

**வாங்க, தமிழ் படிக்கலாம்**  
vAnga, thamizh padikkalAm

Lesson No. 7

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**Hi everyone,**

We have completed all the letters with dual sounds. For those letters, it is not a big issue even if you happen to use the wrong sound. This week we will talk about the letters with very similar sounds but one has to be precise, to convey the correct meaning.

Let's review what we have covered so far.

a	அ		n	ந்	ன்		th	த்
A	ஆ	aa	N	ண்			dh	த்
b	ப்		o	ஒ			ch	ச்
			O	ஓ			zh	ழ்
c	க்		p	ப்			gn	ஞ்
d	ட்		q	ஃ			nG	ங்
e	எ		r	ர்				
E	ஏ		R	ற்				
f	ஃப்		s	ச்				
g	க்		t	ட்				
h			u	உ				
			U	ஊ	oo			
i	இ	ய்	v	வ்				
l	ஈ	ee						
j			w	வ்				
k	க்		x					
l	ல்		y	ய்				
L	ள்							
m	ம்		z	ழ்				

	Already covered
	Covered in this lesson

As you can see, we have only a few more to learn.

-oOo-

## An overview of the three letters for this week.

	ல <sup>1</sup>	ள	ழ
Thanglish letter	l	L	zh
Pronunciation	Click on the speaker icon to hear it		
Tongue shape	Tongue remains flat.		The sides of the tongue slightly lift up.
Action of Tip of Tongue	Just the tip touches the back of the front teeth.	The tip folds back to touch the middle of the palate	The tip is somewhere in between front of teeth and middle of palate and does not touch anywhere.

Previously, we were talking about letters, each of which had dual sounds. For those letters, it is not a big issue if you are careless about the actual sound. It is left to your convenience and above all, it will not convey a wrong meaning even if you happen to pronounce with the wrong sound.

This week it is exactly the reverse. There are three letters, each with a small variation in sound. They should be pronounced exactly as they are supposed to be. They might convey a completely different meaning, if you go wrong in the pronunciation.

Let me try to clarify those subtle differences in sound and help you get it correctly. With a little bit of effort, it is not at all difficult to learn it. Let us master it and feel proud about it.

Let's start with the easy one first.

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<sup>1</sup> This and a few other sound files used in this lesson are from <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

ல்,

"ல்" and its variations do not pose much of a challenge. They are easy to pronounce and usually no one makes any mistake. I have provided an audio guide also. Click on the speaker icon.

ல்	ல	லா	லி	லீ	லு	லூ	லெ	லே	லை	லொ	லோ	லௌ
l	la	lA	li	lee	lu	loo	le	lE	lai	lo	lO	lau
"ill"	"luh"	"law"	"li"	"lee"	"lu"	"loo"	"leh"	"lay"	"lie"	"loh"	"low"	"love"

Is the pronunciation guide in the bottom row easy to follow?

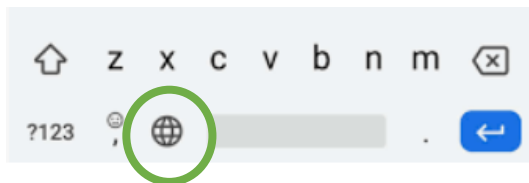
You may have a look at the Table in the previous page explaining the tongue position, if you have any doubt.

Type all the above combinations, while pronouncing each letter loudly, and get used to both the sound and the letter.

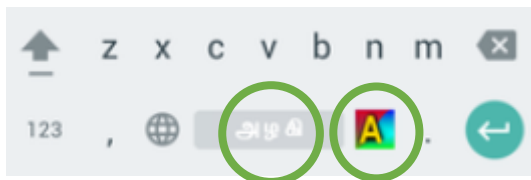
I have not provided for a dedicated practice page for this Lesson. You can use the practice page for Lesson 5. <http://www.homeopooonga.com/lesson-5-typing-practice/>

Alternatively, you can use the Comments section of the YouTube.

Remember, if you are a desktop user, you should have Azhagi running and you should press ALT 3 to type in Thamizh. If you are a phone user, you have to switch to Azhagi (ஒலி பெயர்ப்பு) after LONG PRESS on Space Bar. There is also a shortcut. You can just touch the GLOBE icon to the left of the SPACE BAR.



When you touch the GLOBE icon



the Azhagi icon would appear. That means you are ready to type in Thamizh. The Space Bar caption also changes to "அழகி".

# ள்

What differentiates "ள்" from "ல்" is the way the tongue behaves. When you say "la" it is just the tip of the tongue that touches the back part of the upper teeth. But when you say "ள்", the tongue folds back.

Before we go on to all the variations of ள, let us get a little familiar with a few examples.

To denote the heavy sound of "ள்" we use the **Upper case "L"**

பள்ளம்	paLLam	pit		
குளியல்	kuLiyal	bathing		
துள்ளு	thuLLu	spring, leap		
பிள்ளை	piLLai	child, son		

I suppose those examples and the audio guide (click on the speaker icon) would help you to pronounce these combinations, correctly.

ள்	ள	ளா	ளி	ளீ	ளு	ளு	ளெ	ளே	ளை	ளொ	ளோ	ளௌ
L	La	LA	Li	Lee	Lu	Loo	Le	LE	Lai	Lo	LO	Lau

Type all the above combinations, while pronouncing each letter loudly, and get used to both the sound and the letter.

# ழ்

ழ் is represented by **zh**. That is why தமிழ் is written as **Thamizh**.

To my knowledge, Thamizh is the only language in the World which has this sound. It is very difficult to explain the sound of this letter. Hope you are able to get a good idea when you click the speaker icons and hear the sound.

தமிழ்	thamizh			
பழம்	pazham	fruit		
மொழி	mozhi	language		
குழு	kuzhu	team, group		
வாழை	vaazhai	banana		

Regional accents are not so precise. They vary considerably. Over the years, people have slowly got used to the regional accents which deviate from the exact sound.

Let's watch a famous comedy clip to observe how the words வாழப்பழம் (vAzhappazham) and பழம் (pazham) are pronounced. Most of the characters, would be saying பளம் (paLam), which is acceptable as a regional accent, but not in a public Forum.



[https://youtu.be/W\\_m9Urw4YaE](https://youtu.be/W_m9Urw4YaE)



Now, watch this video for a perfect demo of "zh" and "zha" in the words Thamizh and pazham.

<https://youtu.be/XtjxwozzNek>

Having heard the different pronunciations of "ழ", I hope you are able to appreciate how the regional accent differs from the correct sound. Let's practice the various combinations with the correct sound. Click on the speaker icon.

ழ்	ழ	ழா	ழி	ழீ	ழு	ழூ	ழெ	ழே	ழை	ழொ	ழோ	ழௌ
zh	zha	zhA	zhi	zhee	zhu	zhoo	zhe	zhE	zhai	zho	zhO	zhau

Type all the combinations. As usual, practice pronouncing each letter loudly, and get used to both the sound and the letter. It is a wonderful flexibility exercise for your Tongue.

Instead of "zh", you can also type "z". Azhagi gives that facility. Type this sequence and see.

z	za	zA	zi	zee	zu	zoo	ze	zE	zai	zo	zO	zau
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To reduce the typing effort, while typing in Thamizh, you can use just "z". But when we type Thanglish, let us stick to using "zh". "**Thamiz**" looks odd. "**Thamizh**" is better.

## Example Word Collection

Generally, every time we learnt a letter, we looked at example words pertaining to the usage of that particular letter. This time, we look at the words pertaining to all the three letters side by side.

Although the meanings of the words are given, you need not bother to learn / remember them. For the moment, it is enough if you understand that words look similar, with just one letter difference but can have entirely different meaning.

When you click on the speaker icon, you will hear me reading out all the words in this page. You track the words, as I keep reading. After I finish, you can read from the beginning.

அல்லி 	a flower	அள்ளி	take a handful		
alli		aLLi			
அலி	transgender	அளி	give, provide	அழி	destroy
ali		aLi		azhi	
அலை	wave			அழை	invite
alai				azhai	
அவல்	rice flakes, beaten rice	அவள்	she		
aval		avaL			
ஆல்	a tree	ஆள்	a person	ஆழ்	deep
Al		AL		Azh	
உலவு	stroll	உளவு	spying	உழவு	farming
ulavu		uLavU		uzhavu	
உலை	fireplace	ஊளை	Howl (dog)	உழை	labour (verb)
ulai		ooLai		uzhai	
உல்லன்	woollen	உள்ளம்	mind/heart		
ullan		uLLam			
ஒலி	sound	ஒளி	light	ஒழி	destroy
oli		oLi		ozhi	
கலி	name of current Yuga	களி	1. Ragi ball (food item) 2. enjoy	கழி	1. subtract 2. stick 3. remove
kali		kaLi		kazhi	
கலை	art	களை	1. weed 2. charm	கழை	bamboo pole
kalai		kaLai		kazhai	
காலி	empty	காளி	Goddess	(சீர்)காழி	a place
kaali		kaaLi		(seer)kaazhi	

வேல்» vEl	weapon of Lord Muruga	வேள் vEL	king		
வேலம் vElam	a tree			வேழம் vEzham	Elephant
வேலை vElai	job	வேளை² veLai	time		

I have given only a few samples here. A bigger list is given in the [Appendix](#). Please do make it a point to go through all those words also.

Don't you see that minor differences in sound result in major differences in meaning?

### **Can you really be careless with your pronunciation?**

Are you able to clearly say the words with their distinctly different sounds?

Just as saying "பளம்" instead "பழம்" is wrong, to say சுழுக்கு when one is supposed to say சுளுக்கு is also wrong.

A muscle catch (sprain), is called சுளுக்கு (suLukku). சுழுக்கு ("suzhukku" - has no meaning. One should always learn the correct pronunciation, whenever one learns a new word. We do this religiously when we learn English; let's follow the same practice while learning Thamizh also.

-oOo-

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<sup>2</sup> Many words have multiple meanings depending on the context; e.g. this word வேளை. I am not giving all its meanings. Our objective is just to appreciate the similarity and the difference between the words.

## Reading Practice

I have collected together all the example words in this lesson. I have removed the meanings and the Thanglish guide.

This includes the words given in the [Appendix](#) (at the end of this document) also. If you have not seen that, please go there, finish listening and reading all the words given there, before proceeding further.

Hope you can read these words without referring back to their Thanglish version.

Read them as many times as possible until you become fully conversant.

அல்லி	அள்ளி	
அல்லல்	அள்ளல்	
அலை	அளை	அழை
அவல்	அவள்	
உலவு	உளவு	உழவு
உலை	ஊளை	உழை
உல்லன்	உள்ளம்	
ஒலி	ஒளி	ஒழி
கலி	களி	கழி
கலை	களை	கழை
கல்	கள்	
கலம்	களம்	
காலி	காளி	காழி
காலை	காளை	
கிலி	கிளி	கிழி
குலம்	குளம்	
	குளி	குழி
கொல்லு	கொள்ளு	
கோலம்	கோளம்	

கோல்	கோள்	
சலி	சளி	
	சுளி	சுழி
தலம்	தளம்	
தலை	தளை	தழை
தாலி	தாளி	தாழி
தோல்	தோள்	
நலன்	நளன்	
நீலம்	நீளம்	
பலம்		பழம்
பலி		பழி
	பள்ளம்	
பல்லி	பள்ளி	
பால்		பாழ்
புலி	புளி	புழி
		புழு
மலை		மழை
மூலை	மூளை	
மெல்ல	மெள்ள	

வலம்	வளம்	
வலி	வளி	வழி
வலை	வளை	
வல்லி	வள்ளி	
	வள்ளல்	
வாலி	வாளி	வாழி
வால்	வாள்	வாழ்

விலக்கு	விளக்கு	
	விளி	விழி
விலை	விளை	விழை
வெல்லம்	வெள்ளம்	
வேலம்		வேழம்
வேலை	வேளை	

# Are you ready for this challenge?

It is time for the "Read, Record, Play, Transcribe" challenge. We have three letters and they have three distinct pronunciations. You have to master the correct pronunciation and you have to evaluate yourself, your mastery over it.

Some people had some issues with making voice recordings. Here are some tips on that.

PC users: Windows has a built-in "Voice Recorder".

Android users: If you do not have any pre-installed apps, you may install this one from the Google Play Store. I have been using the free version for quite some time and I am happy with it.



Smart Recorder – High-quality  
voice recorder

SmartMob Music & Audio

★★★★★ 466,897

iPhone users should already have something built-in. Even for Desktop users, it is convenient to use the Phone for recording.

The list of words is in the next page. You have already practiced reading them, earlier. To make it challenging, I have jumbled them up.

Start the voice recording, read one column of words at a time from the list and stop the recording. Take special care to clearly bring out the "ல", "ள", and "ழ" sounds so that when you listen to it, you should have no confusion at all.

Now play the recording, listen to the words and type them.

After you are done, compare your typed word with the original.

Did you get all your ல, ள and ழ correctly?

If yes, read the next column and repeat. Don't give up until you have got all the words correctly.

If No, observe where you are going wrong. Find out your weak point and work on it until you get it right.

This is a simple and effective way of perfecting your pronunciation. You are your best Critic and Judge. If you cannot understand your own pronunciation, obviously you can't expect others to understand you, right?

Do not ignore these challenges. Please take them seriously and do it sincerely.

வால்	காழி	தோல்	சுளி	கலம்
பாழ்	வாளி	புழு	களி	உளவு
மழை	காளை	அலை	ஊளை	ஒலி
குளி	உல்லன்	புலி	களை	விளி
கொல்லு	வள்ளல்	பள்ளம்	நலன்	வாழி
விழை	அள்ளல்	பல்லி	விழி	விளக்கு
அல்லல்	உழை	சளி	வள்ளி	தளை
விலை	வேழம்	குலம்	அளை	கலி
வேளை	குழி	உலவு	கோளம்	பள்ளி
அவல்	தளம்	தலை	காலை	புழி
தாளி	தழை	பலி	பழம்	தோள்
வேலம்	கலை	கழி	சலி	வழி
தலம்	தாலி	பலம்	உள்ளம்	கோலம்
அவள்	வாள்	கிளி	காளி	விலக்கு
சுழி	கோல்	வளை	வாழ்	கொள்ளு
பால்	வளி	மெல்ல	கோள்	மெள்ள
விளை	களம்	காலி	பழி	அழை
மூளை	கல்	உழவு	கழை	வல்லி
நீளம்	மூலை	ஒளி	தாழி	கிலி
வளம்	உலை	அள்ளி	வாலி	ஒழி
வலை	நீலம்	புளி	வலம்	மலை
கிழி	வெள்ளம்	கள்	வெல்லம்	அல்லி
குளம்	வலி	நளன்	வேலை	

## Time to say, Bye for now.

We have made good progress. In two more lessons, we should be finishing the introduction to all the Thamizh Alphabets.

I hope, you are giving enough importance to hand-on practice. Remember "Practice makes Perfect".



Before we say bye, let's watch this dance performance of a famous song written by Mahakavi Bharathiyaar. I have included the lyrics.

I chose this because there are so many example words relevant to our Lesson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CALZ5B24z94>

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

(Feel free to address me as KPS)

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[kps.tamil2021@gmail.com](mailto:kps.tamil2021@gmail.com)

If you like to get notified of new lessons, you may want to subscribe to this exclusive channel and turn on the notification.


[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChPsaoGfPR1sVxKHT6VvcEQ?sub\\_confirmation=1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChPsaoGfPR1sVxKHT6VvcEQ?sub_confirmation=1)

Please see Appendix on next page for a larger list of words using  
"ல", "ள", and "ழ"

## Appendix

காலை☞ kaalai	morning	காளை kaaLai	Bull		
கிலி kili	fear, panic	கிளி kiLi	parrot	கிழி kizhi	tear
				அழு azhu	cry, weep
				ஆழி Azhi	ocean
				ஊழி oozhi	deluge
				எழு ezhu	arise, awake
				ஏழு Ezhu	seven
				ஏழை Ezhai	poor (person)
கல் kal	stone	கள் kaL	toddy		
கலம் kalam	1. utensil 2. ship	களம் kaLam	arena		
கீல் keel	1. joint, hinge, 2. grease			கீழ் keezh	under, below
குலம் kulam	class, clan, race	குளம் kuLam	pond	குழாம் kuzhAm	group
		குளி kuLi	take bath	குழி kuzhi	pit
கொல்லு kollu	kill	கொள்ளு koLLu	horse gram (a millet)		
கோலம் kOlam	floor art	கோளம் kOLam	sphere		
கோல் kOl	stick	கோள் kOL	planet	கோழி kOzhi	hen

சலி salī	sieve (verb)	சளி saLi	mucus		
		சுளி suLi	wince	சுழி suzhi	curl
தலம் thalam	temple town	தளம் thaLam	place, site, floor		
தாலி thAli	Mangalsutra	தாளி thAli	season with spices	தாழி thAzhī	earthen vessel
தலை thalai	head	தளை thaLai	handcuff	தழை thazhai	leaves
				தாழை thAzhai	a flowering plant
தோல் thOl	skin	தோள் thOL	shoulder	தோழி thOzhi	companion (female)
நலன் nalan	well being	நளன் naLan	name of a King		
				நிழல் nizhal	shadow
நீலம் neelam	blue	நீளம் neeLam	length		
				நுழை nuzhai	1. enter, 2. insert
பலம் palam	old unit of weight			பழம் pazham	fruit
பலி bali	sacrifice (on the altar)			பழி pazhi	blame
				பழைய pazhaiya	old
		பள்ளம் paLLam	pit		
பல்லி palli	lizard	பள்ளி paLLi	school		
பால் pAl	milk			பாழ் pAzh	decay, destruction
				பிழை pizhai	mistake, error

				பிழி 	squeeze, wring
புலி puli	Tiger	புளி puLi	1. sour, 2. tamarind	புழி puzhi	same as பிழி (colloquial)
மலை malai	mountain			மழை mazhai	rain
மூலை moolai	corner	மூளை mooLai	brain		
மெல்ல mella	softly, gently	மெள்ள meLLa	slowly		
வலம் valam	1. go round 2. right side	வளம் vaLam	wealth		
வலி vali	pain	வளி vaLi	wind	வழி vazhi	path, way
வலை valai	net	வளை vaLai	1. bend 2. rat hole 3. bangle		
வல்லி valli	creeper	வள்ளி vaLLi	consort of Lord Muruga		
		வள்ளல்	Donor, Philanthropist		
வாலி vAli	a character in Ramayana	வாளி vAli	bucket	வாழி vAzhi	long live
வால் vAl	tail	வாள் vAL	sword	வாழ் vAzh	live
				வாழை vAzhai	banana
விலக்கு vilakku	avoid	விளக்கு viLakku	lamp		
		விளி viLi	call, address	விழி vizhi	eye
விலை vilai	price	விளை viLai	grow	விழை vizhai	wish, desire
வெல்லம் vellam	jiggery	வெள்ளம் veLLam	flood		