

2. Tom Jones has just arrived in Bangkok. He is asking Wipha, his guide, about the public transportation in the city.

Tom : Can you tell me about the public transportation in Bangkok? I have a free day tomorrow, and I'd like to explore the city by myself.

Wipha : Oh, yes! That sounds exciting! Public buses are plentiful and cheap in Bangkok. There are both air-conditioned and regular buses. Fares for regular buses cost only 5 baht for any distance, while fares for air-conditioned buses range from 8 baht for the first 8 kilometers to a maximum of 18 baht. Fares are collected on board, and bus numbers indicate routes. A bus route map can be bought at most hotels and bookshops for 35 baht.

Tom : I think I can get a bus route map at my hotel. Did you say 35 baht for one map?

Wipha : Yes, 35 baht each. But, buses can be uncomfortable and crowded, especially during rush hours.

Tom : If the buses are too crowded, I'll call a taxi.

Wipha : That's a good idea. Taxi drivers in Bangkok use meters. Fares within the city range from a minimum of 50 baht to a maximum of 250 baht.

Tom : I'd like also to try the three wheel taxi. What do you call it?

Wipha : We call it a tuk-tuk. It's quite popular among the tourists for short journeys inside the city.

Tom : Are the fares for tuk-tuks cheaper?

Wipha : Yes, they are. They range from a minimum of 40 baht to a maximum of 150 baht. If you get lost or need help, you can ask a tourist policeman or just anybody. The Thais are friendly and helpful.

Tom : Thanks for the useful information.

Wipha : Not at all. I'm sure you'll have a great time tomorrow.

Tom : I'm sure I will. I just can't wait. I'll tell you about my adventure.

Wipha : Please do. I'd love to hear about it.

Answer the questions.

(a) Why does Tom want to know about the public transportation in Bangkok?

(b) How many kinds of buses are there in Bangkok?

(c) Does Tom need a bus route map? Where can he get one?

(d) What can Tom do if he gets lost in the city?

3. Mary Stanton is talking to Danai, her guide, while they are waiting for other shoppers at a souvenir factory.

Mary : I see portraits of your king and queen hung on the walls in shops, banks and almost every place in the city. You must love them a lot.

Danai : Yes, Thais do love and revere the king and the royal family. The king is regarded as the protector of all religions, the moral and cultural leader of the nation.

Mary : What is the name of your present king?

Danai : King Bhumipol Adulyadej, the Great. He's the ninth monarch of the Royal House of Chakri and is also known as King Rama IX.

Mary : By the way, I went to King Rama IX Park the other day. It's a magnificent park!

Danai : King Rama IX Park was built as part of the celebration for the King's fifth cycle, his sixtieth birthday, in December 1987.

Mary : Did you say "fifth cycle"? What does that mean?

Danai : Well, in Thailand, life is measured in cycles of twelve years. The completion of each cycle is a significant step in a man's life. It means development and change. Fortunes may improve or worsen. Personality and outlook on life are different. However, the fifth cycle is the most important of all. At sixty, a man is supposed to be wise and knowing. Thus, completion of the fifth cycle is a time for celebration.

Mary : I've read in a book that King Bhumipol was born in the United States.

Danai : Yes, that's right. His majesty was born on December 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, because his father, Prince Mahidol of Songkhla, was a student at Harvard Medical School. He's the only monarch ever to be born on United States' soil. After the bloodless coup of 1932, the King's mother took her children to Switzerland to be educated. In April 1950, His Majesty returned to Thailand with his fiancée for a spectacular royal wedding. Then, on May 5, his Royal Coronation Ceremony was held at the Grand Palace. His Majesty has reigned with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the Thai people.

Mary : I know. He's indeed a dedicated king.

Danai : He's also a modern king, dealing with the current problems facing his people and formulating farsighted policy.

Mary : The Thai people are very lucky to have such a great king.

Danai : I agree with you completely.

Answer the questions

- (a) Why do Thais hang portraits of the king and queen on the walls in shops, banks and almost every place in the city?
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(b) What is the king regarded as?

(c) Why is King Bhumipol known as King Rama IX?

(d) Why was King Rama IX Park built?

(e) What does Mary think of the king?

B. Match the following exchanges between the tourist in column A and the guide in column B.

The Tourist

The Guide

Column A

Column B

(1) What is the electric current in Thailand?

(a) Yes, there are both bus and car services from the airport to Pattaya.

(2) Is it possible to rent a car and drive in Bangkok?

(b) Yes, you can apply for a visa extension at the Immigration Division, Soi Suan Plu, Sathorn Tai Road.

(3) Can I go directly to Pattaya Beach from Bangkok International Airport?

(c) It's 220 volt AC (50 cycles)

- (4) I'd like to go to Chiang Mai by bus. Which bus terminal should I go to? all over the country.
- (5) I'd like to stay longer in Thailand. Can I apply for a visa extension? (d) Yes, if you have a valid international driver's license.
- (e) You should go to the Northern and Northeastern Bus Terminal.

C. Complete the dialogue.

Tourist : I'm wondering if Thailand has a common border with China.

Guide : _____

Tourist : I see. By the way, is it hot all year round in Thailand? How many seasons does it have?

Guide : _____

Tourist : The rainy season seems to be longer than any other season. You said it's from June to October. So, you have about five months of rain. When is the best time to visit Thailand, then?

Guide : _____

Tourist : I'll remember that. Next time, I'll come in the cool season, from November to February.

Vocabulary 3

currency	the system of money used in a country.
denomination	a class of units within a range or sequence of money, numbers, etc.
banknote	a piece of paper money issued by a bank.
traveler's check	a check for a fixed amount, sold by a bank or travel agent, and easily exchanged for cash in foreign countries.
exchange rate	the relation in value between the money used in different countries.
business hour	the normal time of business.
credit card	a small plastic card that allows its holder to buy goods and services on credit and to pay at fixed intervals.
transportation	a system for taking people or goods from one place to another, for example using buses or trains.
fare	money charged for a journey by bus, ship, taxi, etc.
distance	the amount of space between two points or places
indicate	to show something
bus route	the way between two places along which buses travel regularly

rush hour	the time each day when roads are most full of traffic and trains and buses are most crowded because people are going to or coming from work
minimum	the least or smallest amount, degree, etc. possible.
maximum	the greatest amount, size, intensity, etc. possible or recorded.
journey	an act of travelling from one place to another
adventure	an unusual, exciting or dangerous experience
portrait	a painting, drawing or photograph of a person, especially of the face alone
revere	to feel deep respect or admiration for somebody or something
monarch	a supreme ruler such as a king or queen.
magnificent	splendid; remarkable; impressive
celebration	an occasion of marking a happy or important day, event, etc. with a social gathering where people can enjoy themselves
coup	a sudden, illegal and often violent, change of government
fiancée	a woman to whom one is engaged to be married
spectacular	making a very fine display or show.
coronation	a ceremony at which a crown is formally put on the head of a new king or queen.

reign	to rule as king or queen.
righteousness	doing, thinking, etc. what is morally right.
benefit	a thing that one gains from something; an advantage that something gives.
dedicated	giving time, effort and loyalty to an aim, a job, etc.
formulate	to create or prepare something carefully and with attention to detail.
far-sighted	seeing future problems and possibilities clearly and planning for them.

IV. Language Focus

Present simple and past simple

Present simple

The present simple is used when the speaker thinks of something as a fact. Use the present simple to talk about:

- (a) a law of nature:
The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.
- (b) a permanent situation, or a state with no definite start and finish time but true now:
Thailand enjoys a tropical climate with three well-defined seasons.
- (c) a regular repeated action or something on a timetable:
He plays soccer at 10.00 a.m. on weekends.
The Chiang Mai train leaves at seven o'clock every day.

Past simple

The past simple is used when the speaker refers to a finished action or situation in the past. Use the past simple to talk about:

(a) finished single actions or situations:

I went to King Rama IX Park the other day.

(b) finished repeated actions or situations:

When she was young, she went to Pattaya on holiday every year.

A. Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets in the present simple or past simple.

1. Those flowers _____ (smell) nice. What are they?
2. The tourists _____ (go) to Pattaya yesterday.
3. Buddhism first _____ (appear) in Thailand during the third century B.C.
4. The Thai people _____ (have) a high respect for their elders.
5. The Johnsons always _____ (enjoy) their holiday in Bangkok.

B. Choose the verbs from the list to complete the sentences.

Use the present simple and use each verb once.

know, live, rain, write, remember

1. It does not _____ here in the summer.
2. John is repairing the car. He _____ how to do it.
3. She always _____ my birthday.
4. They _____ in Bangkok.
5. She _____ to her boyfriend every day.

C. Choose the verbs from the list to complete the sentences.

Use the past simple and use each verb once.

fly, go, hurt, lose, work

1. Mary _____ to Thailand last year.
2. John _____ his wallet on holiday last week.
3. They _____ from Hadyai Airport to Bangkok yesterday.
4. He _____ his back lifting those suitcases.
5. When I met them, they _____ for Star Tours.

V. Communicative Tasks

A. Write out the sentences in complete form. Change the verb form where necessary.

Example: capital / Thailand / be / Bangkok / of / the.
Bangkok is the capital of Thailand.

1. Southeast / Thailand / in / Asia / be.

2. drivers / Bangkok / in / taxi / meters / use.

3. help / happy / tourist policemen / to / be / tourist / any.

4. the / dynasty / King Bhumipol / the / be / monarch / Chakri / ninth / of.

5. extension / tourists / apply / for / can / a / the / Immigration / Division / at / visa.

6. three / be / in / there / seasons / Thailand.

7. the / baht / currency / be / Thai / the.

8. buses / plentiful / public / and / cheap / be / Bangkok / in.

9. enjoy / in / themselves / tourists / Bangkok.

10. guide / a / good / information / to / tourists / useful / give.

B. Use the following words and expressions to write a complete sentence.

Example: look up

She looked up the meaning of the word in an English-Thai dictionary.

1. independent

2. natural resources

3. rush hours

4. credit card

5. far-sighted

C. Use the following situations to construct a conversation. Each conversation should be about 15 lines. Work in pairs or groups.

1. David and Tony are interested in renting a car and driving to different places in Thailand. They are asking Ladda, their guide, about car rental services and driving in Thailand.

2. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hatch got caught in the traffic while they were on a tour bus from the Landmark Hotel to the Grand Palace. So, they asked their guide about the traffic in Bangkok and the efforts of the government and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration to solve the traffic problems.
