

TIME (we1-la1)

Hour	<i>shua3-mong1</i>	Minute	<i>na1-tee1</i>
Second	<i>wi4-na1-tee1</i>	Clock	<i>na1-li4-ga1</i>
Now	<i>torn1-nee4</i> or <i>ka2-na2-nee4</i>	Last ... (... Ago)	<i>tee3 laew4</i>
Next ...	<i>... naa3</i> or <i>... tad2 pai1</i>	This ...	<i>... nee4</i>
Daytime	<i>glang1 wan1</i>	Night-time	<i>glang1 kuen1</i>
In the morning	<i>dtorn1 shao4</i>	In the afternoon	<i>dtorn1 baai2</i>
In the evening	<i>dtorn1 yen1</i>		

Formal Approach

What time is ... ? ... we1-la1 tao3-rai2?

To overseas speakers, the formal approach of telling the time is surprisingly much easier than the informal one. It works on a 24-hour-clock. So, 1pm becomes 1300hrs, and so on. Read the hour figure first, followed by the word *na1-li4-ga1*, then the minute figure, followed by *na1-tee1*, and if the second figure is read out, it is followed by *wi4-na1-tee1*. Minutes and seconds are usually left unread if they are zero.

E.g.,

2pm	<i>sib2-see2 na1-li4-ga1</i>
7.20pm	<i>sib2-gao3 na1-li4-ga1 yee3-sib2 na1-tee1</i>
11.55pm	<i>yee3-sib2-saam5 na1-li4-ga1 ha3-sib2-ha3 na1-tee1</i>
12am	<i>soon5 na1-li4-ga1 or yee3-sib2-see2 na1-li4-ga1</i>

Informal Approach

What time ... ? ... gee2 mong1 (laew4)?

This system seems far more complicated as it based on a 6-hour clock during the night and 12-hour clock during the day. The words used are usually based on the sound of the instrument used to tell the time in the past.

The hours work as followed:

1am	<i>dtee1 neung2</i>	2am	<i>dtee1 sorng5</i>	3am	<i>dtee1 saam5</i>
4am	<i>dtee1 see2</i>	5am	<i>dtee1 ha3</i>	6am	<i>hog2 mong1 shao4</i>
7am	<i>jed2 mong1 (shao4) or neung2 mong1 shao4</i>				
8am	<i>paed2 mong1 (shao4) or sorng2 mong1 shao4</i>				
9am	<i>gao3 mong1 (shao4) or saam5 mong1 shao4</i>				
10am	<i>sib2 mong1 (shao4) or see2 mong1 shao4</i>				
11am	<i>sib2 ed2 mong1 (shao4) or ha3 mong1 shao4</i>				
12pm	<i>sib2 sorng5 mong4 or tiang3 wan1</i>				
1pm	<i>baai2 (neung2) mong1</i>	2pm	<i>baai2 sorng5 (mong1)</i>		
3pm	<i>baai2 saam3 (mong1)</i>	4pm	<i>baai2 see2 mong1 or see2 mong1 yen1</i>		
5pm	<i>ha3 mong1 yen1</i>	6pm	<i>hog2 mong1 yen1</i>		
7pm	<i>neung2 toom3</i>	8pm	<i>sorng5 toom3</i>	9pm	<i>saam5 toom3</i>
10pm	<i>see2 toom3</i>	11pm	<i>ha3 toom3</i>		
12am	<i>tiang3 kuen1 or sorng2 yaam1</i>				

Then if the minute figures are read, the words *yen1*, *wan1* or *shao4* are cut, then immediately followed by the minute figure. 'Na1-tee1' is also usually left out. ('30' is often read 'krueng3')

Days (wan1)

Today	<i>wan1-nee4</i>	Yesterday	<i>muea3-waan1 nee4</i>
Tomorrow	<i>wan1 proong3 nee4</i>	Day after tomorrow	<i>ma4-ruen1 nee4</i>
Monday	<i>wan1 jan1</i>	Tuesday	<i>wan1 angl-karn1</i>
Wednesday	<i>wan1 poot4</i>	Friday	<i>wan1 soog2</i>
Thursday	<i>wan1 pa4-rue4-hud2 (sa2-bo1-dee1)</i>	Sunday	<i>wan1 aal-tid4</i>
Saturday	<i>wan1 sao5</i>		
Week	<i>sab2-da1</i> or (inf.) <i>ar1-tid4</i>		
2 days	<i>sorng5 wan1</i>	10 minutes	<i>sib2 nai-tee1</i>
3 weeks	<i>saam5 sab2-da1</i>	4 days ago	<i>see2 wan1 tee3-laew4</i>
Next week	<i>sab2-da1 naa3</i>		
Early	<i>reiw1</i> or <i>shao4</i>	Late	<i>saai5</i> or <i>shaa4</i>
Too...	... (<i>gern1</i>) <i>pail</i>		

Months (duean1)

January	<i>ma4-ga2-raa1-kom1</i>	February	<i>goom1-pa1-pan1</i>
March	<i>meel-naa1-kom1</i>	April	<i>me1-saa5-yon1</i>
May	<i>pruet4-sa2-paa1-kom1</i>	June	<i>mi4-too2-naa1-yon1</i>
July	<i>ga1-rag4-ga1-da1-kom1</i>	August	<i>sing5-ha5-kom1</i>
September	<i>gan1-yaa1-yon1</i>	October	<i>dtu2-laa1-kom1</i>
November	<i>pruet4-sa2-ji2-gaa1-yon1</i>	December	<i>tan1-waa1-kom1</i>

The name of each month is associated with the star sign representing that month. The name usually means 'the arrival of ... stars', for example, *gan1-ya1-yon1* means 'the arrival of virgo' and *tan1-waa1-kom1* means 'the arrival of sagittarius'. Please note that months with 31 days end with *kom1* and months with 30 days end with *yon1*.

Season (rue4-doo1)

February – April	Summer ('extremely hot' season)	<i>rue4-doo1 ronng4</i>	
May – October	Rainy Season ('quite hot' season)	<i>rue4-doo1 fon5</i>	
November – January	Winter ('a little hot' season)	<i>rue4-doo1 now5</i>	
Spring	<i>rue4-doo1 bail-mai4-pli2</i>	Autumn	<i>rue4-doo1 bail-mai4-ruang3</i>
Quarter	<i>tril-maad3</i>		

Year (pee1)

Officially we use the Buddhist Era (B.E.) to count the year, started counting after the death of Buddha. This is the Christian Anno Domini plus 543. (Thus AD2005 = BE2548) Although we have a separate Thai New Year, the change of year is standardised to be on 1 January. The use of A.D. is, however, recognised by most of the Thai people. The figure for the year is read as a normal cardinal number.

B.E.	<i>put4-ta2-sag2-ga2-raat2</i> or <i>por1-sor5</i>
A.D.	<i>krid4-ta2-sag2-ga2-raat2</i> or <i>kor1-sor5</i>
Leap year	<i>pee1 a2-tig4-ga2-su2-ra4-tin1</i>

Also seen are:

Muslim year *hid4-jror4-sag2-ga2-raat2* or *hor1-sor5*
Bangkok (Rattanakosin) year *rad4-dta2-na4-go1-sin5-sog2* or *ror1-sor5*

Decade *tod4-sa2-wad4* Century *sad2-ta2-wad4*
Millennium *sa2-had2-sa2-wad4* Last year *pee1 tee3-laew4* or *pee1 klaail*

Lunar Calendar (*pa2-dti2-tin1 taang1 jan1-ta4-ra4-ka2-ti2*)

Calendar *pa2-dti2-tin1*

For some strange reasons, the lunar year starts usually in November. The first month is called *duean1-aa13* and the second *duean1-yee3*. After that, the number is read out after *duean1*. There are 30 days in odd months and 29 in even months. Every four year, we add one more month between the 8th and the 9th, making it another kind of leap year know as *pee1-a2-tig4-ga2-maad3*.

The first half of the month (waxing moon) is known as *kaang3-kuen3* (or sometimes *duean1-ngai5*), and second half (waning moon) *kaang3-raem1* (or *duean1-kwam3*). The day number restarts every half month. Every quarter of the month we celebrate a Buddhist day, *wan1-pra4* (or *wan1-tam1-ma4-sa2-wa4-na4*), and the full moon day is sometimes known as *wan1-pen1* (not 'one penny'!)

Reading the lunar calendar:

Day 6 (wx) Month 2 *kuen3 hog2 kam3 duean1 yee3*
Day 1 (wn) Month 11 *raem1 nueng2 kam3 duean1 sib2-ed2*

12-Year Cycle (*nag4-ga2-sad2*)

Strange enough, the Thai New Year falls on the first day of the fourth month. Lately in order to make it suitable for standard calendar, we changed the Thai New Year Day to 1 April and then to 13 April (which is what it is now!). We have a name for each year in 12-year cycle, associating itself with an animal, which is very similar to the Chinese system. For the old system, changes of the name occur on the Thai New Year Day, but nowadays people usually do this on 1 January.

1996	Rat	<i>chuad3</i>	1997	Ox	<i>sha2-loo5</i>
1998	Tiger	<i>kaan5</i>	1999	Rabbit	<i>tor2</i>
2000	Dragon (?)	<i>ma4-rong1</i>	2001	Snake	<i>ma4-seng5</i>
2002	Horse	<i>ma4-mia1</i>	2003	Goat	<i>ma4-mae1</i>
2004	Monkey	<i>worg3</i>	2005	Rooster	<i>ra4-gaal</i>
2006	Dog	<i>jor1</i>	2007	Pig	<i>goon1</i>

Holidays (*wan1 nag4-kad2-dta2-rerk3*)

Holiday	<i>wan1 yood2</i>	Weekend	<i>sood2 sab2-da1</i>
1 January	New Year Day	<i>wan1 kuen3 pee1 mai2</i>	
6 April	Bangkok Anniversary	<i>wan1 jak2-gree1</i>	
13 April	Thai New Year	<i>wan1 song5-graan5</i>	
1 May	Labour Day	<i>wan1 raeng1-ngarn1</i>	
5 May	Coronation Anniversary	<i>wan1 chad2-tra2-mong1-kon1</i>	
Mid-May	Royal Ploughing Ceremony	<i>wan1 pued3-cha2-mong1-kon1</i>	

1 July	Mid-Year Bank Holiday	<i>wan1 yood2 krueng3-pee1-ta4-naal-kaan1</i>
12 August	Queen's Birthday	<i>wan1 sha2-lerm5 pra4-shon1 pan1-sa5</i>
	Mother's Day	<i>wan1 mae3 (haeng2-shaat3)</i>
23 October	Chulalongkorn Day	<i>wan1 pi2-ya4 ma4-ha5-raat3</i>
5 December	King's Birthday	<i>wan1 sha2-lerm5 pra4-shon1 pan1-sa5</i>
	National Day	<i>wan shaat3</i>
	Father's Day	<i>wan1 por3 (haeng2-shaat3)</i>
10 December	Constitution Day	<i>wan1 rad4-ta2-tam1-ma4-noon1</i>
31 December	New Year's Eve	<i>wan1 sin3-pee1</i>

15 (wx) 3		<i>wan1 ma1-ka4-boo1-sha1</i>
15 (wx) 6	Wesak	<i>wan1 wil-sa5-ka4-boo1-sha1</i>
15 (wx) 8		<i>wan1 ar1-saan5-ha2-boo1-sha1</i>
1 (wn) 8	Start of Lent	<i>wan1 kao3-pan1-sa5</i>
	(The Lent lasts until 15 (wx) 11 'org2-pan1-sa5')	

Weather (aa1-gaad2)

Hot	<i>ronn4</i>	Warm	<i>oon2</i>
Cool	<i>yen1</i>	Cold	<i>naaw5</i>
Sunny	<i>daed2-jaa3</i> or <i>jaem2-sai5</i>	Rain(ing)	<i>fon5 (dtok2)</i>
Cloudy	<i>meg3-kruem4</i>		

Sun	<i>pra4 aa1-tit4</i>	Moon	<i>pra4 jan1</i>
Sunshine	<i>saeng5 daed2</i>	Moonlight	<i>saeng4 jan1</i>
Star	<i>daaw1</i>	Cloud	<i>meg3</i>
Rainbow	<i>(saai5) roong4</i>	Fog(gy)	<i>mog2 (long1)</i>
Snow(ing)	<i>hi2-ma4 (dtok2)</i>	Hail(ing)	<i>loog3 heb2 (dtok2)</i>
Wind(y)	<i>lom1 (raeng1)</i>	Storm	<i>paa1-yu4</i>
Heavy	<i>nag2</i>	Light	<i>baol</i>
Thunder	<i>fa4-rong4</i>	Lightening	<i>fa4-leab3</i>

Weather Forecast	<i>pa4-ya1-gorn1 aa1-gaad2</i>		
All ...	<i>ta2-lord2 ...</i>	All the time	<i>ta2-lord2 we1-la1</i>
Every ...	<i>took4 (took4)</i>	In a row	<i>dtid2-dtor2-gan1</i>

May	<i>ard2 (ja2) or kong1 (ja2)</i>	Soon	<i>reiw1-reiw1-nee4 or (eeg2) diaw5</i>
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What's the weather like today?

Wan1-nee4 aa1-gaad2 pen1 yang2-rail?

It was cloudy yesterday?

Muea3-waan1-nee4 (mee1) meg3-kruem4.

It will be sunny tomorrow.

Proong3-nee4 ja2 (aa1-gaad2) jaem2-sai5.

It may rain soon.

Fon5 kong1 ja2 tog2 reiw1-reiw1-nee4.

It has stopped raining.

Fon5 yood2 tog2 laew4.

It has been windy for four days in a row.

Lom1 raeng1 dtid2-dtor2-gan1 see2 wan1 laew4.

Umbrella	<i>rom3</i>	Hat/Cap	<i>muag2</i>
Raitcoat	<i>suea3 gan1 fon5</i>		