

March 18, 2005

## **Greetings and Thanking**

1. **"Sawatdee"** is the word used for greetings and goodbye.
2. Instead of shaking hands, Thais greet each other by **"Wai"**. They do this by putting their hands together in a prayer-like gesture and raising them to a position somewhere between the chest and forehead and then bowing. The higher the hands are placed, the more respect is shown. The person might raise their fingertips as high as their nose. However, the tips of their fingers should never be above eyebrow level and say Sa-wat-dee.
3. There are different levels of Wai, depending on age and social status.
  1. For monk or Buddha, the fingertips are at the eyebrow level.
  2. For parents or elderly, younger people are expected to initiate Wai first. The fingertips are at the nose level.
  3. To accept Wai from younger people, the fingertips are at your chest level.
4. Thai people, especially younger people, also "wai" others as a greeting or to say 'thank you' and to show respect. There are several occasions that younger people will initiate Wai.
  1. When they are leaving/returning from home
  2. When they meet someone who is older than them at social functions, government offices, schools, etc.
  3. When they receive things from someone who is older.
5. Sometimes when Thai people run into their friends on the streets, their friends will ask them "pai nhai" (Where are you going?) as a greeting.
6. Foreigners are not expected to initiate this greeting but it is considered an insult for not returning the Wai back to the person who has been introduced.
7. In order to make the sentences sound polite, Thai people usually use ending particles **"Krub"** for males and **"Kaa"** for females at the end of the sentences.

## Conversation Practice

English	Thai language	
	Man	Woman
Hello	Sa-wat-dee krub	Sa-wat-dee kaa
How are you?	Sa-bye-dee-rue krub Sa-bye-dee-mai krub	Sa-bye-dee rue kaa Sa-bye-dee mai kaa
I'm fine	Phom sa-bye-dee krub	D-chan sa-bye-dee kaa Chan sa-bye-dee kaa
How about you?	Laew Khun la krub	Laew khun la kaa
Thank you	Khob-khun krub	Khob-khun kaa
Where are you going?	Khun ja pai nai krub	Khun ja pai nai kaa
Where have you been?	Khun pai nai maa krub	Khun pai nai maa kaa
See you again	Laew pob kaan mai krub	Laew pob kaan mai kaa
Good bye	La gone (na) krub, sa-wat-dee krub	La gone (na) kaa, sa-wat-dee kaa
What's your name?	Khun chue a-rai krub	Khun chue a-rai kaa
My name is...	Phom chue + your name	D-chan chue + your name Chan chue + your name
I'm a professor	Phom pen a-jarn krub	D-chan pen a-jarn kaa
I'm a student	Phom pen nak-rian krub Phom pen nak-suek-sa krub	D-chan pen nak-rian kaa D-chan pen nak-suek-sa kaa
I'm from Tennessee	Phom maa jaak Tennessee krub	D-chan maa jaak Tennessee kaa
Nice to meet you	Yin-dee tee dai ruu juk krub	Yin-dee tee dai ruu juk kaa
Nice to meet you too	(Yin-dee tee dai ruu-juk) chen-gun krub	(Yin-dee tee dai ruu-juk) chen-gun kaa