

**THE TRANSLITERATION TABLE:
SPELLING NAMES OF PERSONS AND PLACES**
Updated October 5, 1998

I. Consonants and Subscripts

Item	1	2	3	4	5
វត្តទីមួយ	ក	ខ	ក	ក្រ	ង
English	k	kh	k	kh	ng

Item	6	7	8	9	10
វត្តទីពីរ	ច	ច្រ	ជ	ជ្រ	ន
English	ch	chh	ch	chh	nh

Item	11	12	13	14	15
វត្តទីបី	ដ	ថ	ត	ត្រ	ន
English	d	th	d	th	n

Item	16	17	18	19	20
វត្តទីបួន	ត	ត្រ	ត	ត្រ	ន
English	t	th	t	th	n

Item	21	22	23	24	25
វត្តទីប្រាំ	ប	ផ	ប	ផ	ម
English	b	ph	p	ph	m

Item	26	27	28	29	30
សេសវត្ត	យ	រ	ល	វ	ស
English	y	r	l	v	s
31	32	33			
ហ្ម	អ្ន	អ្ន			
h	l	a			

1. Use (p) instead of (b) for the final position [Siem Reap]; with a following subscript consonant [Pracheachon]; and when it has Mousektoant ("") [Pol Pot].

DC-Cam: We do not understand this sentence. It should be ...; or followed by subscript consonant (r). We think you misspelled: Pracheachon. it should be Pracheachun.

2. Note the following exceptions: (v) is not used for Wat, Khieu, and Takeo.

DC-Cam: We agree.

II. Vowels:

Dependent Vowels (23)		Examples of spelling with first series consonants (voiceless)		Dependent vowels (23)		Examples of spelling with first series consonants (voiced)		Independent Vowels (Only 13)	
Inherent vowel	a	ចង	Chang	Inherent vowel	or ¹	នង	Norg	អ ²	a
្រ	a	កា	Ka	្រ	ea	កា	Kea	អា ³	a
េ	e	ខិន	Khen	េ	i	យិន	Khin	ត	e
ៃ	ei	កៃ	Kdei	ៃ	i	គីម	Kim	ឡ	ei
ែ	oe	កែម	Koem	ែ	i	អឹម	Im	ខ	o
ើ	eu	ចើម	cheum	ើ	eu	ឈើ	Chheu	ខុ	u
ុ	o	ម៉ុក	Mok	ុ	u	ខុច	Duch	ខ្ន	ov
ួ	au ⁴	តួច	Tauch	ួ	ou	ប៊ូ	Bou	បូ	ruk
ួ	uo ⁵	សួន	Suon	ួ	uo ⁶	ទួល	Tuol	បួ	reu
ើ	ae	សើ	Sae	ើ	eu	មើល	Meul	ពួ	luk
ឿ	oeu ⁷	សឿន	Soeun	ឿ	oeu ⁸	ខឿន	Doeun	ពួ	leu
ៀ	ie	សៀន	Sien	ៀ	ie	វៀច	Viech	ង	e
េ	e	ថេន	Then	េ	e	ពេញ	Penh	ពួ	ai
ៃ	e	ដៃក	Dek	ៃ	e	ក្រៃ	Kre	ខ្ន	ua
ៃ	ai	ខៃ	Khai	ៃ	ey	ព្រៃ	Prey	ខ្ន	ao

¹ This should be an exception for Mon (Khmer-Mon) because we commonly spell (or) **not** (o) alone. For instance: N(or)ng Lina, **not** Nong Lina.

² It is not an independent vowel.

³ It is not an independent vowel.

⁴ Commonly we spell (o) for (ុ) when a consonant is spelled with (ួ) alone. e.g. Po (ប៊ូ)

⁵ Commonly we spell (our) for (ួ) when a consonant is spelled with (ួ) alone or with letter (វ) at the end of the word.

⁶ See also footnote number 5 above.

⁷ Commonly we spell (oeur) for (ឿ) when a consonant is spelled with (ឿ) alone or with letter (វ) at the end of the word.

⁸ See also footnote number 7 above.

កោ	ao	កោ	Kao	កោ	o	កោ	Ko
សោ	ao	សោ	Sao	សោ	eou	សោ	Peou
ខ្ញុំ	om	ខ្ញុំ	Khom	ខ្ញុំ	um	ស៊ី	Sum
សំ	am	សំ	Sam	សំ	um	នំ	Num
តាំ	am ⁹	តាំ	Tam	តាំ	oam ¹⁰	នាំ	Noam
សះ	ah	សះ	Sah	សះ	eah	ព្រះ	Preah
ចុះ	oh	ចុះ	Choh	ចុះ	uh	ពុះ	Puh
សេះ	eh	សេះ	Seh	សេះ	eh ¹¹	ទេះ	Teh
កោះ	oh	កោះ	Koh	កោះ	uoh	គោះ	Kuoh

Note of Thavro:

1. People sometimes have their own way of spelling their personal names and we should respect their decision even if it conflicts with our transliteration. e.g. (Youk Chhang; Thiounn Prasith; Mour Sok Hour--FUNCINPEC MP). This also applies to some commonly accepted geographic names (e.g. Kampong Som, Phnom Penh)

DC-Cam: We agree. It also applied for King Sihanouk and Dynasty Chang. However, (Hour) is not a spelling exception but it is a rule.

2. Do not repeat double consonants of the English transcription. It is already two letters, e.g. sanha not sanhnha; chang not changng.

DC-Cam: We NEVER double consonants. So we agree with you.

3. Samyoksanha (័)

a. (័) = (oa) [e.g. phoant for ភ័ន្ត Neak Poan នាគព័ន្ត]

DC-Cam: Cambodians NEVER spelled ភ័ន្ត as such. Please note that we are spelling names of persons and places, NOT KHMER WORDS! So, I think we should give example of names commonly used by Cambodians.

b. (័យ) = (ay) for the first series [samay for សម័យ]; and (ey) for the second series [Chey for ជ័យ].

⁹ aing តាំង Taing

¹⁰ It becomes (eang) when spelling with other consonant at the end. For instance: Treang Village.

¹¹ Excepted for (Nih) នៃ៖

DC-Cam: OK.

4. Batakk (')

a. Double the final consonant to shorten the sound, e.g. កាន់ for Kann. But if the English transcription is already two letters, do not repeat the final consonants [e.g. Chang instead of changng for ចង់]

DC-Cam: OK. But (Batakk) should be (Bantakk).

b. (ea) changes to (oa), e.g. Phoas for ភាស័; moan for ម៉ាន់ etc. except with the five velar consonants (ក ខ ត ឃ ង), e.g. teakk for ទាក់ ...etc

DC-Cam: (ea) can be (oa) only for certain sound for names (NOT WORDS). PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE SPELLING NAME OF PERSONS AND NAME OF PLACES, NOT KHMER WORDS SUCH AS ម៉ាន់ or ទាក់. Teakk is a very BAD example. It is not a name of a person. May be it is a name of a person, but it is one in 10 million Cambodians would have a name as such. *Velar?* It is not English, but Latin. Can we use (voiced)? (កខតឃង) should not be mentioned here because they are very confusing.

c. Change the inherent vowel in the 2nd series from (o) to (u) [e.g. Prey Ta Rut, Skun]

DC-Cam: It is [ALREADY] mentioned in the transliteration table.

5. Mousekatoant (")

a. Changes the second series consonants (ង ញ ប រ យ វ) to (ង្ក ញ្ជ ប័ រ័ យ័ វ័), to give first series pronunciation to the vowel, , e.g. Mok instead of Muk for ម៉ុក

DC-Cam: No big deal. It is not a problem.

b. To convert the first series ប to ប័ (b) to (p), e.g. Pol Pot

Note: When use with a superscript vowels the (") changes to (ˊ), e.g Meun ម៉ុន

DC-Cam: OK. Please see grammar book of Cambodian primary school. Sorya.

6. Treisapt (~)

Changes the first series consonants (ប ស ហ អ) to (ប័ ស័ ហ័ អ័) to give first series pronunciation to the vowel, e.g. Hean instead of Han for ហ័ន.

Note: When use with a superscript vowel the (̃) changes to (́), e.g. ស៊ី for Si.

DC-Cam: Excepted for (្រ). For instance: Bic (pen). We spelled ប៊ិច្រ (Si) should be (Sy).

7. In some words of Pali origin, the inherent vowel has a glottal stop. The inherent vowel in the first series (ak) [e.g. kaksekar for កកសិករ], and in the second series is (eak) [e.g. reaksmei for រឿស្រ]

DC-Cam: kaksekar IS NOT A NAME OF A PERSON. Reaksmei IS NOT PALI.

8. We do not transcribe unpronounced final syllables, whether or not they have a toandkeat (̃) e.g. cheat not cheate, ussa not ussah.

DC-Cam: I think you misspelled toandkeat. It should be toand(kh)eat. See the transliteration table for ្រ=Kh.

EMAIL MESSAGE: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Helen: to add (a) as the final consonant.

DC-Cam: OK.

2. Helen: to add (inherent vowels) in both series before the vowel.

DC-Cam: OK.

3. Helen: to eliminate alternatives in the table itself, as it is too confusing and we want to say what is our standard--instead, we have added a note on exceptions for SOME Personal and geographic names (this means Youk Chhang and Sihanouk are OK for Youk and the King, but these names would be spelled Yu or Chhaing or Sihaknu for other people, and Kampong Som and Phnom Penh are OK but would be Saom and Phnum for other places.

DC-Cam: OK. See footnote under the transliteration table.

4. Helen: to remove the consonant (a) from the 2nd series list of vowels, as it is clearer without it, as you had for the 1st series.

DC-Cam: See your own question number 2 above. Please let us know. We think we need to add both of them to the table.

5. Helen: to add the vowels to Khai and Prey

DC-Cam: ្រ (ai) for first series. (ey) for second series.

6. Helen: We suggest changing (oam) to (um)

DC-Cam: OK but it has something to do with pronunciation. We never pronounced (um) for (oam). Please ask Thavro to pronounce it so that you can hear the differences.

7. Helen: to add (oam) as well as (eang) to be clearer.

DC-Cam: See footnote under the transliteration table.

8. Helen: We think we would prefer to write (o) instead of (or)

DC-Cam: See footnote under the transliteration table.

9. Thavro/Helen: The 5th independent vowel that Thavro has suggested to (o) [1st series] and (u) [2nd series] -- I think may be (ou) better for 2nd (as more commonly used)

DC-Cam: We agree with (ou) or (u) for second series.

10. Helen: Do you think we should re-insert (y) in the final position for the 3rd vowel 2nd series [as you had before Laky, although we note that Devi is usually (i)]

DC-Cam: We use (y) for second series for final position. We use (i) for second series for any position, except for Sokhym Em. (Devi) is Pali.

DC-Cam Rule for Spelling Names and Places:

Rule 1:

Use the original spellings in UNTAC Map and the new version of Gazetteer for geographical names (for places).

Rule 2:

Use the original spellings of particular people if their names are known.

Rule 3:

Spell out unknown names (geographical and people) by using our transliteration standard.

Rule 4:

Khmer words used as proper nouns but spelled in English use our transliteration to spell them.

Note from Youk: I think we wasted a lot of time in repeating Cambodian grammar and unnecessary work, which we have already known, done and used. Thanks.