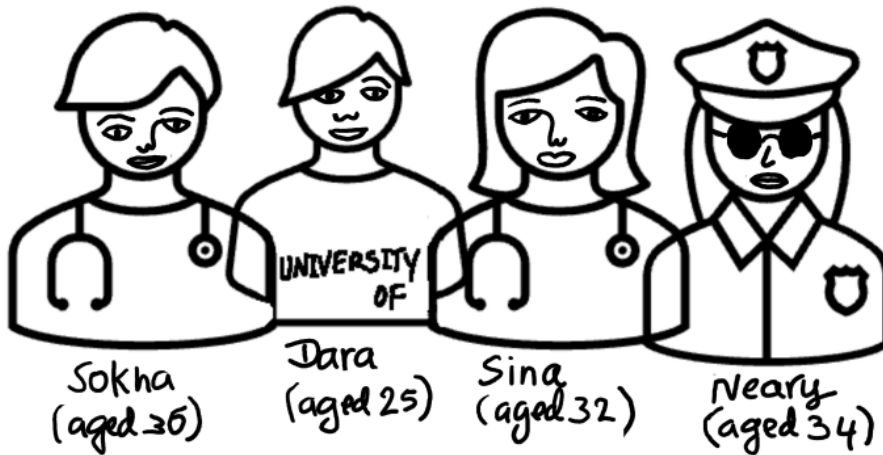
- ask for and tell the time using the question word ប៉ុន្មាន “How many?”.
- understand the abbreviation of “a.m.” and “p.m.” in Khmer.
- use time expressions with the particle “ហើយ” and “នៅ”.
- ask for and say a phone number using the question word ប៉ុន្មាន “How many?”.
- read and write more vowel symbols.
- understand the combination of consonant, vowel, and consonant (CVC).
- begin generating simple sentences.
- understand more subject pronouns in Khmer.

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4.2: Review from Chapter III

1. This is a picture of **Sina** with her brothers and sister. How should she answer if a Cambodian friend asks her these questions?



2. Complete the passage using the correct words provided.

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4.3: What time is it in Phnom Penh?



The whole-hour times are expressed by the pattern **Maong** (hour) + Number + **Haəy**. **Haəy** “already” is often added after the number word to mean “It’s ____o’clock”. To ask the time, the same pattern is used: Maong bpon-maan haəy, followed by the question mark.

Examples:

Q: Maong bpon-maan haəy nouw Phnom Penh?

“What time is it in Phnom Penh?”

A: Maong dɔp haəy nouw Phnom Penh?

“It is 10 o’clock in Phnom Penh.”

Minutes “**nia-dtii**” to the hour are expressed with the pattern: maong + number (of hour) + number (of minute) + nia-dtii. Nia-dtii “minute” and Vi-nia-dtii “Second”, followed by the numeral. Thirty minutes, sam-sap nia-dtii, can be stated as kɔnlɔh “half hour”.

Examples:

Q: Maong bpon-maan haəy nouw New York?

“What time is it in New York? ”

A: Moang dɔp sam-seb nia-tii yub[1] nouw New York.

“It is 10:30pm in New York.”

To express the “exact” hour, the word Kut is added after the number. The word Haəy “already” is often omitted when expressing the “exact” hour.

Examples:

Q: Maong bpon-maan haəy nouw Dubai? “What time is it in Dubai?”

A: Maong bpram-bey kut (haəy) nouw Dubai. “It is exactly 8 o’clock in Dubai.”

Speaking

- Look at the picture below and record yourself telling the time in each city.



[1] Please refer to section 4.3 to learn more about the abbreviations a.m. and p.m. in Cambodian.

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4.4: The Abbreviations "a.m." and "p.m." in Khmer

In Cambodian, the abbreviation a.m. and p.m. are expressed by the time of the day. Morning “bprə̀k”, Afternoon “roo-sial”, Evening “l’ngiach”, and Night “Yub” are used to denote what “a.m.” and “p.m.” are in English. See the examples in the table below.

a.m. and p.m. as expressed by time of day in Cambodian

a.m/p.m	Time of the day	Example
6:00 am/7:00 am/8:00 am/9:00 am/10:00 am/11:00 am	Morning “Bprə̀k”	Maong bpram muay bprə̀k haəy= It is 6:00 am .
12:00 pm/1:00 pm/2:00 pm/3:00 pm/4:00 pm/5:00 pm	Afternoon “Roo-sial”	Maong dɔp bp̄ii roo-sial haəy= It is 12:00 pm .
6:00 pm/7:00 pm	Evening “l’ngiach”	Maong bpram muay l’ngiach haəy= It is 6:00 pm .
8:00 pm/9:00 pm/10:00 pm/11:00 pm/12:00 pm	Night “Yub”	Maong bpram bey yub haəy= It is 8:00 pm .

Reading

Fill in the blanks below to communicate a.m. or p.m. in Khmer:

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4.5: Conversation- What time does your Khmer class start?



Listening

Listen to a conversation between Dara (A) and his father (B) and then tell whether Dara will be late for his Khmer class, or not, and why?

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 ———— 🔊 ⋮

Listen to the conversation again and fill in the blanks.

Reading

The schedule below is Dara's schedule for the day. Read and match the Khmer expressions to the English expressions.

What about you? What is your schedule like today?

Tell us about your schedule and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

[1] This term is used when speaking to your father, especially in educated urban families.

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4.6: Vowel Symbols- ာ/ါ/ဲ/ေါ

Vowel Symbols with Phonetic Scripts:

The first two vowel symbols listed in Table 1 are placed in front of the consonants and the other two are placed around the consonants. Please also note that the consonant sounds always precede the vowel sound.

Use the audio and Table 1 below to learn how to pronounce the vowel symbols.

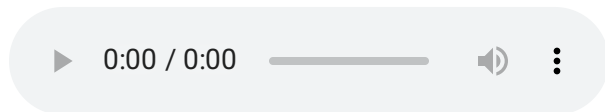


Table 1

No.	Vowel Symbol	Phonetic Script	Rhymes With	Example
1	ာ (long sound)	/aa/	far	မာ (message) က (cup)
2	ါ (long sound)	/am/	jump	ခါ (to wait) ခါ (to bite)
3	ဲ (long sound)	/ao/	fowl	မဲ (pants) မဲ (key)
4	ေါ (short sound)	/au/	out	မေါ (uncooked) မေါ (grandson)

Listening

Writing

Download the worksheet below to practice writing vowels by following the directional arrows and then read each vowel out loud.

[Worksheet 1](#)

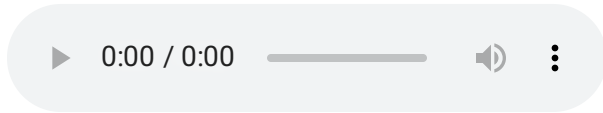
Reading and Speaking

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4.7: Conversation- What is your phone number?

Listening

- Listen to the conversation between Dara (A) and one of his friends from high school (B), whom he has not seen for ages. Then write the phone numbers they exchange using the app below.



- Thida and Sokha are making a list of telephone numbers of classmates. Listen and write the information.

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4.8: Vowel Symbols- ຶ/ ື/ ັ/ ົ

Vowel Symbols with Phonetic Scripts.

The vowel symbols listed in Table 1 are placed on top of the consonants.

Use the audio and Table 1 below to learn how to pronounce the vowel symbols.

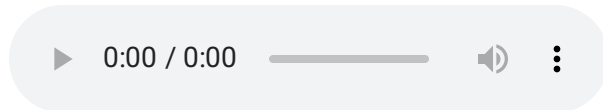


Table 1

No.	Vowel symbol	Phonetic script	Rhyme with	Example
1	ຶ (short sound)	/e/	Set	ລືໄ (west)
2	ື (short sound)	/ey/	They (with short vowel sound)	ື້ (three)
3	ັ (short sound)	/ə/	Ago	ຂີ້ (be angry)
4	ົ (long sound)	/əə/	Burble	ື້ (to suck water)

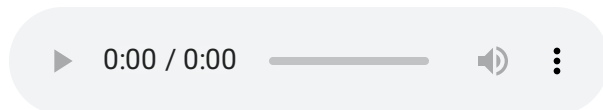
Writing and Speaking

Writing

Practice writing the vowels following the arrow signs and the numbers and read each vowel out loud. Please download the worksheet below to practice writing vowels.

Worksheet 1

In the following audio clip, one of the four words will be read out loud three times. Mark the word you will hear.



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4.9: The Combination of Consonants and Vowels

Generate Sentences in the Combination of C, CC, CV and CVC.

Read through the list of vocabulary you have learned and then write possible sentences using the vocabulary in the worksheet provided.

Worksheet 1

Please note that as long as the sentence makes some sort of sense, the grammatical point does not matter. It might not make sense in English but it does in Khmer.

Examples:

- តាចតកង់ = Grandfather parks a bicycle.
- តើខ្ញុំដៃ = Otter bites hand.

Test Yourself

Writing some of following brands in Khmer scripts and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

iPad	Samsung	Coca-Cola
		
_____	_____	_____

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4.10: Key vocabulary and useful expressions

Useful Vocabulary

IPA	English
moang	hour
nia-dtii	minute
vi-nia-dtii	second
nouw	at/in
bprək	morning
roo-sial	afternoon
l'ngiach	evening
yub	night
rian	to study
leek dtuu-roo-sab	Phone number
ey-louw-nih	now

Useful Expressions

IPA	English
Neak mian leek dtuu-roo-sab dtee?	What is your phone number?
Neak rian pia-saa Khmer maong bpon-maan?	What time does your Khmer class start?
Maong bpram-bey haəy!	It is 8 o'clock already!

Summary of Grammar Points

Grammar Point	Summary
Expressing the hour times	The hour times are expressed by the pattern Maong (hour) + Number + Haəy . Haəy “already” is often added after the number word to mean “It’s ____ o’clock”. To ask the time, same pattern is used: Maong bpon-maan haəy following by the question mark.
Expressing the minute	Minute “nia-dtii” to the hour are expressed with the pattern: maong + number (of hour) + number (of minute) + nia-tii. Nia-dtii “minute” and Vi-nia-dtii “second” followed by the numeral. Thirty minutes, sam sap nia-dtii, can be stated as kɔn-lah “half hour”.
Expressing the “exact” hour	To expression the “exact” hour, the word Kut is added after the number. The word Haəy “already” is often omitted when expressing the “exact” hour.
The abbreviation a.m and p.m in Khmer	In Cambodian the abbreviation a.m and p.m are expressed by the time of the day. Morning “bprək”, Afternoon “roo-sial”, Evening “l'ngiach” and Night “yub” are used to denote the a.m and p.m in English.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 5: I was born in 1985.

5.1: Learning Objectives

5.2: Review from Chapter IV

5.3: Time and Date

5.4: Do you know?

5.5: Vowel Symbols- ၵ်/ ၵျ်/ ၵ်း/ ၵ်း

5.6: Numbers 100–1,000,000

5.7: Vowel Symbols- ို/ ိုး/ ိုး

5.8: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

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5.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី៥៖ ខ្ញុំកើតឆ្នាំ១៩៨៥។

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- ask and talk about days of the week and months of the year.
- ask for and tell the time of the day.
- use more subject pronouns.
- read and write the rest of the vowel symbols.
- count to one million.
- write simple sentences by combining a consonant and vowel (CV) or by combining a consonant, vowel, and consonant (CVC).

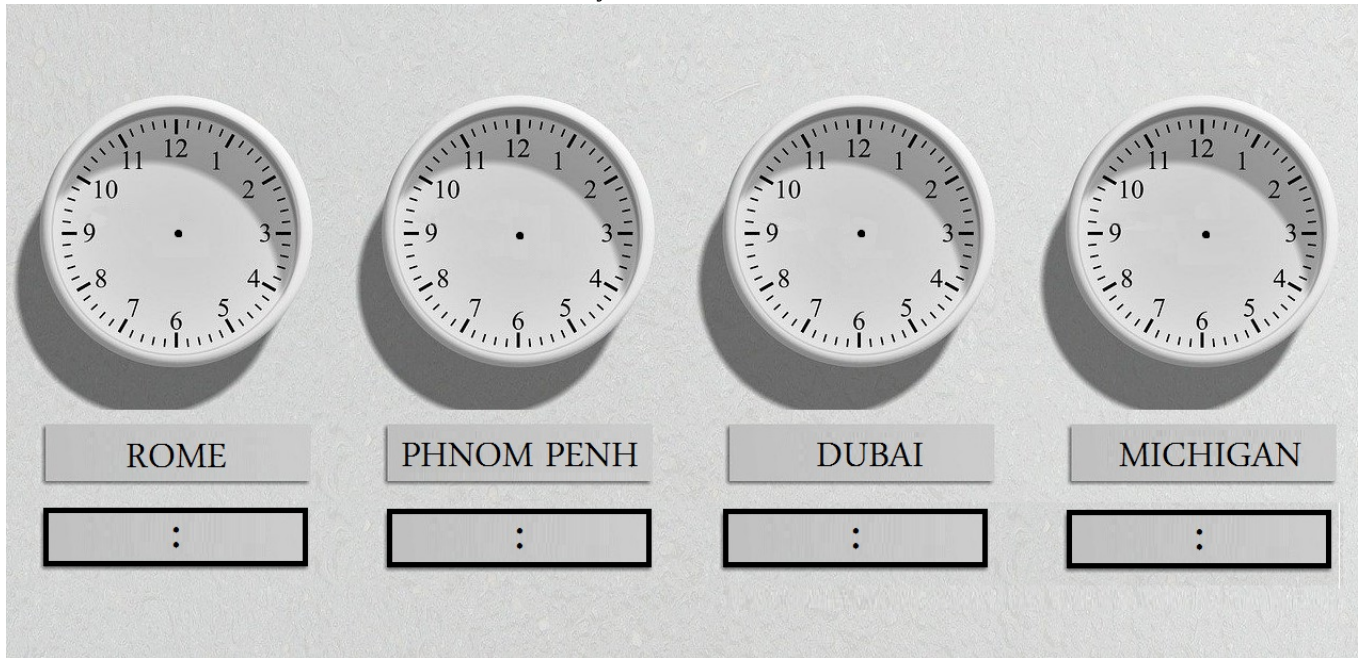
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5.2: Review from Chapter IV

1. Read the words below and mark the word that you think does not belong in the group.

2. Check the world time zone against your local time and draw in the hands of the clock to tell the current time. Then write the numbers in Khmer on each clock face. Share with your friends and teacher for feedback.



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5.3: Time and Date

Days of the Week

Table 1 shows the seven days of the week in Cambodian. Each day is preceded by the word T'ngai “day”.

The word “Aa-dtet” and “Sap-bpaa-daa” mean “week” and are used interchangeably; for example, Muay aa-dtet/muay sap-bpaa-daa “one week”.

Use Table 1 and the audio below to learn how to pronounce the days of the week.

Table 1

Transliteration	Khmer	English
T'ngai jan	ថ្ងៃច័ន្ទ	Monday
T'ngai ១ng-kia	ថ្ងៃអង្គារ	Tuesday
T'ngai bput	ថ្ងៃពុធ	Wednesday
T'ngai bpr១១-hoah	ថ្ងៃព្រហស្បតិ៍	Thursday
T'ngai sok	ថ្ងៃសុក្រ	Friday
T'ngai sau	ថ្ងៃសៅរ៍	Saturday
T'ngai aa-dtet	ថ្ងៃអាទិត្យ	Sunday

Test Yourself:

Put day of the week in the correct order.

What day is today?

The days of the week are expressed by the pattern: T'ngai-nih (today)+ jia (is)+ t'ngai ey? “what day is today?”. To answer the question, the same pattern is used: T'ngai-nih (today)+ jia (is)+ t'ngai following by the days of the week.

Examples:

Q: T'ngai-nih jia t'ngai ey? “What day is today?”

A: T'ngai-nih jia t'ngai sok. “Today is Friday.”

The Months of the Year

For beginners, the simplest way to say the month is to use the word Khae “month”+ dtii+ number. Like the days of the week, each month is preceded by the word lang=”km-fonipa” Khae “month”.

Examples:

- Khae dtii muay “first month”
- Khae dtii buan “fourth month”
- Khae dtii ១២ bpii “twelfth month”

Use Table 2 and the audio below to learn how to pronounce the months of the year.

Table 2

Transliteration	Khmer	English
meak-kaa-raa	មករា	January
kom-pheak	កុម្ភៈ	February
mi-naa	មិនា	March
mee-saa	មេសា	April
u-sa-phia	ឧសភា	May
mi-tho-naa	មិថុនា	June
kak-kaa-daa	កក្កដា	July
sey-haa	សីហា	August
kanh-nhaa	កញ្ញា	September
dto-laa	តុលា	October
vic-che-kaa	វិច្ឆិកា	November
thnuu	ធ្នូ	December

Test Yourself:

Listen and write the English translations for the months of the year in Khmer.

Time of the Day

To tell the time, the word ពេល “bpeel” is placed in front of the time of the day.

Table 3

Transliteration	Khmer	English
bpeel bprək	ពេលព្រឹក	in the morning
bpeel t'ngai dtrɔŋg	ពេលថ្ងៃត្រង់	at noon
bpeel roo-sial	ពេលរសៀល	in early afternoon
bpeel l'ngiach	ពេលល្ងាច	in the evening
bpeel yub	ពេលយប់	at night
bpeel aa-dtriat	ពេលអធ្រាត្រ	midnight

Test Yourself:

Put the times of day in sequential order.

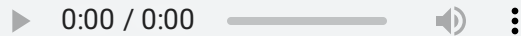
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5.4: Do you know?

In Cambodia, people still go to fortune tellers to predict their future and to discuss important decisions. Would you believe a fortune teller?

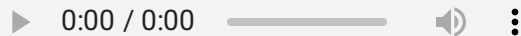
Listening

Listen to a fortune teller explain how you would be a lucky person based on when you were born.



Speaking

- After the first listening, listen to Vathanak talk about when he was born. According to the fortune teller, write whether he is a lucky person, if not, why?



- Answer the multiple-choice questions.

Are you one of the lucky people?

Speaking

Let us know by recording yourself answering to the following questions.

1. What day/month were you born?
2. At what time?
3. Time of day; in the morning/at night, etc...?

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5.5: Vowel Symbols- ៀ/ ឿ/ ែ៖/ ោ៖

The vowel symbols listed in Table 1 are placed around the consonants. The first two vowel symbols have long sounds and the latter two have short sounds.

Use the audio and Table 1 below to learn how to pronounce the vowel symbols.

AUDIO

Table 1

No.	Vowel Symbol	Phonetic Script	Rhymes With	Example
1	ៀ (long sound)	/Ia/	ear	បៀរ (beer)
2	ឿ (long sound)	/oeur/	—	ត្រឿ (to believe)
3	ែ៖ (short sound)	/eh/	best	ផែ៖ (house)
4	ោ៖ (short sound)	/oh/	boss	កោ៖ (island)

Speaking

Please record yourself reading the vowels out loud and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Writing

Download the worksheet below to practice writing vowels by following the directional arrows, then read each vowel out loud.

Reading

Drag the words into the correct order to make complete and meaningful sentences .

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5.6: Numbers 100–1,000,000

In the previous chapters, we learned the numbers 1–100. The following table shows the number from 100 to 1 million. Listen to the audio below to learn how to pronounce the numbers 100 through 1 million.

Two hundred onward is formed by bp̄ii+rooy, bey+rooy, and so on.

Table 1: 100–1,000,000

IPA	Khmer numeral	Khmer	English
1. muay-rooy	១០០	មួយរយ	one hundred
2. muay -bpoan	១.០០០	មួយពាន់	one thousand
4. muay- məən	១០.០០០	មួយម៉ឺន	ten thousand
5. muay- saen	១០០.០០០	មួយសែន	one hundred thousand
6. muay- lian	១.០០០.០០០	មួយលាន	one million

Years are expressed by the pattern Chnam (year)+Number.

Examples:

2021 “Chnam bp̄ii-bpoan m’phey-muay.”

1940 “Chnam muay-bpoan bpram-buan-rooy sae-seb.

Test Yourself

Match the number with the Cambodian figures below.

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5.7: Vowel Symbols- ំ/ ុំ/ ៖/ ុំ ៖

Vowel Symbols with Phonetic Scripts:

The vowel symbols listed in the Table 1 have long sounds. The vowel symbols are placed in different positions as shown in the table. However, the consonant sounds always precede the vowel sound.

Use the audio and Table 1 to learn how to pronounce the vowel symbols.

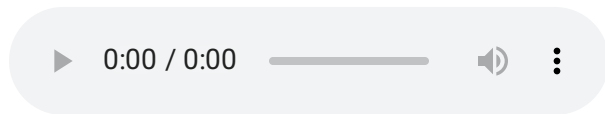


Table 1

No.	Vowel Symbol	Phonetic Script	Rhymes With	Example
1	ំ (short sound)	/ɔm/	complete	ខំ (to try hard)
2	ុំ (short sound)	/om/	dome (with short vowel sound)	ដុំ (piece)
3	៖ (short sound)	/ah/	ask	ស្ម័ (to be cured/healed)
4	ុំ ៖ (short sound)	/uh/	toss	ដុំ ៖ (to grow)

Listening and Writing

Please record yourself reading the vowels out loud and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Writing

Download the worksheet below to practice writing the first 6 vowels by following the directional arrows, then read each vowel out loud.

[Worksheet 1](#)

Reading and Writing

Provide words that make complete and meaningful sentences and then compare with your friends. An example is provided. The list of vocabulary you have learned is provided in the link below to help you with this exercise.

[List of vocabulary](#)

Example: សុខសង់ _____។

Answer: សុខសង់ទូក។ “Sok builds a boat.”

1. សេចក្តីជីក_____។
2. ចៅចង់ជីក_____។
3. ចៅខំប្រឹង_____។
4. តាសុំដាំ_____។
5. ចៅបេះចេក_____។

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5.8: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

Key Vocabulary

Transliteration	English
t'ngai	day
sa-bpaa-daa	week
khae	month
chnam	year
bpeel	time

Key Expressions

Transliteration	English
t'ngai nih jia t'ngai ey?	What day is today?
t'ngai nih jia t'ngai sok.	Today is Friday.
neak kaət t'ngai ey?	What day were you born?

Summary of Grammar Points

Grammar Point	Summary
Expressing the days of the week	The days of the week are expressed by the pattern: T'ngai-nih (today)+ jia (is)+ t'ngai ey? “what day is today?”. To answer the question, the same pattern is used: T'ngai-nih (today)+ jia (is)+ t'ngai, followed by the days of the week.
Expressing the months of the year	For beginners, the simplest way of saying the month is to use the word Khae “month”+ dtii+ number. Like the days of the week, each month is preceded by the word Khae “month”.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 6: I went to Cambodia last year.

6.1: Learning Objectives

6.2: Review from Chapter V

6.3: Time Expressions

6.4: Conversation- I taught Khmer in the U.S.

6.5: The Demonstrative Adjective Nih "This"

6.6: Vowel Sounds with First and Second Series

6.7: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

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6.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី៦៖ ខ្ញុំបានទៅស្រុកខ្មែរឆ្នាំមុន។

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- use past tense in Khmer properly.
- say past time expressions correctly in sentences.
- use demonstrative adjective “This” in combination of time expressions in Khmer.
- utilize the first and second series sound of vowel symbols.
- ask questions using question word “When”.

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6.2: Review from Chapter V

Time of day

Review of consonants and vowels

Read through the words in each column and add another relevant word that you have learned to each group. Compare your answers with your friends. The list of vocabulary you have learned is provided in the link below.

List of vocabulary: [Overview_ Khmer Consonants and Vowels](#)

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
សេ៖	ខែ	កង់	លេង	ដូង	កោរ	ចេះ
ភេ	ដី	កង	ប៊ីត	បៀវ	កែ	ស្អរ
ចៃ	កោះ	កា	បិទ	ចេក	អេះ	ឆា
ច	អូ	សោ	សង់	តែ	ដាំ	កែ
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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6.3: Time Expressions

In Cambodian, verbs are not conjugated to indicate past or future. Time expressions such as **M'səl-menh** “Yesterday” and **S'aek** “Tomorrow” are used to indicate tenses. Another way to express past or future tense is to add “**Mun**” or “**Kraoy**”.

Examples:

“Mun”

Aa-dtet-mun= last week

Khae-mun= last month

Chnam-mun= last year

“Kraoy”

Aa-dtet-kraoy = next week

Khae-kraoy = next month

Chnam-kraoy = next year

Test Yourself

Match English words to Khmer words:

Past Expressions

We will be discussing the future tense and the related expressions in a future chapter.

Listening

Listen to one of the Khmer pop songs by Sinn Sisamouth.

After the listening, tell how many times of following words you can hear.

1. M'səl-menh=Yesterday
2. T'ngai-mun=Last time



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6.4: Conversation- I taught Khmer in the U.S.

Past Tense

To express a past-tense action, the particle Baan “បាន” is placed in front of the main verb. However, the particle is often omitted when the context is clear or the past expressions are introduced in the sentence.

Examples:

- Khnhom **baan** rian pia-saa Khmer chnam mun. “I learned Khmer last year.”
- Khnhom **baan** pək dtae m’səl menh. “I drunk tea yesterday.”

Reading

Form past statements. Rearrange the sentences in the correct order.

Example:

pia-saa/baan/rian/niang/Khmer.

Niang baan rian pia-saa Khmer.

Reading

Complete the conversation between Rebecca (A) and her friend, Sinaa (B). Use the expressions provided.

Then answer the true/false questions.

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6.5: The Demonstrative Adjective Nih "This"

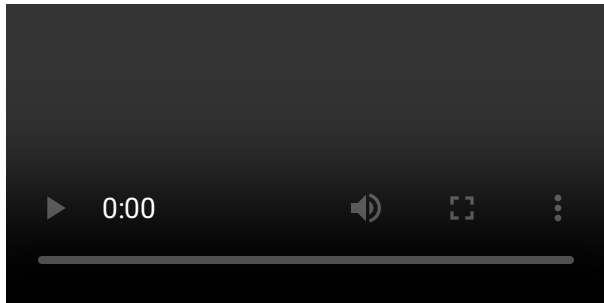
Nih "This" and Time Expressions

To indicate a more specific period of time, expressions such as **Bprək nih** "this morning", **Aa-dtet nih** "this week," **Khae nih** "this month", and **Chnam nih** "this year" are used.

The years are expressed by the pattern Chnam (year)+Number. For example: 2021 "chanm bp̄ii-bpoan m'phey-muay "

Listening and Speaking

Suppose Cambodian people in the video below ask you these questions, how would you respond?



Khmer	Questions in Transliteration	English
១. ថ្ងៃនេះជាថ្ងៃអង្គារ ស្អែកជាថ្ងៃអី?	1. T'ngai nih jia t'ngai ɔŋg-kee s'aek jia t'ngai ey?	1. Today is Tuesday. What day is tomorrow?
២. ខែទី១២គឺជា[១]ខែអី?	2. Khae dtii dɔb-bpii keu jia khae ey?	2. What is the twelfth of the year ?
៣. ខែទីប្រាំគឺជាខែអី?	3. khae dtii bpram keu jia khae ey?	3. What is the fifth of the year?
៤. ថ្ងៃនេះជាថ្ងៃសុក្រ ម្សិលមិញជាថ្ងៃអី?	4. T'ngai nih jia t'ngai sok m'səl-menh jia t'ngai ey?	4. Today is Friday. What day was yesterday?
៥. ឆ្នាំនេះជាឆ្នាំ២០១៤ ឆ្នាំក្រោយជាឆ្នាំអី?	5. Chnam nih jia chnam bp̄ii-bpoan dɔb-baun chnam kraoy jia chnam ey?	5. This is 2014. What is the next?
៦. ឆ្នាំមុនជាឆ្នាំអី?	6. Chnam mun jia chnam ey?	6. What was the previous year?

Speaking

Record yourself responding to the questions and share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

[1] គឺជា is the full version of ជា "To be".

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6.6: Vowel Sounds with First and Second Series

Irregular Vowels: ្ម / ្រ / ្ល / ្វ / ្ឝ

Each vowel can have two sounds depending on the consonants used. However, there are five vowel symbols in Table 1 that are pronounced the same regardless of the series of the consonants.

Use the audio and Table 1 to learn how to pronounce the five vowel symbols.

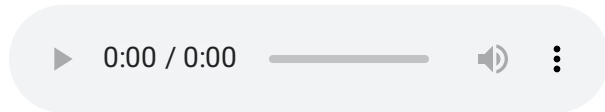


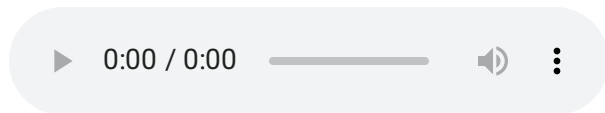
Table 1

Vowel	With First Series Consonant	With Second Series Consonant
1. ្ម (ua)	ស្ម័ន (to ask)	យ្ម័ន(to carry)
2. ្រ (ee)	ស្រ័ន (to sew)	យ្រ័ន (otter)
3. ្ល (ə)	ស្ល័ន (to transport)	យ្ល័ន (water)
4. ្វ (ia)	ស្វ័ន (beer)	យ្វ័ន (to gather up)
5. ្ឝ (oeur)	ស្ឝ័ន (dwarf)	យ្ឝ័ន (to believe)

The Pronunciation of the First and Second Series Vowels

Each vowel is pronounced in two different ways. When combined with a first series consonant, it takes the first series value (in bold), and when combined with a second series consonant, it takes the second series value.

Use the audio and Table 2 below to learn the pronunciations of vowel sounds with the first and second series consonants.



Vowel Sounds with First and Second Series Consonants

Table 2

No.	Vowels	IPA	Examples
1.	្ា	o	តុ (table)
		u	លុយ (money)
2.	្ិ	oo	អូរ (stream)
		uu	គូ (to draw)
3.	្ុ	ae	កែ (to correct)
		ee	តែ (otter)
4.	្ូ	ai	ដៃ (hand)
		ey	ងៃ (cicada)
5.	ា	aa	កា (cup)
		ia	ទា (duck)
6.	ាំ	am	ចាំ (to wait)
		oam	រាំ (to dance)
7.	ា	ao	កា (to shave)
		oo	អូរ (stream)
8.	ៅ	au	ចៅ (Grandson)
		ouw	ទៅ (to go)
9.	ិ	e	លិច (west)
		i	មិនា (March)
10.	ិ	ey	បី (Three)
		ii	ពីរ (two)
11.	ឹ	əə	កឹ (to burp)
		eu	ឈឺ (sick)
12.	ិ៖	eh	ប្រះ (to pick up fruit)
		ih	នេះ (this)
13.	ៅ៖	ɔh	កោះ (island)
		uah	តោះ (to knock)
14.	ំ	ɔm	ដំ (to pound)
		əɪ	ធំ (big)
15.	្ា	om	សុំ (to ask for something)
		əɪ	ទុំ (ripe)
16.	ិ៖	ah	សះ (to heal)
		eah	ទះ (to slap)

No.	Vowels	IPA	Examples
17.		oh	မှီ (to grow)
		uh	ဇူ (to be boiling of water)

Speaking

Record yourself pronouncing vowel sounds with first and second series consonants and then share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

Listening and Writing

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6.7: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

Key Vocabulary

IPA	English
m'səl-menh	yesterday
t'ngai-nih	today
s'aek	tomorrow
khae-mun	last month
khae-kraoy	next month
nih	this
noh	that
dtii noh	there
m'dɔŋg dtiat	again
bpeel-naa	when
bɔŋg-rian	to teach
dtouw	to go
mook	to come

Key Expressions

IPA	English
Khnhom baan bɔŋg-rian pia-saa Khmer.	I taught Khmer.
Koat baan dtouw kam-bpu-jia chnam-mun.	He went to Cambodia last year.
Neak baan dtouw kam-bpu-jia bpeel-naa?	When did you go to Cambodia?

Summary of Grammar Points

Grammar Point	Summary
Past tense in Khmer	To express a past-tense action, the particle Baan “បាន” is placed in front of the the main verb. However, the particle is often omitted when the context is clear or the past expressions are introduced in the sentence Examples: - I learned Khmer last year. Khnhom baan rian pia-saa Khmer chnam-mun. ខ្ញុំបានរៀនភាសាខ្មែរឆ្នាំមុន។ - I drank tea yesterday. Khnhom baan pək dtae m’səl-menh. ខ្ញុំបានផឹកតែម្សិលមិញ។
Nih “This” and time expressions	To indicate a more specific period of time, expression such as Bprək-nih “this morning”, Aa-dtet-nih “this week”, Khae-nih “this month” and Chnam-nih “this year” are used.
Time expressions	In Cambodian, verbs are not conjugated to indicate past or future. Time expressions such as M’səl-menh “Yesterday”, T’ngai-nih “Today” and S’aek “Tomorrow” are used to indicate tenses. Another way to express past or future tense is to add “Mun” or “Kraoy”.

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 7: I want to be a teacher.

- 7.1: Learning Objectives
- 7.2: Review from Chapter VI
- 7.3: Conversation- I want to be a teacher too.
- 7.4: Sub-Consonants
- 7.5: Conversation- I do not like this job very much.
- 7.6: When I was a child. . .
- 7.7: "Used to" + Infinitive
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7.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី៧៖ ខ្ញុំចង់ធ្វើជាគ្រូពេទ្យ។

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- talk about some occupations and professions.
- use expressions related to occupations and professions
- properly use the word *also* “ដែរ”.
- apply sub-consonants and consonant clusters.
- use the modifiers មិនសូវ “not very/not so” and ណាស់ “very”.
- ask and talk about what you used to do when you were a child.
- use the conjunctions ពេល “When” and ប៉ុន្តែ “But”.
- use the expression ធ្លាប់ “used to” and the word នៅ “at” as the past tense of “to be”.

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7.2: Review from Chapter VI

Sound of vowel symbols

Mark the vowel symbols that are pronounced the same regardless of the series of the consonants they are combined with.

Time expressions

Choose the correct answers.

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7.3: Conversation- I want to be a teacher too.

Culture Differences in Cambodia

Is it rude that you ask someone in Cambodia about their job and how much they earn? To find out, please watch the video below.



I want to be a teacher.

Unlike English, Cambodian does not have the infinitive form of “To”. The base verb form is used after the main verb.

Examples:

- Khnhom jɔŋg pə̀k dtə̀k. “I want to drink water.”
- Khnhom jɔŋg tvə̀ə-jia kruu-bpeet. “I want to be a teacher.”

Listening

Listen to a group of students telling their teacher about what they want to do in the future and then arrange the following sentences.



▶ 0:00 / 0:00 ———— 🔊 ⋮

The Word Daer “also” in Khmer

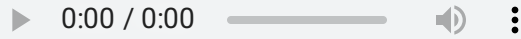
The word Daer “also/as well” is placed at the end of a sentence.

Examples:

- Khnhom bŏng-rian pia-saa Khmer daer. “I also teach Khmer.”
- Khnhom pə̀k sraa daer. “I also drink wine.”

Listening

Listen to the conversation between Thida and her friends and then answer the true/false questions.



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7.4: Sub-Consonants

Some sub-consonants are smaller versions of consonants and some are without the top part of the consonant which is called the SOK “Hair” of the consonant.

Sub-Consonants as Smaller Versions of Consonants

Table 1: Sub-Consonants as Smaller Versions of Consonants

ខ	ខ
ហ	ហ
អ	អ
ឈ	ឈ
ព	ព
ណ	ណ

Sub-Consonants without the Top Part of the Consonant

Table 2: Sub-Consonants without the Top Part of the Consonant

ក	ក
គ	គ
ឃ	ឃ
ង	ង
ន	ន
ត	ត

Writing

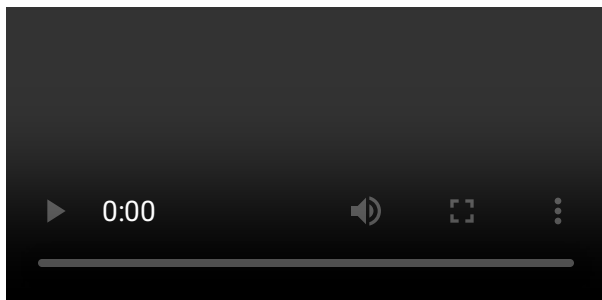
Download the worksheet below to practice writing sub-consonants by following the directional arrows.

[Worksheet 1](#)

Reading

[Why Sub-Consonants?](#)

Video tutorial:



The Remaining Sub-Consonants

Writing

Download the worksheet below to practice writing the remaining sub-consonants by following the directional arrows.

Reading

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7.5: Conversation- I do not like this job very much.

The Construction មិនសូវ...ទេ “mən-souw...dtee”

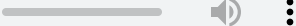
The construction មិនសូវ...ទេ “mən-souw...dtee” meaning “not really, not very, not much” is used to indicate partiality and it is placed before the main verb.

Examples:

- Khnhom **mən-souw** jam **dtee**. “I do not remember much.”
- Niang **mən-souw** ni-yiay **dtee**. “She does not talk much.”

Listening and Reading

Listen to the conversation between Dara and Sok and describe whether they like their jobs.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 

After listening, read the conversation again and answer the true/false questions.

A: អេ! សុខធ្វើការនៅធនាគារនេះ មែនទេ?

B: បាទ!

A: សុខចូលចិត្តការងារនេះទេ?

B: ខ្ញុំមិនសូវចូលចិត្តការងារនេះទេ។ ចុះជាវី ធ្វើការអីដែរ?

A: ខ្ញុំជាគ្រូពេទ្យ។

B: អូ! វាបានប្រាក់ខែច្រើនហើយមើលទៅ។

A: អី!! ខ្ញុំឈប់ធ្វើជាគ្រូពេទ្យយូរហើយ។

B: អូ! ហេតុអី?!

A: ពីព្រោះ ខ្ញុំមិនចូលចិត្តការងារនោះទេ។

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7.6: When I was a child. . .

ពេលខ្ញុំនៅតូច. . . (When I was a child. . .)

The verb “To be” ជា is replaced by the word នៅ “at” when talking about the past with the simple past, for example:

Example:

- Khnhom ចង់ ធ្វើ គ្រូបង្រៀន ក្នុង ពេល ខ្ញុំ ជា កុមារ ។ “I wanted to be a teacher when I was a child.”
- Niang ចង់ ធ្វើ គ្រូបង្រៀន ក្នុង ពេល ខ្ញុំ ជា កុមារ ។ “She wanted to be a doctor when she was a child.”

Guess what celebrities wanted to do when they were a child.

		
“Niang ចង់ ធ្វើ គ្រូបង្រៀន ក្នុង ពេល ខ្ញុំ ជា កុមារ ។” What did she want to do when she was a child?	“Koat ចង់ ធ្វើ គ្រូបង្រៀន ក្នុង ពេល ខ្ញុំ ជា កុមារ ។” What did he want to do when he was a child?	“Niang ចង់ ធ្វើ គ្រូបង្រៀន ក្នុង ពេល ខ្ញុំ ជា កុមារ ។” What did she want to do when she was a child?

Speaking

Record yourself saying what you think those celebrities wanted to do when they were a child and then share it with your friends/teacher for further feedback.

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7.7: "Used to" + Infinitive

We use ធ្លាប់ “used to” to talk about habits or repeated actions in the past which we don’t do in the present. We also use it to talk about states in the past which are no longer true. The word ធ្លាប់ is placed in front of the main verb.

Examples:

- Khnhom thloab pək dtae. “I used to drink tea.”
- Khnhom thloab dam daəm jeek. “I used to plant banana trees.”

Tell us what you used to do in the past.

Read and complete the following sentences, and then compare with your friends. Do you and your friends have anything in common?

១. Nouw vi-jia-lai khnhom thloab...
២. Khnhom thloab...bpon-dtae khnhom mən tvəə via dtiat dtee.
៣. Bpeel khnhom nouw dtooch khnhom thloab...
៤. Roal t’ngai aa-dtet khnhom nəng bōng-srey khnhom thloab...

Reading

Read the conversation between Sothy (A) and Seymaa (B) about childhood memories. What were their childhood memories?

- A: Nih jia ruub-tōt bpeel Seymaa nouw dtooch meen-dtee?
- B: Jaa! nih jia bōng-bproh khnhom. Khnhom nəng bōng-bproh khnhom thloab leeng klaeng bpeel yəəng nouw dtooch.
- A: Meen-reu?
- B: Jaa! roal bprək yəəng baan dtouw leeng klaeng nouw suan-jbaa.
- A: Sa-baay nas meen-dtee?
- B: Jaa! joh Sothy jool-jet tvəə ey bpeel nouw dtooch.
- A: Khnhom jool-jet leeng sey bpeel khnhom nouw dtooch bpon-dtae bōng-srey khnhom mən jool-jet via dtee.

Answer the following true/false questions.

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7.8: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

Key Vocabulary

IPA	English
jɔŋg	to want
jɔm-naek khnhom venh/jɔm-naek khnhom	as for me. . .
jool-jet	to like
haet-ey?	why?
thoo-nia-kia	bank
klaeng	kite
suan-jbaa	park
sey	badminton

Key Expressions

IPA	English
Khnhom thloab jia kruu-peet.	I used to be a doctor.
koat jɔŋg tvəə-jia kruu bɔŋg-rian.	She wanted to be a teacher.
koat jɔŋg tvəə-jia kruu bɔŋg-rian daer.	He wanted to be a teacher too.
Khnhom mən-souw jool-jet kaa-ngia nih dtee.	I do not like this job very much.
khnhom chob tvəə kaa-ngia nih yuu haəy.	I quit that job a long time ago.
meen-dtee?	Is that right?
khnhom ɔt tvəə via dtia dtee.	I do not do it anymore.

Summary of Grammar Points

Grammar Point	Summary
Infinitive form	Unlike English, Cambodian does not have the infinitive form of “To”. The base verb form is used after the main verb, for example, I want to drink water. “khnhom jɔŋ pək dtək.”
The word Daer “also” in Khmer	The word Daer “also, too, as well” is placed at the end of a sentences, for example: I also teach Khmer. “Khnhom bɔŋ-rian pia-saa Khmer daer.”
The past simple of “To be”	The verb “To be” Jia is replaced by the word Nouw “at” when talking about the the simple past, for example: I wanted to be a teacher when I was a child. “Khnhom jɔŋ tvəə- jia kruu-bɔŋ-rian bpeel khnhom nouw dtooch.”
“Used to”+ infinitive	We use Thloab “used to” to talk about habits or repeated actions in the past that we don’t do in the present. We also use it to talk about states in the past which are no longer true. The word Thloab is placed in front of the main verb, for example: I used to drink tea. “Khnhom thloab pək dtək.”
The construction មិនសូវ...ទេ “mən souw ..dtee”	The construction មិនសូវ...ទេ “mən-souw...dtee” meaning “not really, not very, not much” is used to indicate partiality and it is placed before the main verb. អត់សូវ...ទេ “ət- souw...dtee” is its alternative. The construction “ mən-souw...bpon-maan- dtee ” has exactly the same meaning of “ mən-souw...dtee ”

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CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 8: Can I meet him today?

- 8.1: Learning Objectives
- 8.2: Review from Chapter VII
- 8.3: Conversation- He is available this afternoon.
- 8.4: Conjunctions in Khmer- ហើយ “and” ប៉ុន្តែ “but” and ដូច្នេះ “so”
- 8.5: Conversation- Can I speak to Mr. Saan?
- 8.6: The Diacritics “ ៉ ” and “ ័ ”
- 8.7: Making Appointments with a Government Official
- 8.8: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

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8.1: Learning Objectives



ជំពូកទី៨៖ ខ្ញុំសុំជួបគាត់ថ្ងៃនេះបានទេ?

Learning Objectives

At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- make appointments in person or via telephone.
- use expressions related to arranging meetings and appointments.
- make requests with pattern “សុំ...បានទេ”.
- express politeness and respect with the word “សូម”.
- properly use Khmer conjunction ដូច្នេះ “So”.
- understand the diacritic “ ៉ ” and “ ័ ”.
- use Khmer adverb of time “before and after”.

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8.2: Review from Chapter VII

Sub-consonants

Match the sub-consonants with the consonants.

“Used to” ធ្លាប់ or “Baan” បាន

Complete the sentences with “Used to” ធ្លាប់ or “Baan” បាន.

The incorrect sub-consonant

Mark on the consonant that has its sub-consonant clustered incorrectly.

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8.3: Conversation- He is available this afternoon.

Reading

Read the following conversation between John (A) and Rita (B), the secretary of Mr. Sau. Please note that half of the dialogue is in Khmer script and the other half is in English.

A: ជម្រាបសួរ! ខ្ញុំឈ្មោះ ចន ។ ខ្ញុំជាអ្នកស្រាវជ្រាវមកពី ប្រទេសអាមេរិក។ សុំទោស! លោក សៅ នៅ^[1]ទីនេះទេ?

B: Yes, he is. What can I help you with?

A: អូ! ខ្ញុំចង់ជួបលោក សៅ ថ្ងៃនេះ។ លោក សៅ ទំនេរទេ?

B: Mr. Sau is busy. He is available this afternoon.

A: អូ! ខ្ញុំសុំជួបលោក សៅ នៅ^[2]ម៉ោងបួនរសៀលបានទេ?

B: ចា! បាន

A: Thank you!

After reading, answer the following questions.

1. When talking about where someone or something is situated, the verb “To be” is replaced by the word នៅ “at”. ↩
2. In colloquial speaking, the word នៅ “at” is dropped when talking about time, for example, “at 11 am” =នៅម៉ោង១២ព្រឹក or ម៉ោង១២ព្រឹក.” ↩

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8.4: Conjunctions in Khmer- ហើយ “and” ប៉ុន្តែ “but” and អ៊ីចឹង “so”

Grammar in Context

The entire conversation in section 8.2 is now in Khmer. Read the conversation again and fill in the blanks with the conjunctions you think best fit the sentences.

Reading

Complete the sentences using the conjunctions provided.

This page titled [8.4: Conjunctions in Khmer- ហើយ “and” ប៉ុន្តែ “but” and អ៊ីចឹង “so”](#) is shared under a [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Vathanak Sok](#) via [source content](#) that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.5: Conversation- Can I speak to Mr. Saan?

Reading

Read the conversation between Smith (A), Sinaa (B), and Mr. Saan (C). Compare it to the previous dialogue in section 8.3.

A: អាឡូ ជម្រាបសួរ! B: ចា! ជម្រាបសួរ!
A: ខ្ញុំសុំនិយាយជាមួយលោក សាន បានទេ?
B: ចាំបន្តិច!
C: អាឡូ!
A: អាឡូ! ជម្រាបសួរលោក សាន្ត^[1]។ ខ្ញុំឈ្មោះ ស្ទីត ខ្ញុំជាគ្រូបង្រៀន ហើយយើងបានជួបគ្នានៅអាមេរិកឆ្នាំ២០១៩។
C: អូ! ស្ទីតសុខសប្បាយទេ? ស្ទីតនៅកម្ពុជាមែនទេ?
A: ឥឡូវនេះខ្ញុំនៅភ្នំពេញ។
C: ល្អណាស់! ស្ទីតមានលេខទូរសព្ទទេ?
A: បាទ! ខ្ញុំមាន។ លេខ ០១២ ៥៦៧ ៧២០។

After reading, answer the following questions.

The Expressions “សុំ” and “សូម”

To make a request, the pattern **សុំ...បានទេ** is used, for example: ខ្ញុំសុំជួបលោកស្ទីតបានទេ? “Can I meet Mr. Smith?”. **សូម** “Please” is used to indicate the politeness. However, from time to time, the word “សូម” and “សុំ” are interchangeably used.

Compare:

- សូមចាំទីនេះ។ “Please wait here.”
- សុំជួបលោកសុខបានទេ? “Can I meet Mr. Sok?”

Reading

Read the conversation again and then fill in the blanks with “សុំ” and “សូម” where you think appropriate.

1. [1] In written Cambodian, a sub-consonant that is placed under a final consonant of a word is not pronounced. ↩

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8.6: The Diacritics “ ̊ ” and “ ̋ ”

This symbol “ ̊ ” is called **dtrey-sap**. When it is placed above the first series consonants, it converts the first series consonants ហ ស ឬ អ into the second series consonants:

Compare:

- ហាន “haan” and ហ̊ាន “hian”

- សូ “soo” and ស̊ូ “suu”

Reading

Choose the correct answers.

This symbol “ ̋ ” is called **tmenh kɔn-dao**. It means “rat’s teeth” and it does the opposite of the symbol “ ̊ ” that is mentioned above. When placed above the second series consonants, it converts the second consonants យ ម ណ ឆ ង ញ into the first series consonants.

Compare:

- យា “yia” and យ̋ា “yaa”

- មា “mia” and ម̋ា “maa”

However, when it is placed above the first series consonant ប, the sound of the consonant changes from “b” to “bp”.

Compare:

- បះ “bah” and ប̋ះ “bpah”

- ប៉ “bo” and ប̋៉ “bpo”

Listening and Writing

Dictate what you hear.

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8.7: Making Appointments with a Government Official

Making Appointments with a Government Official

Reading

- Read the conversation between Mr. Sim Sipaa (C) and his secretary (B) and Mr. Smith (A). Then describe whether or not Mr. Sam Sipaa and his secretary were nice and polite to Mr. Smith during the telephone call.

A: ជម្រាបសួរ! ខ្ញុំឈ្មោះ “ស្ទីត” ជាតំណាងក្រុមហ៊ុនឈ្មោះ អង្គរឆ្មារ។ ខ្ញុំសុំជួបលោក សំ ស៊ីផា បានទេ?

B: ចា! ចាំបន្តិចសិន ខ្ញុំនឹងភ្ជាប់ទៅលោក សំ ស៊ីផា ជូន។

C: អ្នកណាគេហ្នឹង? មានការអីដែរ?

A: បាន! ខ្ញុំចង់បើកក្រុមហ៊ុនមួយ។ តើត្រូវធ្វើអ្វីខ្លះ?

C: ណាត់ពេលជាមួយលេខា ហើយមកការិយាល័យថ្ងៃច័ន្ទអាទិត្យក្រោយ។

B: ថ្ងៃច័ន្ទអាទិត្យក្រោយ ម៉ោងដប់ព្រឹក លោកទំនេរទេ?

A: បាន! ខ្ញុំទំនេរ។ សូមអរគុណច្រើន។ ជម្រាបលា!

B: ជម្រាបលា!

- Read the conversation again then answer the following questions.

What to Say at the Start of a Phone Call

Reading

Look at the sentences and drag them into the correct order of what to say (1) at the start of the call, (2) during the conversation, and (3) at the end of the conversation.

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8.8: Key Vocabulary and Useful Expressions

Key Vocabulary

IPA	English
dtom-nee	available/free
roo-vol	busy
ey-jəŋg	so/therefore
kaa-ri-yaa-lai	office
nat bpeel	to make an appointment
mian nat	to have an appointment

Key Expressions

IPA	English
khnhom jəŋg juab koat.	I want to meet him.
Koat kəŋm-pong brəŋŋ-jom.	He is in the meeting.
Niang dtom-nee dtee?	Is she available?
som toh!	Excuse me!
look mian kaa ey daer?	How may I help you?
Khnom som ni-yiay jia-muay look Sok baan dtee?	May/can I speak to Mr. Sok?
əŋŋ-kun chraəŋ!	Thank you very much!
soom jam bəŋg dtech.	Please wait a moment.

Summary of grammar points

Grammar point	Summary
Sub-consonant under final consonant of a word	In written Cambodian, sub-consonant placed under a final consonant of a word are not pronounced. For example: សាន្ត (saan) and ពេទ្យ (bpeet). Please also note that generally if there is a sub-consonant under a final consonant of a word, the word itself is a Pali or Sanskrit word and it is not pronounced as it spelled, for example, រដ្ឋ (roat) and ចក្រ (jak).
The pattern សុំ...បានទេ? and សូម “Please”.	To make a request, the pattern សុំ...បានទេ is used. For example: ខ្ញុំសុំជួបលោកស្មីតបានទេ? “Can I meet Mr. Smith?”. While សូម “Please” is used to indicate the politeness. However, from time to time, the word “សូម” and “សុំ” are interchangeably used. Compare: - សូមចាំទីនេះ។ “Please wait here.” - សុំជួបលោកសុខបានទេ? “Can I meet Mr. Sok?”

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Chapter 9: Appendix I- Translation of Conversations and Audio Scripts

Chapter I

1.1. Conversation 1

1.1 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Sua-sdey! Sok-sa-baay dtee?	A: Hi! How are you?
B: Sua-sdey! Khnhom sok-sa-baay. ១១- kun.	B: Hi! I am fine. Thank you.
A: Khnhom chmuah Sok. Neak chmuah ey?	A: My name is Sok. What is your name?
B: Khnhom chumah John. Khnhom mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh aa-mee-rik. Neak mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh naa?	B: My name is John. I am from America. Where are you from?
A: Oh! Khnhom mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh kam-bpu-jia.	A: Oh! I am from Cambodia.
B: Rik riay dæl baan juab neak.	B: Nice to meet you.
A: Khnhom ក១១ ey-jəŋg daer.	A: Nice to meet you too.

1.2. Conversation 1

1.2 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Jom-riab-sua!	Hello!
B: Jom-riab-sua!	Hello!
A: Khnhom chmuah Thida.	My name is Thida.
B: Khnhom chmuah Visak. Khnhom mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh thai. Look-srey mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh naa?	My name is Visak. I am from Thailand. Where are you from, Madam?
A: Khnhom mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh kam-bpu-jia. Rik-riay dæl baan juab look.	I am from Cambodia. Pleased to meet you, Sir.
B: Khnhom ក១១ ey-jəŋg daer. Jom-riab-lia, look-srey!	Pleased to meet you too, Madam.
A: Jaa, Jom-riab-lia, look!	Goodbye, Sir.

1.4. Conversation 1

1.4 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Sua-sdey! Khnhom chmuak Smith. Neak chmuah ey!	A: Hi! My name is Smith. What is your name?
B: Sua-sdey! Khnhom chmuah Sokha. Khnhom mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh kam-bpu-jia. Neak mook bpïï bpr១១-dteh naa?	B: Hi! My name is Sokha. I am from Cambodia. Where are you from?
A: Khnhom mook bpïï pr១១-teh aa-mee-rik. Rik-riay dæl baan juab neak.	A: I am from America. Nice to meet you!
B: Khnhom ក១១ ey-jəŋg daer. lia-səŋ-haəy!	B: Nice to meet you too, good-bye!
A: Lia-səŋ-haəy!	A: Good-bye.

Chapter II

2.2. Conversation 1

2.2 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Sua-sdey! Sok-sa-baay dtee?	A: Hi! How are you?
B: Khnhom sok-sa-baay. ១១-kun!	B: I am fine. Thank you.
A: Khnhom chmuah Smith. Khnhom mook bpïi bpr១១-dteh aa-mee-rik. Neak mook bpïi bpr១១-dteh naa?	A: My name is Smith. I am from America. Where are you from?
B: Khnhom chmuah Sau. Khnhom mook bpïi bpr១១-dteh kam-bpu-jia. Khnhom jia kruu-b១ng-rian. Joh-neak-venh?	B: My name is Sau. I am from Cambodia. I am a teacher. How about you?
A: Oh! khnhom jia kruu-bpeet. Rik-riay dael baan juab knia. lia-sən-haəy!	A: Oh! I am a doctor. Nice to meet you. Goodbye!
B: Khnhom ក១១ ey-jəng daer. lia-sən- haəy!	B: Nice to meet you too! Goodbye!

2.3. Conversation 1

2.3 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
Sua-sdey! sok-sa-baay dtee?	Hi! How are you?
Sua-sdey! khnhom sok-sa-baay. ១១-kun! Joh-neak-venh?	Hi! I am good. Thank you! How about you?
Khnhom sok-sa-baay. Khnhom chmuah Sok. Khnhom jia kruu-bpeet. Neak chmuah ey?	I am good. My name is Sok. I am a doctor. What's your name?
Khnhom chmuah Dara. Khnhom jia kruu-b១ng-rian.	My name is Dara. I am a teacher.

2.4. Conversation 1

2.4 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Sua-sdey	Hi!
B: Sua-sdey!	Hi!
A: Khnhom chmuah Sokha. Neak chmuah ey?	My name is Sokha. What is your name?
B: Khnhom chmuah John, mook bpïi pr១១-dteh aa-mee-rik. Som-toh! Neak mook bpïi bpr១១-dteh thai?	My name is John. I am from America. Excuse me! Are you from Thailand?
A: Khnhom ១t mook bpïi bpr១១-dteh thai dtee. Khnhom mook bpïi bpr១១-dteh kam-bpu-jia	A: I am not from Thailand. I am from Cambodia.
B: Oh! Som-toh!	B: Oh! I am sorry.
A: ១t-ey-dtee!	A: No problem.

2.5. Conversation 1

2.5 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Jom-riab-sua look-kruu!	A: Hello!
B: Jom-riab-sua kmuay!	B: Hello!
A: Som-toh! Look-kruu bōng-rian ey?	A: Excuse me! What do you teach?
B: Khnhom bōng-rian pia-saa Khmer. Kmuay jia sēh meen-dtee?	B: I teach Khmer. Are you are student?
A: Baat, mən-meen-dtee. Khnhom jia kruu-bōng-rian.	A: I am not. I am a teacher.
B: Oh! Look-kruu bōng-rian ey?	B: Oh! What do you teach?
A: Khnhom bōng-rian pia-saa ɔng-lee.	A: I teach English.

Chapter III

3.5 Audio script 1

3.5 Audio script 1

Transliteration	English
Khnhom chmuah Sokha. Khnhom mian bōng-p'oon bpīi neak. Bōng-srey khnhom aa-yu sae-seb-bpram chnam haəy koat jia kruu-bōng-rian nouw vi-jia-lai. Bōng-bproh khnhom aa-yu sae-seb chnam haəy koat jia kruu-bpeet tvəə-kaa nouw Phnom Penh.	My name is Sokha. I have two siblings. My sister is 45 years old and she is a high school teacher. My brother is 40 years old and he is a doctor. He works in Phnom Penh.

3.5. Audio script 2

3.5 Audio script 2

Transliteration	English
Khnhom chmuah Sophiap. Khnhom mian bōng-p'oon bpīi neak. Bōng-srey khnhom aa-yu sae-seb-bpram chnam haəy koat jia kruu-bōng-rian nouw sa-kɔl-vi-jia-lai. P'oon-srey khnhom aa-yu sam-seb chnam haəy koat jia kru-bpeet tvəə-kaa nouw Siem Reap.	My name is Sophiap. I have two siblings. My sister is 45 years old and she is a university teacher. My sister is 30 years old and she is a doctor. He works in Siem Reap.

3.8. Audio script 1: Description of Thida's family.

3.8 Audio script 1: Description of Thida's family

Transliteration	English
Ouw-bpok roo-bōh Thida chmuah Sitha haəy koat aa-yu 45 chnam. M'daay roo-bōh Thida chmuah Kunthia haəy koat aa-yu 42 chnam. Jii-dtaa roo-bōh Thida aa-yu 75 chnam haəy jii-doon roo-bōh Thida aa-yu 70 chnam. Thida mian bōng-p'oon buan naek. Bpuak koat chmuah: Dara, Piseth, Vichia, Sonaa. Bprɔɔ-bpon roo-bōh Dara chmuah Chenda haəy bpuak-koat mian koon-srey bpīi neak. Vichia riab-kaa jia-mauy Pisey haəy bpuak-koat mian koon-srey m'naek.	Thida's father is named Sokha and he is 45 years old. Her mother's name is Kunthia and she is 42 years old. Thida's grandfather is 75 years old and her grandmother is 70 years old. Thida has 4 siblings: Dara, Piseth, Vichia, and Sonna. Dara's wife is named Chenda and they have two daughters. Vichia is married to Pisey and they have a daughter.

Chapter IV

4.4. Conversation 1

4.4 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Aa-ron sua sdey. Bpaa! Maong bpon-maan haəy?	A: Good mornin, Dad! what time is it?
B: Maong bpram-bpii haəy. Dara rian pia-saa khmer maong bpon-maan?	B: It is 7 o'clock. What time does your Khmer class start?
A: Maong bpram-bpii, bpaa.	A: It starts at 7 o'clock.
B: Oh! Ey-louw-nih maong bpram-bpii haəy!!?	B: Oh! But it is 7 o'clock already!
A: ័t dtee, Bpaa. Maong bpram-bpii yub.	A: Relax! It starts at 7pm.

4.6. Conversation 1

4.6 Conversation 1

Transliteration	English
A: Sua-sdey Sothy!?	A: Hi, Sothy!?
B: Sua-sdey Dara! Bat muk bat moat yuu. Sok-sa-baay dtee?	B: Hi, Dara. Long time no see! How are you doing?
A: Sok-sa-baay. ័័-kun! Sothy rian nouw saa-kal-vi-jia-lai nih, meen-dtee?	A: I am good. Thanks. Do you study here?
B: Baat! joh Dara venh?	B: Yes, I do. What about you?
A: Khnhom rian nouw saa-kal-vi-jia-lay nih daer?	A: I study here too.
B: L'័័r nah! Dara mian leek dtuu-roo-sap dtee?	B: Great! Do you have a phone number?
A: Baat, mian. leek 075 83 23 89.	A: Yes, I do. It is 075 83 23 89.
B: ័័m-neak leek roo-b័h khnhom keu 078 48 79 79.	B: My number is 078 48 79 79.

Chapter VI

6.4. Conversation 1

6.4 Conversation 1

Khmer	Transliteration	English
A: សួស្ដីសីណា! សុខសប្បាយទេ?	A: sua-sdey Sina. sok-sa-baay dtee?	A: Hi, Sina. How are you?
B: ខ្ញុំសុខសប្បាយ! អរគុណ។	B: Khnhom sok-sa-baay. ័័-kun!	B: I am good. Thanks.
A: តើសីណាបានទៅប្រទេសអាមេរិកឆ្នាំមុន?	A: Sina baan dtouw bpr័័-dteh aa-mee-rik chnam mum?	A: Did you go to the U.S. last year?
B: ចាំ!	B: Jaa!	B: Yes, I did.
A: តើសីណាបានធ្វើអីនៅទីនោះ?	A: Sina baan tvəə ey nouw dtii noh!	A: What did you do there?
B: ខ្ញុំបានបង្រៀនភាសាខ្មែរនៅទីនោះ។ ចុះអ្នកបានមកភ្នំពេញឆ្នាំណា?	B: Khnhom baan b័ng-rian pia-saa Khmer nouw dtii noh. Joh Rebecca baan mook Phnom Penh bpeel naa?	B: I taught Khmer language. What about you? When did you come to Phnom Penh?
A: ខ្ញុំបានមកភ្នំពេញបីខែមុន។	A: Khnhom baan mook Phnom Penh khae mum.	A: I came here last month.
B: រីករាយដែលបានជួបអ្នកម្ដងទៀត។	B: Rik-riay dael ban juab Rebecca m'dang dtiat.	B: Nice to see you again.
A: ខ្ញុំក៏អីចឹងដែរ។	A: Khnhom k័័ ey-jəng daer.	A: Nice to meet you too.

Chapter VII

7.2. Conversation 1

7.2 Conversation 1

Khmer	Transliteration	English
A: នៅពេលអនាគត អ្នកទាំងអស់គ្នាចង់ធ្វើអី?	A: Nouw bpeel a-naa-kut neak-dtaeng-១h-knia jɔŋg tvəə ey?	A: What do you want to be in the future?
B: ខ្ញុំចង់ធ្វើជាវិស្វករ។	B: Khnhom jɔŋg tvəə-jia vi-svak-k១១.	B: I want to be an engineer.
C: ចំណែកខ្ញុំវិញ ចង់ធ្វើជាមេធាវី។	C: Jɔm-neak khnhom venh jɔŋg tvəə-jia mee-thia-vii.	C: As for me, I want to be a lawyer.
D: អ្នកគ្រូ! ខ្ញុំចង់ធ្វើជាមេធាវីដែរ។	D: Neak kruu! Khnhom jɔŋg tvəə-jia mee-thia-vii daer.	D: I want to be a lawyer too.

7.4. Conversation 1

7.4 Conversation 1

Khmer	Transliteration	English
A: អេ! សុខធ្វើការនៅធនាគារនេះ មែនទេ?	A: Eh! Sok tvəə-kaa nouw thoo-nia-kia nih meen-dtee?	A: Hey, Sok! You work here, right?
B: បាទ!	B: Baat!	B: Yes, I do.
A: សុខចូលចិត្តការងារនេះទេ?	A: Sok jol-jet kaa-ngia nih dtee?	A: Do you like this job?
B: ខ្ញុំ មិនសូវចូលចិត្តការងារនេះទេ។ ចុះជាអីធ្វើការអីដែរ?	B: Khnhom mən-souw jol-jet kaa-ngia nih dtee. Joh Dara tvəə-kaa ey daer?	B: I do not like it very much. What about you? What do you do for living?
A: ខ្ញុំជាគ្រូពេទ្យ។	A: Khnhom jia kruu-bpeet.	A: I am a doctor.
B: អូ! បានប្រាក់ខែច្រើនហើយមើលទៅ។	B: Oh! Dara baan bprak-khae chraən haəy məəl dtouw?	B: Oh! you probably earn a lot, right?
A: អី!! ខ្ញុំឈប់ធ្វើគ្រូពេទ្យយូរហើយ។	A: Humm! Khnhom chob tvəə kruu-bpeet yuu haəy.	A: Humm!!! I quit this job a long time ago.
B: ហេតុអី?!	B: Haet-ey?	B: Why?
A: ពីព្រោះខ្ញុំមិនចូលចិត្តការងារនោះទេ។	B: Bpii-bpruah khnhom mən jol-jet kaa-ngia noh dtee	A: Because I did not like that job.

7.6. Conversation 1

7.6 Conversation 1

Khmer	Transliteration	English
A: នេះជាប្រភេទ ពេលឯងនៅតូច មែនទេ?	A: Nih jia ruub-tɔɔt bpeel aeng nouw dtooch meen-dtee?	A: Are these pictures of you when you were a kid?
B: បា! នេះជាបងប្រុសខ្ញុំ។ ខ្ញុំ និងបងប្រុសខ្ញុំធ្លាប់លេងក្ដែង ពេលយើងនៅតូច។	B: Jaa! nih jia bɔɔng-bproh khnhom. Khnhom nɔng bɔɔng-bproh khnhom thloab leeng klaeng bpeel yəəng nouw dtooch.	B: Yeah! This is my brother. My brother and I used to play with kites when we were kids.
A: មែនឬ?	A: Meen-reu?	A: Really?
B: បា! រាល់ព្រឹក យើងបានទៅលេងក្ដែងនៅសួនច្បារ។	B: Jaa! roal bprək yəəng baan dtouw leeng klaeng nouw suan jbaa.	B: Yeah! Every morning we flew a kite in a park.
A: សប្បាយណាស់ មែនទេ?	A: Sa-baay nas meen-dtee?	A: That was fun, was not it?
B: បា! ចុះឯង? ចូលចិត្តលេងអី ពេលនៅតូច?	B: Jaa! joh aeng jool-jet tvəə ey bpeel nouw dtooch.	B: Yes, it was. What about you?
A: គ្នាចូលចិត្តលេងសី ពេលគ្នានៅតូច ប៉ុន្តែបងស្រី គ្នាអត់ចូលចិត្តវាទេ។	A: Knia jool-jet leeng sey bpeel knia nouw dtooch bpon-dtae bɔɔng-srey knia mən jool-jet via dtee.	A: I liked playing badminton shuttlecock when I was a kid, but my sister did not like it.

Chapter VIII

8.3. Conversation 1

8.3 Conversation 1

Khmer	Transliteration	English
A: ជម្រាបសួរ! ខ្ញុំឈ្មោះ ចន។ ខ្ញុំជាអ្នកស្រាវជ្រាវ មកពីប្រទេសអាមេរិក។ សុំទោស! លោកសៅនៅទីនេះទេ?	Jom-riab-sua! Khnhom chmuah John. Khnhom jia neak-srav-jriav mook bpri bprɔ-dteh aa-mee-rik. Som-dtoh! look Sao nouw dtii-nih dtee?	A: Hello! My name is John. I am a researcher. I am from America. Excuse me! Is Mr. Sau is here?
B: បា! គាត់នៅទីនេះ។ លោកមានការអីដែរ?	Jaa! Koat nouw dtii-nih. Look mian kaa ey daer?	B: Yes, he is. What can I help?
A: អូ! ខ្ញុំចង់ជួបគាត់ថ្ងៃនេះ។ ថ្ងៃនេះគាត់ទំនេរទេ?	Oh! Khnhom jɔng juab koat t'ngai nih. T'ngai nih koat dtom-nee dtee?	A: Oh! I would like to meet him today. Is he available to meet?
B: គាត់កំពុងប្រជុំ។ គាត់ទំនេរនៅម៉ោងបួន រសៀលថ្ងៃនេះ។	B: Koat kɔm-pong bprɔɔ-jom. Koat dtom-nee maong buan roo-sial nih.	B: He is in a meeting, but he will be free at 4 this afternoon.
A: អូ! ខ្ញុំសុំជួបគាត់ម៉ោងបួនរសៀលថ្ងៃនេះបានទេ?	Oh! Khnhom som juab koat maong buan roo-sial baan dtee?	A: Oh! Can I meet him at 4 this afternoon?
B: បា! បាន។	Jaa! baan.	B: Yes, you can.
A: អរគុណច្រើន។	ɔɔ kun chraən.	A: Thank you so much.

8.4. Conversation 1

8.4 Conversation 1

Khmer	Transliteration	English
A: អាឡូ ជម្រាបសួរ!	A: Aa-loo! Jom-riab sua!	A: Hello!
B: ចា! ជម្រាបសួរ!	B: Jaa! Jom-riab-sua!	B: Hello!
A: ខ្ញុំសុំនិយាយជាមួយលោក សានបានទេ?	A: Khnhom som ni-yiay jia-muay look Saan baan dtee?	A: Can I speak to Mr. Saan?
B: សូមចាំបន្តិច!	B: Som jɔm bɔn-dtech!	B: Just a moment, please!
C: អាឡូ!	C: Aa-loo	C: Hello!
A: អាឡូ! ជម្រាបសួរលោក សាន។ ខ្ញុំឈ្មោះ ស្ទីត ខ្ញុំជាគ្រូបង្រៀន ហើយយើងបានជួបគ្នានៅ អាមេរិកឆ្នាំ២០១៩។	A: Aa-loo! Jom-riab-sua look Saan. Khnhom chmuah Smith. Khnhom jia krru-bɔng-rian haəy yəəng baan juab knia nouw aa-mee-rik chnam 2019.	A: Hello! Mr. Saan. This is Smith. I am a teacher and we met each other in America in 2019.
C: អូ! ស្ទីតសុខសប្បាយទេ? ស្ទីតនៅកម្ពុជា មែនទេ?	C: Oh! Smith sok-sa-baay dtee? Smith nouw kam-bpu-jia meen-dtee?	C: Oh! How are you, Smith? Are you in Cambodia?
A: បាទ! ខ្ញុំនៅភ្នំពេញ។	A: Baat! Khnhom nouw Phnom Penh.	A: Yes, I am. I am in Phnom Penh.
C: ល្អណាស់! ស្ទីតមានលេខទូរសព្ទទេ?	C: L'ar nah! Smith mian leek dtuu-roo-sab dtee?	C: Great! What is your phone number.
A: បាទ! ខ្ញុំមាន។ លេខ ០១២ ៥៦៧ ៧២០។	A: Baat! Khnhom mian. Leek 012 567 720.	A: It is 012 567 720.

8.6. Conversation 1

8.6 Conversation 1

Khmer	Transliteration	English
A: ជម្រាបសួរ! ខ្ញុំឈ្មោះ “ស្ទីត” ជាតំណាងក្រុម ហ៊ុនឈ្មោះ អង្គរធ្វើ។ ខ្ញុំសុំជួបលោក សំ ដាវី បានទេ?	A: Jom-riab-sua! Khnhom chmuah Smith jia dɔm-naang krom-hon Angkor Tour. Khnhom som juab look Sɔm Dara baan dtee?	A: Hello! My name is Smith, I am a representative of Angkor Tour company. Can I speak to Mr. Sam Dara?
B: ចា! ចាំបន្តិចសិន ខ្ញុំនឹងភ្ជាប់ទៅលោក សំ ដាវីជូន។	B: Jaa! jɔm-bɔn-dtech. Khnhom nəng pchuab dtouw look Sɔm Dara juun.	B: Of course. Just a moment. I will connect you to him.
C: អ្នកណាហៅហ្នឹង? មានការអីដែរ?	C: Neak-naa kee nəng? Mian kaa ey daer?	C: Who is calling?
A: បាទ! ខ្ញុំចង់បើកក្រុមហ៊ុនមួយ។ តើត្រូវធ្វើអ្វី ខ្លះ?	A: Baat! Khnhom jɔng baək krom-hon muay. Dtaəy dtrouw tvəə a-vey klash?	A: I would like to run a company? What shall I do?
C: ណាត់ពេលជាមួយលេខា ហើយមក ការិយាល័យថ្ងៃច័ន្ទអាទិត្យក្រោយ។	C: Naat jia-muay lee-kaa haəy mook kaa-ri-yaa-lai t'ngai jan aa-dtet kraoy.	C: Make an appointment with my secretary. Come to my office next Monday.
B: ថ្ងៃច័ន្ទអាទិត្យក្រោយ ម៉ោងដប់ព្រឹក លោក ទំនេរទេ?	B: T'ngai jan aa-dtet kraoy maong 10 bprək look dtom-nee dtee?	B: Are you available next Monday at 10 am, sir?
A: បាទ! ខ្ញុំទំនេរ។ សូមអរគុណច្រើន។ ជម្រាបលា!	A: Baat! Khnhom dtom-nee. Soom ɔɔ-kun chraəng. Jom-riab-lia.	A: Yes, I am. Thank you very much. Good-bye!
B: ជម្រាបលា!	B: Jom-riab-lia!	B: Good-bye

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