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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 1: Thank You!

ขอบคุณค่ะ

LESSON NOTES

Wherever your destination maybe, manners are a must! And in this respect, Thailand is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be taking a look at a phrase there is no excuse not bring with you to Thailand. Again, I'll stress this over and over, a little a bit of the language can go such a long way!

In Thai Thank you is "Khorb Khun" . "Khorb" "Khun". Now let's hear it once again "Khorb Khun". What so unique about Thai is we have words to add at the end of the phrase to make it polite, formal or even make it friendlier. To make it more polite and formal, we add one word at the end of the phrase. For women, we add "Ka" . And for men, we add "Krup" . That means that when a woman says "thank you", she says "Khorb Khun Ka" . And a man would say "Khorb Khun Krup" . Sometime you may hear people say it slightly different as "Khorb Khun Na Ka" or "Khorb Khun Na Krup" . The word "Na" usually used to express pleasant or begging but in this phrase, Thai people add this word to make the phrase sound smoother. You can use Khorb Khun Na Ka or Khob Khun Na Krup everywhere and any time and to anybody. It is the most common form of saying Thank you in Thai. You can use it when people open the door for you, at the store or even when someone gives you a compliment.

However, there's more interesting ways of saying Thank you in Thai. If you want to say "Thank you very much", just add one word and you are good to go. In Thai, "Thank you very much" is "Khorb Khun Mark" The meaning of "Mark" is equivalent to "very" in English. We add "Mark" at the end of the phrase, along with "Na" to make it sounds smoother. Which mean to say "Thank you very much" for women is "Khorb Khun "Mark" Na Ka" and for men, "Khorb Khun "Mark" Na Krup".

How about saying "thanks" to a friend? Just a little change in the word then the meaning is different. When you want to say "thanks" to your friends, you may say "Khorb Chai" . You may say this to someone younger than you or someone with socially lower status than you such as your younger sister. "Khorb Chai" indicates that you are very close to the person. However, we don't add the words "Ka", "Krab" or "Na" to make it more polite but add the word "Cha" instead. This means, for both men and women, we say "Khorb Chai Cha" .

PHRASES

Thai	Romanization	English
ขอบคุณค่ะ	Khorb Khun Na Ka	Thank you (said by a woman).
ขอบคุณครับ	Khorb Khun Na Krup.	Thank you (said by a man).
ขอบคุณมากค่ะ	Khorb Khun Mark Na Ka.	Thank you very much (woman).
ขอบคุณมากครับ	Khorb Khun Mark Na Krup	Thank you very much (man).
ขอใจจะ	Khorb Chai Cha	Thanks!