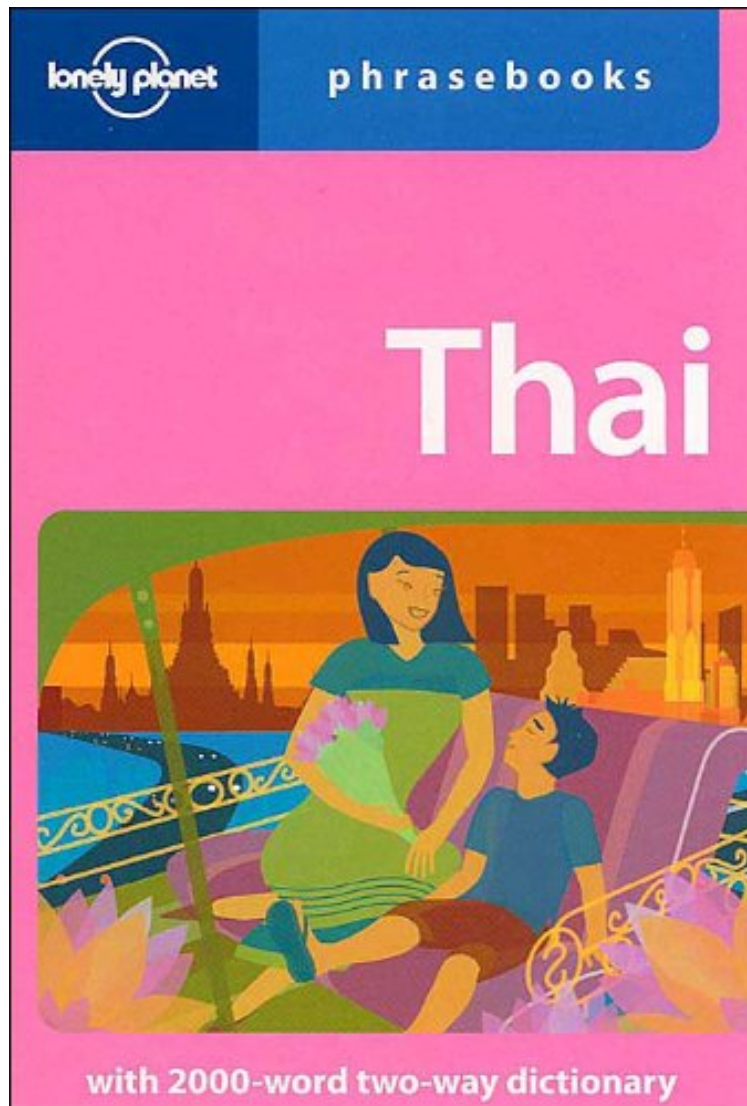


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfectly Sized Entertaining By Sarah I bought this phrasebook for a trip to Thailand (obviously...), and really enjoyed it. It was such a convenient size - it did not take up too much room and fit perfectly in my smallest purse. It was very entertaining to flip through while traveling and try out some random phrases. I used the pages with basic phrases and numbers a lot to refresh myself and also asked where the bathroom was for the first time using this book (they didn't understand what I was saying, but I'm pretty sure that was my

fault)As with all phrasebooks, this one contains some phrases that are so dated that I can't even imagine a situation where one would use them. I also wished there was more on pronunciation. I ended up giving this to a friend who was staying in Thailand longer, but would use it again if I went back! I would recommend this if you want to take a stab at the language but don't want to lug around a huge book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good price, small and handy phrase bookBy linghkPros:- small enough to carry in a purse- cover many situations- basic Thai phrases, nothing fancy- written in both English Thai, so just point show the phrase to Thai people if neededCons:- mostly non-formal full sentence, not really for people interested in studying Thai- phonetic marks is difficult to decipher, not easy to get the pronunciation correctly especially Thai language is tone-based (6~ tones)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pocket PerfectBy moveable feastThis is an excellent phrase book, easy to carry, easy to read and broken into easy to find section. Combined with a short language program this book carried me across Thailand comfortably. I mention the language program because the pronunciation is a bit tricky to break down phonetically, altho Lonely Planet does a great job of it. I have used lonely planet phrase books for all of Asia and Northern Africa, but I must admit I use Rick Steve's phrase books for European travel. Lonely Planet Guide Books are also very good, especially for the bargain traveler.

Thailand is the Land of Smiles. A grin shows companionship. A laugh shows forgiveness. But what if you need a second-class train ticket from Bangkok to Chiang Mai? Keep smiling - this phrasebook will show you the way.Did You Know?When people talk about the Thai language they are really referring to a Central Thai dialect that has succeeded in becoming the standard official language for the whole country. For this reason Thai is only spoken as a first language in the central provinces of the nation. As Thai is the official language of education, government and media it's basically understood from North to South although recent estimates suggest that less than half the population of Thailand speak and understand Thai fluently.

National Geographic Traveler, September 2006'Lonely Planet Phrasebooks. Portable, pocket-size, cheap, and available for almost any country you might want to visit...'From the PublisherWho We Are At Lonely Planet, we see our job as inspiring and enabling travellers to connect with the world for their own benefit and for the benefit of the world at large. What We Do * We offer travellers the world's richest travel advice, informed by the collective wisdom of over 350 Lonely Planet authors living in 37 countries and fluent in 70 languages. * We are relentless in finding the special, the unique and the different for travellers wherever they are. * When we update our guidebooks, we check every listing, in person, every time. * We always offer the trusted filter for those who are curious, open minded and independent. * We challenge our growing community of travellers; leading debate and discussion about travel and the world. * We tell it like it is without fear or favor in service of the travellers; not clouded by any other motive. What We Believe We believe that travel leads to a deeper cultural understanding and compassion and therefore a better world.Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Cradled between Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, and Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand is something of a Tower of Babel, with numerous dialects spoken from north to south. What has come to be known as Standard Thai is actually a dialect spoken in Bangkok and the surrounding provinces. Standard Thai is the official language of administration, education and the media, and most Thais understand it even if they speak another dialect. For this reason all the words and phrases in this book are translated into Standard Thai. Thai belongs to the Tai language group meaning that it is closely related to a number of languages spoken outside the borders of present-day Thailand. Some of these are Lao (Laos), Khampti (India) and Lue (China). The Isaan dialect, spoken in the northeast of Thailand, is linguistically identical to Lao. Thai has borrowed a number of words from languages such as Mon (Myanmar) and Khmer (Cambodia). Ancient languages also continue to influence Thai. Just as English relies on Latin and ancient Greek for coining new words or formalizing rules of grammar, Thai has adopted Sanskrit and Pali as linguistic models. More recently, English has become a major influence on Thai, particularly in words related to technology or business. The elegant characters of the Thai script are a source of fascination for those experiencing the language for the first time. The curved symbols seem to run together but they are all divisible into distinct alphabetical units. There are 44 consonants which are classified into three categories depending on the kinds of vowels they are associated with. Vowels are indicated by symbols, or combinations of symbols, that may appear before, after or even around the consonant. The Thai government has instituted the Royal Thai General Transcription System (or RTGS) as a standard method of writing Thai using a Roman 26-letter alphabet. You'll notice its use in official documents, road signs and on maps. The system is convenient for writing but not comprehensive enough to account for all the sounds in Thai. In this book we have devised a phonetic system based on how the language sounds when it's spoken. The social structure of Thai society demands different registers of speech depending on who you're talking to. To make things simple we've chosen the correct form of speech appropriate to the context of each phrase. Thai is a logical language and despite some challenges, rattling off a meaningful phrase is easier than you might think. This phrasebook includes the script next to the pronunciation so that when all else fails you can open the book and point at what you want to say. This book contains the useful words you'll need to get by as well as fun, spontaneous phrases that lead to a better understanding

of Thailand and its people. The contact you make using Thai will make your travels unique. Local knowledge, new relationships and a sense of satisfaction are on the tip of your tongue, so don't just stand there - say something!