

வாங்க, தமிழ் படிக்கலாம் vAnga, thamizh padikkalAm

Lesson No. 4

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Hi everyone,

Hope you are getting more and more comfortable with reading and typing. Last week's assignments must have been quite demanding.

This week we will take it a little easy.

We will cover just two more letters.

Some of you might have been wondering about my choice of letters so far. It may appear as haphazard. The conventional alphabet sequence after அ to ஒ, is different. There are 18 letters, under the category of Consonants, starting with "க்" and ending in "ள்". After finishing the Vowels (அ to ஒ), I should have started with க். I didn't.

Thamizh has an interesting characteristic. Some of the letters have a dual sound. You all know that there is only one Thamizh letter for both "pa" and "ba". Is this something peculiar to Thamizh?

Look at the pronunciation of these English words.

fun fuse

put putty

but bush

pus push

Did you see how the sound of "u" changes from word to word? Since there were no rules for pronunciation, every time we learnt a new word, we had to learn its correct pronunciation also.

It is not so difficult in Thamizh. There are very clear and simple rules. Once you understand them, it is almost intuitive.

However, since I wanted to make the learning process as easy as possible, I started with letters which have only one unique sound.

Having come this far, you will have no difficulty now, in moving over to letters with dual sounds. There are five such letters. We will cover two of them this week.

-o O o -

This is the simplest of the Thamizh Alphabets, I think. Just two straight lines perpendicular to each other!

	ஸ
Thanglish letter for natural sound	t
pronounce it as	"yit"

The combinations are

ஸ	ட	டா	டி	டீ	டு	டூ	டெ	டே	டை	டொ	டோ	டௌ
		(taa)						(tae)		(toh)	(toe)	
t	ta	tA	ti	tee	tu	too	te	tE	tai	to	tO	tau

Did you notice, I talked about "natural sound"? In this class and in the next class, we are going to talk about the group of letters which have a **natural sound** and an **alternate sound**. Depending on the context, they can take either sound.

The **alternate** sound is given in the following table.

ஸ	ட	டா	டி	டீ	டு	டூ	டெ	டே	டை	டொ	டோ	டௌ
		(daa)						(dae)		(doh)	(doe)	
d	da	dA	di	dee	du	doo	de	dE	dai	do	dO	dau

Type both the sequences and get used to them¹. You can use

<http://www.homeopoonga.com/lesson-4-typing-practice/>

Speak out those sounds loudly, as you type them. Type them again and again.

While typing on the Phone keyboard, you may find it a little inconvenient to type CAPITAL letters. So, Azhagi has provided the **taa**, **tae** and **toe** options for the natural sound and **daa**, **dae** and **doe** for the alternate sound.

(Don't type **toh** for "to" or **doh** for "do". I have given it only as a pronunciation help, because one might get confused with the usual pronunciation of "to" and "do")

¹ Desktop users, before you start typing in Thamizh, please remember to have Azhagi running in the background. If you are not able to type in Thamizh, please start Azhagi-plus and minimize it after it opens. Remember to press ALT 3 also. Phone users, don't bother. Once you install the app, it will always be available.

Natural sound and Alternate sound – which one in which context?

Having talked about the sound changing from natural sound to alternate sound depending on the context, let's go into the details.

Broadly, there are three situations under which the sound changes.

1. Letter IS in the beginning of the word.
2. Letter IS NOT in the beginning – Single Occurrence
– Double Occurrence

Let us see how these situations define the sounds for "ட".

Letter IS in the beginning of the word.

We don't have to deal with this situation because, just like the letter "ஊ", "ட" is not allowed to come in the beginning of the word. That leaves us to look at only the other scenario.

Letter IS NOT in the beginning of the word.

We will look at both Single Occurrence and Double Occurrence, together, for a better understanding.

Single Occurrence		Double Occurrence	
Alternate sound "d"		Natural sound "t"	
அடை adai	a snack	அட்டை attai	1. cardboard 2. cover page 3. Leech
ஆடு Adu	goat	ஆட்டு Attu	1. shake it 2. related to goat
ஈடு eedu	1. equal 2. compensation	ஈட்டு eettu	earn
எடு edu	take	எட்டு ettu	eight
ஓடை Odai	stream (water)	ஓட்டு Ottai	hole

மடை madai	sluice gate	மட்டை mattai	dried leaf of palm trees
மூடு moodu	close	மூட்டு moottu	knee
வடி vadi	strain, filter	வட்டி vatti	interest
வடம் vadam	thick rope	வட்டம் vattam	circle
ஓடம் Odam	boat	ஓட்டம் Ottam	1. running 2. flow
இடம் idam	place	ஊட்டம் oottam	nutrition
அடம் adam	stubborn	ஆட்டம் Attam	game

I suppose you were able to understand the concept of single and double occurrence and how the sound changes from natural to alternate².

² Just for fun, try saying "addai" instead of "attai". Isn't it a bit awkward? "attai" sounds more natural and easy to say.

Similarly, try saying "mootu" instead of "moodu". One might think you saying "moottu", whose meaning is entirely different.

Keep in mind, you don't have to remember all these rules, analyze the context and apply the rule. Just relax. Let your tongue and mouth decide what they find easy and natural. Don't feel bad about speaking with the wrong sound. Thamizh is very lenient with these dual sounds.

Exceptions

Although I said, "ட" is not allowed to come in the beginning of a word, you will come across a number of words beginning with "ட".

They will all be either words representing sounds or words originating from other languages.

For words that represent sounds, there are no rules. It depends on the sound.

டம் dam	sound of fire cracker bursting	டிக் டிக் டிக் tik tik tik	sound of watch ticking
டமால் damaal	sound of explosion	டொக் tok	sound of some small object falling.
டுமீல் dumeel	sound of gun shot	டப் tap	sound of small cracker bursting.

For words that came from other languages, quite naturally, it will depend on the root word; e.g., டீ (Tea), டெங்கு (Dengue), டப்பா (dabbaa), டின் (tin) and so on.

-oOo-

Let's move on to the next letter which looks very similar.

	ப
Thanglish letter for natural sound	p
pronounce it as	"yip"

The **natural** sound combinations are,

ப	ப	பா	பி	பீ	பு	பூ	பெ	பே	பை	பொ	போ	பௌ
		(paa)						(pae)			(poe)	
p	pa	pA	pi	pee	pu	poo	pe	pE	pai	po	pO	pau

The **alternate** sound combinations are,

ப	ப	பா	பி	பீ	பு	பூ	பெ	பே	பை	பொ	போ	பௌ
		(baa)						(bae)			(boe)	
b	ba	bA	bi	bee	bu	boo	be	bE	bai	bo	bO	bau

Type both the sequences and get used to them. I have provided two text boxes for this also, in this page.

<http://www.homeopoonga.com/lesson-4-typing-practice/>

Speak out those sounds loudly, as you type them. Type them again and again.

While typing on the Phone keyboard, if you want to avoid typing upper case, you have the paa, pae and poe options for the natural sound and baa, bae and boe for the alternate sound³.

³ There is also an option of "poa" and "boa" for "pO" and "bO". If you think that is more intuitive, you can use that also.

pa or ba – How do I pronounce?


Unlike "ட", "ப" can come in the beginning of the word also.

So, let us take that situation first.

"ப" IS in the beginning of the word

Let's look at all the words which begin with "ப" and see how they sound.

[Click on this and see the foot note](#)

பட்டி patti	a small settlement, village	பட்டு  4 pattu	silk	பட்டை pattai	1. bark 2. flat
பா pA	peom	பாப்பா pAppA	Baby	பாட்டி pAtti	Grandma
பாட்டு pAttu	Song	பாட்டை pAttai	way, path	பிட்டு pittu	a kind of food item
புட்டு puttu	same as பிட்டு (colloquial)	புட்டை puttai	excreta of donkey		
பூ poo	Flower	பூப்பு pooppu	1. puberty 2. bloom	பூட்டு poottu	Lock
பேட்டி pEtti	Interview	பேட்டை pEttai	a small locality		
பொட்டு pottu	colored mark on forehead, bindi	பொட்டை pottai	1. blind 2. sissy		
போ pO	go	போட்டி pOtti	competition		

It is very clear from the above that "ப" takes the natural sound if it is in the beginning of the word.

⁴ Listen carefully to the pronunciation – It is not "pattoo", said with puckered lips (squeezing your lips together, as if you are going to kiss someone). This applies to all words ending with the short "wu" sound.

"ப" IS NOT in the beginning of the word – Single occurrence

Look at the examples below

அம்பு ambu	arrow	நம்பு nambu	believe	வீம்பு veembu	false prestige
பாம்பு pAmbu	snake	வம்பு vambu	petty quarrel	வேம்பு vEmbu	Neem
நோன்பு nOnbu	fasting ritual	மாண்பு mANbu	honour, nobility		

It is very clear, "ப" takes the alternate "b" sound if it is NOT in the beginning AND occurs only once.

"ப" is NOT in the beginning of the word – double occurrence

அப்பா appa	Dad	ஆப்பு Appu	Wedge	உப்பு uppu	salt
அப்போ appO	at that time	இப்போ ippO	now	எப்போ eppO	when
ஒப்பனை oppnai	makeup	ஒப்பு oppu	agree, acceptance	மூப்பு mooppu	old age

This is also very clear. "ப" takes the natural sound if there is double occurrence.

Remember, you don't have to bother so much to remember the rules. Just do what comes naturally to you and that would almost be the correct way. Even if it was wrong, no one would mistake you. More important, you are unlikely to convey a wrong meaning.

While typing you have no problem. Azhagi, would convert both "p" and "b" to "ப".

After all that serious stuff, let's relax a bit. Let's watch a Thamizh movie song clip. Focus on the opening stanza.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVaWtd4XL_o

பாட்டு பாடவா பார்த்து பேசுவா
பாடம் சொல்லவா பறந்து செல்லவா
பால் நிலாவை போல வந்த பாவை அல்லவா
நானும் பாதை தேடி ஓடி வந்த காளை அல்லவா

Did you notice almost every word in that stanza starts with a "ப"?

Could you read some words?

Compare the Thamizh lyrics and the English transliteration in the above picture. Do you see any mistakes in that? If you do, then you deserve a pat on your back. You are very sharp.

Reading Practice

This collection of words is composed of all the letters that you have already learnt. The Thanglish guide is not provided. See if you can read them without much struggle.

Keep in mind, these words are just for your reading practice. Meanings are given but you don't have to memorize or remember.

அடம்	stubborn
அடி	hit, beat, injury
அடை	a snack
அப்பா	Dad
அப்பாவி	innocent guy
அப்போ	at that time
ஆடு	play, goat
ஆட்டம்	game
ஆட்டு	shake
ஆண்டு	year
ஆப்பம்	kind of pan cake
ஆப்பு	wedge
இடம்	place
இடு	keep, put
இடை	1. Waist, 2. in between
இப்போ	now
ஈடு	1. equivalent 2. compen-sation
ஈட்டு	earn
உப்பு	salt

உடை	1. dress 2. break
ஊட்டம்	nutrition
ஊட்டு	feed
எடை	weight
எட்டு	eight
எப்படி	how
எப்போ	when
ஏடு	1. creamy layer of milk, 2. book
ஏப்பம்	belch
ஒட்டு	1. stick it, 2. graft (plant)
ஒடு	1. run 2. Tile (mud)
ஒடை	stream
ஒட்டு	vote
ஒட்டை	hole
நடை	walk, rhythm
நட்டம்	loss
நட்பு	friendship
நண்டு	crab

நோட்டம்	surveillance
படம்	picture
பட்டம்	1. kite 2. Degree 3. Title
பட்டை	bark, flat
பணம்	money
பாடம்	lesson
பாடல்	song
பாடை	stretcher for corpse (bier)
பாபா	holy man
பாவம்	sin
பாவாடை	petticoat
பாவி	sinner, cruel person
பிடு	split, divide
பிட்டு	a kind of food item
பிணம்	corpse
பீடம்	pedestal
பீப்பாய்	barrel
புடம்	a process of purification

பூனை	cat
பெட்டை	female (of bird)
பேட்டை	a small locality
பை	bag
மடம்	Mutt
மடு	valley
மடை	sluice gate
மட்டு	limit
மன்னிப்பு	pardon
மாடி	upper floor
மாடு	cow
மாட்டு	related to cow

மீட்பு	rescue
முட்டு	collide, support
மூடன்	foolish person
மூடி	lid
மூடு	close
மூட்டு	knee
மூட்டை	sack (bag)
மூப்பு	old age
மேடு	mound
மேடை	stage
வடம்	thick rope
வடை	a snack
வண்டு	beetle

வாடு	shrink, dry up,
வாடை	1. bad smell, 2. northern wind
விடம்	poison
விடு	release, let go
விடை	answer
விட்டம்	diameter, ceiling
வெடி	explosive
வெட்டு	cut
வெப்பம்	heat
வேட்டி	man's lower garment
வேட்டு	fire cracker
வேட்டை	hunt

Reading & Typing Practice

I have arranged all the words we saw earlier, in a different order.

Apart from reading, it will help you immensely if you type the words and practice.

Read the word first, keep it in mind, then type. After typing the word, compare and see if you have typed it correctly. This is essential so that you get the short and long sounds correctly.

Suppose the word you want to type is பால்டு. While reading, you might have read it correctly as பால்டு. Type the entire word and then check with the original. It is quite likely that you have typed it as பால்டு or பால்டு or பால்டு. Every time you realize you made a mistake, make a resolve not to repeat it.

One more thing. When there are double occurrences, remember that also. They are also very important. Taking the same example, typing பால்டு as பால்டு is totally wrong. They are two entirely different words.

Most people make the elementary mistake of not being careful with the short and long sounds and don't give enough importance for double occurrences. It leaves a very low impression about their Thamizh knowledge.

By the way, did you realize that every variation of that word (பால்டு, பால்டு, பால்டு, பால்டு) has a different meaning?! So, you got to be VERY VERY CAREFUL.

பை	மூடு	மேடை	ஓட்டு
அடி	மேடு	வடை	பிட்டு
பீடி	வாடு	வாடை	மட்டு
மூடி	விடு	விடை	மாட்டு
வெடி	அடை	பாபா	முட்டு
ஆடு	இடை	பாவி	மூட்டு
இடு	உடை	பூனை	வெட்டு
ஈடு	எடை	வேட்டி	வேட்டு
ஏடு	ஓடை	ஆட்டு	ஆண்டு
ஓடு	நடை	ஈட்டு	நண்டு
பிடு	பாடை	ஊட்டு	வண்டு
மடு	பீடை	எட்டு	அட்டை
மாடு	மடை	ஒட்டு	ஓட்டை

பட்டை	உப்பு	மடம்	ஊட்டம்
பெட்டை	மூப்பு	மாடம்	நட்டம்
பேட்டை	அப்போ	வடம்	நோட்டம்
மட்டை	இப்போ	விடம்	பட்டம்
மூட்டை	எப்போ	பணம்	விட்டம்
வேட்டை	அடம்	பிணம்	ஆப்பம்
பாவாடை	இடம்	பாவம்	ஏப்பம்
பீப்பா	படம்	பாடல்	வெப்பம்
நட்பு	பாடம்	மூடன்	அப்பாவி
மீட்பு	பீடம்	எப்படி	மன்னிப்பு
ஆப்பு	புடம்	ஆட்டம்	

Time to say, Bye for now.

The feedback I got last week was that I am pushing too much.

That is the reason I have restricted to just two new letters this week.

Henceforth, we will keep this reduced pace. My goal is to help you complete this course before the end of this year's summer vacation. It should be possible even with the reduced pace

The sound file that I have used in this lesson as pronunciation guide, is from Wikimedia Commons⁵. These files can be used by anyone. See foot note for more details.

As always, I am open to suggestions. Let us make this journey a pleasant one for every one of us.

Until next week,

Best Wishes to you all,

Sundararajan

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChPsaoGfPR1sVxKHT6VvcEQ?sub_confirmation=1

⁵ <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ta-%E0%AE%AA%E0%AE%9F%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%9F%E0%AF%81.ogg>