

வாங்க, தமிழ் படிக்கலாம்
vAnga, thamizh padikkalAm

Lesson No. 2

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Hi everyone,

I am extremely happy with the good wishes and encouragement pouring in. Compared to the number of people with whom I shared the PDF, the number of downloads of that PDF is much higher. It shows that many have forwarded to their friends also.

It was also very heart-warming to see so many people texting "*Iniya Puththandu Vazhthukkal*"¹.

This confirmed my feeling that so many people are longing to express themselves in Thamizh. It is rather unfortunate that they missed the bus to learn to READ and WRITE.

If you remember, I had mentioned about *typing in English and getting the Thamizh output*. Many people have asked me how to do it.

It is actually very easy. You can do it with a software called **Azhagi+** that is absolutely FREE to download and use.

Let's move on to the next page to learn how to install that.

¹ There were different versions of the messages; all were Thamizh sentences but typed in English. This is what I was referring as "Transliteration of Tamil word into English". From now on, we will use alternate popular name "**Thanglish**"

How to install Azhagi

Windows

Please follow these instructions exactly as told.

Download the zip file from here.

<https://www.azhagi.com/sai/plus/new2/AzhagiPlus-Portable.zip>

Extract the folder AzhagiPlus-Porto

Go to that folder and run Azhagi-Plus

The application will open full screen. **Just click on the MINIMIZE button.**

It will vanish from view, but it will stay quietly in the system tray.

Now you can forget all about it (until you re-boot your PC²).

DO NOT BOTHER TO DO ANYTHING ELSE. THAT SOFTWARE HAS LOTS OF FEATURES. WE CAN EXPLORE THEM LATER, when we are ready for it.

iOS

I understand iOS users can type in Thamizh without installing any additional software.

Android

Azhagi has an Android app also. You can download it from Google Play Store. I have published a separate document on how to install it. You can download the PDF file from here.

<http://www.homeopoonga.com/tamil2021/>

It is just below the download link for this Lesson No. 2

² Although the title says "how to install Azhagi", we have not actually "installed" it. We have used a Portable version of Azhagi. Therefore, after a re-boot, you have to run Azhagi-Plus, if you want to type in Thamizh.

If this bothers you, you can change its settings to start automatically after a re-boot. Azhagi has an installable version also.

But, I prefer to use a portable version and start it only when I need it.

How to use Azhagi

Windows

Open NOTEPAD or any editor.

Type something and see. Everything will be as usual.

Press ALT 3 (just like you press CTRL C)

Now the magic will begin.

Type a

Does it become அ ?

Press ALT 3 again and type a

Back to English?

That's it. Now you have a powerful assistant at your command to switch to typing in Thamizh or English as and when you want. It is so fascinating to see how the software catches what you type and changes it to Thamizh, letter by letter, in real time.

This is how I have been typing this document! Does that convince you!

Although I showed you how to type in Notepad, you can do that in many other Windows applications. You can type in MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint; you can type in the comments section of Youtube; you can type messages in social media like Whatsapp, Facebook, and so on.

Android

I have explained in the installation document how to switch to Thamizh and English in the Phone's Keyboard. I have given the example of typing in Whatsapp.

You can use Whatsapp itself for trying out the typing exercises in this lesson. You may also install a Notepad app of Android. There are so many of them in the Play Store.

In case you have a problem..

Windows

If you had no problem using Azhagi, please move on to next page.

Here are some tips, in case you ran into a problem.

ALT 3 is used to toggle the mode from English to Thamizh or Thamizh to English.

In case you didn't get Thamizh, press ALT 3 once again and try.

If it is still in English, press ALT 3 once again.

Does it work now?

If Yes, just move on to the next page.

If No, you might have killed the application instead of minimizing it.

How to check that?

Just run Azhagi-Plus.exe once again. If it opens, my guess was right. You had killed (closed) the application, instead of MINIMIZING it.

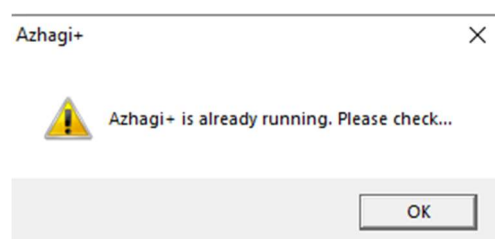


So, this time, take care to click on the MINIMIZE button as shown in the picture on left.

Follow the previously explained steps once again, and you should have no problem

If you are able to type now in Thamizh, **move on to the next page.**

When you ran the application for the second time, if you got this screen,



maybe you are not pressing ALT 3 as it should be.

Press ALT and then press 3 (top row of keyboard) while you are still holding ALT.

Now start typing. Is it working now ?

If after all this, you still have a problem, re-boot your PC and try all over again.

Android

If you had followed my procedure, you should not have any problems. If there is a problem, uninstall, power off, restart and install once again.

Remember, if you are able to type in Thamizh, your learning process will be easy, enjoyable and thrilling!

Now that I know I can type in Tamil, should I still take this course?

I will show you something interesting. Didn't I say, I received lots of greetings in Thanglish form?

I typed a few of those and this is how Azhagi converted it.

Iniya Puththandu Vazhthukkal ஈனிய புத்தண்டு வழுதுக்கல்

Eniya Thamizh Puththandu Nal vazhthukkal ஏனிய தமிழ் புத்தண்டு ணல் வழுதுக்கல்

Ineya Tamizh Puthande Nan Vaazthekal ஈனெய டமிழ் புதண்டெ ணன் வாழ்தெகல்

Iniya tamizh puthaandu vaazhthukal ஈனிய டமிழ் புதாண்டு வாழ்துகல்

Every Thamizh sentence you see above, is completely flawed. If you already know Thamizh very well, you would find it miserable.

It is neither Azhagi's fault nor the fault of those who typed it that way. Azhagi followed its rules. Those who wrote it, were using their knowledge of English spelling to write a Thamizh word.

The atrocious way English words are spelt, is the main culprit for the miserable Thamizh output you see above.

So, it is obvious that three things are essential if you want to avoid that embarrassment.

1. You should be able to READ the Thamizh output and easily spot the blunders and correct them before you send it to others.
2. To spot those blunders, you should first know the correct pronunciation of the Thamizh words and which letters are to be used where.
3. To avoid the blunders, you should know the correct **phonetic English spelling**, i.e., the way in which each Thamizh letter, syllable or sound is represented in Thanglish.

That is why, I am stressing so much on three things.

- a) The Thamizh Letter
- b) How it is pronounced
- c) How it is represented in Thanglish

You have to forget the capitalization rules of English when you type in Thanglish. Upper case letters have a totally different significance here.

A quick re-cap of what we learnt last week.

We learnt all the twelve vowels of Thamizh, last week. They are called "uyir ezhuththukkaL", letters of Life.

You know how we used to learn them in those good old days?

Watch this video



<https://youtu.be/UdkFIUUrQyA>

I hope you have someone by your side, to teach you like that ☺

Did you notice?

Savithri conveys the correct sound **ah, aaaah, yi eeee, wu, woo....**

Gemini shows how we were taught – aana, aavanna, eena, eeyanna³

³ Sadly, because of this, many times people failed to differentiate the short and long sounds.

It's time to meet the other members of the family.

We have met twelve members (**Vowels**) of the Tamil alphabet family. You already know one specialty of them; viz., they will always be at the beginning of a word only.

They have another one too. **They will never change their appearance.** They will not morph into any other form when they appear in a sentence.

It sounds bizarre to make that statement. In English, we are not used to letters changing their appearance. To convey different sounds, they join with vowels.

Let's take the letter 'm'. We learn it as "em". Actually, it signifies the sound of "m" in "sum". When that root sound joins with different vowels, we get the following words.

"**m**alaria", "**m**all", "**m**ill", "**m**eek", "**M**uruga", "**m**oon, "**m**en", "**m**ane", "**m**ite", "**m**oped", "**m**ore", "**M**owgli"

You must have noticed the words are in the அ, ஆ, இ, ஈ sound sequence that we learnt earlier.

In Thamizh, it is different. The letter itself would take different avatars.

The equivalent of "m" in Thamizh is,

ம்

Why that DOT above the letter?

That signifies it is the root sound "**m**" as in "br**m**". See how the letter changes as it combines with different vowels.

ம் ம மா மி மீ மு மூ மெ மே மை மொ மோ மௌ
m ma mA mi mee mu moo me mE mai mo mO mau

You will find it much easier to appreciate this concept of how the letters are formed if you start typing the letters.

Magic of Azhagi

On PC, open Notepad. Press ALT 3 (if required) and get ready to start typing in Thamizh.

Android users, go to Whatsapp and switch to Thamizh in your Phone Keyboard.

Type **m**

Azhagi will convert it to **ம்**

Now type **a**

ம் will become **மா** -Azhagi converted your **ma** to **மா**

Press spacebar.

Type **m** again. You know Azhagi will make it **ம்**

Type **A** and see the magic. Azhagi makes it **மா**

Press spacebar.

Type **m** again. You get **ம்**

Type **i** Azhagi makes it **மி**

Repeat this process for each of the twelve combinations given in the previous page.

Is it clear now how you generate the syllables representing various sounds just by adding vowel combinations to the root sound? Isn't that so very fascinating?

Let's try typing just the vowels. Type a, A, I, ee, u, oo, e, E, ai, o, O, au

Do you get அ, ஆ, இ, ஈ, உ, ஊ, எ, ஏ, ஐ, ஒ, ஓ, ஔ ?

Aren't you happy, you are able to type so many letters and be able to recognize them also?

Can you imagine, you have learnt 25 letters so soon?

Practice Session

Here are some words using just those letters. Can you type them?

அம்மா, மம்மி, அம்மி

ஆமா, ஆமாம், ஆமை

ஈழு

உமா, உம்மா, உமி, உமை, ஊமை

ஏம்மா

ஓம் (watch out; it is Om, not om)

ஓமம் (Omam, not om)

மாமா, மாமி

Can you think of some words on your own?

It is very important that say each (Thamizh) letter loudly with the appropriate short or long vowel sound as you type it.

Shall we move on to learn some new letters for this week?

வ்

This is the equivalent of "v" in English. It represents the sound of "v" in "Kra**v** Maga", the Israeli martial art.

You pronounce it as "ive" as in "give".

See how the letter changes as it combines with different vowels to make different sounds.

வ் வ வா வி வீ வு வூ வெ வே வை வொ வோ வெள
v va vA vi vee vu voo ve vE vai vo vO vau

Can you pronounce the above letters using their Thanglish equivalents given below them?

Now you can start typing those letters and get used to them.

Then, try typing these words.

ஆவி	spirit	மாவு	flour
அவை	those	இவை	these
எவை	which	பொம்மை	doll
அவா	those people (slang)	இவா	these people (slang)
வாம்மா	tell a girl to come, affectionately	போம்மா	tell a girl to go, affectionately
ஏம்மா	ask a girl "why", affectionately	ஏவு	launch

Hope you are beginning to like this new capability of typing in Thamizh. Let us move on.

We will now look at a group of letters. A characteristic of two of them is probably unique to Thamizh.

	ந்	ன்	ண்
Thanglish letter	n	n	N
sounds like	The sound of "n" as in "nun" or "man" These two letters have the same sound but only one of them has the RIGHT to be the first letter of a word.		heavier sound, like the "n" in "blunder"
Tongue position	Tongue remains straight. Only the tip touches the back of the teeth.		Your tongue folds back to touch the middle of your upper palate.

You can try typing and understanding the various combinations of these two letters.

Focus on the highlighted letters only for now.

ந்	ந	நா	நி	நீ	நு	நூ	நெ	நே	நை	நொ	நோ	நௌ
n	na	nA	ni	nee	nu	noo	ne	nE	nai	no	nO	nau

ன்	ன	னா	னி	னீ	னு	னூ	னெ	னே	னை	னொ	னோ	னௌ
n	na	nA	ni	nee	nu	noo	ne	nE	nai	no	nO	nau

ண்	ண	ணா	ணி	ணீ	ணு	ணூ	ணெ	ணே	ணை	ணொ	ணோ	ணௌ
N	Na	NA	Ni	Nee	Nu	Noo	Ne	NE	Nai	No	NO	Nau

Now let's try typing நாண். In the above table, you find நா is nA and ன் is n

Open notepad.

Type n Azhagi makes it ந்

Type A Azhagi changes it to நா

Type n This time, Azhagi makes it ன்.

Why? First time it was ன் and next time why it is ன்?

Remember I said "these two letters have the same sound but only one of them has the RIGHT to be the first letter of a word"?

Only ன் can be at the beginning or middle of a word.

ன or any of its combinations is NOT supposed to come in the beginning of a word.

Azhagi knows that. So, when you start typing a new word, it would always convert "n" to "ன்". For the second and subsequent letters, it would convert "n" to "ன்"

Incidentally, ன் also is like ன. It is not supposed to come at the beginning of a word.

Practice session

Now see if you can type these words (use the table below for guidance; avoid if possible). Observe how Azhagi types **ந** and **ன** depending on the context, although you type the same **n**.

நா	நீ	ன்	ன	னா	னி	னை	ண்	ண	ணா	ணி	ணை
nA	nee	n	na	nA	ni	nai	N	Na	NA	Ni	Nai

I am not going to help you with any tips. I will leave it to you to figure it out.

நான்	I	நீ	you
என்	mine	உன்	your
ஏன்	why	என்ன	what
அண்ணன்	Elder brother	அண்ணி	Elder brother's wife
மன்னன்	King	மன்னி	Elder brother's wife (slang)
என்னை	I, me (depends on context)	எண்ணை	oil
எண்ணம்	thought	வண்ணம்	color
அந்நியன்	stranger	Were you able to type it? Did the "intelligence" of Azhagi put you into trouble? You deserve a BIG HAND, if you could figure out how to type that.	
அண்ணம்	Palate	I must share with you here, a real beauty of Thamizh. The word அண்ணம் (aNNam) is the name for palate. That is the place where your tongue goes when you say it. Did you observe how your tongue folds back and touches the middle of the palate.	
அன்னம்	1. Swan, 2. cooked rice		

If you can master the difference in pronunciation between annam and aNNam, pat yourself on the back. I appreciate your spirit.

It is Game Time

We have been talking so much about Thanglish. Is this a new concept?

Not at all.

We been writing our Thamizh names in English all these years. Is it not Thanglish?

We will do the same thing now but this time let us observe how it turns out to be, in Thamizh.

Start typing the names of all your friends and cousins, beginning with your name.

You may come across Thamizh letters which you have not been exposed so far. Don't bother. Just type all the names that you remember. Type as if you are typing in English.

Here are some examples to get you going, starting with my name.

Sundar

Nirmala

Akash

Anu

Vetri

Banu

Banumathi

Vandana

Hamsa

Uma

Abi

Sudhakar

Kala

Let me know what you felt.

Time to say, Bye for now.

I think we have achieved quite a lot in this second lesson itself. We have learnt to type in Thamizh. It is a big leap.

I must thank the good souls who asked me how to type in Thamizh. I was thinking of introducing it towards the end.

For most of us, it is easy to memorize a poem if we write it a few times. Memory gets reinforced when there is hands-on practice. Just reading something and trying to remember it, is difficult. I was looking for some solution for this dilemma.

So, when someone wanted to know how to type, I had my "Aaa Haa" moment. I found a way to introduce some hands-on practice. Azhagi software came in very handy.⁴ I am sure, typing the words would have helped you a lot.

You are already aware of <http://www.homeopoonga.com/tamil2021/>

Let me formally introduce it to you. I opened that page exclusively for this course. From now on, all lessons would be available there for download.

If you want to share this PDF with someone, just share the above link. They can download it from there.

Until next week,

Best Wishes to you all,

Sundararajan

(Feel free to address me as KPS)

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I take this opportunity to thank Sri. Viswanathan, the creator of Azhagi Software, which we used so effectively in this session. He has developed such a wonderful software and given it away all FREE, so selflessly. He works almost round the clock to give free support also, single-handedly. Hats off to him.

You might want to visit <https://www.azhagi.com/> for more information.

There are also other similar software like "NHM Writer" and "Google Input Tools". But my personal preference is for Azhagi. It is tiny but very flexible and powerful.