



AUA Thai Program

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The Thai Program consists of 10 levels. Each level contains approximately **200 hours of experiences**. When you enroll in a class, you can **pay by the hour**. For 30 hours or more, the basic rate is **107 Baht per hour**. (For less than 30 hours, the rate is 150 Baht per hour) If you **pay for 200 Hours at one time you will receive a 12% discount!**

Reading and Writing is offered to those who have an understanding equivalent of our AT 5 level students. Though our program is designed for those who have started with us from the beginning of their Thai language learning, we do accept students with other backgrounds. The first 3 levels of R & W use a textbook which is available here at the AUA bookstore. Following this, students progress to more advanced levels, and ultimately qualify to take the government competency test. We offer the preparation courses for examination test as well.

Schedule

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 AM						
8 AM						
9 AM						
10 AM						
11 AM						
12 PM						
1 PM						
2 PM						
3 PM						
4 PM						
5 PM						
6 PM						
7 PM						



Tuition Rates

Hours	Baht per hour
0 – 200	107 ฿
201 – 400	104 ฿
401 – 600	101 ฿
601 – 800	98 ฿
801 – 1000	95 ฿
1001 – 1200	92 ฿
1201 – 1400	89 ฿
1401 – 1600	86 ฿
1601 – 1800	83 ฿
1801 – 2000	80 ฿

Gain these Special Privileges...

- Free trial class
- Attend at your convenience
- Purchase any number of hours
- Choose your own hours and days

STUDY FOR LIFE!

If you have paid for at least 600 hours of class, and achieve a Language Acquisition Estimate of 85%, (see ALGie Graph) you will be able to attend the Thai Program Free, for life.

Learning language naturally can be compared to learning your native language.

Acquiring a language is a natural process. Have you ever wondered how you were able to 'learn' your own language – before you had a class, a teacher, or even knew how to read? In language learning, what we all do as children is quite different from what we normally 'try' to do as adults. Our program is centered on the fact that adults CAN learn a second language in the same way we learned our first language!

So What is it that Children Do? Children look and listen by soaking up experiences in life, normally not taking too much notice of language (as in words, or sounds) but very interested in language (as in communicating ideas). [In contrast, adults tend to focus solely on sounds, definitions and grammar, usually ignoring all the other wealth of input that a child receives.] Rather than practicing speaking, children simply try to understand what's happening around them. Language grows and after a normal period of time, they are able to begin speaking. At first, their speech isn't clear or accurate but as time goes on, it self-corrects and they become native speakers.

You can acquire Thai Language in the same way that children do if you use the same methods that children use. The benefits are tremendous! Not only is our method fun and relaxing, you will gain much more than merely a new way of saying words and phrases. You will gain depth in understanding Thai culture, and the way Thai people see the world around them.

Recommended for the AUA Program

- Attend as many hours each day as you can (6 hours is the maximum recommended)
- Refrain from speaking Thai – both in and out of the classroom, until you have reached level AT 5.
- Speaking too soon is unnatural. While it feels great at first, early speaking will slow down your overall growth and in the end, limit your ability. In class, simply 'look' and 'listen' to get the overall meaning of what is happening. Do not focus on specific words and phrases. Trying to remember words is also counterproductive.

How Do We Measure Progress?

We record the hours of attendance, methods of listening,, and understanding of meaning, for each student individually. We also factor in outside influences, other study or sources that help or hinder growth. Based on these things, we calculate the 'growth rate' or language acquisition of every student. These assesments are available when a student moves from level to level in the program. The appropriate level for a particular student is determined through consideration of the teachers' and staff evaluations as well as student self- evaluations.

ORIENTATION

Take some time to understand what we're doing, and to gain the most benefit from our program, every student should view the "David Long on the ALG Method" videos at

<http://youtube.com/algworld> Go straight to the video by using this link: <http://ow.ly/K92M>

For students who began in level 1 and are now in level 3, I'd encourage you to go visit a level 1 class on <http://youtube.com/algworld>. If you've not done this yet, you'll be amazed at how much you have improved!

BLOG

Specific and valuable information is available that pertains to AUA Thai Program students: follow our blog at: <http://auathai.wordpress.com> You may also want to ask questions, offer answers to insights here as well.

INFORMATION & UPDATES

Do you use Twitter? Follow us at @auathai for reminders of holidays, blog updates and special events. [Http://twitter.com/auathai](http://twitter.com/auathai) If you're on Facebook, go to the "AUA Thai Program" page and interact with others, share photos and have discussions. Don't forget to click the "Become A Fan" button!

RUBBER TREES and LANGUAGE STUDENTS

I know that we've learned that language classes are difficult. Language study requires hard work, high levels of dedication, commitment, motivation, etc., etc. Mostly, it requires a lot of practice.

That's what we've learned...

So the other day, I spoke with a customer at my restaurant. He and his wife have a rubber plantation in Rayong. I asked him about his work. He explained to me that it cost about 7,000 Baht to plant 1 rai of land in rubber trees. For the first three years, they needed a caretaker. But it was a full 7 to 8 years before he would be able to harvest anything at all. (I haven't verified that it takes 7 to 8 years but that's what he said. I do know that many fruit trees naturally grown take about this amount of time to begin producing.)

What if you don't want to wait? Can you make the trees produce in 3 years? Can you plant them this year and harvest next year? Next week? Of course there's always the possibility that you can just buy the rubber and forget the farm. Also, there is such a thing as synthetic rubber – that doesn't take 7 to 8 years. Of course there's a different quality to the product as well. It's not really the same as the real thing.

I then thought about the similarities between rubber trees and language students. (I'd bet you never knew there were similarities!)

By any standards, it takes *at least* two years of pretty much full-time commitment to become proficient in another language, and usually more like 3 to 5. That's any program, anywhere. Of course, if you're a German learning Dutch you'll gain the language faster than a German, learning Chinese – but proficiency in a foreign language simply takes time. There is too much complexity to learn it all quickly.

I can imagine many people now saying, "That's a really long time!" Right. So is 7 to 8 years for a rubber tree. But that's how long it takes. We see it everywhere in the world.

People get to 1 year and say they've **been at it long enough**. Right. Quit the farm at 4 years and you'll never see a harvest.

Of course just like with rubber, you might consider just buying it. **Get a translator**. It's not the same as producing your own but it is certainly faster.

And there is always **synthetic language**. It's not the real thing, but it can work in some cases. Just learn the words you think you need, based on translations from your own language/culture, and then use them a lot. Practice is the key here. Use it or lose it is the password.

A comparison of synthetic rubber and real rubber is probably not too difficult. It's very hard, and maybe impossible, to do better at many things than nature already does. Language acquisition is one of those things that nature is already very, very good at. It's efficient, and consistent world over. Does hard work, high levels of dedication, commitment, motivation, etc., have anything to do with this process? Not really. We're born with a desire to communicate and given a proper environment in any language, have the innate ability to acquire it.

We see young children acquiring new languages without any of the synthetic baggage that adults would place on them – such as classrooms, teachers, hard work, and tests. It's not a problem with the adult brain because we see uneducated adults doing the same thing! Both young children and uneducated adults acquire languages and become fluent in a few years time.

If all you need are a few translated words, then by all means, go the synthetic language route. But don't ever expect it will lead you somehow to the real thing.

My rubber tree friend was quite positive about the future of rubber. He explained that with the numbers of people in China and India who are becoming more and more affluent, the need for rubber will only increase. Tires on cars for example, will be in higher and higher demand. You would think that with all of our modern technology and science, we'd have found a good substitute for real rubber – it hasn't happened yet. So far, we haven't been able to beat nature at this one. Even more so, simple comparisons between real language and synthetic language show that nothing beats the real process. Nothing yet.

What's true for rubber trees seems to be even more true for the human brain. Once you have the basics naturally, you can do many things. Enhance this, add that. If you alter the basics, you may get something faster but it will be lesser as well.

So what is this real process? It's what young children do everywhere. Watch, and listen. Then guess about what you're seeing. Give nature a chance – the benefits will always be yours.