

Learning Burmese/Myanmar courses and resources

A selection compiled by John Okell updated to November 2017

See also <http://liveinrangoon.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/learning-burmese.html>
and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BurmeseMyanmarLanguageLearning/>

Published courses

Burmese by ear, or Essential Myanmar, by John Okell. 1993. Six hours of audio and a reference booklet. Both audio and text are available for free download from the website of SOAS, University of London. <http://www.soas.ac.uk/bbe/>. And for notes on the web edition see <http://www.soas.ac.uk/bbe/53745.html>

Burmese: An Introduction to the Spoken Language, Books 1 and 2, by John Okell. Published by Northern Illinois University Press. 4 vols, 25 hours of audio, designed for self-study. Takes you further than *Burmese by ear*: more words, more structures, more topics. The third volume in the set introduces you to the script, and the fourth takes you into the literary style. For details see <http://www.niupress.niu.edu/niupress/Scripts/Book/bookResults.asp?ID=577>

Colloquial Burmese, the complete course for beginners, by San San Hnin Tun, published by Routledge, Abingdon 2014. 289 pp, 2 CDs. Details on <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415517263/>.

Easy Burmese, by Kenneth Wong. Tuttle April 2018. Manga-style comic strips and illustrations throughout, a complete language course and pocket dictionary all in one.

An introductory course in Myanmar language, by U Aung Win Naing. Book and CD. Yangon: University of Foreign Languages, 2006. <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2006/02/prweb344162.htm>

Burmese: Gateway to an intriguing language, by Thuzar Winn and Detlef Eckert. Create Space, 2015. <http://www.embracemyanmar.com/learn-burmese.html>

Myanmar Newspaper Reader, by Luzoe, published by Dunwoody Press, Kensington MD, USA, 1996. "Contains 52 extracts from *The New Light of Myanmar* and *The Mirror* issued during May to October 1995. Each selection consists of the Myanmar text, a vocabulary list, notes, and the English translation.

Burmese for Beginners, by Gene Mesher. Paiboon Publishing, Berkeley and Bangkok, 2006. Paperback 290 pp + 3 CDs. <http://www.paiboonpublishing.com/details.php?prodId=46>

L-Lingo Burmese: 105 lessons, 49.95 USD. Good audio, limited range, phrase-book style. Download from <http://www.l-lingo.com/en/learn-burmese/index.html>

Phrase books

Survival Burmese, by Kenneth Wong. Tuttle Feb 2018. £4.99.

<http://www.tuttlepublishing.com/other/survival-burmese-phrasebook-dictionary>

Practical Myanmar, by SUN Associates. 1995, Pranom Supavimolpun, Bangkok.

Burmese phrase book, by David Bradley. 1st ed. 1988 ; 5th edition revised, Vicky Bowman, 2014, Lonely Planet, Hawthorn, Australia. More compact than *Practical Myanmar*. Also available online at <http://content.yudu.com/Library/A1nrgw/seasiaphrasebook2bur/resources/8.htm>

Spoken Myanmar, by U Tint Winn Naing. Thalun Press, Yangon, 2001. Concise chapters on a wide range of situations, with sentence examples and vocabularies.

Making out in Burmese, by T F Rhoden. Tuttle, USA and Singapore, 2010. Handy short phrases with a focus on informal conversation, including some for lovers.

Grammars

Burmese/ Myanmar: a dictionary of grammatical forms, by John Okell and Anna J. Allott. 2001, Curzon Press. An outline of grammar and a generous listing of hundreds of suffixes with illustrations and notes.

Burmese, A Comprehensive Grammar, By Mathias Jenny, San San Hnin Tun. 2016, London, Routledge. 502 pages. <https://www.routledge.com/Burmese-A-Comprehensive-Grammar/Jenny-Tun/p/book/9780415735698>

Dictionaries

မြန်မာ အင်္ဂလိပ်အဘိဓာန် ("Myanmar English dictionary"), by မြန်မာစာအဖွဲ့။ 1993, Rangoon, Myanmar Language Commission. 635 pp, over 30,000 entries. With etymologies, pronunciation, and sketches. Comprehensive and authoritative. Obtainable from

bookshops in Burma and (at a higher price) on Amazon. The book is sold with a CD containing an electronic version readable on PCs only.

Burmese & English Compact Dictionary, compiled by Nance Cunningham & Aung Soe Min, pub 2009 by Paiboon Publishing, Berkeley and Bangkok. Paperback. 950 pages, Size: 4.1" x 5.6". C 30,000 words. See <http://www.paiboonpublishing.com/details.php?prodId=70>

Pocket English-Myanmar Dictionary: by San Lwin. Myanmar Language Commission, Naypyidaw 2013. 22,000 entries. Very small print. Intended for Burmese speakers looking up English words, but also useful for foreigners.

<http://www.myanmarbookshop.com/MyanmarBooks/BookDetails/33686>

English-Myanmar Dictionary, compiled and pub by Burma Language Commission, 2001, Yangon. 1621 pp, with examples of English usage.

Students' English-English/Myanmar dictionary, by SAM Translation and Publishing. 1994, Rangoon. 1568 pp. Comprehensive, and generous with examples. Also on CD.

There are numerous other English-Burmese dictionaries in the bookshops in Yangon, and a good range of dictionaries for speakers of other languages including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, German, French, and Russian.

Aids to reading

Being Eaten Alive on a Cool, Pleasant Winter's Morning, by Maung Swe Tint. Original text edited with notes, translation and exercises by Nance Cunningham. 2012, USD 12.50. For details see <https://wwwcreatespace.com/3765826>

ရွှေသွေး: Shwe Thwe and other comics. Speech and narrative in both Burmese and English.

On sale in Burma. You can buy copies from

http://www.foreverspace.com.mm/Shop_DisplayProduct.aspx?catid=20&subcatid=143.

There are also many books written in Burmese that have been translated into English and other languages, and vice versa. Useful aids at an appropriate standard.

Dictionaries on the web

There are several bilingual dictionaries freely accessible, with varying coverage and accuracy; eg

<http://www.sealang.net/burmese/dictionary.htm>

<http://my.wiktionary.org/wiki/ဗဟိုစာမျက်နှာ> Burmese to English, roman script poor

<http://www.burmese-dictionary.org/> limited scope

<http://www.dhammadana.org/book/dbf.pdf> Burmese to French

<http://www.birmanisch-deutsch.de/search.php> Burmese to German

For some older dictionaries see:

http://www.lexilogos.com/english/burmese_dictionary.htm

Tuition on the web

"Burmese language" on <http://www.seasite.niu.edu/Burmese/language.htm>.

Has introduction to script, and beginners and intermediate level readers. Each passage is liberally supplied with audio, vocabularies, quizzes etc.

Start Burmese, by Kenneth Wong. 14 lessons on <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLucbFIKkaVJsHv8h7PxrR92xvaD9ZOa->

Thirty day challenge by Helena Jane:

http://www.bamalearnburmese.com/bama_class/30dc/30dc.html

http://www.bamalearnburmese.com/bama_class/start_bama_web.html

"Daily Burmese" on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/daily.burmese/files/>. A set of lessons on points of vocabulary or grammar or sentence-building.

Burmese phrases: a collection of short videos on limited topics (question words, sentence structure, colours, self introduction, etc. Clear, mostly accurate, well presented.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8FYuB6oOJaIBUTmhsvElqg>

Glovico on <http://www.glovico.org/en/burmese>. For practising Burmese via Skype. From the website: "an online language school that strives to promote sustainability and a more equitable globalization by organizing convenient and productive Skype-based Burmese lessons that are conducted by native teachers."

Sally San Yu Wai Maung <sanyuwaimaung@gmail.com> 535328. Former teacher at the Institut Français, now (2018) gives Skype lessons from Paris.

Let's speak Burmese: <https://sites.google.com/site/learningtheburmeselanguage/home> -- offers lessons via Skype

Learn to speak Burmese: http://www.asiapearltravel.com/language/intro_burmese.php

<https://www.italki.com/partners/burmese>

<http://burmeselesson.com/login>. Wide range of topics, audio, video, quizzes etc

Language exchange sites, including Burmese:

[https://www.mylanguageexchange.com/Search.asp?](https://www.mylanguageexchange.com/Search.asp?selX3=96&selX6=1&selCountry=null&txtAgeMin=&txtAgeMax=&BtnSubSrch=Search)

[selX3=96&selX6=1&selCountry=null&txtAgeMin=&txtAgeMax=&BtnSubSrch=Search](https://www.mylanguageexchange.com/Country/Burma_Myanmar.asp)

<https://www.italki.com/partners/burmese>

[http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/Country/Burma Myanmar.asp](http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/Country/Burma_Myanmar.asp)

Sets of flashcards: <https://quizlet.com/subject/burmese/> and

<https://quizlet.com/classes/burmese/>. Allows you to study and play games with vocabulary items, and create your own set. There's a good set at

<https://sites.google.com/site/burmeseflashcards/>

There are numerous other webpages offering help in learning Burmese. Try googling for "learn Myanmar"

There are also many clips on YouTube that introduce useful phrases. Type "Learn Myanmar" in the YouTube search box.

Language aids for smartphones include:

iAidan: an English Burmese dictionary

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/iaidan/id460465895?mt=8>

Mogok browser: allows reading webpages and typing in Burmese script

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/mogok-myanmar-web-browser/id469544049?mt=8>

iBurmese: Burmese words and phrases in script, romanization and audio

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iburmese/id338481149?mt=8>

Learn Myanmar: a phrase book, with script, romanization and audio

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/learn-myanmar/id618066169>

MMSpeaker: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mmspeakerlite-myanmar-learning/id686918099?ls=1&mt=8>

Taught courses

In Burma:

Dept of Myanmar Language, University of Foreign Languages, 119, 131, University Avenue Rd., Corner of Inya Rd. Ward (10), Kamayut, Yangon 11081. Phone: +95-1-535985, 513193, hostel +95 1 530443. Head of School 531985. Large teaching staff, many levels, including evening classes 3 days a week. Enthusiastic and resourceful. Contact Sayama Ma War War Oo <rose.91264@gmail.com>.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yangon_University_of_Foreign_Languages

Myanmar Language Dept, University of Yangon, courses for foreigners, Level 1 & 2, four days a week, 0730-0930. No website, no handouts. University phone +95 1 534 390.

The Institut Français <http://institutfrançais-birmanie.com/aina/> or contact Rose Marie Lormel <rmlormel@ifb.net.mm>, ph 536900, 537122.

Linking Hands Co Ltd, info@linking-hands.net, or <language@linking-hands.net>, contact Heike Ehrhardt <farway@psmail.net>. No. (4), 3F, Myaing Hay Wun Rd, Ward 4, 8th Mile, Mayangone. Myanmar. Phone: 097-318-0428.

Moe Myanmar Language Centre <http://moemyanmar.com/>. Opened in 2014.

The First Myanmar Language Learning Center, No.1,C2, Zayarthiri Lane, No.1Qr, Hledan Junction, Kamayut Township, Yangon.Myanmar. Phone: +95 (0)-9-730-31-467, 09-492-302-04 , 01-538579, 01-513752. See their website:

<http://aryonethit.weebly.com/myanmar-sar-myanmar-saga-program.html>

Myanmar Dimension, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Myanmar-Dimension-Language-School/350787185122175?fref=ts>. Daw Khaingzar Win 0973104312.

New schools and new teachers are emerging all the time. Keep an eye on

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BurmeseMyanmarLanguageLearning/>

Elsewhere:

SOAS, London University: runs courses for registered students, open to outsiders.

Sometimes also evening courses and customised courses. Contact Justin Watkins <jw2@soas.ac.uk> for current information.

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/sea/burmese/teaching/soascourses/>

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/sea/burmese/teaching/languagecentre/>

There are university programmes in DeKalb (Northern Illinois University), Cornell, Washington DC (Johns Hopkins), Berkeley (UC), Canberra (ANU), Paris (INALCO), Berlin (Humboldt), St Petersburg, Tokyo, Osaka, Chiang Mai, Pitsanulok, Beijing, Kunming,

Tianjin, Nanning, and Pusan.

SEASSI: a summer course held at Madison, Wisconsin, USA annually. Four hours of classes a day, five days a week, for two months. A hard slog, and not cheap, but it gives you a powerful boost. Usually runs at three levels of proficiency.

<http://seassi.wisc.edu/>

Short courses (2-3 weeks) at all levels held once a year in Chiang Mai and Yangon and occasionally other venues — Bangkok, Barcelona, London, Melbourne. Contact John Okell <jo@soas.ac.uk> or Justin Watkins <justin.watkins@soas.ac.uk>

A two-month online course: https://registeruo.niu.edu/iebms/wbe/wbe_p1_main.aspx?oc=40&cc=WBE4015426

Teachers in Burma

In Yangon (in alphabetical order)

Cho Cho Aung: Prof. Dr. Daw Cho Cho Aung <profdr.cho@gmail.com>. Taught foreigners at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University for many years.

Htoo Htoo Khant: Ko Htoo Htoo Khant <htoohtoo.khant3@googlemail.com> phone 09 73 10 24 24, tutors at the US Embassy and takes private students.

Khaing Khaing <kyaemon.k3@gmail.com> 094 20114424.

Khaing Khaing Lwin: Jennifer Lwin, <htawara.alin@gmail.com>, phone 092 5020 0732.

Mar Lay: Daw Mar Lay, Bldg 291, Room 10, East Yangin 11081, Yangon. Phone 548753. Retired from Dept of Burmese.

May Phyo Khaing <myaukkalay@gmail.com> 09 7320 8535.

Moe Pwint Chit: Dr Nang Moe Pwint Chit <moe@moemyanmar.com> 09 4316 8422.

<http://moemyanmar.com/>. Not to be confused with —

Moe Pwint Phyu 537803 or 094 2116 3463 <rainymoe85@gmail.com>.

Mya Hla: U Mya Hla <umyahla2004@gmail.com> 094 5000 5693. Formerly with Linking Hands, now freelance. Has taught at SEASSI.

Nyein Ma Ma, lang teacher at US Embassy +95 9 7323 2047 <nyein2nyein@gmail.com>

Pa Pa Khine <ppkhine1@gmail.com> 095179895 or 0973202808.

Thu Thu <moonday90@gmail.com>, ph 09967723303 , 09421170778

Yi Yi Win: Daw Yi Yi Win BSc Chem Dip in French, <mamaqueen@gmail.com> 663691.

Yu Yu Khaing <khaing.yuyu@gmail.com> 217261. In the US 2015/17.

Zar Chi Aung <zcaungmimi@gmail.com> 09 730 92791. Formerly with Linking Hands.

In Mandalay

P Allen Lyan <p.allenlyan@gmail.com>, phone 094 0152 6105.

Khin Chit Win <december.kcw@gmail.com>

Joshua Mitchell <kosinjeh@gmail.com>. American resident in Mandalay.

Naing Tun Lin: 34446, 60651, 60857.

Daw Phyu Phyu Win 09 504 6431 <nyalinphyu@gmail.com>.

Burmese language clubs, for practice and discussion in an informal atmosphere.

Yangon: <https://plus.google.com/106938098263095602769/about?gl=au&hl=en>

Melbourne: https://www.facebook.com/groups/787088298003419/?hc_location=ufi

Teachers in Thailand

Chiang Mai: Ubonrat Puntumin, Thai Dept, Faculty of Humanities, Chiangmai University 50200, Chiang Mai, Thailand. Head of Department that oversees the Burmese courses. upantumin@yahoo.com. Fax 053 217148. Ph 66 53 943246.

Yamin Shwe Zin Htaik ယမင်းရွှေစင်ထိုက် (ဝါ) သဲသဲ <yshwesinhtaik@gmail.com> 083 566

5761. Full time teacher at CMU, but can sometimes fit in classes outside working hours.

Bangkok: Nila <nilarma@yahoo.com>. Has a full time job but can spare some of her free time. Has experience of teaching foreigners.

Pitsanulok: Wirat Niyomtarn and Oranut Niyomtarn: Myanmar Studies Centre, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok 65000, Thailand. Fax 66 (0)55 261005. Tel : 66 (0)55-261000-4 x 1150. mscp@nu.ac.th. Home 055 371 629.

Maharakham: Daw Zin Zin Min <lovelyzinmin@gmail.com>

Mae Sot: Soe Nay Lynn <soethit045@gmail.com>

Teachers worldwide:

<http://www.language-school-teachers.com/default.asp?selX6=97>