

# Kayah Li ကေဟလီ လွှာ

Kayah or Kayah Li is a member of Karen branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is spoken by about 590,000 people in the Kayah and Karen states of Burma (Myanmar). The language and people who speak it are also known as Western Kayah, Karenni, Karennyi, Red Karen, Yang Daeng or Karieng Daeng.

The Kayah Li alphabet was devised by Htae Bu Phae in March 1962. It is taught in schools in refugee camps in Thailand. It appears to be modelled, to some extent, on scripts such as Thai and Burmese.

## Notable features

- Type of writing system: alphabet
- Direction of writing: left to right in horizontal lines
- Consonants Other vowels are written with separate letters or with diacritics attached to the letter a.
- Tones are indicated by diacritics below the consonants.
- Used to write: Kayah or Kayah Li, a Karen language spoken in Burma by about 590,000 people.

### Consonants

<b>က</b>	<b>ခ</b>	<b>ဂ</b>	<b>င</b>	<b>စ</b>	<b>ဆ</b>	<b>ဇ</b>	<b>ည</b>	<b>တ</b>	<b>ထ</b>	<b>န</b>	<b>ပ</b>
ka	kha	ga	nga	sa	sha	zha	nya	ta	hta	na	pa
[k]	[kʰ]	[g]	[ŋ]	[s]	[sʰ]	[z]	[ɲ]	[t]	[tʰ]	[n]	[p]
<b>ဖ</b>	<b>မ</b>	<b>ဒ</b>	<b>ဗ</b>	<b>ရ</b>	<b>ယ</b>	<b>လ</b>	<b>ဝ</b>	<b>ဋ</b>	<b>ဍ</b>	<b>ဎ</b>	<b>ဏ</b>
pha	ma	da	ba	ra	ya	la	wa	tha	ha	va	ca
[pʰ]	[m]	[d]	[b]	[r]	[j]	[l]	[w]	[tʃ/θ/s]	[h]	[v]	[tɕ]

### Vowels

### Vowel diacritics

### Tone marks

<b>အ</b>	<b>ဣ</b>	<b>ဩ</b>	<b>ဪ</b>	<b>ဥ</b>	<b>ဦ</b>	<b>ဳ</b>	<b>ဴ</b>	<b>ဵ</b>	<b>ံ</b>	<b>့</b>	<b>း</b>
a	oe	i	oo	u'	e	u	ê	o	high tone	low tone	mid tone
[a]	[ɤ]	[i]	[o]	[w]	[ɛ]	[u]	[e]	[ɔ]			

### Numerals

<b>၀</b>	<b>၁</b>	<b>၂</b>	<b>၃</b>	<b>၄</b>	<b>၅</b>	<b>၆</b>	<b>၇</b>	<b>၈</b>	<b>၉</b>
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

[Download Kayah Li fonts](#) (TrueType format, 37K)

## Links

Information about the Kayah Li language and alphabet

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayah\\_languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayah_languages)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayah\\_Li\\_alphabet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayah_Li_alphabet)

<http://std.dkuug.dk/jtc1/sc2/wg2/docs/n3038.pdf> (PDF)

Kayah Li lesson

<http://www.karennirefugees.com/learn-kayah.html>

Information about the Karenni people

[http://www.karenni.org/about\\_the\\_karenni.php](http://www.karenni.org/about_the_karenni.php)

Online Karenni news

<http://ktimes.org/>

Information about the Kayah State

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayah\\_State](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kayah_State)

Karenni Students Union (includes free Karenni/Kayah-li fonts)

<http://www.karennisu.org>

## Tibeto-Burman languages

[Achang](#), [Arakanese](#), [Balti](#), [Bantawa](#), [Bisu](#), [Drung](#), [Dzongkha](#), [Garo](#), [Hajong](#), [Hani](#), [Hmar](#), [Jingpho](#), [Karen](#), [Kayah](#)

[Li](#), [Ladakhi](#), [Lahu](#), [Lepcha](#), [Limbu](#), [Lipo](#), [Lisu](#), [Manipuri](#), [Marma](#), [Mro](#), [Naxi](#), [Nepal Bhasa / Newari](#), [Sikkimese](#), [Sunuwar](#), [Tangkhul Naga](#), [Tibetan](#), [Tshangla](#), [Tujia](#), [Yi](#)

## Alphabets

- [Adlam](#),
- [Armenian](#),
- [Avestan](#),
- [Avoiuli](#),
- [Bassa \(Vah\)](#),
- [Beitha Kukju](#),

- Borama / Gadabuursi,
- Carian,
- Carpathian Basin Rovas,
- Chinuk pipa,
- Coorgi-Cox,
- Coptic,
- Cyrillic,
- Dalecarlian runes,
- Deseret,
- Elbasan,
- Etruscan,
- Faliscan,
- Galik,
- Georgian (Asomtavruli),
- Georgian (Nuskhuri),
- Georgian (Mkhedruli),

- Glagolitic,
- Gothic,
- Greek,
- Irish (Uncial),
- Kaddare,
- Khatt-i-Badī',
- Khazarian Rovas,
- Korean,
- Latin,
- Lepontic,
- Luo Lakeside Script,
- Lycian,
- Lydian,
- Manchu,
- Mandaic,
- Mandombe,

- [Marsiliana,](#)
- [Messapic,](#)
- [Mongolian,](#)
- [Mro,](#)
- [Naguaké Taíno Pictographic Alphabet,](#)
- [N'Ko,](#)
- [North Picene,](#)
- [Ogham,](#)
- [Old Church Slavonic,](#)
- [Oirat Clear Script,](#)
- [Old Italic,](#)
- [Old Nubian,](#)
- [Old Permic,](#)
- [Orkhon,](#)
- [Oscan,](#)
- [Pau Cin Hau,](#)

- Phrygian,
- Pollard script,
- Runic,
- Santali,
- Székely-Hungarian Rovás (Hungarian Runes),
- Somali (Osmanya),
- South Picene,
- Sutton SignWriting,
- Tai Lue,
- Todhri,
- Umbrian,
- Uyghur,
- Zaghawa