

READING & WRITING BURMESE

Learn to Read, Write and Pronounce Burmese Correctly

- ✓ Designed for **beginning learners**
- ✓ Learn to write and pronounce **the Burmese alphabet**
- ✓ Learn hundreds of useful **Burmese words and phrases**
- ✓ Practice reading and writing **full Burmese sentences**

FREE
Online Audio
& Printable
Flash Cards

 ngarr <i>fish, five</i>	 htee <i>umbrella</i>	 yay <i>water</i>
---	--	--

 lann <i>street</i>	 ywar <i>village</i>	 kyaung <i>cat</i>
---	---	---



A WORKBOOK FOR SELF-STUDY

READING
& WRITING
BURMESE

Learn to Read, Write and Pronounce Burmese Correctly

A Zun Mo and Angus Johnstone

TUTTLE Publishing

Tokyo | Rutland, Vermont | Singapore

“Books to Span the East and West”

Tuttle Publishing was founded in 1832 in the small New England town of Rutland, Vermont [USA]. Our core values remain as strong today as they were then—to publish best-in-class books which bring people together one page at a time. In 1948, we established a publishing office in Japan—and Tuttle is now a leader in publishing English-language books about the arts, languages and cultures of Asia. The world has become a much smaller place today and Asia’s economic and cultural influence has grown. Yet the need for meaningful dialogue and information about this diverse region has never been greater. Over the past seven decades, Tuttle has published thousands of books on subjects ranging from martial arts and paper crafts to language learning and literature—and our talented authors, illustrators, designers and photographers have won many prestigious awards. We welcome you to explore the wealth of information available on Asia at www.tuttlepublishing.com.

Published by Tuttle Publishing, an imprint
of Periplus Editions (HK) Ltd.

www.tuttlepublishing.com

Copyright © 2022 by Periplus Editions (HK)
Ltd.

All rights reserved.

Library of Congress Catalog-in-Publication
Data in progress

ISBN 978-0-8048-5262-3

ISBN 978-1-4629-2312-0 (Ebook)

Photo and illustration credits:

Inside front cover, Khukuklub, Wikimedia
Commons. Page 86, Visual Intermezzo; page
89, Peacefully7; page 90, Rolf_52; page 92,
PiggingFoto; page 94, Firstyahoo. All from
Shutterstock.

Distributed by:

North America, Latin America and Europe

Tuttle Publishing

364 Innovation Drive, North Clarendon,
VT 05759-9436 USA.

Tel: 1(802) 773-8930 Fax: 1(802) 773-6993

info@tuttlepublishing.com

www.tuttlepublishing.com

Asia Pacific

Berkeley Books Pte. Ltd.

3 Kallang Sector #04-01, Singapore 349278

Tel: (65) 6741-2178 Fax: (65) 6741-2179

inquiries@periplus.com.sg

www.periplus.com

25 24 23 22 5 4 3 2 1 2201VP

Printed in Malaysia

TUTTLE PUBLISHING® is a registered trademark of Tuttle Publishing, a division of Periplus Editions (HK) Ltd.

Contents

How to Use This Book	4
An Overview of the Burmese Writing System	4
A Brief History of the Burmese Language	5
Romanization, Pronunciation and Tones	5
Part 1	
CONSONANTS	9
Part 2	
VOWELS	27
Part 3	
READING AND WRITING PRACTICE	81
Daily Expressions	82
Numbers	84
Places around Town	86
Getting around in Myanmar	88
A Myanmar Menu	90
Computers and Social Media	93
Reading and Writing Sentences	95
Answer Key	96



To access the online audio recordings and printable flash cards for this book

1. Check to be sure you have an internet connection.
2. Type the URL below into your web browser.
<https://www.tuttlepublishing.com/reading-and-writing-burmese>

For support you can email us at info@tuttlepublishing.com.

How to Use This Book

Who is this book for?

This book is designed for learners of the Myanmar language who wish to learn to read and write using the Burmese alphabet. It is aimed at beginning-level students, and no prior knowledge of Burmese is required. It can be used by self-study students or in a classroom.

What is the purpose of this book?

The purpose of this book is to introduce the letters of the Burmese alphabet and to provide plentiful practice material so that students can learn the basics of reading and writing. The practice exercises in the book use words and phrases that are common in contemporary Myanmar, covering useful topics such as numbers, food and social media.

How is the book structured?

This book is divided into three main parts. **Part 1** introduces the 33 basic letters of the Burmese alphabet. Each letter is introduced with a mnemonic illustration to aid memorization of its sound and shape.

Part 2 introduces the 25 vowel sounds that can be added to the 33 basic letters to make syllables. Both Part 1 and Part 2 include handwriting boxes so that students can practice tracing the letter and writing it freehand, as well as exercises that allow students to practice reading and writing the letter as part of words and sentences.

Part 3 presents everyday Burmese vocabulary grouped into various useful subject categories, including daily expressions, numbers, food, computers and social media. As well as handwriting exercises, there are challenging and fun reading and writing activities. A key at the back of the book provides answers to all the exercises.

Online audio recordings are provided to accompany the sections of the book marked with a headphones logo, to help students learn the pronunciation of letters, syllables and words. Free downloadable flash cards help students learn the letters and vocabulary quickly. Audio recordings and downloadable flash cards can be accessed using the link on page 8.

An Overview of the Burmese Writing System

The Burmese writing system is composed of consonants and vowels, which are combined into syllables to spell out words. There are 33 letters in the basic Burmese alphabet (see chart on the inside front cover) and 32 of them are consonants. In addition, there are 25 additional symbols that represent vowels and medial consonants. Medial consonants are special characters that pair with consonants to modify how those consonants are read. For example, the medial consonant *ya* can be added to the letter *ma* to make the sound *mya*.

To be able to read Burmese script, you must learn both the consonants and the additions that represent vowels and medial consonants. Most Burmese vowels have three tones: high and short, low and level, and high and long. There is also a “stopped” tone which is high and very short. It is possible to form a word with consonants only, but vowels alone cannot form a word.



A Brief History of the Burmese Language

Burmese belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family, as do some of the languages of neighboring China, India, Thailand, and Nepal. It is the national language of Myanmar, spoken by the majority of the population either as a first or second language (there are also many other languages spoken in different regions of the country). The earliest recorded text in Burmese appears in the Myazedi (emerald stupa) stone inscription, which was written in four languages—Burmese, Pali, Mon and Pyu—in early twelfth century Bagan. Having been in close contact with Pali, the language of Theravāda Buddhism, several Pali words appear in Burmese. Burmese has also incorporated words from foreign languages including English and Hindi, so the learner may come across words that sound familiar, such as ကား karr (car) or အလှူ ar loo (potato).

Romanization, Pronunciation and Tones

This book uses the most common romanized system of Burmese, widely known as Myanglish or Burglish, which is Burmese written in its nearest equivalent using the Latin alphabet.

Consonants

Most of the romanized Burmese consonants are pronounced in the same way as their English equivalent. The consonants listed below can sometimes be tricky for non-native speakers.

Also note that final consonants in Burmese words are always silent. They are “swallowed” by briefly closing the back of the throat (this is known as a “glottal stop”).

<u>Myanglish</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Example</u>
ng	like ng in singer	ငါး ngarr “fish” or “five”
ny	like nio in onion	ညာ nya “night”
t	like t in star (close to /d/ sound)	တစ် tit “one”
ht	like t in tart	ထီး htee “umbrella”
p	like pp in slipper	ပဲ peh “beans”
ph	like p in part	ဖား pharr “frog”
th	like th in there	သား tharr “son”

Vowels and tones

A tone is a variation in pitch when a word is pronounced. In Burmese, most vowels have three different tones; high and short; low and level; and high and long. There is also a “stopped” tone which is high and very short. A variation in the pitch or tone of a vowel changes the meaning of a word.

Word	Tone	Meaning
ဝ sa	high and short	start
ဝ sar	low and level	letter
ဝး sarr	high and long	eat
ဝ် set	stopped	machine

Vowel tones in this book are represented by spellings that approximate English vowel length and pronunciation. An alphabetical list of those spellings is written below, with pronunciation guidelines. *An asterisk next to the English pronunciation example denotes that the final consonant of the English word should be swallowed in a glottal stop (see page 5), and not be audible.

 Myanglish	Pronunciation	Example
a	like “art” in tart*	က ka dance
ae	like “e” in cherry	ဝယ် wae buy
aet	like “elp” in help*	နဲ့ naet and
ainq	like “int” in pint*	ချိုင့် chainq tiffin box
ai	like “ai” in Thailand	ဆိုင် sai shop
aii	like “ai” in Thai	ရိုင်း yaii rude
ain	like “ain” in rainy	စိန် sain diamond
aint	like “aint” in faint*	အမိန့် amaint order
an	like “an” in van*	ကန် kan lake
ann	like “and” in land*	လမ်း lann street
ant	like “ant” in ant*	လန့် lant shocked
ar	like “ar” in narcotics	ညာ nyar right
arr	like “arr” in car*	စား sarr eat
at	like “at” in mat*	ရပ် yat stop
ate	like “ate” in date*	ပိတ် pate close
aung	like “ound” in pound*	ကြောင် kyaung cat
aungg	like “ow” in now	ကျောင်း kyaungg school
aungt	like “ount” in count*	စောင့် saungt wait
aw	like “or” in or*	ကော် kaw glue
awt	like “ork” in pork*	သော့ thawt key

aww	like “aw” in saw	မော maww tired
ay	like “A” in ABC	ရေ yay water
ayt	like “ave” in cave*	မေ့ mayt forget
ayy	like “ay” in bay	ဆေး sayy medicine
ee	like “ee” in see	မီး mee fire
eet	like “eet” in beetroot	ထိ hteet touch
ein	like “ain” in gain*	သိမ်း thein keep
eh	like “air” in air*	ရဲ yeh police
et	like “et” in pet*	ခက် kheth difficult
i	like “e” in reuse	နီ ni red
in	like “in” in basin*	ဆင် sin elephant
inn	like “in” in win*	ဟင်း hinn curry
int	like “ink” in sink*	သင့် thint should
it	like “it” in sit*	တစ် tit one
ite	like “ite” in bite*	ကြိုက် kyite like
o	like “o” in photo	ဟို ho that
ote	like “oat” in coat*	အလုပ် alote work
oh	like “ol” in sold*	မိုး moe rain
oht	like “o” in both*	နို့ noht milk
on	like “on” in online	မွန် mon Mon State
onn	like “on” in spoon	ဖွန်း zonn spoon
ont	like “ont” in continent	တွန့် tont shrink
oo	like “oo” in school	အရူး ayoo idiot
oot	like “oot” in shoot*	အခု akhoot now
out	like “out” in snout*	သောက် thout drink
'own	like “ow” in owner	ဖုန် phown dust
'ownn	like “ow” in own*	ဖုန်း phone phone
ownt	like “on’t” in won’t*	မုန့် m'ownt snack
u	like “u” in super	ပူ pu hot
ut	like “ut” in put*	လွတ် lut empty

Stacked letters

As a side note, you may sometimes find unusual “stacked letters” as you go along, such as in the word တိရစ္ဆာန် ta rit san (animal). Those stacked letters come from Pali and therefore the formation of the words is a bit more complicated.

When the letters are stacked together, the top letter is a vowel that pairs with the consonant immediately preceding it. The bottom letter is a consonant that is combined with the vowel that comes immediately after.



Punctuation

There are not a lot of punctuation marks in Burmese. One stroke (|) denotes a comma (,) and two strokes (||) at the end of a sentence denote a full stop (.) or question mark (?).

A note about names

Burma is the former name of Myanmar before 1989. The country’s official name today is the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. However, some countries like the USA and the UK still use the name Burma. The office language of this country is Burmese. Therefore, the country is Myanmar and the language is Burmese.



To access the online audio recordings and printable flash cards for this book

1. Check to be sure you have an internet connection.
2. Type the URL below into your web browser.
<https://www.tuttlepublishing.com/reading-and-writing-burmese>

For support you can email us at info@tuttlepublishing.com.

Part

1

Consonants

Burmese has 33 letters that are classified as consonants, usually in the form of initial consonant plus a, for example ka, sa, da, na, ba, etc.

In this section of the book you will find consonants with stroke order diagrams, boxes for tracing and writing practice, mnemonic illustrations to help you remember the letter, and audio files to model correct pronunciation of each consonant and vocabulary word.

Note that although the consonants ငှာ ta, ငှာ hta, ခု da, ဝ da and ငှာ la are usually displayed in standard charts of Burmese consonants, such as the chart on the inside front cover of this book, these letters are no longer used in modern Burmese. For that reason they have not been included in the reading and writing practice exercises in this book.

Note also that the basic vowel a is also included in these basic 33 letters.

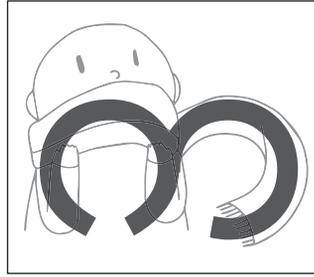
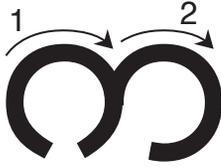
Although this book uses the most common romanized system of Burmese, it is sometimes difficult to convey Burmese sounds accurately using the Roman alphabet, so use the romanization as a guide and refer to the online audio files (see page 8) for accurate pronunciation.



Consonant Formation

Ka/Ga, Kha, Ga, Ga

Ka/Ga



a very long scarf

This is a sound in between ga and ka as in “scarf” and it can be pronounced as either.

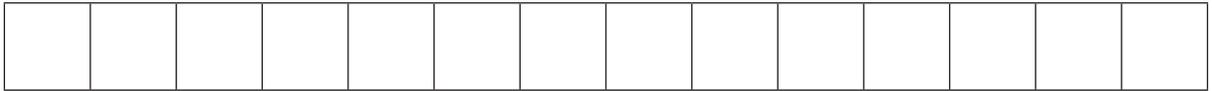


Writing Tip: Ka/Ga has two strokes, but you don't need to remove your pen in between.

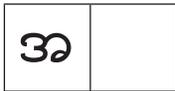
Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



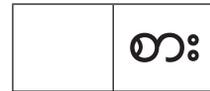
1. a ka (dance)



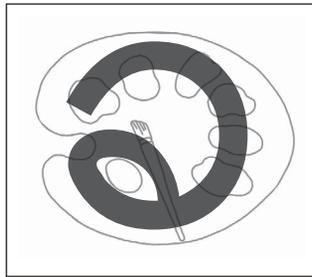
2. nya ga (last night)



3. ga zarr (to play)



Kha



a colorful paint palette

An aspirated sound, like “co” in “color”



Writing Tip: Kha has one curved stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



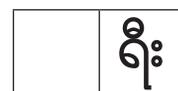
1. la kha (salary)



2. kha na (for a moment)



3. kha yee (trip)



Ga



a mirror ball at the gala

Like “ga” in “gala”

Writing Tip: Ga has one curved stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. ga ga na na (precisely)



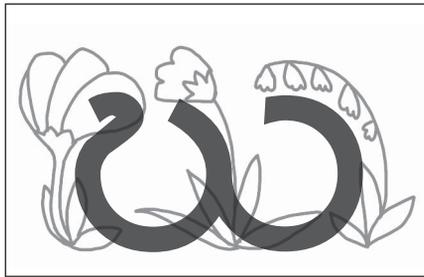
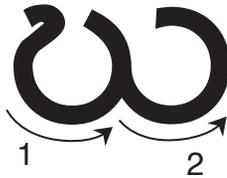
2. nar ga (Naga tribe)



3. ga nann (crab, numerical digit)



Ga



flowers in a garden

Like “gar” in “garden”

Writing Tip: Ga has two strokes.

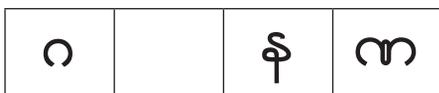
Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in the vocabulary word.



1. ga ga na na (precisely)





Consonant Formation

Nga, Sa, Sa, Za

Nga



that guy is such a good singer

A nasalized sound made in the back of the throat. Sounds like the last four letters of “singer.”

Writing Tip: Nga has one curved stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.

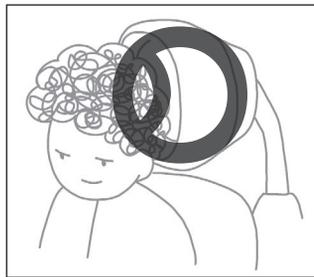


1. nga pa li (Ngapali [beach resort])

2. nga yeh (hell)



Sa



a salon hairdryer

Like “sa” in “salon.” Sometimes it is pronounced za.

Writing Tip: Sa has two strokes.

Trace these letters:



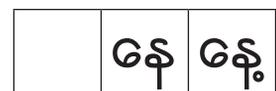
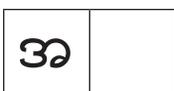
Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



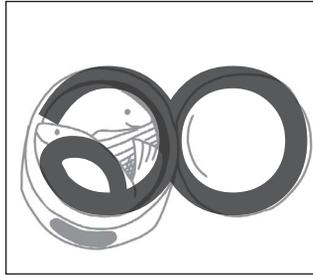
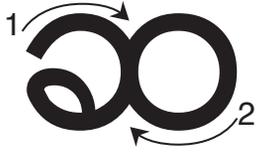
1. a sa (beginning)

2. za garr (language)

3. sa nay nayt (Saturday)



Sa



a can of sardines

Like “sa” in “sardine.”

Writing Tip: Sa has two strokes. The first is curved and loops back on itself. The second is a full circle touching the side of the first.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



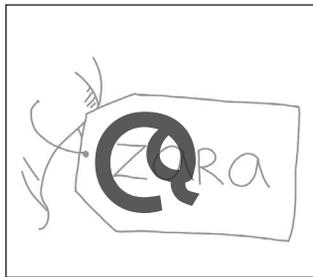
1. sa yar (male teacher)



2. sa yar ma (female teacher)



Za



a Zara clothing tag

Like “za” in “Zara.”

Writing Tip: Za has one curved stroke that loops back on itself.

Trace these letters:



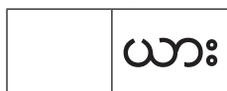
Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. za nee (wife)



2. za yarr (grid)



3. za yar (old age)

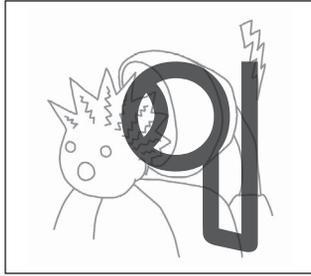
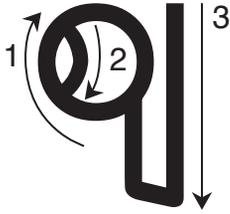




Consonant Formation

Za, Nya

Za



zapped by the hairdryer

Like “za” in “zap”

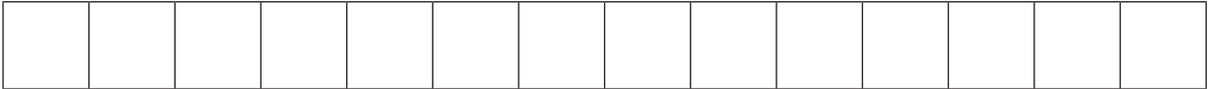


Writing Tip: Za has three strokes. First a full circle, then a small curve within the circle and finally a straight line which cuts back to meet the circle.

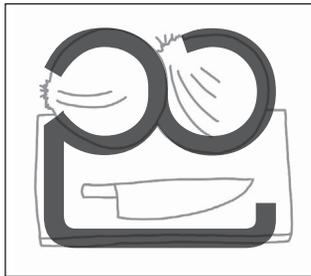
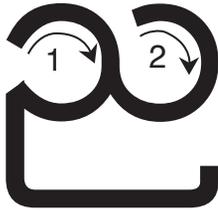
Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Note that there are no vocabulary words that use this consonant alone without a vowel addition.



Nya



please chop two onions

Like “nio” in “onion”



Writing Tip: Nya has two strokes. First, an almost-complete circle which curves away from itself to form a tail. Second, a curve matching the first which connects to its back.

Trace these letters:



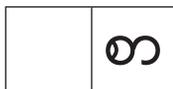
Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



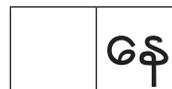
1. nya ga (last night)



2. nya sar (dinner)



3. nya nay (evening)





Revision

Circle the correct letter. Check your answers on page 96. Once you have checked your answers, practice writing the letter on the line provided. You can make the writing practice more challenging by covering the Burmese script!

1. sa က စ ယ ဇ ခ

2. ga ဂ ည ဆ ခ င

3. za ည င ဈ ခ ဆ

4. kha ည က ဈ င ခ

5. nya င ယ က ဆ ည

6. ka ည စ က ဆ ဈ

7. nga ဈ ခ င ဆ ည

8. ga ယ ဇ ဆ ည င

9. sa င ခ ဆ ဈ ည

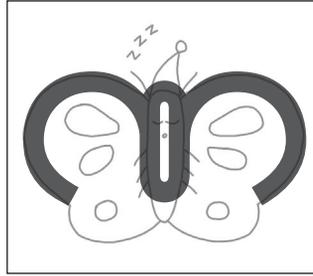
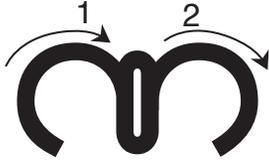
10. za စ ဇ ဆ င ယ



Consonant Formation

Na, Ta, Hta, Da

Na



the narcoleptic butterfly is always asleep

Like “nar” in “narcoleptic.”



Writing Tip: Na has two strokes. The middle oval-shaped section is completed in the first stroke. Then the second stroke is a symmetrical curve away from the oval.

Trace these letters:



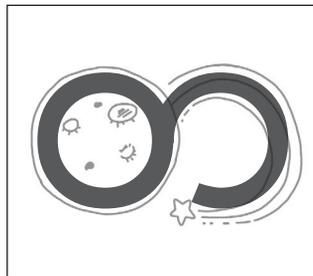
Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in the vocabulary word.



1. kha na (one moment)



Ta



a ta orbiting a moon

An aspirated sound, like “tar” in “tar.”



Writing Tip: Ta has two strokes.

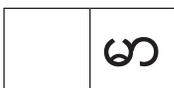
Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



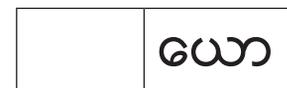
1. ta mar (neem tree)



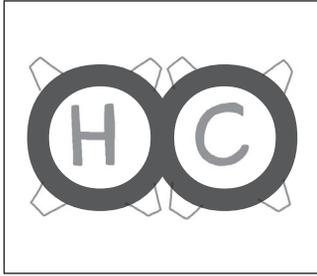
2. ta larr (coffin)



3. ta yaww (violin)



Hta



hot and cold water taps

An aspirated sound, like “ta” in “tap.”

Writing Tip: Hta has two strokes.

Trace these letters:



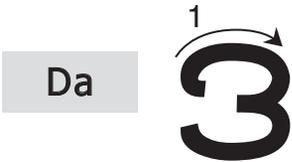
Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. Hta par! (Stand up!)



2. hta minn (cooked rice)



Da



dat’s a sideways “w”

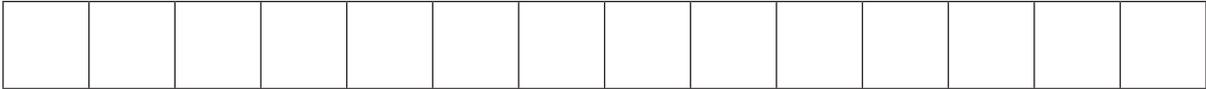
Like “dou” in “double.”

Writing Tip: Da has one stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. da tha ma (tenth)



2. da gar (generous donor)

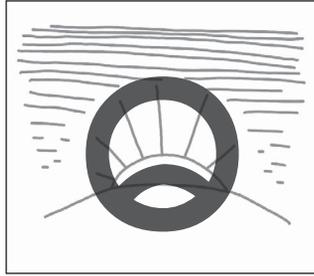




Consonant Formation

Da, Na, Pa, Pha

Da



it gets dark when the sun sets

Like “dar” in “dark.”



Writing Tip: Da has one stroke. The inside curve comes at the end.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. da na (wealth)



2. da layt (custom)



3. da neet (nipa palm frond)



Na



Nah, it's not a snake...

Like “na” in “nah.”



Writing Tip: Na has one stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



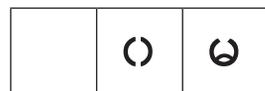
1. na garr (dragon)



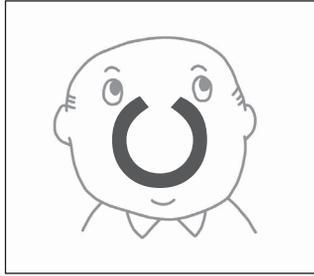
2. mar na (arrogance)



3. na wa ma (ninth)



Pa



my papa has a big nose

Like “pa” in “Papa.”

Writing Tip: Pa has one stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. pa hta ma (first)



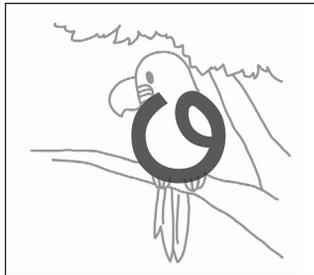
2. pa war (shawl)



3. pa yinn (amber)



Pha



there's a parrot in this park

An aspirated sound, like “pa” in “park.”

Writing Tip: Pha has one stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. pha larr
(Myanmar decorative silver bowl)



2. tharr a pha (father and son)



3. kyet pha (rooster)





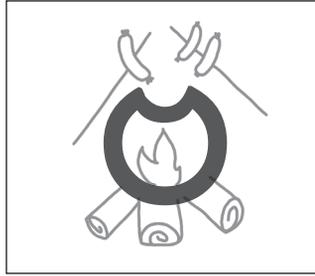
Consonant Formation

Ba, Ba, Ma, Ya

Ba



Like "bar" in "barbecue."



a barbecue



Writing Tip: Ba has two strokes.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. ba la (big muscles)



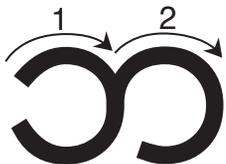
2. ba mar za garr (Burmese language)



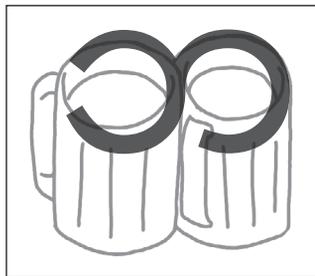
3. ba li (mosque)



Ba



Like "ba" in "bar."



leave your empty glasses on the bar



Writing Tip: Ba has two strokes.

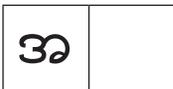
Trace these letters:



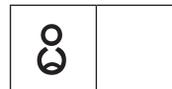
Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. a ba (uncle; parent's elder brother)



2. meet ba (parents)



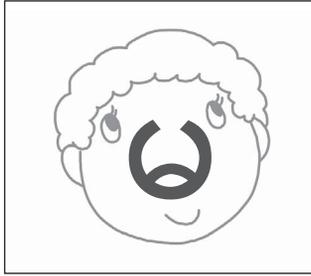
3. ba wa (life)



Ma



Like “ma” in “Mama.”



my mama has a funny nose

Writing Tip: Ma has two strokes.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words. Note the use of the two lines denoting the Burmese full stop in number 2.



1. a ma (elder sister)



2. Ma ka boo. (I don't dance.)



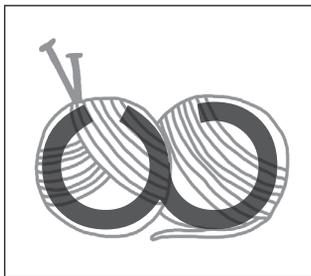
3. kyet ma (hen)



Ya



Like “ya” in “yarn.”



two balls of yarn

Writing Tip: Ya has one stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in the vocabulary word.



ya ma kar (beverage)

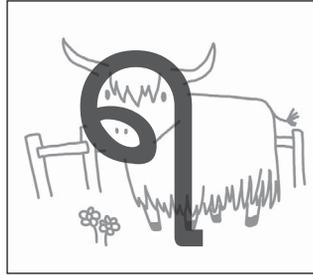




Consonant Formation

Ya, La, Wa, Tha

Ya



there is a yak in the yard

Like “yar” in “yard.” Sometimes it is pronounced ra.

Writing Tip: Ya has one stroke.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words. Note the two lines denoting the Burmese full stop in number 2.



1. ya htarr (train)



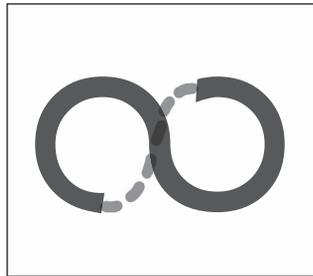
2. Ya larr? (Are you okay?)



3. tha ra (vowel)



La



infinity is the largest number

Like “la” in “large.”

Writing Tip: La has one stroke.

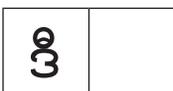
Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. di la (this month)

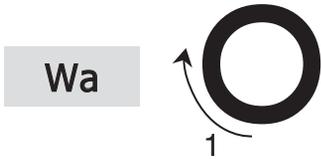


2. a la karr (free of charge)

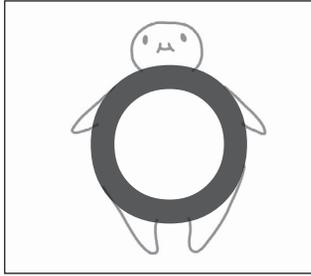


3. ngarr la (five months)





Like “wa” in “water.”



in Myanmar “wa” means “fat”

 **Writing Tip:** Wa has one stroke. There is a small gap at the top and bottom of **o** wa in some computer fonts, but when written by hand, it is just a circle, without any gaps.

Trace these letters:



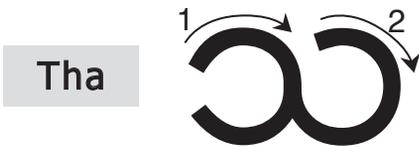
Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



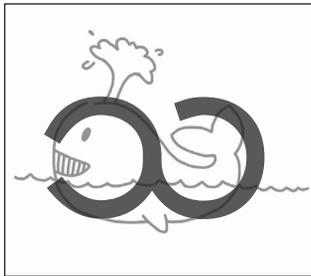
1. ma wa boo (not fat)



2. tha bar wa (natural)



Like “tha” in “Tha she blows!”



“Tha she blows!”

 **Writing Tip:** Tha has two strokes.

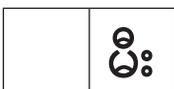
Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. tha mee (daughter)



2. tha yeh (ghost)



3. tha bar wa (natural)

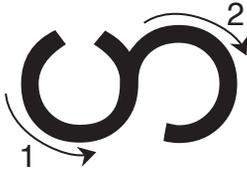




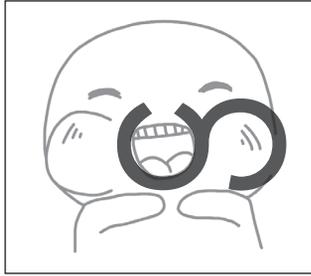
Consonant Formation

Ha, Ah

Ha



Like "ha" in "ha ha."



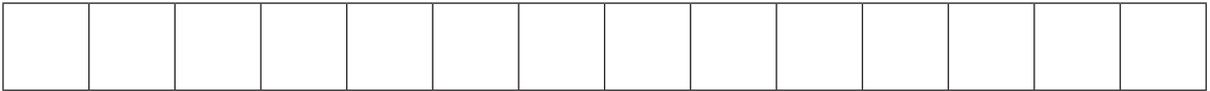
"Ha ha ha!"

Writing Tip: Ha has two strokes.

Trace these letters:



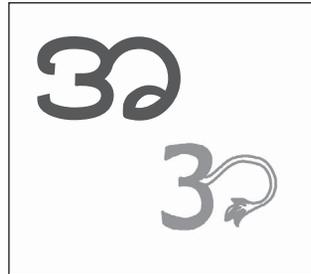
Write the letters in the boxes below. Note that there are no vocabulary words that use this consonant alone without a vowel addition.



Ah



Like "ah" in "art."



an arty 3 with a tail

Writing Tip: Ah has two strokes.

Trace these letters:



Write the letters in the boxes below. Then practice writing this letter in the blank space in each of the vocabulary words.



1. a ka (dance)



2. a ba (uncle; parent's elder brother)



3. a tharr (meat)





Revision

Circle the correct letter. Check your answer on page 96. Once you have checked your answers, practice writing the letter on the line provided. You can make the writing practice more challenging by covering the Burmese script!

1. nya န ည ဈ ရ ဒ

2. ya ဒ ဂ ရ မ ဈ

3. kha ဃ ခ ဝ ဒ စ

4. ma ဝ မ ဗ ဂ ဖ

5. hta တ သ ထ ဘ ယ

6. tha ဘ ယ တ သ ထ

7. ta ယ တ ထ ဘ သ

8. na န ရ ဈ ည ဂ

9. ah ဘ အ ဒ ဟ သ

10. la ဃ ယ က ဟ ဂ

11. pa ဝ ဂ ဝ ဖ ဗ

12. ka ယ က ဃ ဂ သ

Part

2

Vowels

Burmese is a tonal language, and most vowels have three different tones: high and short; low and level; and high and long. There is also a “stopped” tone which is high and very short. A variation in the tone of a vowel changes the meaning of a word.

In this section you will learn how to read and write all the vowel tones, and how they attach to the consonants learned in Part 1. Note that although most of the characters in this section are classified as vowels, many of them are romanized with a consonant at the end in order to convey the tone. Use the romanization as a guideline, and listen to the online audio files (see page 8) to hear correct pronunciation of each tone.

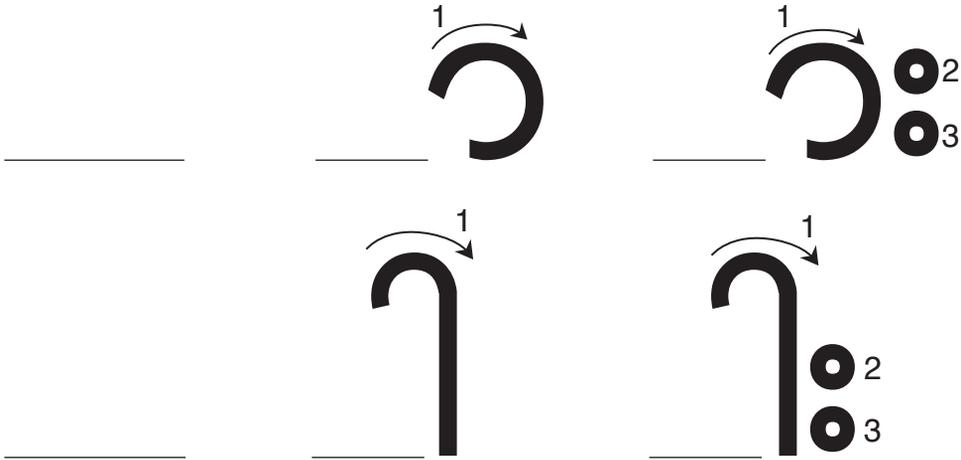
In this section you will also learn other characters that modify the consonant sounds you learned in Part 1, including medial consonants and aspirated sounds.

In this section, for every new vowel addition, there is a tracing exercise showing examples of vowels when added to a consonant. Note that this tracing exercise does not show every possible vowel combination, just a selection of examples to help you see how the vowel attaches to a consonant.



Vowel Formation

A, Ar, Arr



- _____ a as in tart (short tone)
- _____ ◡ or ◡̣ ar as in narcotics (middle tone)
- _____ ◡: or ◡̣: arr as in car (long tone)

Above are the standard vowel additions for a, ar and arr. Note that there is no addition required for a, the shortest tone, as it is the default for all consonants.

However, if some consonants are joined by the vowel ◡ to produce a longer tone, they will end up looking like a different consonant. For example, if ◡ was joined by ◡ it would become ◡◡, which looks like the consonant ◡ ta. For this reason, for the consonants ◡, ◡, ◡, ◡, ◡ and ◡ we use the versions of a, ar and arr on the second row, above. To form this vowel, the above additions are written to the right of the consonant.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡◡	◡◡◡	◡◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:
ka	kar	karr	sa	sar	sarr	hta	htar	htarr	nya	nyar	nyarr
◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:
na	nar	narr	ma	mar	marr	ya	yar	yarr	a	ar	arr
◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:			
kha	khar	kharr	ga	gar	garr	nga	ngar	ngarr			
◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:	◡	◡◡	◡◡:			
da	dar	darr	pa	par	parr	wa	war	warr			



Reading and Writing Practice

A, Ar, Arr

Practice reading these words that contain a, ar, or arr vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. sayarma female teacher

ဆရာမ

2. ngarr fish, five

ငါး

3. a sarr a sar food

အစားအစာ

4. karr sa yar driver

ကားဆရာ

5. a ya thar flavor

အရသာ

6. a tharr meat

အသား

7. Arr larr? Are you free?

အားလား။

8. pa war shawl

ပဝါ

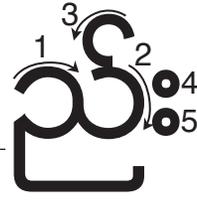
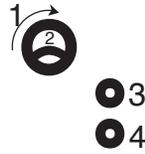
9. ya htarr train

ရထား



Vowel Formation

Eet, I, Ee



◦ or ည် eet as in eat (short tone)

◡ or ည် i as in reuse (middle tone)

◡◡ or ည်း ee as in see (long tone)

To form this vowel, the additions in the first row above are written on top of the consonant (and to the right for the long tone), and the additions in the second row are written to the right of the consonant. Certain words are habitually used with one or other of these vowels. You can see some common usage examples in the writing exercise on page 31.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

စိ	စီ	စီး	တိ	တီ	တီး	ဒိ	ဒီ	ဒီး	နိ	နီ	နီး
seet	si	see	teet	ti	tee	deet	di	dee	neet	ni	nee

ဘိ	ဘီ	ဘီး	မိ	မီ	မီး	ရိ	ရီ	ရီး	ဟိ	ဟီ	ဟီး
beet	bi	bee	meet	mi	mee	yeet	yi	yee	heet	hi	hee

စည်	စည်	စည်း	ညည်	ညည်	ညည်း	တည်	တည်	တည်း
seet	si	see	nyeet	nyi	nyee	teet	ti	tee

ထည်	ထည်	ထည်း	နည်	နည်	နည်း	မည်	မည်	မည်း
hteet	hti	htee	neet	ni	nee	meet	mi	mee

ရည်	ရည်	ရည်း	သည်	သည်	သည်း
yeet	yi	yee	theet	thi	thee



Reading and Writing Practice

Eet, I, Ee

Practice reading these words that contain eet, i, or ee vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. htee umbrella

ထီး

2. a thee fruit

အသီး

3. mee ba parent

မိဘ

4. kha yee trip

ခရီး

5. Theet larr? Do you know?

သိလား။

6. nar yi clock, watch

နာရီ

7. yee sarr boyfriend, girlfriend

ရည်းစား

8. nyi ma little sister

ညီမ

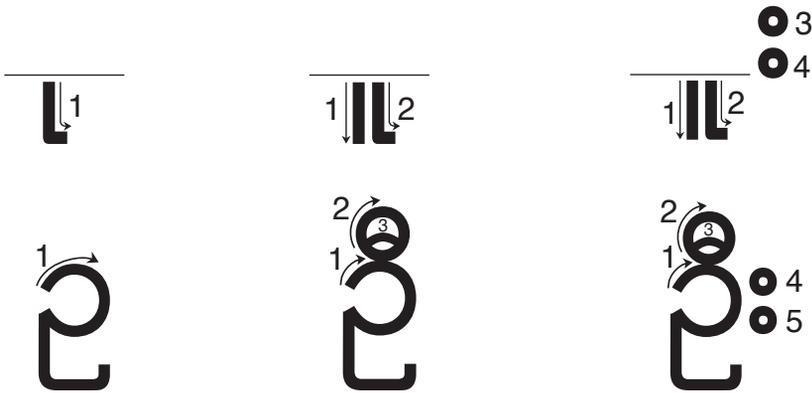
9. Nee larr? Is it close?

နီးလား။

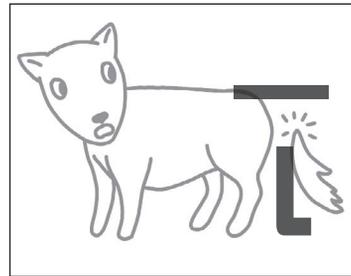


Vowel Formation

Oot, U, Oo



- o or oo oot as in oops (short tone)
- u or uu u as in super (middle tone)
- oo or ooo oo as in bamboo (long tone)



Oops! The dog's tail is broken

To form this vowel, the additions on the first row are written below the consonant (and to the right for the long tone). On the second row is the standalone version of oot, u and oo; this version is never attached to a consonant, and is rarely used. It is only seen in some specific words, such as the honorific U that is given to older men to show respect, and yar thi oot toot (weather), see facing page, number 9.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

koot	ku	koo	soot	su	soo	toot	tu	too	htoot	htu	htoo

noot	nu	noo	poot	pu	poo	phoot	phu	phoo	moot	mu	moo

yoot	yu	yoo	loot	lu	loo	thoot	thu	thoo	hoot	hu	hoo



Reading and Writing Practice Oot, U, Oo

Practice reading these words that contain oot, u, or oo vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. tu chopsticks, hammer, nephew

တူ

2. a ku a nyi help

အကူအညီ

3. ar loo potato

အာလူး

4. a tu tu together

အတူတူ

5. Ma theet boo. I don't know.

မသိဘူး။

6. mee pu iron (for smoothing clothes)

မီးပူ

7. a yoo crazy; idiot

အရူး

8. meet tharr soot family

မိသားစု

9. yar thi oot toot weather

ရာသီဥတု



Vowel Formation

Ayt, Ay, Ayy



- ကေ_ ayt as in cave (short tone)
- ကေ_ or ကေ ay as in May (middle tone)
- ကေ: ayy as in hey (long tone)



Hey! That e is upside down!

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown in the first row above. Beneath the first row is the standalone version of ay, the second tone. No consonants are needed for the version below. This version is never attached to a consonant, and is rarely used. It can only be seen in very specific words like Ayeyarwaddy (the name of the river).

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကေ့	ကေ	ကေ:	ကေ့	ကေ	ကေ:	တေ့	တေ	တေ:
kayt	kay	kayy	ngayt	ngay	ngayy	tayt	tay	tayy

နေ့	နေ	နေ:	ပေ့	ပေ	ပေ:	ဖေ့	ဖေ	ဖေ:
nayt	nay	nayy	payt	pay	payy	phayt	phay	phayy

မေ့	မေ	မေ:	ယေ့	ယေ	ယေ:	ရေ့	ရေ	ရေ:
mayt	may	mayy	yayt	yay	yayy	yayt	yay	yayy

လေ့	လေ	လေ:	ဝေ့	ဝေ	ဝေ:	ထေ့	ထေ	ထေ:
layt	lay	layy	wayt	way	wayy	thayt	thay	thayy



Reading and Writing Practice

Ayt, Ay, Ayy

Practice reading these words that contain ayt, ay, or ayy vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. yay water

ရေ

2. ka layy baby

ကလေး

3. nya nay evening

ညနေ

4. nya zayy night market

ညဈေး

5. Ay yar wa ti Ayeyarwaddy (name of river)

ရေငါတီ

6. phay phay dad

ဖေဖေ

7. may may mom

မေမေ

8. sar yayy to write

တရေး

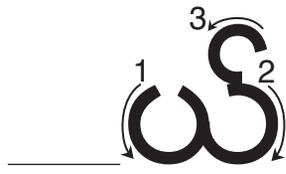
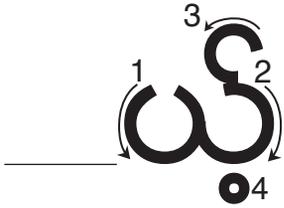
9. mayy sayt chin

မေးတေ့



Vowel Formation

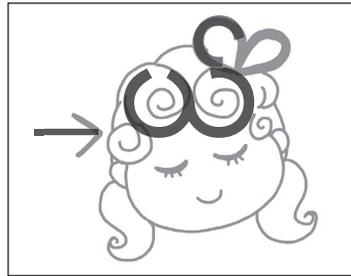
Aet, Ae, Eh



—ယံ or ယံ aet as in “meh” (short tone)

—ယံ ae as in hair (middle tone)

— ယံ eh as in air (long tone)



she has a bow in her hair

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by any of the above vowels.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကယံ	ကယ်	ကဲ	ဆယံ	ဆယ်	ဆဲ	ဇယံ	ဇယ်	ဇဲ
kaet	kae	keh	saet	sae	seh	zaet	zae	zeh

တယံ	တယ်	တဲ	နယံ	နယ်	နဲ	ဖယံ	ဖယ်	ဖဲ
taet	tae	teh	naet	nae	neh	phaet	phae	pheh

ခဲ	ခယ်	ခဲ	ငဲ	ငယ်	ငဲ	စဲ	စယ်	စဲ	ပဲ	ပယ်	ပဲ
khaet	khae	kheh	ngaet	ngae	ngheh	saet	sae	seh	paet	pae	peh

မဲ	မယ်	မဲ	ရဲ	ရယ်	ရဲ
maet	mae	meh	yaet	yae	yeh



Reading and Writing Practice

Aet, Ae, Eh

Practice reading these words that contain aet, ae, or eh vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. yeh police

ရဲ

2. pha yeh thee watermelon

ဖရဲသီး

3. a meh tharr beef

အမဲသား

4. beh oot duck egg

ဘဲဥ

5. tha yeh ghost

သရဲ

6. nga yeh hell

ငရဲ

7. yay kheh ice

ရေခဲ

8. a hteh in

အထဲ

9. a lae middle

အလယ်



Revision: Reading Practice

You should now be able to read the words below. Cover the right-hand column of text so you can only see the Burmese script on the left-hand side of the page. Try reading each Burmese word aloud and then uncover the column on the right to check. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge see if you can remember the English meaning before checking.

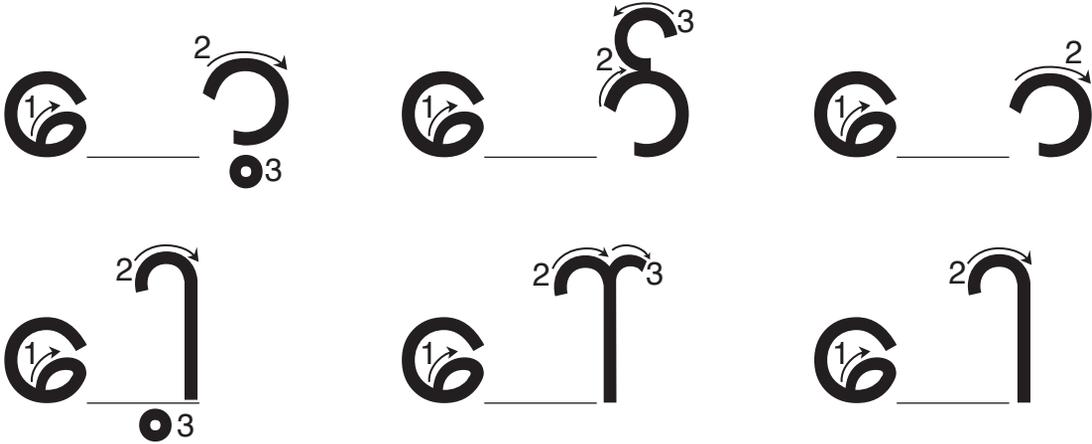
ဆရာမ	sa yar ma (female teacher)
ငါး	ngarr (fish, five)
အစားအစာ	a sarr a sar (food)
ကားဆရာ	karr sa yar (driver)
အရသာ	a ya thar (flavor)
အသား	a tharr (meat)
အားလား။	Arr larr? (Are you free?)
ပဝါ	pa war (shawl)
ရထား	ya htarr (train)
ထိး	htee (umbrella)
အသီး	a thee (fruit)
မိဘ	meet ba (parent)
ခရီး	kha yee (trip)
သိလား။	Theet larr? (Do you know?)
နာရီ	nar yi (clock, watch)
ရည်းစား	yee sarr (boyfriend, girlfriend)
ညီမ	nyi ma (little sister)
နီးလား။	Nee larr? (Is it close?)
တူ	tu (chopsticks, hammer, nephew)
အကူအညီ	a ku a nyi (help)
အာလူး	ar loo (potato)
အတူတူ	a tu tu (together)
မသိဘူး။	Ma theet boo. (I don't know.)

မီးပူ	mee pu (iron [for smoothing clothes])
အရူး	a yoo (crazy; idiot)
မိသားစု	meet tharr soot (family)
ရာသီဥတု	yar thi oot toot (weather)
ရေ	yay (water)
ကလေး	ka layy (baby)
ညနေ	nya nay (evening)
ညဈေး	nya zayy (night market)
ဧရာဝတီ	Ay yar wa ti (Ayeyarwaddy)
ဖေဖေ	phay phay (dad)
မေမေ	may may (mom)
စာရေး	sar yayy (to write)
မေးစေ့	mayy sayt (chin)
ရဲ	yeh (police)
ဖရဲသီး	pha yeh thee (watermelon)
အမဲသား	a meh tharr (beef)
ဘဲဥ	beh oot (duck egg)
သရဲ	tha yeh (ghost)
ငရဲ	nga yeh (hell)
ရေခဲ	yay kheh (ice)
အထဲ	a hteh (in)
အလယ်	a lae (middle)

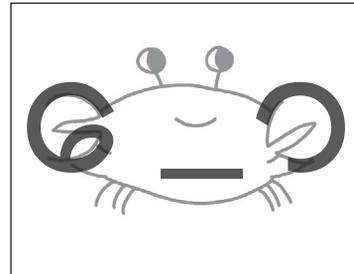


Vowel Formation

Awt, Aw, Aww



- ၼံ့ or ၼံ့ awt as in spot (short tone)
- ၼံ့ or ၼံ့ aw as in naughty (middle tone)
- ၼံ့ or ၼံ့ aww as in claw (long tone)



a crab's claws

Above are the standard vowel additions for awt, aw and aww. The additions in the second line are used with the consonants ၼ, ဝ, င, ဒ, ဝ and ဝ to avoid confusion.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကော့	ကော်	ကော	စော့	စော်	စော	တော့	တော်	တော
kawt	kaw	kaww	sawt	saw	saww	tawt	taw	taww

နော့	နော်	နော	မော့	မော်	မော	ယော့	ယော်	ယော
nawt	naw	naww	mawt	maw	maww	yawt	yaw	yaww

ခော့	ခော်	ခော	ဂော့	ဂော်	ဂော	ငော့	ငော်	ငော
khawt	khaw	khaww	gawt	gaw	gaww	ngawt	ngaw	ngaww

ဒော့	ဒော်	ဒော	ပော့	ပော်	ပော	ဝော့	ဝော်	ဝော
dawt	daw	daww	pawt	paw	paww	wawt	waw	waww



Reading and Writing Practice

Awt, Aw, Aww

Practice reading these words that contain awt, aw, or aww vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. thawt key

ထော့

2. kaw zaww carpet

ကော်ဇော

3. maww tae tired

မောတယ်

4. daww tha anger

ဒေါသ

5. a daw aunt

အဒေါ်

6. saww saww early

စောစော

7. a paw on

အပေါ်

8. ta yaww violin

တယော

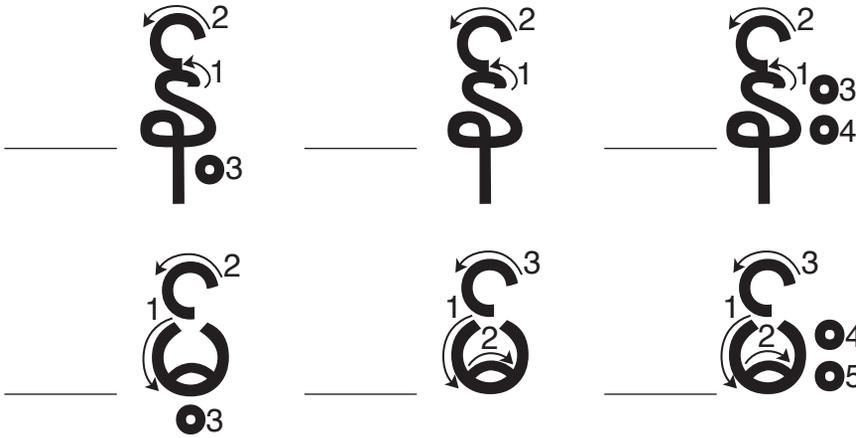
9. taww thu country bumpkin girl

တောသူ



Vowel Formation

Ant, An, Ann



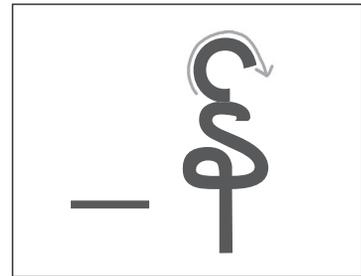
●1

●1

●2

— ant or — ant or — ant
 — an or — an or — an
 — ann or — ann

ant as in ant (short tone)
 an as in an (middle tone)
 ann as in Anne (long tone)



an arrow over “na”

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by any of the above versions of ant, an or ann.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကန်	ကန်	ကန်း	ငန်	ငန်	ငန်း	တန်	တန်	တန်း
kant	kan	kann	ngant	ngan	ngann	tant	tan	tann

ပန်	ပန်	ပန်း	စံ	စံ	စံး	ထံ	ထံ	ထံး
pant	pan	pann	sant	san	sann	htant	htan	htann

ဖံ	ဖံ	ဖံး	လံ	လံ	လံး	ခံ	ခံ	ခံး
phant	phan	phann	lant	lan	lann	khant	khan	ngant

ငံ	ညံ	ညံ	နံ	နံ	ရံ	ရံ	အံ	အံ
ngan	nyant	nyan	nant	nan	yant	yan	ant	an



Reading and Writing Practice

Ant, An, Ann

Practice reading these words that contain ant, an, or ann vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. lann street

လမ်း

2. a khann room

အခန်း

3. a tann class

အတန်း

4. pann thee apple

ပန်းသီး

5. ngan tae salty

ငန်တယ်

6. nan yan wall

နံရံ

7. a yann very

အရမ်း

8. kha yann thee eggplant

ခရမ်းသီး

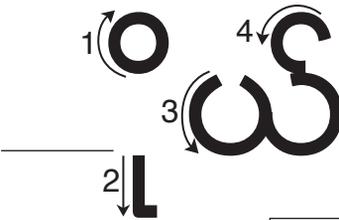
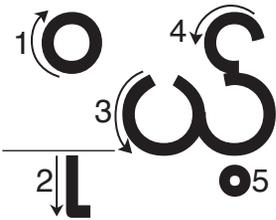
9. a khann a narr ceremony

အခမ်းအနား



Vowel Formation

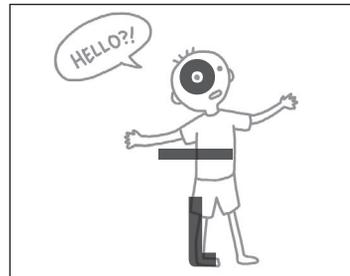
Oht, O, Oh



◦_၃ or ◦_၁ယံ oht as in volt (short tone)

◦_၁ or ◦_၁ယံ o as in alone (middle tone)

◦_၁ oh as in go (long tone)



the thin man is alone

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by any of the above versions of oht, o or oh.

*Note in the chart below that for the vowels nyoht, nyo and nyoh the “leg” is on the right-hand side and not underneath as shown in the diagrams above. Computer fonts always have the “leg” on the right-hand side rather than underneath, but you can write it either way by hand.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကို	ကို	ကိုး	ခို	ခို	ခိုး	ဆို	ဆို	ဆိုး	ညို	ညို	ညိုး
koht	ko	koh	khoht	kho	khoh	soht	so	soh	nyoht	nyo	nyoh

တို	တို	တိုး	ဒို	ဒို	ဒိုး	နို	နို	နိုး	ဖို	ဖို	ဖိုး
toht	to	toh	doht	do	doh	noht	no	noh	phoht	pho	phoh

မို	မို	မိုး	သို	သို	သိုး	ဟို	ဟို	ဟို	ကိုယံ	ကိုယံ
moht	mo	moh	thoht	tho	thoh	hoht	ho	hoh	koht	ko



Practice reading these words that contain oht, o, or oh vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. kho pigeon



2. a boh grandfather



3. poot soh male longyi (traditional skirt)



4. mee pho stove



5. noht si condensed milk



6. a nyo brown



7. thu khoh thief



8. di lo par peh so-so



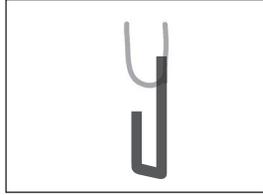
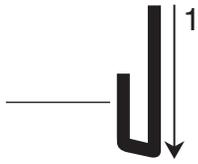
9. sar poht tha marr postman



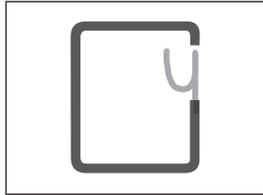
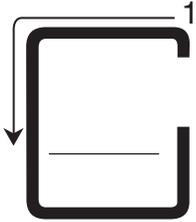


Medial Consonant

Ya



“ya,” it looks like the tail of a “y”



“ya,” it looks like the tail of a “y”

—| or ◻ ya

Medial consonants are special characters that pair with consonants to modify how those consonants are read. For example, the medial consonant ya can be added to the letter ma to make the sound mya. Above are the medial consonant additions for ya. Either of the above additions can be used with consonants alone or consonants and vowels together, to form different tones. When ya is added to က ka or ခ kha, the pronunciation becomes kya or cha respectively (the romanization of the sounds found in “jar” or “charcoal”). See the letters marked with an asterisk.

*Note in the chart below that when ya is added to vowels that have a “leg” underneath, such as oot, u, oo or oht, o, oh, the “leg” goes to the right-hand side of the letter to provide more space for the ya.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကျ	ကျာ	ကျား	ကျိ	ကျီ	ကျီး	ချ	ချာ	ချား
kya*	kyar	kyarr	kyeet	kyi	kyee	cha*	char	charr

ကျေ့	ကျေ	ကျေး	ကျဲ	ကျယ်	ကျဲ	ကျော့	ကျော်	ကျော
kyayt	kyay	kyayy	kyaet	kyae	kyeh	kyawt	kyaw	kyaww

ကြိ	ကြီ	ကြီး	ပွဲ	ပွီ	ပွီး	မြ	မြ	မြး
kyeet	kyi	kyee	pyeet	pyi	pyee	myoot	myu	myoo

မြန်	မြန်	မြန်း	ဖျော်	ဖျော်	ဖျော	ပွဲ	ပွဲ	ပွီး
myant	myan	myann	phyawt	phyaw	phyaww	pyoht	pyo	pyoh



Reading and Writing Practice

Ya

Practice reading these words that contain ya. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. a pyar blue

အပြာ

2. a myarr kyee a lot

အများကြီး

3. myoht taw capital city

မြို့တော်

4. a cho sweet

အချို

5. myay peh peanut

မြေပဲ

6. phyaw yi juice

ဖျော်ရည်

7. kyann mar tae healthy

ကျန်းမာတယ်

8. Pyaw larr? Are you happy?

ပျော်လား။

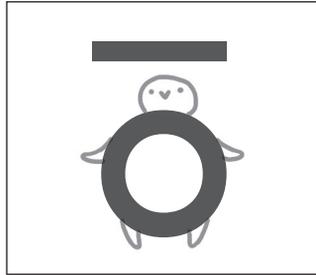
9. Myarr myarr sarr par. Eat a lot.

များများစားပါ။



Medial Consonant

Wa



a little fat “wa”



o wa

Above is the medial consonant addition for wa. It can be added to consonants alone or consonants and vowels together, to form different tones. To attach this medial consonant, the above addition is written below the consonant on the right side.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကွ	ကွာ	ကွား	ခွိ	ခွီ	ခွီး	ဆွ့	ဆွ	ဆွး
kwa	kwar	kwarr	khweyt	khwi	khwee	swayt	sway	swayy

တွ့	တွယ်	တွဲ	နွ့	နွ	နွး	ပွ့	ပွယ်	ပွဲ
twaet	twae	tweh	nwayt	nway	nwayy	pwaet	pwae	pweh

ကျ	ကျာ	ကျား	ကြွ့	ကြွ	ကြွး	ချ့	ချယ်	ချွဲ
kywa	kywar	kywarr	kywayt	kyway	kywayy	chwaet	chwae	chweh

ဂျ့	ဂျ	ဂျး	တွ့	တွ	တွး	ရွ့	ရွယ်	ရွဲ
gywayt	gyway	gywayy	twayt	tway	twayy	ywaet	ywae	yweh



Practice reading these words that contain wa. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. ywar village

ရွာ

2. sarr pweh table

စားပွဲ

3. a bwarr grandmother

အဘွား

4. nway yar thi summer

နွေရာသီ

5. pweh taw festival

ပွဲတော်

6. lwae tae easy

လွယ်တယ်

7. tha khwarr thee cucumber

သခွားသီး

8. ngway sweh kyoh silver necklace

ငွေဆွဲကြိုး

9. nwarr noht cow's milk

နွားနို့



Revision: Reading Practice

You should now be able to read the words below. Cover the right-hand column of text so you can only see the Burmese script on the left-hand side of the page. Try reading each Burmese word aloud and then uncover the column on the right to check. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge see if you can remember the English meaning before checking.

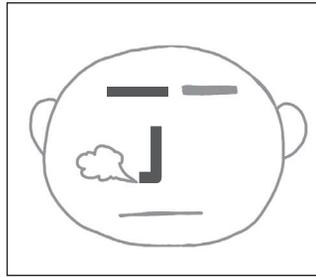
သော့	thawt (key)
ကော်ဇော	kaw zaww (carpet)
မောတယ်	maww tae (tired)
ဒေါသ	daww tha (anger)
အဒေါ်	a daw (aunt)
စောစော	saww saww (early)
အပေါ်	a paw (on)
တယော	ta yaww (violin)
တောသူ	taww thu (country bumpkin girl)
လမ်း	lann (street)
အခန်း	a khann (room)
အတန်း	a tann (class)
ပန်းသီး	pann thee (apple)
ငန်တယ်	ngan tae (salty)
နံရံ	nan yan (wall)
အရမ်း	a yann (very)
ခရမ်းသီး	kha yann thee (eggplant)
အခမ်းအနား	a khann a narr (ceremony)
ခို	kho (pigeon)
အဘိုး	a boh (grandfather)
ပုဆိုး	poot soh (male longyi [traditional skirt])
မီးဖို	mee pho (stove)
နို့သိ	noht si (condensed milk)

အညို	a nyo (brown)
သူနိုး	thu khoh (thief)
ဒီလိုပါပဲ	di lo par peh (so-so)
စာပို့သမား	sar poht tha marr (postman)
အပြာ	a pyar (blue)
အများကြီး	a myarr kyee (a lot)
မြို့တော်	myoht taw (capital city)
အချို	a cho (sweet)
မြေပဲ	myay peh (peanut)
ဖျော်ရည်	phyaw yi (juice)
ကျန်းမာတယ်	kyann mar tae (healthy)
ပျော်လား။	Pyaw larr? (Are you happy?)
မြန်မြန်စားပါ။	Myan myan sarr par. (Please eat quickly.)
ရွာ	ywar (village)
စားပွဲ	sarr pweh (table)
အဘွား	a bwarr (grandmother)
နွေရာသီ	nway yar thi (summer)
ပွဲတော်	pweh taw (festival)
လွယ်တယ်	lwae tae (easy)
သခွားသီး	tha khwarr thee (cucumber)
ငွေဆွဲကြိုး	ngway sweh kyoh (silver necklace)
နွားနို့	nwarr noht (milk)

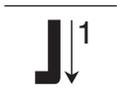


Aspirated Sound

Ha



breathe through your nose to make an aspirated sound



၂ ha

If a sound is aspirated, it is accompanied by a small puff of air when spoken, like the “p” in “puff.” The nasal aspiration of some sounds in Burmese can be achieved by consciously breathing out through the nose at the same time as speaking the sound.

Above is the addition to make consonants aspirated. It can be added to consonants alone or consonants and vowels together, to form different tones. Note that if the consonant ရှာ ya is joined by the aspirated addition ၂ ha, it becomes ရှာ sha (not yha).

The above addition is written below the consonant.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ngha	nghar	ngharr	mha	mhar	mharr	sha	shar	sharr
shoht	sho	shoh	hlayt	hlay	hlayy	sheet	shi	shee
mhoot	mhu	mhoo	hlant	hlan	hlann	nhoht	nho	nhoh
mhawt	mhaw	mhaww	nghaet	nghae	ngheh	mhoht	mho	mhoh



Practice reading these words that contain ha. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. hla tae beautiful

လှတယ်

2. mho mushroom



3. hlay boat

လှေ

4. a shayt in front

အရှေ့

5. Bar mhar ma leh? What would you like to order?

ဘာမှာမလဲ။

6. a hlu donation ceremony (at a Buddhist monastery)

အလှူ

7. shu sayy inhaler

ရှူဆေး

8. Mhan larr? Is that right?

မှန်လား။

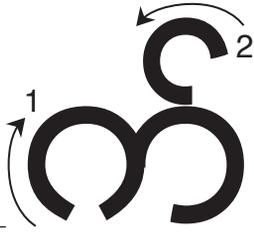
9. Mharr nay tae. That's wrong.

မှားနေတယ်။



Vowel Formation

Et



fresh eggs for 50 cents

က် et as in egg (stopped tone)

Et has only one tone, which is high and very short. To form this vowel, the above addition is written to the right of the consonant.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကက်	ခက်	စက်	ဆက်	ဇက်	ညက်	တက်	ထက်
ket	khet	set	set	zet	nyet	tet	htet
နက်	ပက်	ဖက်	ဘက်	မက်	ယက်	ရက်	လက်
net	pet	phet	bet	met	yet	yet	let
ဝက်	သက်	ဟက်	အက်	ကြက်	ချက်	ပျက်	မြက်
wet	thet	het	et	kyet	chet	pyet	myet



Reading and Writing Practice

Et

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. wet pig

ဝက်

5. let phet tea leaf

လက်ဖက်

2. wet tharr pork

ဝက်သား

6. tha yet thee mango

သရက်သီး

3. kyet tharr chicken

ကြက်သား

7. sar myet nhar page

စာမျက်နှာ

4. kyet oot chicken egg

ကြက်ဥ

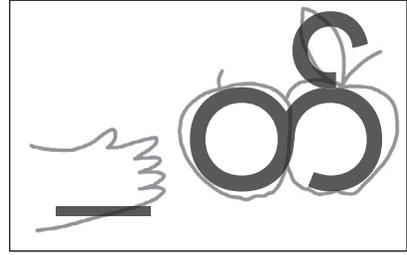
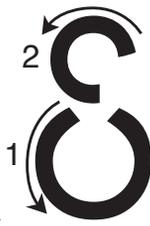
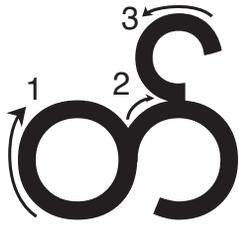
8. ket set cassette

ကက်ဆက်



Vowel Formation

At



Here are two apples

__တ် or __ဲ a as in apple (stopped tone)

At has only one tone, which is high and very short. To form this vowel, the above additions are written to the right of the consonant. Any consonant can be joined by either of the above versions of at.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကတ်	ခတ်	ငတ်	ဆတ်	တတ်	နတ်	ပတ်	ဖတ်
kat	khat	ngat	sat	tat	nat	pat	phat
ဘတ်	မတ်	ရပ်	သပ်	အပ်	ကြပ်	ချပ်	ပြတ်
bat	mat	yat	that	at	kyat	chat	pyat
ဖျတ်	မြတ်	ကြတ်	ကျပ်				
phyat	myat	kyat	kyat				



Reading and Writing Practice

At

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. a pat week

အ ပတ်

2. sat tae spicy

စပ်တယ်

3. sar phat tae to read

စာဖတ်တယ်

4. nat tha mee angel

နတ်သမီး:

5. myan mar kyat Myanmar currency

မြန်မာကျပ်

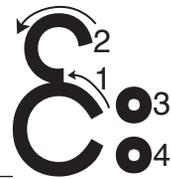
7. karr kyat tae traffic jam

ကားကြပ်တယ်



Vowel Formation

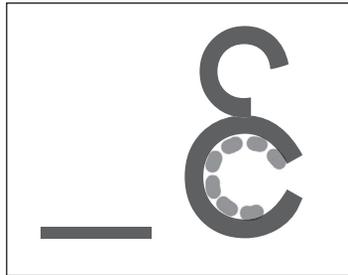
Int, In, Inn



__၎ int as in sink (short tone)

__၎ in as in in (middle tone)

__၎: inn as in inn (long tone)



the top fits in the bottom

To form this vowel, the above additions are written to the right of the consonant.

*Note that when the aspirated sound ha is joined to the medial consonant wa, ha attaches horizontally to the left side of wa. This can be seen in the combinations nhwint, nhwin, nhwinn on the bottom line of the chart below. It can also be seen in some combinations on page 75 and page 77.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

က၎	က၎	က၎:	င၎	င၎	င၎:	ည၎	ည၎	ည၎:
kint	kin	kinn	ngint	ngin	nginn	nyint	nyin	nyinn

တ၎	တ၎	တ၎:	ထ၎	ထ၎	ထ၎:	န၎	န၎	န၎:
tint	tin	tinn	htint	htin	htinn	nint	nin	ninn

ပျ၎	ပျ၎	ပျ၎:	ဖွ၎	ဖွ၎	ဖွ၎:	မြ၎	မြ၎	မြ၎:
pyint	pyin	pyinn	phwint	phwin	phwinn	myint	myin	myinn

နှ၎	နှ၎	နှ၎:	နှ၎	နှ၎	နှ၎:	မှ၎	မှ၎	မှ၎:
nhwint	nhwin	nhwinn	nhint	nhin	nhinn	mhint	mhin	mhinn



Practice reading these words that contain int, in or inn. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. hta minn cooked rice

ထမင်း

2. ngarr kin grilled fish

ငါးကင်

3. htin tae to think

ထင်တယ်

4. kyet kin roast chicken

ကြက်ကင်

5. Win lar par. Please come in.

ဝင်လာပါ။

6. kyin nar tae kind

ကြင်နာတယ်

7. phwint tae to open, turn on

ဖွင့်တယ်

8. pyinn tae bored, lazy

ပျင်းတယ်



Vowel Formation

It



“There’s a mouse in the salon—
IT’S IN MY HAIR!”

ိ it as in sit (stopped tone)

It has only one tone, which is high and very short. To form this vowel, the above addition is written to the right of the consonant.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကိတ်	ညိတ်	တိတ်	နိတ်	ရိတ်	လိတ်	သိတ်	ဟိတ်	အိတ်
kit	nyit	tit	nit	yit	lit	thit	hit	it

ချိတ်	ဂျိတ်	ပျိတ်	ဖြိတ်	မြိတ်	ခြိတ်	မျှိတ်	ရှိတ်	နှိတ်
chit	gyit	pyit	phyit	myit	chit	mhyit	shit	nhit



Reading and Writing Practice

It

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. tit one

တိတ်

2. sae nhit twelve

ဆယ့်နှိတ်

3. ma nhit ka last year

မနှိတ်က

4. nyit pat tae dirty

ညိတ်ပတ်တယ်

.....

5. shit sae eighty

ရှိတ်ဆယ်

6. Ay yar wa ti myit Ayeyarwaddy river

ဧရာဝတီမြစ်

7. a thit new

အသစ်

8. Bar phyit loht leh? Why?

ဘာဖြစ်လို့လဲ။

.....



Revision: Reading Practice

You should now be able to read the words below. Cover the right-hand column of text so you can only see the Burmese script on the left-hand side of the page. Try reading each Burmese word aloud and then uncover the column on the right to check. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge see if you can remember the English meaning before checking.

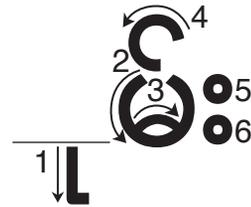
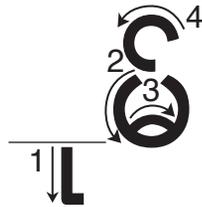
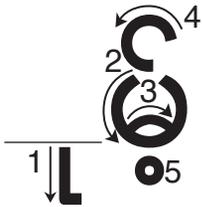
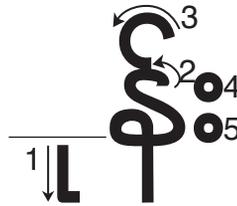
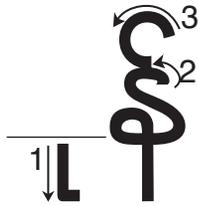
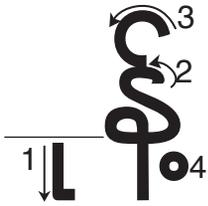
လှတယ်	hla tae (beautiful)
မိုး	mho (mushroom)
အရှေ့	a shayt (in front)
ဘာမှာမလဲ။	Bar mhar ma leh? (What would you like to order?)
အလှူ	a hlu (donation ceremony at a Buddhist monastery)
ရှူဆေး	shu sayy (inhaler)
မှန်လား။	Mhan larr? (Is that right?)
မှားနေတယ်။	Mharr nay tae. (That's wrong.)
ဝက်	wet (pig)
ဝက်သား	wet tharr (pork)
ကြက်သား	kyet tharr (chicken)
ကြက်ဥ	kyet oot (chicken egg)
လက်ဖက်	let phet (tea leaf)
သရက်သီး	tha yet thee (mango)
စာမျက်နှာ	sar myet nhar (page)
ကက်ဆက်	ket set (cassette)
ခက်တယ်	khet tae (difficult)
အပတ်	a pat (week)
စပ်တယ်	sat tae (spicy)
နတ်သမီး	nat tha mee (angel)
စာဖတ်တယ်	sar phat tae (to read)
မတ်တပ်ရပ်ပါ။	Mat tat yat par. (Please stand up.)
မြန်မာကျပ်	myan mar kyat (Myanmar currency)

ကားကြပ်တယ်	karr kyat tae (traffic jam)
လူသတ်သမား	lu that tha marr (murderer)
သွက်လက်ဖျတ်လတ်တယ်	thwet let phyat lat tae (strong and active)
ထမင်း	hta minn (cooked rice)
ငါးကင်	ngarr kin (grilled fish)
ထင်တယ်	htin tae (to think)
ကြက်ကင်	kyet kin (roast chicken)
ဝင်လာပါ။	Win lar par. (Please come in.)
ကြင်နာတယ်	kyin nar tae (kind)
ဖွင့်တယ်	phwint tae (to open, turn on)
ပျင်းတယ်	pyinn tae (bored, lazy)
သူနဲ့ခင်လား။	Thu naet khin larr? (Are you close to him?)
တစ်	tit (one)
ဆယ့်နှစ်	saet nhit (twelve)
မနှစ်က	ma nhit ka (last year)
ညစ်ပတ်တယ်	nyit pat tae (dirty)
ရှစ်ဆယ်	shit sae (eighty)
ဧရာဝတီမြစ်	Ay yar wa ti myit (Ayeyarwaddy river)
အသစ်	a thit (new)
ဘာဖြစ်လို့လဲ။	Bar phyt loht leh? (Why?)
ဘာဖြစ်လို့လဲဆိုတော့	bar phyt loht leh so tawt (because)



Vowel Formation

'Ownt, 'Own, 'Ownn



— or — or — 'ownt as in don't (short tone)

— or — or — 'own as in owner (middle tone)

— or — or — 'ownn as in own (long tone)

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by any of the above versions of 'ownt, 'own or 'ownn.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

k'ownt	k'own	k'ownn	t'ownt	t'own	t'ownn	m'ownt	m'own	m'ownn

s'ownt	s'own	s'ownn	y'ownt	y'own	y'ownn	l'ownt	l'own	l'ownn

s'ownt	s'own	s'ownn	n'ownt	n'own	n'ownn	ph'ownt	ph'own	ph'ownn



Reading and Writing Practice

'Ownt, 'Own, 'Ownn

Practice reading these words that contain 'ownt, 'own, or 'ownn vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. kh'own chair

ခုံ

2. arr l'ownn all

အားလုံး

3. a k'own all

အကုန်

4. yay kheh m'ownt ice cream

ရေခဲမုန့်

5. y'own tae believe, trust

ယုံတယ်

6. dat p'own photo

ဓာတ်ပုံ

7. dat p'own sa yar photographer

ဓာတ်ပုံဆရာ

8. tae li ph'ownn telephone

တယ်လီဖုန်း

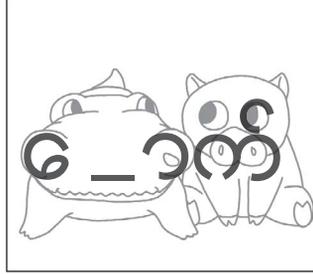
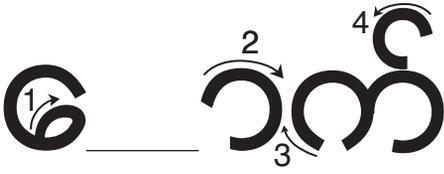
9. m'ownn tae hate

မုန်းတယ်

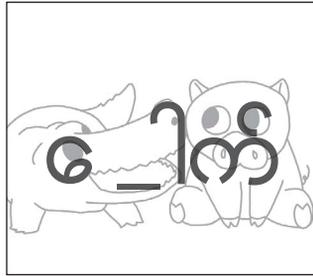
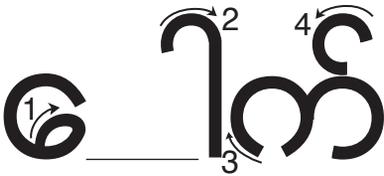


Vowel Formation

Out



a pair of snouts



the crocodile has a bigger snout

ဝဲ_က် or ဝဲ_က် out as in snout (stopped tone)

Out has only one tone, which is high and very short.

Above is the standard vowel addition for out. The addition in the second line are used with the consonants ခ, ဝ, င, ဒ, ဝ and ဝ to avoid confusion.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကောက်	ခေါက်	ဂေါက်	ငေါက်	ဆောက်	တောက်
kout	khout	gout	ngout	sout	tout

ထောက်	ဒေါက်	နောက်	ပေါက်	ဖောက်	ဘောက်
htout	dout	nout	pout	phout	bout

မောက်	ယောက်	ရောက်	လောက်	သောက်	ဟောက်
mout	yout	yout	lout	thout	hout

အောက်	ကျောက်	ခြောက်	မျောက်	ရှောက်
out	kyout	chout	myout	shout



Practice reading these words that contain the out vowel. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

- 1. a nout behind

အနောက်

- 2. out mhar under, below

အောက်မှာ

- 3. Bar thout ma leh? What would you like to drink?

ဘာသောက်မလဲ။

- 4. kyout tae scared, frightened

ကြောက်တယ်

- 5. kyout t'ownn stone

ကျောက်တုံး

- 6. Bae lout leh? How much?

ဘယ်လောက်လဲ။

- 7. Bae nhit khout leh? How many times?

ဘယ်နှစ်ခေါက်လဲ။

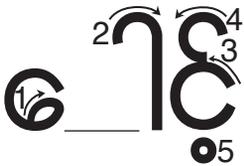
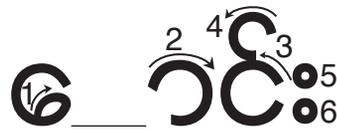
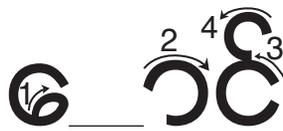
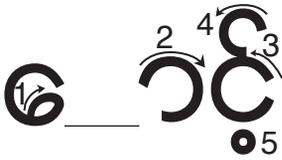
- 8. khout sweh kyaw fried noodles

ခေါက်ဆွဲကြော်



Vowel Formation

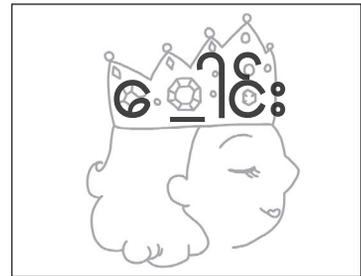
Aung, Aung, Aung



၁ံ့ or ၁ံ့ aung as in mount (short tone)

၁ံ or ၁ံ aung as in boundary (middle tone)

၁ံး or ၁ံး aung as in crown (long tone)



the queen's crown is tall

The additions in the second line are used with the consonants ခ, ဝ, င, ဒ, ဝ and ဝ to avoid confusion.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကောံ့	ကောံ	ကောံး	စောံ့	စောံ	စောံး	ထောံ့
kaungt	kaung	kaungg	saungt	saung	saungg	htaungt

ထောံ	ထောံး	နောံ့	နောံ	နောံး	ရောံ့	ရောံ
htaung	htaungg	naungt	naung	naungg	yaungt	yaung

ရောံး	ခေါံ့	ခေါံ	ခေါံး	ဒေါံ့	ဒေါံ	ဒေါံး
yaungg	khaungt	khaung	khaungg	daungt	daung	daungg

ကျောံ့	ကျောံ	ကျောံး	မြောံ့	မြောံ	မြောံး
kyaungt	kyaung	kyaungg	myaungt	myaung	myaungg



Reading and Writing Practice

Aungt, Aung, Aungg

Practice reading these words that contain aungt, aung, or aungg vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. kyaung cat

ကြောင်

2. kyaungg school

ကျောင်း

3. kyaungg tharr student

ကျောင်းသား

4. a haungg old, not new

အဟောင်း

5. maung layy little brother

မောင်လေး

6. khaungg moo tae dizzy

ခေါင်းမူးတယ်

7. naung ta ya tae to regret

နောင်တရတယ်

8. taung tet thwarr tae to go hiking

တောင်တက်သွားတယ်

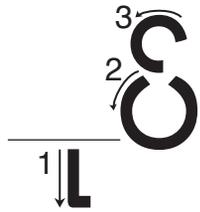
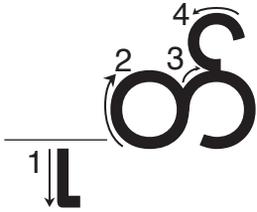
9. soot soot paungg total

စုစုပေါင်း

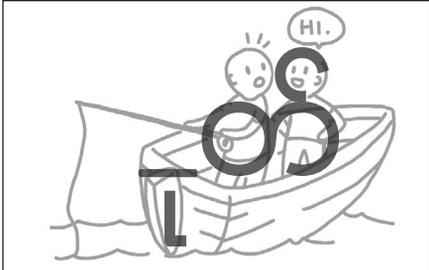


Vowel Formation

Ote



ote as in boat (stopped tone)



two boys in a boat

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by either of the above versions of ote.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကုတ်	ခုတ်	ဆုတ်	တုတ်	နုတ်	ဖုတ်	ယုတ်	သုတ်	ဟုတ်
kote	khote	sote	tote	note	phote	yote	thote	hote

ကျပ်	ချပ်	စုပ်	ပြတ်	ဖြတ်	မှိပ်	လုပ်	လှုပ်	ရှုပ်	အုပ်
kyote	chote	sote	pyote	phyote	mhyote	lote	hlote	shote	ote



Reading and Writing Practice

Ote

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. a lote work

အလုပ်

2. a thote salad

အသုပ်

3. sar ote book

စာအုပ်

4. ta yote za garr Chinese language

တရုတ်စကား:

5. nga yote thee chili

ငရုတ်သီး:

6. let phet thote tea leaf salad

လက်ဖက်သုပ်

7. hote tae yes; that's true

ဟုတ်တယ်

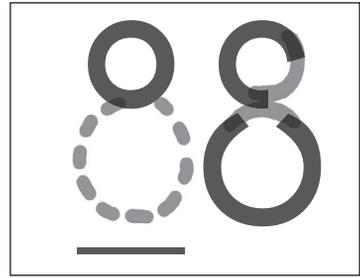
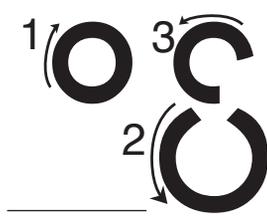
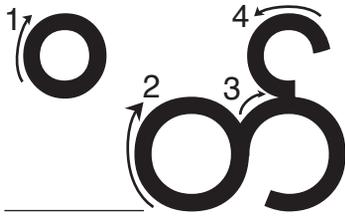
8. a lote myarr tae busy

အလုပ်များတယ်



Vowel Formation

Ate



___^oတ် or ___^oပ် ate as in eight (stopped tone)

one and a half eights

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by either of the above versions of ate.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကိတ်	စိတ်	ဆိတ်	တိတ်	ထိပ်	ပိတ်	ဖိတ်	ဘိတ်	မိတ်
kate	sate	sate	tate	htate	pate	phate	bate	mate

လိပ်	အိတ်	ကြိတ်	ချိတ်	မြိတ်	ရှိတ်	မှိတ်	အိပ်	နှိပ်	ရိတ်
late	ate	kyate	chate	myate	shate	mhate	ate	nhate	yate



Reading and Writing Practice

Ate

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. sar ate envelope

စာအိတ်

2. late sar address

လိပ်စာ

3. lay sate airport

လေဆိပ်

4. sate soh tae angry

စိတ်ဆိုးတယ်

5. ate chin tae sleepy

အိပ်ချင်တယ်

6. Tan kharr pate par. Please close the door.

တံခါးပိတ်ပါ။

7. kate m'ownt cake

ကိတ်မုန့်

8. mway naye phate sar birthday invitation

မွေးနေ့ဖိတ်စာ



Revision: Reading Practice

You should now be able to read the words below. Cover the right-hand column of text so you can only see the Burmese script on the left-hand side of the page. Try reading each Burmese word aloud and then uncover the column on the right to check. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge see if you can remember the English meaning before checking.

ခုံ	kh'own (chair)
အားလုံး	arr l'ownn (all)
အကုန်	a k'own (all)
ရေခဲမုန့်	yay kheh m'ownt (ice cream)
ယုံတယ်	y'own tae (to believe, to trust)
ဓာတ်ပုံ	dat p'own (photo)
ဓာတ်ပုံဆရာ	dat p'own sa yar (photographer)
တယ်လီဖုန်း	tae li ph'ownn (telephone)
မုန်းတယ်	m'ownn tae (hate)
အနောက်	a nout (behind)
အောက်မှာ	out mhar (under, below)
ဘာသောက်မလဲ။	Bar thout ma leh? (What would you like to drink?)
ကြောက်တယ်	kyout tae (scared, frightened)
ကျောက်တုံး	kyout t'ownn (stone)
ဘယ်လောက်လဲ။	Bae lout leh? (How much?)
ဘယ်နှစ်ခေါက်လဲ။	Bae nhit khout leh? (How many times?)
ခေါက်ဆွဲကြော်	khout sweh kyaw (fried noodles)
သောက်တယ်	thout tae (to drink)
ကြောင်	kyaung (cat)
ကျောင်း	kyaungg (school)
ကျောင်းသား	kyaungg tharr (student)
အဟောင်း	a haungg (old, not new)
မောင်လေး	maung layy (little brother)

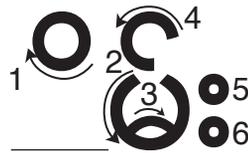
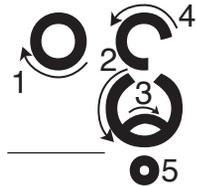
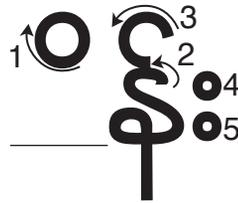
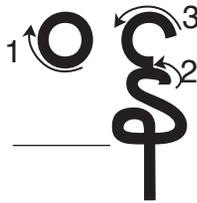
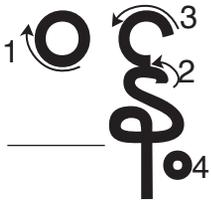
ခေါင်းမူးတယ်
နှောင်တရတယ်
တောင်တက်သွားတယ်
စုစုပေါင်း
အလုပ်
တရုတ်စကား
စာအုပ်
အသုပ်
ငရုတ်သီး
လက်ဖက်သုပ်
အလုပ်များတယ်
ဟုတ်တယ်
ဘယ်မှာအလုပ်လုပ်လဲ။
စာအိတ်
လိပ်စာ
စိတ်ဆိုးတယ်
လေဆိပ်
အိပ်ချင်တယ်
မွေးနေ့ဖိတ်စာ
ကိတ်မုန့်
တံခါးပိတ်ပါ။
စိတ်ဝင်စားစရာကောင်းတယ်

khaung moo tae (dizzy)
naung ta ya tae (to regret)
taung tet thwarr tae (to go hiking)
soot soot paungg (total)
a lote (work)
ta yote za garr (Chinese language)
sar ote (book)
a thote (salad)
nga yote thee (chili)
let phet thote (tea leaf salad)
a lote myarr tae (busy)
hote tae (yes; that's true)
Bae mhar a lote lote leh? (Where do you work?)
sar ate (envelope)
late sar (address)
sate soh tae (angry)
lay sate (airport)
ate chin tae (sleepy)
mwayy nayt phate sar (birthday invitation)
kate m'ownt (cake)
Tan kharr pate par. (Please close the door.)
sate win sarr sa yar kaungg tae (interesting)



Vowel Formation

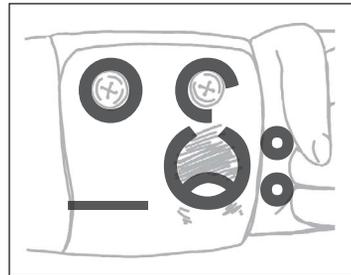
Aint, Ain, Ein



◌^oန့် or ◌^oင့် aint as in faint (short tone)

◌^oန့် or ◌^oင် ain as in maintain (middle tone)

◌^oန့်း or ◌^oင်း ein as in stain (long tone)



my sleeve has a stain!

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by any of the above versions of aint, ain, ein.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကိန့်	ကိန့်	ကိန့်း	စိန့်	စိန့်	စိန့်း	ထိန့်	ထိန့်	ထိန့်း
kaint	kain	kein	saint	sain	sein	htaint	htain	htein

ပိန့်	ပိန့်	ပိန့်း	ဆိမ့်	ဆိမ့်	ဆိမ့်း	ညိမ့်	ညိမ့်	ညိမ့်း
paint	pain	pein	saint	sain	sein	nyaint	nyain	nyein

နိမ့်	နိမ့်	နိမ့်း	ကျိန့်	ကျိန့်	ကျိန့်း	ခြိမ့်	ခြိမ့်	ခြိမ့်း
naint	nain	nein	kyaint	kyain	kyein	chaint	chain	chein



Reading and Writing Practice

Aint, Ain, Ein

Practice reading these words that contain aint, ain, or ein vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. sain diamond

စိန်

2. hta main female longyi (traditional skirt)

ထမိန်

3. lu lain liar

လူလိမ်

4. pain tae thin, not fat

ပိန်တယ်

5. bein phyu opium

ဘိန်းဖြူ

6. sain sweh kyoh diamond necklace

စိန်ဆွဲကြိုး

7. a sein yang green

အစိမ်းရောင်

8. tain htu tae cloudy

တိမ်ထူတယ်

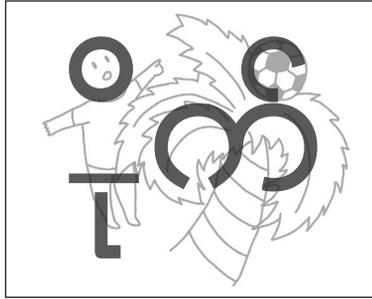
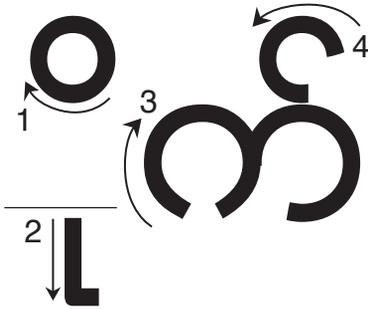
9. Eain ka bae mhar leh? Where's your house?

အိမ်ကဘယ်မှာလဲ။



Vowel Formation

Ite



the ball might be stuck in that tree

ိက် ite as in might (stopped tone)

Ite has only one tone, which is high and very short. To form this vowel, use the additon as shown above.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ိက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်
kite	ngite	site	tite	nite	pite	bite	mite

ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်
yite	lite	kyite	chite	pyite	byite	myite	shite

ိုက်	ိုက်	ိုက်
hlite	white	eite



Reading and Writing Practice

Ite

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. site karr trishaw

ိုက်ကား:

2. kyite tae to like

ိုက်တယ်

3. bite sar tae hungry

ိုက်ဆာတယ်

4. Lite ma larr? Will you come with me?

ိုက်မလာ:။

5. eite tae to feel hot

ိုက်တယ်

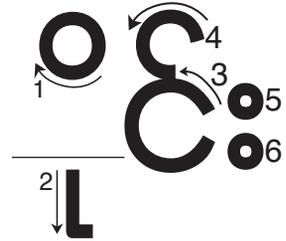
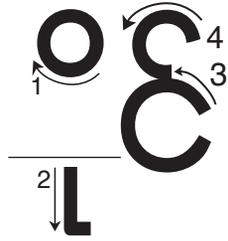
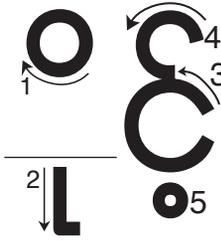
6. bite aungt tae stomachache

ိုက်အောင့်တယ်



Vowel Formation

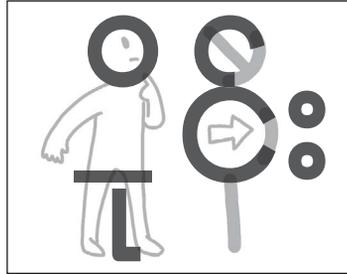
Ainq, Ai, Aii



ainq as in pint (short tone)

ai as in minor (middle tone)

aai as in sign (long tone)



make sure to read the signs

To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကိုင်း	ကိုင်	ကိုင်းး	ခိုင်း	ခိုင်	ခိုင်းး	ဆိုင်း	ဆိုင်	ဆိုင်းး
kainq	kai	kaii	khainq	khai	khaii	sainq	sai	saii
ထိုင်း	ထိုင်	ထိုင်းး	နှိုင်း	နှိုင်	နှိုင်းး	မိုင်း	မိုင်	မိုင်းး
htainq	htai	htaii	nainq	nai	naii	mainq	mai	mai
ကျိုင်း	ကျိုင်	ကျိုင်းး	ပြိုင်း	ပြိုင်	ပြိုင်းး	လှိုင်း	လှိုင်	လှိုင်းး
kyainq	kyai	kyaii	pyainq	pyai	pyaii	hlainq	hlai	hlaii



Reading and Writing Practice

Ainq, Ai, Aii

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. sai shop

ဆိုင်း

2. pai shin owner

ပိုင်ရှင်

3. thaii nai ngan Thailand

ထိုင်းနိုင်ငံ

4. sa pyit wai Burmese grape wine

စပျစ်ပိုင်

5. yaii tae rude

ရိုင်းတယ်

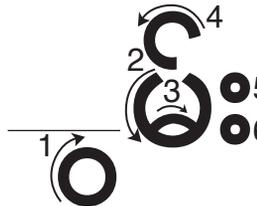
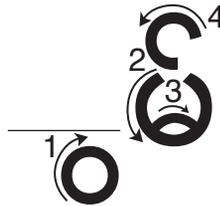
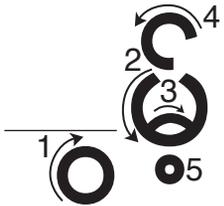
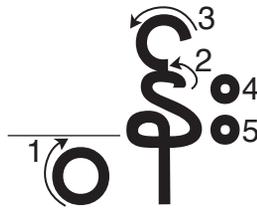
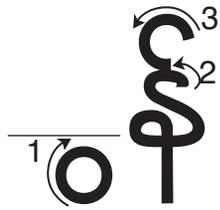
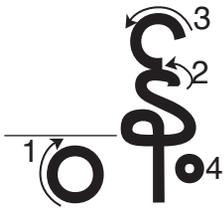
6. ya khai pyi nae Rakhine State

ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်



Vowel Formation

Ont, On, Onn



ont as in continent (short tone)

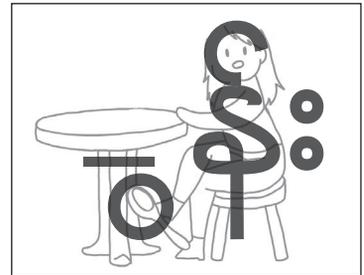
ont as in continent (short tone)

on as in online (middle tone)

on as in online (middle tone)

onn as in spoon (long tone)

onn as in spoon (long tone)



the girl dropped her spoon

Above are the standard vowel additions for ont, on, onn. In some words they are pronounced want, wan, wann. To form this vowel, use the additions as shown above. Any consonant can be joined by any of the above versions of ont, on, onn.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

kont	kon	konn	khont	khon	khonn	sont	son	sonn
------	-----	------	-------	------	-------	------	-----	------

tont	ton	tonn	mont	mon	monn	lwant	lwan	lwann
------	-----	------	------	-----	------	-------	------	-------

kont	kon	konn	kyont	kyon	kyonn	shont	shon	shonn
------	-----	------	-------	------	-------	-------	------	-------



Practice reading these words that contain ont, on, or onn vowels. Trace the gray letters then practice writing them freehand. You can challenge yourself further by writing the whole word.

1. konn betel nut

ကွမ်း

2. lwann tae to miss

လွမ်းတယ်

3. mon pyi nae Mon State

မွန်ပြည်နယ်

4. kon yet network

ကွန်ရက်

5. Zonn sheet larr? Do you have a spoon?

ဇွန်းရှိလား။

6. lann nhyon guide, directory

လမ်းညွှန်

7. Honn ma tee par naet. Please don't use your horn.

ဟွန်းမတီးပါနဲ့။

8. khon arr strength

ခွန်အား

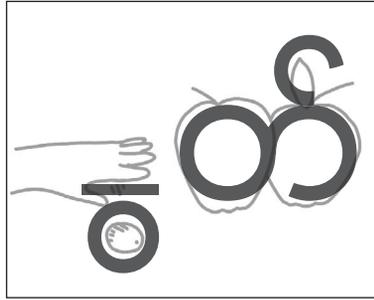
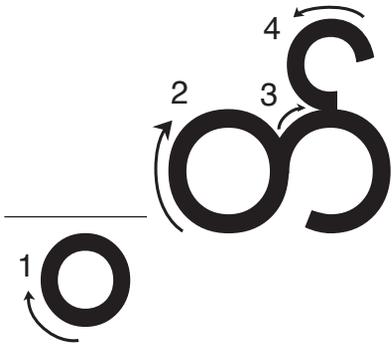
9. yonn lacquer

ယွန်း



Vowel Formation

Ut



put a grape next to the apples

ုတ် ut as in put (stopped tone)

Ut has only one tone, which is high and very short. To form this vowel, use the above addition.

Practice tracing the example vowel and consonant combinations.

ကွတ်	ဆွတ်	ညွတ်	တွတ်	ပွတ်	ဖွတ်	မွတ်	ရွတ်	လွတ်	သွတ်
kut	sut	nyut	tut	put	phut	mut	yut	lut	thut

ကျွတ်	ချွတ်	ပြွတ်	လွှတ်	ရွှတ်	နှွတ်	မ္မွတ်	ညှွတ်	ကြွတ်
kyut	chut	pyut	hlut	shut	nhut	mhut	nyhut	kyut



Reading and Writing Practice

Ut

Trace the gray letters, then practice writing the words freehand.

1. put tae to rub

ပွတ်တယ်

2. but pheet nat boots

ဘွတ်ဖိနပ်

3. mut sa lin Muslim

မွတ်ဆလင်

4. yay mwayy sut tae to put on perfume

ရေမွှေးဆွတ်တယ်

5. a htut a myat holy

အထွတ်အမြတ်

6. tar yar kyut tire tube

တာယာကျွတ်

7. chut tae to take off

ချွတ်တယ်

8. khwint hlut tae to forgive

ခွင့်လွှတ်တယ်



Revision: Reading Practice

You should now be able to read the words below. Cover the right-hand column of text so you can only see the Burmese script on the left-hand side of the page. Try reading each Burmese word aloud and then uncover the column on the right to check. Keep practicing until you can read them all. For an extra challenge see if you can remember the English meaning before checking.

စိန်	sain (diamond)
ထမိန်	hta main (female longyi [traditional skirt])
လူလိမ်	lu lain (liar)
ပိန်တယ်	pain tae (thin, not fat)
ဘိန်းဖြူ	bein phyu (opium)
စိန်ဆွဲကြိုး	sain sweh kyoh (diamond necklace)
အစိမ်းရောင်	a sein yang (green)
တိမ်ထူတယ်	tain htu tae (cloudy)
အိမ်ကဘယ်မှာလဲ။	Eain ka bae mhar leh? (Where's your house?)
ဆိုက်ကား	site karr (trishaw)
ကြိုက်တယ်	kyite tae (to like)
ဗိုက်ဆာတယ်	bite sar tae (hungry)
ဗိုက်အောင့်တယ်	bite aungt tae (stomachache)
အိုက်တယ်	eite tae (to feel hot)
လိုက်မလား။	Lite ma larr? (Will you come with me?)
ရှမ်းခေါက်ဆွဲကြိုက်လား။	Shann khout sweh kyite larr? (Do you like Shan noodles?)
ဓာတ်ပုံရိုက်လို့ရလား။	Dat p'own yite loht ya larr? (Can I take a photo?)
သူ့ခွေးကိုက်ခံရတယ်။	Thu khwayy kite khan ya tae. (S/he was bitten by a dog.)
ဆိုင်	sai (shop)

စားသောက်ဆိုင်	sarr thout sai (restaurant)
လက်ဖက်ရည်ဆိုင်	let phet yi sai (teashop)
ပိုင်ရှင်	pai shin (owner)
ထိုင်းနိုင်ငံ	thaii nai ngan (Thailand)
စပျစ်ပိုင်	sa pyit wai (Burmese grape wine)
ရိုင်းတယ်	yaii tae (rude)
ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်	ya khai pyi nae (Rakhine State)
ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး	yan kone taii day tha kyee (Yangon Region)
ကွမ်း	konn (betel nut)
လွမ်းတယ်	lwann tae (to miss someone/something)
မွန်ပြည်နယ်	mon pyi nae (Mon State)
ကွန်ရက်	kon yet (network)
ဖွန်းရှိလား။	Zonn sheet larr? (Do you have a spoon?)
လမ်းညွှန်	lann nhyon (guide, directory)
ဟွန်းမတီးပါနဲ့။	Honn ma tee par naet. (Please don't use your horn)
ခွန်အား	khon arr (strength)
ယွန်း	yonn (lacquer)
ပွတ်တယ်	put tae (rub)
ဘွတ်ဖိနပ်	but pheet nat (boots)
မွတ်ဆလင်	mut sa lin (Muslim)
ရေမွှေးဆွတ်တယ်	yay mwayy sut tae (to put on perfume)
အထွတ်အမြတ်	a htut a myat (holy)
တာယာကျွတ်	tar yar kyut (tire tube)
ချွတ်တယ်	chut tae (to take off)
ခွင့်လွှတ်တယ်	khwint hlut tae (to forgive)
အလွတ်တမ်းသတင်းထောက်	a lut tann tha tinn htout (freelance journalist)

Part

3

Reading and Writing Practice

In this part of the book you'll find a variety of reading and writing exercises that will help reinforce and consolidate your knowledge of the Burmese alphabet. The sections are divided into useful everyday topics, ranging from daily expressions, numbers and food to computers and social media.



GUIDED WRITING PRACTICE

Practice tracing the daily expressions, then try writing by yourself. Practice pronunciation using the online audio file.

1. Mingalarpar. Hello.

မင်္ဂလာပါ။

2. Nay kaungg larr? How are you?

နေကောင်းလား။

3. Kaungg tae. Fine.

ကောင်းတယ်။

4. Di lo bar beh. So so.

ဒီလိုပါပဲ။

5. Thate ma kaungg boo. Not very well.

သိပ်မကောင်းဘူး။

6. Ta tar. Goodbye.

တာ့တာ။

7. Nout mha twayt mae naw. See you later.

နောက်မှတွေ့မယ်နော်။

8. Kaungg thaww nya par. Goodnight.

ကောင်းသောညပါ။

9. Kyayy zoo tin par tae. Thank you.

ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်။

10. Nan mae bae lo khaw leh? What's your name?

နာမည်ဘယ်လိုခေါ်လဲ။

11. Kyon tawt nan mae ka...par. My name is... [male speaker]

ကျွန်တော့်နာမည်က...ပါ။

12. Kyon ma nan mae ka...par. My name is... [female speaker]

ကျွန်မနာမည်က...ပါ။

13. Kha na layy naw. Just a moment, please.

ခဏလေးနော်။

14. Hote tae. Yes! / That's right.

ဟုတ်တယ်။

15. Bar mha, ma hote par boo. No. / Nothing.

ဘာမှမဟုတ်ပါဘူး။

16. Ma theet boo. I don't know.

မသိဘူး။

17. Tit sate lout. Excuse me [polite].

တစ်ဆိတ်လောက်။

18. Ya par tae. That's all right. / It's okay.

ရပါတယ်။

19. Kate sa, ma sheet par boo. No problem.

ကိစ္စမရှိပါဘူး။

■ NUMBERS ■

 GUIDED WRITING PRACTICE

Practice tracing then writing the spelled out number on the left and the Burmese figure on the right. Practice pronunciation using the online audio file.

1 (tit) တစ် ၁

2 (nhit) နှစ် ၂

3 (thownn) သုံး ၃

4 (layy) လေး ၄

5 (ngarr) ငါး ၅

6 (chout) ခြောက် ၆

7 (khoot nit) ခုနစ် ၇

8 (shit) ရှစ် ၈

9 (koh) ကိုး ၉

10 (tit sae) တစ်ဆယ် ၁၀

11 (saet tit) ဆယ့်တစ် ၁၁

12 (saet nhit) ဆယ့်နှစ် ၁၂

■ PLACES AROUND TOWN ■

🎧 Match each word in the box to its Myanglish pronunciation, and write the word in the correct place. Once you have checked your answers on page 96, practice pronouncing the words using the online audio.



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| a) သံရုံး | i) ရဲစခန်း |
| b) ဘုရား | j) စာတိုက် |
| c) ဈေး | k) ဘူတာ |
| d) ဆေးရုံ | l) စားသောက်ဆိုင် |
| e) ဘဏ် | m) စာကြည့်တိုက် |
| f) ဘတ်စ်ကားမှတ်တိုင် | n) ဘား |
| g) ဆေးဆိုင် | o) ရုပ်ရှင်ရုံ |
| h) ဟိုတယ် | p) ပန်းခြံ |

1. sar tite post office
2. than y'ownn embassy
3. sar kyeet tite library
4. ho tae hotel
5. zayy market
6. sarr thout sai restaurant
7. pann chan park
8. ban bank
9. sayy y'own hospital
10. sayy sai pharmacy
11. yote shin y'own cinema
12. bu tar train station
13. bus karr mhat tai bus stop
14. barr bar
15. yeh sa khann police station
16. bootyarr pagoda

■ GETTING AROUND IN MYANMAR ■



GUIDED WRITING PRACTICE

Practice reading, tracing and writing the words below. Practice pronunciation with the audio file.

1. bats karr bus

ဘတ်စ်ကား

2. tet ka si taxi

တက္ကစီ

3. karr car

ကား

4. site karr trishaw

ဆိုက်ကား

5. tote tote tuk tuk

တုတ်တုတ်

6. set bee bicycle

စက်ဘီး

7. sai kae motorcycle

ဆိုင်ကယ်

8. hlay boat

လှေ

9. thin baww ship

သင်္ဘော

10. ya htarr train

ရထား

II. lay yin airplane

လေယာဉ်

Reading and Writing Practice

Label the pictures with words from the box. Check your answers by referring to page 88.

ဘတ်စ်ကား တက္ကစီ ကား စက်ဘီး ဆိုင်ကယ် သင်္ဘော ရထား လေယာဉ်



1.



2.



3.



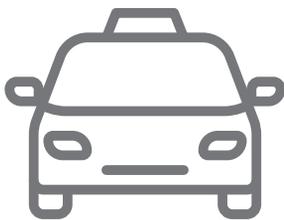
4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

■ A MYANMAR MENU ■

🎧 Match each menu item to its Myanglish pronunciation, and write the word in the correct place. Check your answers on page 96.



Breakfast

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| a) ကြက်ဥမွှေကြော် | c) အုန်းနို့ခေါက်ဆွဲ | e) ကြက်ဥပလာတာ |
| b) မုန့်ဟင်းခါး | d) ထမင်းကြော် | |

1. m'ownt hinn kharr mohinga: fish and rice noodle soup
2. kyet oot pa lar tar fried flatbread with egg
3. ownn noht khout sweh coconut noodles
4. hta minn kyaw fried rice
5. kyet oot mhway kyaw omelet

Curries

a) ဘဲဥဟင်း

c) ကြက်သားဟင်း

e) ပုစွန်ဟင်း

b) ငါးဟင်း

d) အမဲသားဟင်း

f) ဝက်သားဟင်း

1. kyet tharr hinn chicken curry

2. beh oot hinn duck egg curry

3. wet tharr hinn pork curry

4. ngarr hinn fish curry

5. a meh tharr hinn beef curry

6. poot son hinn prawn curry

Salads

a) ဂျင်းသုပ်

c) မြင်းခွာရွက်သုပ်

e) ခေါက်ဆွဲသုပ်

b) လက်ဖက်သုပ်

d) ခရမ်းချဉ်သီးသုပ်

f) ထမင်းသုပ်

1. let phet thote tea leaf salad

2. hta minn thote rice salad

3. kha yann chin thee thote tomato salad

4. khout sweh thote noodle salad

5. gyinn thote ginger salad

6. myinn khwar ywet thote pennywort salad

Drinks

a) ရေခွေးကြမ်း

c) သံပရာရည်

e) ကော်ဖီမစ်

b) ဖရဲသီးဖျော်ရည်

d) လက်ဖက်ရည်

f) သရက်သီးဖျော်ရည်

1. let phet yi Burmese tea
2. yay nwayy kyann green tea
3. kaw phi mit instant coffee
4. than pa yar yi lime juice
5. tha yet thee phyaw yi mango juice
6. pha yeh thee phyaw yi watermelon juice



■ COMPUTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA ■



GUIDED WRITING PRACTICE

Practice reading, tracing and writing the words below. Practice pronunciation with the audio file.

1. kon pyu tar computer

ကွန်ပျူတာ

2. wai phai Wi-Fi

ဝိုင်ဖိုင်

3. letp tawt laptop

လက်ပံတော့

4. in tar net Internet

အင်တာနက်

5. laii connection

လှိုင်း

6. ee mayyl email

အီးမေးလ်

7. ee mayyl late sar email address

အီးမေးလ်လိပ်စာ

8. so shae mi di yar social media

ဆိုရှယ်မီဒီယာ

9. phayts but Facebook

ဖေ့စ်ဘွတ်

10. in sa tar ga ran Instagram

အင်စတာဂရမ်

11. etp app

အက်ပ်

12. konn mant comment

ကွန်းမန်

13. met sayt message

မက်ဆေ့

14. sae phi selfie

ဆယ်ဖီ

🎧 LISTENING AND READING PRACTICE

Read and listen to the sentences and underline the words to do with Internet and social media from the list above. Check your answers on page 96.

1. ဒီမှာ ဝိုင်ဖိုင်အလကားရလား။
Is there free Wi-Fi here?

2. အီးမေးလ်လိပ်စာလေးပေးပါ။
What is your email address?

3. ကျွန်တော့်ကို အီးမေးလ်ပို့လိုက်ပါလား။
Could you send me an email?

4. လိုင်းကျတယ်။
The Internet connection is slow.

5. ဆယ်ဖီဆွဲရအောင်။
Let's take a selfie.

6. ဖေ့စ်ဘွတ်မှာ အက်ဒ်ပေးပါ။
Add me on Facebook.

7. ဖေ့စ်ဘွတ်အကောင့်ရှိလား။
Do you have a Facebook account?

8. ဒီဘာသာပြန်အက်ပလီကေးရှင်းရှိလား။
Do you have this translation app?





Reading and Writing Sentences

Test your reading and writing skills by studying the word list below and then trying to read the text. Although you may be unfamiliar with Burmese grammar, you should be able to recognize and pronounce many of the words in the text. Use the audio file to help you. Once you feel confident that you can read the text with understanding, try writing the text out in the space below.

Vocabulary

ကျွန်မ = I, my (female speaker)

နာမည် = name

အသက် = age

နှစ် = year

မှာ = in, at (comes after time or place)

ပါ = polite particle (comes after noun or verb)

တယ် = ending particle after present tense verb

မယ် = ending particle after future tense verb

Noun + တွေ = plural form

Noun + နဲ့ = with, and, by

မေလ = May

တနင်္လာနေ့ = Monday

ဒီနေ့ = today

မနက်ဖြန် = tomorrow

မွေးနေ့ = birthday

ရွှေတိဂုံဘုရား = Shwedagon Pagoda

ပုဂံ = Bagan

စားသောက်ဆိုင် = restaurant

သူငယ်ချင်း = friend

ထမင်းကြော် = fried rice

လက်ဖက်ရည် = tea

နေ = to live, to stay

သွား = to go

မွေး = to be born

စား = to eat

သောက် = to drink

ကျွန်မနာမည် နဒီပါ။ အသက် ၂၅ နှစ်ရှိပြီ။ ရန်ကုန်မှာ နေတယ်။ မေလ ၉ ရက်နေ့၊ တနင်္လာနေ့မှာ မွေးတယ်။ ဒီနေ့ ကျွန်မမွေးနေ့ပါ။ ရွှေတိဂုံဘုရားသွားမယ်။ စားသောက်ဆိုင်မှာ သူငယ်ချင်းတွေနဲ့ ထမင်းကြော်စားမယ်။ လက်ဖက်ရည်သောက်မယ်။ မနက်ဖြန် ပုဂံသွားမယ်။

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Answer Key

Page 15

1. sa - စ
2. ga - ဂ
3. za - ဝျ
4. kha - ခ
5. nya - ည
6. ka - က
7. nga - င
8. ga - ဃ
9. sa - ဆ
10. za - ဇ

Page 25

1. nya - ည
2. ya - ရ
3. kha - ခ
4. ma - မ
5. hta - ထ
6. tha - တ
7. ta - တ
8. na - န
9. ah - အ
10. la - လ
11. pa - ပ
12. ka - က

Page 85

1. ကိုးနာရီပါ။
2. လေးနာရီထိုးဖို့ ဆယ်မိနစ်
3. နိုဝင်ဘာလ ၃ ရက်နေ့၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့

Page 87

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. j | 9. d |
| 2. a | 10. g |
| 3. m | 11. o |
| 4. h | 12. k |
| 5. c | 13. f |
| 6. l | 14. n |
| 7. p | 15. i |
| 8. e | 16. b |

Page 90

1. b
2. e
3. c
4. d
5. a

Page 91 (curries)

1. c
2. a
3. f
4. b
5. d
6. e

Page 91 (salads)

1. b
2. f
3. d
4. e
5. a
6. c

Page 92

1. d
2. a
3. e
4. c
5. f
6. b

Page 94

1. ဒီမှာ ဝိုင်ဖိုင် အလကားရလား။
2. အီးမေးလ်လိပ်စာလေး ပေးပါ။
3. ကျွန်တော့်ကို အီးမေးလ် ပို့လိုက်ပါလား။
4. လှိုင်းကျတယ်။
5. ဆယ်ဖီ ဆွဲရအောင်။
6. ဖေ့စ်ဘွတ် မှာ အက်ဒ်ပေးပါ။
7. ဖေ့စ်ဘွတ် အကောင့်ရှိလား။
8. ဒီဘာသာ ပြန်အက်ပလီကေးရှင်း ရှိလား။

The easy and accessible way to learn the Burmese writing system!

With this handy guide to the Burmese alphabet, you'll quickly learn to read, write and pronounce Burmese letters and hundreds of useful words and phrases – no prior knowledge necessary!

- A complete introduction to the Burmese writing system
- Easy, step-by-step lessons that take you from copying Burmese letters to writing complete words and sentences
- Exercises featuring everyday activities and situations
- Online audio recordings to help you pronounce Burmese correctly
- Illustrations to help you learn the sounds of the letters

A Zun Mo is the go-to Burmese-language teacher in the Yangon expat community, where she has been teaching all levels from beginners to advanced since 2013. As a gifted high-school student, fluent in English, she was selected by the government to study Russian at university. She now has a B.A. in Russian Language and Culture from Yangon University of Foreign Languages. She is the author of *Essential Burmese: Phrasebook and Dictionary*.

Angus Johnstone has worked as a teacher in Myanmar across a number of different settings from a social enterprise bakery to a government nursing university. His keen interest in the study of the Myanmar language continues to this day.

TUTTLE

www.tuttlepublishing.com

Printed in Malaysia