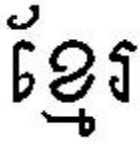


Khmer/ Cambodian



Spoken in: Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, USA, France, Australia

Total speakers: 21.6 million

Genetic Classification: Austroasiatic Mon-Khmer Eastern Mon-Khmer Khmer

Official language of: Cambodia

Khmer is one of the main Austroasiatic languages. Like other languages, Khmer has been transformed over the years and has borrowed words and phrases from other languages. Khmer borrowed extensively from Sanskrit and Pali, the classical languages of India.

Khmer is somewhat unusual among its neighbouring languages (Thai, Laotian and Vietnamese) in that it is not a tonal language.

The writing system is derived from medieval Indian alphabets, which was imported into the region along with Indian religious and political ideas by local elites several hundred years ago.

Khmer is a simple language; it has no prefixes or endings, and no "masculine" or "feminine" words. Status also plays a role in terms of address used for people in the language. This status is expressed in family terms (such as older brother or sister, elderly uncle, etc.). The language also has special words for addressing Buddhist monks, children, and members of the Cambodian royal family.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1.6 FTE Khmer interpreters and 7 sessional interpreters.

Khmer alphabet

Consonants

First series (unvoiced)

Second series (voiced)

ក ka [kɔː]	ខ kha [kʰɔː]	គ ko [koː]	ឃ kho [kʰɔː]	ង ño [ŋɔː]
ច ca [cɔː]	ឆ cha [cʰɔː]	ជ jo [coː]	ឈ jho [cʰɔː]	ញ ño [ɲɔː]
ដ ʈa [ʈɔː]	ប ʈha [ʈʰɔː]	ឌ ɖo [ʈɔː]	ឍ ɖho [ʈʰɔː]	ណ ño [noː]
ត ta [tɔː]	ថ ʈha [ʈʰɔː]	ទ do [toː]	ធ dho [ʈʰɔː]	ន no [noː]
ប pa [bɔː]	ផ pha [pʰɔː]	ព bo [pɔː]	ភ bho [pʰɔː]	ម mo [moː]
ស sa [sɔː]	ហ ha [hɔː]	យ yo [joː]	រ ro [roː]	ល lo [loː]
ឡ la [lɔː]	អ ʔa [ʔɔː]	វ vo [voː]		

Subscript consonants

ក	ខ	គ	ឃ	ង	ច	ឆ	ជ	ឈ	ញ
k	kh	g	gh	ñ	c	ch	j	jh	ñ
ដ	ប	ឌ	ឍ	ណ	ត	ថ	ទ	ធ	ន
ʈ	ʈh	ɖ	ɖh	ɳ	t	th	d	dh	n
ប្ប	ផ្ទ	ព្ទ	ភ្ន	ម្ម					
p	ph	b	bh	m					
យ្យ	រ្រ	ល្ល	វ្វ	ស្ស	ហ្គ	អ្អ			
y	r	l	v	s	h	ʔ			

Independent vowels

អ	អា	ិ	ឺ	ា	័	េ	្ល	ា
ʔa	ʔā	ʔi	ʔī	ʔo	ʔaw	ʔe	ʔay	ʔō
ឌ	្រ	្រ	្រ	្រ				
ʔaw	r	r	l	l				