

Burmese

မြန်မာစာ

Spoken in: Myanmar, Thailand, Bangladesh, Malaysia, the United States, United Kingdom, Laos and Singapore

Total speakers: 22 million

Genetic Classification: Sino-Tibetan languages Tibeto-Burman languages Burmese

Official language of: Myanmar

The Burmese language is the official language of Myanmar (formerly known as Burma). The language utilizes the Burmese script, and derives from the Mon script, which ultimately comes from the Pali script.

Burmese is a tonal language, with four main tones; it is classified broadly into two categories. One is formal, used in literary works and official publications. The other is street, which is a language used with family and friends. There are various branches of Burmese spoken language, as well. One form is used when speaking to elders and teachers.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Burmese sessional interpreter.

Burmese alphabet:

Consonants

က	k [k]	ခ	kh [kʰ]	ဂ	g [g]	ဃ	gh [g]	င	n̩ [ŋ]		
စ	c [s]	ဆ	ch [sʰ]	ဇ	j [z]	ည	jh [z]	ည	ññ [ɲ]	ဉ	ñ [ɲ]
တ	t [t]	ထ	th [tʰ]	ဒ	d [d]	ဗ	dh [d]	ဏ	n [n]		
တ	t [t]	ထ	th [tʰ]	ဒ	d [d]	ဗ	dh [d]	န	n [n]		
ပ	p [p]	ဖ	ph [pʰ]	ဗ	b [b]	ဘ	bh [b]	မ	m [m]		
ယ	y [j]	ရ	r [j]	လ	l [l]	ဝ	w [w]	သ	s [θ]		
		ဟ	h [h]	ဋ	l̥ [l̥]	အ	∅ [ʔ]				

Vowels and vowel diacritics

creaky	အိ	အိ	i [í]	အ	a [á]	ဥ	အု	u [ú]
low	ဤ	အီ	ī [i]	အာ	ā [a]	ဦ	အူ	ū [u]
high		အိး	i: [ì]	အာ့	a: [à]	ဥိး	အူ့	u: [ù]
low	ဧ	အေ	e [e]				အို	ui [o]
high		အေ့	e: [è]				အိး	ui: [ò]
creaky		အေ့	e [é]				အိ့	ui [ó]
low		အယ်	ay [ε]			ဩ	အော်	ō [ṽ]
high		အဲ	ai [è]			ဩ	အော	o [ò]
creaky		အဲ	ai [é]				အော့	o [ó]