

Mon (ဘာသာ မန်)

Mon is an Austroasiatic language spoken in parts of Myanmar/Burma and Thailand. In 2004 there were 850,000 speakers, mainly in Mon State, and also in the Tanintharyi Region and Kayin State in southern Myanmar.

The language was widely spoken in southern Burma until the middle of the 19th century, when the area was taken over by the British. After then large numbers of people migrated to the area from India and China, and Mon became marginalized.

Mon was first written during the 6th century AD in two different scripts: one derived from the Grantha script, and one derived from the Kadamba or Grantha script. The Mon script first appeared in the Mayzedi inscriptions in 1113.

Mon script

Consonants

က	ခ	ဂ	ဃ	င	စ	ဆ	ဇ	ဈ	ည
k	kh	g	gh	ṇ	c	ch	j	jh	ñ
[ka ^ʔ]	[k ^h a ^ʔ]	[kè ^ʔ]	[k ^h è ^ʔ]	[ṇè ^ʔ]	[ca ^ʔ]	[c ^h a ^ʔ]	[cè ^ʔ]	[c ^h è ^ʔ]	[ṇè ^ʔ]
ဋ	ဌ	ဍ	ဎ	တ	ထ	ဏ	ဒ	ဓ	န
ṭ	ṭh	ḍ	ḍh	ṇ	t	th	d	dh	n
[ta ^ʔ]	[t ^h a ^ʔ]	[ḍè ^ʔ]	[ḍ ^h è ^ʔ]	[ṇè ^ʔ]	[ta ^ʔ]	[t ^h a ^ʔ]	[tè ^ʔ]	[t ^h è ^ʔ]	[nè ^ʔ]
ပ	ဖ	ဗ	ဘ	မ	ယ	ရ	လ	ဝ	သ
p	ph	b	bh	m	y	r	l	w	s
[pa ^ʔ]	[p ^h a ^ʔ]	[pè ^ʔ]	[p ^h è ^ʔ]	[mè ^ʔ]	[jè ^ʔ]	[rè ^ʔ]	[lè ^ʔ]	[wè ^ʔ]	[sa ^ʔ]
ဟ	ဌ	ဓ	အ	မှ					
h	ḷ	ṣ	a	ḃ					
[ha ^ʔ]	[la ^ʔ]	[ṣa ^ʔ]	[ʔa ^ʔ]	[ḃè ^ʔ]					

Medials

င	န	ဓ	တ	ဏ	ဒ	ဓ	န	င
ṇ	n	m	y	r	l	w	h	
[ṇ]	[n]	[m]	[j]	[r]	[l]	[w]	[hn]	virama

Notes

- There are two registers of consonants: clear and breathy. The consonants with an inherent /a/ above are clear, and their vowels are pronounced with a clear, high pitch. The consonants with an inherent /è/ are breathy, and their vowels are pronounced with a breathy, lower pitch.
- The virama mutes the inherent vowel, and is used for consonants that appear the end of syllables

Vowels and vowel diacrtics

Indepent vowels

က ကိ ဂ ဃ င ဝ

i ī u ū e o

Vowel diacritics

အ အာ အိ အီ အု အူ အေ အဲ အော

a ā i ī u ū e ai o

အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ

āi/oi aṃ aḥ iu āṃ uṃ eṃ oṃ aṃ

အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ အံ

uṃ āai uai eai oai iuai uew

Numerals

၀ ၁ ၂ ၃ ၄ ၅ ၆

သုည ဝှိ ဓါ ဝိ ပန် မသုန် တြ

[sunja²] [muə] [ḡa] [pəeʔ] [pən] [pəsəŋ] [ʔərau]

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

၇ ၈ ၉ ၁၀

ထပ် ဒွါ တစ်ဆယ် စုံ

[həpəh] [həcam] [həcit] [cəh]

7 8 9 10

[Download an Mon alphabet chart](#) (Excel)

Sample text

ဇာပ်မွိတ်ကံ ကတိန်ကုလင် နကို ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာကို နကို အခေါင်အရာကို တုပ်သွတ် ရေင်သကအံ
သိုညးဖအိုတ်ရ။ ကောန်မွိတ်တအံကံ ဟိုတ်မွိတ်အစောသတ္တိ မပါပါ ဟိုတ်ဖိုလ် ကောံ

ခိုဟ်ပရေအ်တအ်တဲ ညးမွဲကျောံညးမွဲ သွးဆက်ဆောံ နကို စိုတ်ကောဒေအ်ရ။
(ပိုဒ် ၁၊ လလောင်တရး အခေါင်အရာမွဲဟ် ဂွးကတ်)

Translation

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

(Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Details of the Mon script provided by Michael Peter Füstumum, with corrections by Mattias Persson. Sample text translated by Bee Htaw Monzel

Sample video in Mon Links

Information about the Mon language

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mon_language

<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/mnw>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mon_script

http://www.comparativelinguistics.uzh.ch/dam/jcr:ffffff-f914-30c6-ffff-ffffd45ca81c/Introduction_to_the_Mon_language.pdf

<http://www.comparativelinguistics.uzh.ch/staff/mathiasjenny/download/TheMonLanguageInThailandAndMyanmarMJ2015.pdf>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/20473584/Romanization-for-Mon-Script-by-Transliteration-Method>

Syllabic alphabets / abugidas

- [Ahom](#),
- [Badaga](#),
- [Balinese](#),
- [Batak](#),
- [Baybayin \(Tagalog\)](#),
- [Bengali](#),

- [Bilang-bilang,](#)
- [Bima,](#)
- [Blackfoot,](#)
- [Brahmi,](#)
- [Buhid,](#)
- [Burmese,](#)
- [Carrier,](#)
- [Chakma,](#)
- [Cham,](#)
- [Cree,](#)
- [Dehong Dai,](#)
- [Devanagari,](#)
- [Ditema,](#)
- [Dives Akuru,](#)
- [Ethiopic,](#)
- [Evēla Akuru,](#)
- [Fraser,](#)

- [Gondi,](#)
- [Grantha,](#)
- [Gujarati,](#)
- [Gupta,](#)
- [Gurmukhi,](#)
- [Hanifi,](#)
- [Hanuno'o,](#)
- [Inuktitut,](#)
- [Javanese,](#)
- [Jenticha,](#)
- [Kaithi,](#)
- [Kannada,](#)
- [Kawi,](#)
- [Kerinci,](#)
- [Kharosthi,](#)
- [Khmer,](#)

- [Khojki,](#)
- [Kulitan,](#)
- [Lampung,](#)
- [Lanna,](#)
- [Lao,](#)
- [Lepcha,](#)
- [Limbu,](#)
- [Lontara/Makasar,](#)
- [Lota Ende,](#)
- [Malayalam,](#)
- [Manpuri,](#)
- [Meroitic,](#)
- [Modi,](#)
- [Mon,](#)
- [Mongolian Horizontal Square Script,](#)
- [Ojibwe,](#)

- [Odia](#),
- [Pahawh Hmong](#),
- [Pallava](#),
- [Phags-pa](#),
- [Ranjana](#),
- [Redjang](#),
- [Sasak](#),
- [Satera Jontal](#),
- [Shan](#),
- [Sharda](#),
- [Siddham](#),
- [Sindhi](#),
- [Sinhala](#),
- [Sorang Sompeng](#),
- [Sourashtra](#),
- [Soyombo](#),

- [Sundanese](#),
- [Syloti Nagri](#),
- [Tagbanwa](#),
- [Takri](#),
- [Tamil](#),
- [Thaana](#),
- [Telugu](#),
- [Thai](#),
- [Tibetan](#),
- [Tigalari \(Tulu\)](#),
- [Tikamuli](#),
- [Tocharian](#),
- [Tolong Siki](#),
- [Varang Kshiti](#)