

Thamīl

தமிழ்

Pronunciation Guide for Alphabet Poster

Thamīl is considered to be the oldest surviving language spoken today. It is an ancient language with an alphabet and script that has evolved to remain practical and relevant for thousands of years.

Transliteration of Thamīl is very subjective. At The Heritage Supply Co., we have created a set of transliterations specifically for English speakers who are interested to learn the Thamīl alphabet and basic vocabulary. Please use this pronunciation guide as a tool to help you learn how to best pronounce these words as they are spoken colloquially.

Happy learning!

- ah/aa = 'a' in 'father'
- uh/u/a = 'u' in 'under'
- e = 'e' in 'end'
- E = 'a' in 'angel'
- i = 'i' in 'India'
- ee = 'ee' in 'bee'
- ai = 'y' in 'try'
- oh = 'o' in 'only'
- O = 'o' in 'open'
- oo = 'oo' in 'look'
- ooh = 'oo' in 'noodle'
- ou = 'ou' in 'out'
- dh = English 'the'
- 'N' indicates a strong 'na' sound, where the tongue touches the roof of the mouth when the letter is pronounced.
- 'L' is a common English transliteration for 'ள' and indicates a stronger 'la' sound, where the tongue touches the roof of the mouth when the letter is pronounced.
- 'l' is a common English transliteration for 'ழ' which is a strong 'la' sound in Thamīl, where the tongue is placed just below (but not touching) the roof of the mouth. Another common transliteration for this letter is 'zha'.
- 'R' indicates a strong 'ra' sound, where the tongue grazes the roof of the mouth when the letter is pronounced.
- Certain Thamīl letters produce different sounds depending on context. Where this is the case, the transliteration of the letter's primary sound will take primary position on the block. Transliterations of contextual sounds will be in smaller font and in parentheses below.



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Thamīl EḷuththukkaL

தமிழ் அரிச்சுவடி

Ooyeer EḷuththukkaL உயிர் எழுத்துக்கள் Vowels

அ

ah

ஆ

aa

இ

i

ஈ

ee

உ

oo

ஊ

ooh

எ

e

ஏ

E

ஐ

ai

ஔ

oh

ஓ

O

ஔ

ou

Aaytha Eḷuththu ஆய்த எழுத்து

ஊ

uhk

Mei EḷuththukkaL மெய் எழுத்துக்கள் Consonants

க

ka

ங

nga

ச

cha

ஞ

nja

ட

da

ண

Na

த

tha

ந

na

ப

pa

ம

ma

ய

ya

ர

ra

ல

la

வ

va

ழ

la

ள

La

ற

Ra

ன

na

Grantha EḷuththukkaL கிரந்த எழுத்துக்கள் Grantha Consonants

ஜ

ja

ஸ

sa

ஷ

ksha

ஹ

ha

ஷ

sha

ஸ்ரீ

shree



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