

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Lower Beginner S1 #1

Where Should We Go on Our Thai Holiday?

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#1

INTRODUCTION

Ohm: สวัสดีครับ

Ja: Hello, and welcome to ThaiPod101.com. This is Lower Beginner, Season 1, Lesson 1: "Where Should We Go on Our Thai Holiday?" I'm Ja.

Ohm: And I'm Ohm. What are we going to learn in this lesson?

Ja: In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask basic questions.

Ohm: This conversation takes place at a coffee shop.

Ja: It's between two friends, Nok and Dao.

Ohm: The speakers are friends, so they'll be using casual Thai.

Ja: Alright, Let's listen to the conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

นก: วันหยุดยาวนี้เราจะไปเที่ยวที่ไหนกันดี

ดาว: เกะลันตาดีมัย

นก: ทำไมอยากไปเกาะลันตาสะ ที่นั่นมีอะไรดีหรือ

ดาว: มีทะเลสวย น้ำใส หาดทรายขาว

Ja: Let's hear the conversation one time slowly.

นก: วันหยุดยาวนี้เราจะไปเที่ยวที่ไหนกันดี

ดาว: เกะลันตาดีมัย

นก: ทำไมอยากไปเกาะลันตาสะ ที่นั่นมีอะไรดีหรือ

ดาว: มีทะเลสวย น้ำใส หาดทรายขาว

Ja: Now let's hear it with the English translation.

นก: วันหยุดยาวนี้เราจะไปเที่ยวที่ไหนกันดี

Where should we travel on this long holiday?

ดาว: เกะลันตาดีมัย

How about Koh Lanta?

นก: ทำไมอยากไปเกาะลันต่าล่ะ ที่นั่นมีอะไรดีเหรอ

Why do you want to go to Koh Lanta? What's good about that place?

ดาว: มีทะเลสวย น้ำใส หาดทรายขาว

It has a beautiful sea, clear water, and white sand.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Ja: Ohm, why do you think they chose Koh Lanta over one of the more famous islands, like Phuket or Koh Samui?

Ohm: Maybe they wanted to get away from the crowds. Koh Lanta is just as beautiful as those other islands, but it's not as crowded with hotels and resorts.

Ja: So the beaches are still good places to relax?

Ohm: Yes, and they're also good for watching the sunset because they're all on the west coast.

Ja: That sounds nice. I think our listeners should keep Koh Lanta in mind when they're planning their next beach holiday.

Ohm: Definitely!

Ja: Okay, now let's move onto the vocabulary.

VOCAB LIST

Ja: Let's take a look at the vocabulary for this lesson.

The first word we shall see is:

Ohm: วันหยุด [natural native speed]

holiday

Ohm: วันหยุด [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: วันหยุด [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: ยาว [natural native speed]

long

Ohm: ยาว [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: ยาว [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: ไปเที่ยว [natural native speed]

to go out, to go on an excursion, to travel

Ohm: ไปเที่ยว [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: ไปเที่ยว [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: ที่ไหน [natural native speed]

where

Ohm: ที่ไหน [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: ที่ไหน [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: เกาะ [natural native speed]

island

Ohm: เกาะ [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: เกาะ [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: มั้ย [natural native speed]

informal yes/no question particle

Ohm: มั้ย [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: มั้ย [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: อะไร [natural native speed]

what (an interrogative)

Ohm: อะไร [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: อะไ [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: ทะเล [natural native speed]

sea

Ohm: ทะเล [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: ทะเล [natural native speed]

Next:

Ohm: ใส [natural native speed]

clear

Ohm: ใส [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: ใส [natural native speed]

And Last:

Ohm:ทราย [natural native speed]

sand

Ohm: ทราย [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Ohm: ทราย [natural native speed]

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Ja: Now let's take a closer look at the usage of some of the words and phrases used in this lesson. The first one is...

Ohm: ...วันหยุด

Ja: This literally means "stop day."

Ohm: Right. It refers to a day you have off from work or school.

Ja: So you can use it in reference to holidays or weekend days when your school or work is closed. And in the case of a long holiday period, as happens during the New Year or Songkran festival, you can use the phrase วันหยุดยาว (wan-yùt yaa), meaning "long holiday." Okay, what's the next phrase?

Ohm: ไปเที่ยว

Ja: It can mean either "to go traveling" or "to go out for fun."

Ohm: Right. So, you can use it in reference to going on a vacation, just like we heard in the dialogue.

Ja: And what was that sentence?

Ohm: วันหยุดยาวนี้เราจะไปเที่ยวที่ไหนกันดี

Ja: "Where should we go traveling on this long holiday?" And the other way to use ไปเที่ยว (bpai thīiao) is when you're going out to the movies, going dancing with friends, going on a scenic drive, or some activity like that. So heading out for fun, basically?

Ohm: That's right.

Ja: Okay and what's the last vocabulary word?

Ohm: มั้ย This is the more common pronunciation of the question particle ไหม (mǎi) in regular conversation.

Ja: When spoken quickly, the rising tone changes to a high tone. Its use is very simple. When you put it at the end of any sentence or phrase, it turns that sentence into a yes or no question. Can you give us an example please?

Ohm: เกาะลันตาดีมั้ย

Ja: Meaning, "How about Koh Lanta?" or for a more word-for-word translation, "Is Koh Lanta good?" Okay, now onto the grammar.

LESSON FOCUS

Ohm: In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask simple questions in Thai.

Ja: In English, the main question words all begin with "wh" – who, what, where, when, and why.

Ohm: In Thai, these question words all share the same vowel sound, ai.

Ja: And these five words in Thai are...

Ohm: ใคร (khrai)

Ja: Meaning "Who."

Ohm: อะไร (à-rai)

Ja: "What."

Ohm: ที่ไหน (thīi-nǎi)

Ja: "Where."

Ohm: เมื่อไหร่ (mūuea-rài)

Ja: "When."

Ohm: ทำไม (tham-mai)

Ja: "Why." In English, question words usually come at the beginning of a sentence.

Ohm: But it's not the same in Thai.

Ja: In Thai, you'll see them more often at the end of the sentence or after the verb. But it depends on the particular question word and what type of question you're asking. Okay, let's run through each of the five words to see their use.

Ohm: Let's start with "who." The position of ใคร (khrai), or "who," in a sentence will depend on whether the focus of the question is the subject or the object of the verb.

Ja: So if it's asking about the subject, then the question word comes at the beginning of the sentence. For example..

Ohm: ใครกินขนม

Ja: "Who ate the snacks?" However, if we want to ask about the object of the verb, then it appears after that verb. For example...

Ohm: คุณจะไปกับใคร

Ja: Meaning "Who are you going to go with?" Notice that the word order of this sentence is actually, "You will go with who?"

Ohm: คุณจะไปกับใคร

Ja: Okay, our next question word is "what."

Ohm: อะไร (à-rai) typically comes after a verb in the sentence. For example, เขามีอะไร

Ja: "What does he have?" But, sometimes อะไร doesn't mean "what." Instead, it means "something." You can tell from the sentence and context if this is the meaning. For example...

Ohm: เขาไปหาอะไรกิน

Ja: "He went to find something to eat." Okay, the next word is "where."

Ohm: ที่ไหน is usually placed after the verb in the sentence. And in a casual conversation, ที่ไหน (thîi-nǎi) can be abbreviated to just ไหน (nǎi). For example, ร้านอยู่ไหน

Ja: Meaning, "Where's the shop?" How about the question "when?"

Ohm: With "When" or, เมื่อไหร่ (mûuea-rài), you can use it at either the beginning or end of the sentence.

Ja: Placing it at the beginning of the sentence adds emphasis to it. Often this will be the structure if someone wants to ask a rhetorical question.

Ohm: Yes, that's right. For example, เมื่อไหร่เขาจะขอแต่งงาน

Ja: "When is he going to ask me to marry him?" Also, when located at the beginning of a sentence, เมื่อไหร่ (mûuea-rài) can carry a disappointed or accusing tone. For example...

Ohm: เมื่อไหร่คุณจะมา

Ja: "When are you coming?" This implies that I have been waiting, and maybe getting angry. Whereas, if we put เมื่อไหร่ (mûuea-rài) at the end, the sentence will just show curiosity.

Ohm: คุณจะมาเมื่อไหร่

Ja: "When are you coming?" And that brings us to the last question word, "why."

Ohm: ทำไม (tham-mai). Just like เมื่อไหร่ (mûuea-rài), ทำไม (tham-mai) can be used both at the start or at the end of a sentence.

Ja: And the meaning changes in the opposite way. When you place ทำไม (tham-mai) before the verb, it results in a straight question. For example..

Ohm: ทำไมอยากไปเกาะลันตา

Ja: "Why do you want to go to Koh Lanta?" This structure suggests that "I'm curious to know your reasons." But, for example,

Ohm: อยากไปเกาะลันตาทำไม

Ja: Means "Why do you want to go to Koh Lanta?" And it implies that I disagree with your decision.

Ohm: Well, it looks like that's all the time we have for this lesson.

Ja: Be sure to check out the lesson notes for more examples and explanations. And if you have any questions or comments, please leave us a post at ThaiPod101.com.

Ohm: We're here to help!

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OUTRO

Ja: Thanks for listening, and we'll see you in the next lesson. Bye!

Ohm: แล้วเจอกันนะครับ สวัสดีครับ