



Course Key

English to Khmer:

A Few Tips to help you while visiting Cambodia.

The official language of Cambodia is called Khmer, pronounced "Khe-my". The Khmer script is abugida, which stacks constants and vowels together to create sounds, may look like scribbles, but the language is relatively easy to pick up as it is not based on tones. There are many different ways to say different phrases depending on formality. The ones listed below are most commonly used. Note, adding "please" to almost all phrases will make everything sound more respectful.

English to Khmer: Phonetics

- Words written with...
- "uo": this sound is in between a short u (like in "bun") and a long o (like in "toe")
- "ai": this sound is a long i (like "pie") with a long e sound at the end
- "aa": this sound is like the a in "father" but more drawn out
- "dt": this sound is between a "d" and "t" sound
- "ch" and "j" are very similar, try to say it in between these two sounds
- the "r" is often rolled like in Spanish
- "Knyohm", which means "I", sounds kind of like "koon-yohm"



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English to Khmer: The Basics

Hello (formal)	Chom reap suor (it's also good to bring your hands together and bow – the higher your hands, the more formal/respectful)
Hello (informal)	Soo sdai
How are you?	Suok suobai?
I'm fine	Suok suobai
Goodbye	Lee hai
Yes	For males: Baat or Baa For females: Chaa
No	Aw dteh
Thank you	Aw kuon
Thank you very much	Aw kuon cheh-rran
Please	Suom
Sorry/Excuse me	Suom dtoh
I don't understand	Knyohm aht yohl
I don't know	Knyohm aht duong
Do you speak English?	Tah nyek neeyay preesah ahng-lay tay?
Bathroom	Bahn tuop tuk
How much is this?	Tlai puon maan?
Expensive	Tlai!
What's your name?	Nyek chmua ai?
My name is _____	Knyohm chmua _____
What time is it?	Tahl maong puon maan?



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English to Khmer: Restaurant Phrases

Restaurant	Puo-ja-nee-tahn
Delicious	Chnang
Spicy	Haal
I am hungry	Knyohm klee-en
I am a vegetarian	Knyohm ot cheh nyam sach teh (literally, <i>I'm not able to eat meat</i>)
One water, please	Suom tuk muy
One beer, please	Suom beer muy
The check, please	Suom ket loy



Casa Kep

English to Khmer: Giving Directions

Where is...?	... noh ai nah?
I want to go to...	Knyohm jang toh...
Go straight	Tao trahng
Turn left	Bot chwaing
Turn right	Bot sdam
Stop here, please	Suom chuop teenee
I'm lost	Knyohm vohng vang