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**Burmese
Language Guide**

1944

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TM 30-332

BURMESE

I N T R O D U C T O R Y S E R I E S



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BURMESE

A GUIDE TO THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE



WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 17, 1944

WAR DEPARTMENT

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(For explanation of symbols, see FM 21-6.)

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AS SOON AS I
TURN MY BACK
THOSE GUYS
GET A GAME
GOING!



BURMESE

LANGUAGE GUIDE

Burmese is spoken by some 10 million people in Burma. This Language Guide will enable you to ask directions, buy things or order a meal. Knowing a little Burmese will also help you to get along with the people, for they will naturally be pleased to see a stranger showing enough interest in them to try to speak their language.

How to Use the Records and Guide

The records that go with the Guide give you a number of the most important words and phrases in Burmese. Read the section called Hints on Pronunciation and then listen to the records until you know the Useful Words and Phrases by heart. *Repeat each word out loud right after you hear it and say it exactly the way the Burmese speaker does.* Imitate the pronunciation as closely as you can, just as you might mimic someone who has an unusual accent. Try to get every detail of pronunciation, even the rhythm and intonation. Follow the words in your Guide but use them only as a reminder; if you hear some-

YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR
EARS EVEN MORE THAN
YOUR EYES!



thing different from what you see written, go by what you hear. *Remember that you can't get the sound of a language from the printed word alone—you have to use your ears even more than your eyes.* If you don't have the records and can't get a Burmese speaker to read the words, you will have to rely on the Hints on Pronunciation.

By the time you have practiced the Useful Words and Phrases several times, you will know what sound each letter stands for in the Guide. You will then be able to pronounce the Additional Expressions even though you have not actually heard them, and you will be able to form sentences of your own by using the section called Fill-in Sentences.

Hints on Pronunciation

All the words and phrases are written in a spelling which you read like English. Each letter or combination of letters is used for the sound it normally represents in English and it *always* stands for the same sound. Thus, "oo" is always to be read as in *too, boot, tooth, roost*, never as anything else. Say these words and then pronounce the vowel sound by itself. That is the sound you must use every time you see "oo" in the Pronunciation column. If you should use some other sound—for example the one in *blood* or the one in *door*—you might be misunderstood.

You will notice when you listen to the records that speaking Burmese is a little like singing. You should memorize each expression as though it were a short tune. *Syllables written in capital letters are pronounced with*



emphasis, and syllables written in small letters are drawled in a low tone of voice. Notice that syllables ending in "T" are always spoken with emphasis and are cut off very short. The apostrophe (') is used after vowel sounds which are cut off short. Example: "ma-NAY" meaning "yesterday."

In Burmese many vowel sounds are pronounced through the nose, and the final *n*-sound is very weak. Vowels pronounced in this way are written with wavy lines over them in the Useful Words and Phrases given on the records. Elsewhere in the Guide they have no wavy lines but are followed by "n." Example: "THOAN" meaning "three."

Curved lines () are used to show sounds that are pronounced together without any break. Example: "B_YAW" meaning "speak."

The words are
written in a simplified
spelling, like this...

BUTTE.... B_YOOT
PHOENIX.... FEE-niks
PHILADELPHIA...fil-a-DELf-ya
POUGHKEEPSIE...po-KIP-see
SIOUX CITY...SOO-SIT-ee
WORCESTER...WOOST-ur
YESTERDAY...ye-NAY-tay



'A' as in 'AH'!



SPECIAL POINTS

A or AH

as in *ah*, *pa*, *father*. Examples: "SA" meaning "salt"; "JAHT" meaning a Burmese unit of money.

a

in italics as in *about*, *around*, *machine*. It is never emphasized or drawled. Example: "*a*-MEH-THA" meaning "meat."

B, D, G, J, S

"B" with a dot beneath stands for a *b* that sounds a little like a *p*. In the same way, "d," "g," "j," "s" sound a little like *t*, *k*, *ch*, *z*. Examples: "B_YA'"

"E" as in "MET"



meaning "show"; "DEH'-DEH'" meaning "straight"; "GO" meaning "nine"; "joon-daw" meaning "I"; "SA" meaning "eat."

E or EH

as in *let, met, bell*. Example: "seh" meaning "ten."

OU

as in *out, noun*. Example: "da-toun" meaning "a thousand."

TH

as in *this, that*. Example: "ayn-tha" meaning "toilet."

TH

when underlined stands for the *th*-sound in *think, thick*. Example: "THIT-THEE" meaning "fruit."



**WORDS WRITTEN IN
CAPITAL LETTERS
ARE PRONOUNCED
WITH EMPHASIS**



*words written
in small letters
are drawled in a
low tone of voice*

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

The following is the exact wording of the Burmese language records issued with this Guide:

These records give you a few useful phrases in Burmese. The phrases and other words you will need are found also in the pamphlet which should be used with these records. To learn to imitate the sounds of Burmese you should listen to the records at least six or seven times. The English will be given first, followed by the Burmese; then repeat the Burmese out loud and say it *good and loud*. Remember! Repeat every Burmese phrase right after you hear it.

Words, greetings, and general phrases which are useful and should be memorized are given first.

GREETINGS AND GENERAL PHRASES

English

Pronunciation

How are you? *or*

ma-YEH'-LA

How do you do?

When you address a man older than yourself, you say "OO."

When you address a woman older than yourself you say "daw."

When you address a man your own age you say "go."

When you address a woman your own age you say "MA'."

When you address a member of the clergy (whom you will recognize by his yellow robe and shaven head) you say "go-daw."

Burmese speakers have a phrase for "please."

Please

ḡa-SAYT

Excuse me

ḡa-DAW'-ba-YEH'

Thank you

JAY-ZOO ḡēn-deh

Yes

HOAT-ḡEH'

No

ma-HOAT-POO

A sound you must practice particularly has already been used several times. It is represented here by an apostrophe.



You heard it for instance in the word for "yes": "HOAT-GEH'." It is like a slight cough. Listen again and repeat: "HOAT-GEH'," "HOAT-GEH'."

You have noticed by now that Burmese has a peculiar sing-song quality. This is very important in the language, and you should try to memorize the phrases exactly as you hear them. However, if you speak the syllables louder that are written in capital letters, and speak the words and syllables written in small letters in a low tone of voice, you will be understood.

Understand me?

NA leh-YEH'-LA

I don't understand

NA ma-leh-BOO

Speak slowly

HNAY-HNAY B_YAW-ba

LOCATION

When you need directions to get somewhere, you first name the place and then add the phrase "Where is?"

Where is? beh-hma-LEH

restaurant *or* la-PET-yay-zā_ēen
tea shop

Where is the la-PET-yay-zā_ēen beh-hma-
restaurant? LEH

As you have noticed, Burmese pronounce certain vowels through the nose. These are written like the other vowels but have wavy lines over them. You heard such a vowel in "sā_ēen." Listen again and repeat: "sā_ēen," "sā_ēen." (See page 8 regarding the pronunciation of this word.)

hotel haw-ḡeh

Where is the hotel? haw-ḡeh beh-hma-LEH

railroad station MEE-ya-TA boo-da-yōān

Where is the railroad MEE-ya-TA boo-da-yōān
station? beh-hma-LEH

toilet āyn-tha

Where is the toilet? āyn-tha beh-hma-LEH

HOW DO YOU SAY IT IN BURMESE?

**TURN
RIGHT**



**GO
STRAIGHT
AHEAD**



**TURN
LEFT**



DIRECTIONS

The answer to your question "Where is such and such?" may be "Turn right" or "Turn left" or "Straight ahead," so you need to know these phrases.

Turn right n_ya-BET HLEH'-ba

Turn left beh-BET HLEH'-ba

Go straight ahead DEH'-DEH' THWA

It is sometimes useful to say "Please point."

Please point ၎a-SAYT B_YA'-ba

If you are driving and ask the distance to another town, it will be given to you in miles.

Mile mā_ēen

NUMBERS

You need to know the numbers.

One	ĐIT
Two	HNIT
Three	THỎAN
Four	LAY
Five	NGA
Six	CHOUT
Seven	kỏan-NIT
Eight	SHIK
Nine	GO
Ten	seh
Eleven	SEH' ĐIT
Twelve	SEH' HNIT

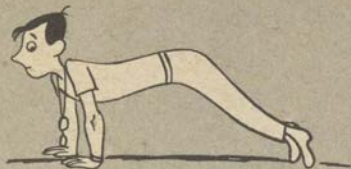
"Thirteen," "fourteen," etc. are simply "seh," the word for "ten," followed by the words for "three," "four," etc.

Twenty	hna-seh
Twenty-one	hna-SEH' ĐIT

"Twenty-two," "twenty-three," etc. are simply the words for "twenty," "hna-seh," plus the words for "two," "three," etc.



ĐIT



HNIT



THOẢN



LAY



NGA!

English

Thirty

Burmese Pronunciation

THOAN-zeh

"Forty," "fifty," etc. are simply the words for "four," "five," etc. followed by "seh."

One hundred

ḍa-ya

A thousand

ḍa-tōun

WHAT'S THIS?

When you want to know the name of something you say "What's this?" and point to the thing you mean.

What is

..... ba-LEH

this

ḍa

What's this?

ḍa ba-LEH



ASKING FOR THINGS

When you want something you say "I," then the name of the thing wanted, then the phrase for "want," followed by the word "deh" which means you've made a statement.

I	jōon-daw
want	lo-jēn
cigarettes	"cigarette"
I want cigarettes	jōon-daw "cigarette" lo-jēn-deh
water	yay
I want water	jōon-daw yay lo-jēn-deh

Here are the words for some of the things you may require:

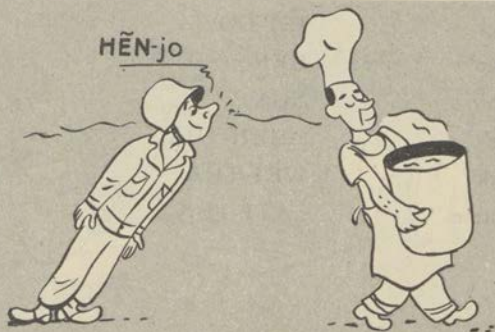
bread	hōun-MOANT
butter	TAW-BAHT
fruit	THIT-THÉE
eggs	JET-OO'
soup	HĒN-jo
fish	NGA
meat	a-MEH-THA
pork	WET-THA
mutton	SAYT-THA

English

potatoes
cooked rice
vegetables
salad
milk
sugar
salt
oranges
lemons
ice cream
tea
coffee
beer
a match

Burmese Pronunciation

ah-LOO
ta-MĒN
HĒN-THEE HĒN-Y WET
a-ḐO'
NWA-NO'
tha-JA
SA
laym-maw-THEE
thāhm-ba-ya-THEE
yay-GEH-MOANT
la-PET-yay
ga-pee
bee-ya
MEE-JIT



MONEY

To find out how much things cost you say:

How much is it? beh-LOUT-LEH

The answer will be given you in "B_YA'," "BEH," and "JAHT." Four "B_YA'" equal a "BEH," sixteen "BEH" equal a "JAHT." About three "JAHT" equal one dollar.

TIME

To find out what time it is you say really "How many hours strike already?" and add "LEH," the word to show you've asked a question.

How many beh-HNA'

hours na-yee

strike already TO-bee-LEH

What time is it? beh-hna-na-yee TO-bee-LEH

"One o'clock" is "one hour."

One o'clock qa-na-yee

"Ten past one" is "one o'clock ten minutes."

Ten past one qa-na-yee seh ma-NIT

"Quarter past five" is "five hours fifteen minutes."

Quarter past five NGA na-yee SEH' NGA
 ma-NIT

"Twenty past seven" is "seven hours, minutes twenty."

Twenty past seven kōān-na-na-yee MEE'-NIT
 hna-seh

"Half past six" is "six hours half."

Half past six CHOUT na-yee GWEH

"Twenty of eight" is "seven hours forty minutes."

Twenty of eight kōān-na-na-yee MEE'-NIT
 LAY-zeh

"Quarter of nine" is "nine hours quarter less."

Quarter of nine GO na-yee MAHT-DĒN

"Ten to three" is "three hours ten minutes [less]."

Ten to three THŌAN na-yee seh ma-
 NIT-DĒN

If you want to know when a movie starts, you say really "movies when show" and add "ma-LEH," which means you are asking a question referring to the future time.

WHAT'S THE TIME IN BURMESE?



EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

movies

YOAT-shēn

when

beh-DAW'

show

ḐYA'

When does the movie
start?YOAT-shēn beh-DAW'
ḐYA'-ma-LEH

For "What time does the train leave?" you say really
"train when start out," and then add "ma-LEH."

train

MEE-ya-TA

when

beh-DAW'

start out

TWET

When does the train
leave?MEE-ya-TA beh-DAW'
TWET-ma-LEH

Yesterday

ma-NAY'

Today

ga-NAY'

Tomorrow

NET-p_yāhn

The days of the week are:

Sunday

ḑa-NĒN-ga-nway

Monday

ḑa-NĒN-la

Tuesday

ēn-ga

Wednesday

BOAT-ḑa-HOO.

English

Burmese Pronunciation

Thursday

ja-tha-ḥa-DAY

Friday

THOUT-ja

Saturday

ṣa-nay

OTHER USEFUL PHRASES

The following phrases will be useful:

What is your name?

kēm-B_YA' na-meh ba-thoo-
LEH

My name is John

jōon-DAW' na-meh "John"

How do you say

"Table"-go ba-ma-lo ba kaw-

"table" (or anything
else) in Burmese?

tha-LEH

I want to eat

jōon-daw ṢA-jēn-deh

Good-by (by the
person leaving)

THWA-DAW'-meh

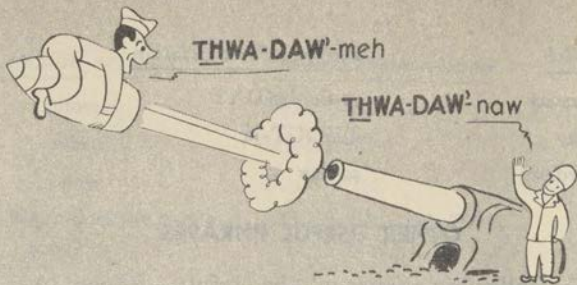
Good-by (by the
person replying)

THWA-DAW'-naw

NOTES

The word "ḍa-SAYT" really means "a little" or "a bit," but is sometimes used where we would use "please" in English.

The word "HOAT-GEH" means "true" or "correct," and



"ma-HOAT-POO" means "not true" or "not correct." They are sometimes used where we would use Yes and No in English, but in most cases the Burmese reply to a question by making a complete statement. If you ask "Do you understand?" the usual answer is "I understand" or "I don't understand."

The word for "shop" is pronounced "sā_eeen" when used by itself, but sometimes become "zā_eeen" when combined with other words, as in "la-PET-yay-zā_eeen" meaning "tea shop."

The word for "ten" is pronounced "seh" when used by itself, but often becomes "SEH'" or "zeh" when combined with other numbers, as in "SEH' DIT" (eleven), "THOAN-zeh" (thirty). In the same way, "DIT" (one) becomes "da," "KNIT" (two) becomes "hna," and "koan-NIT" (seven) becomes "koan-na."

The word for "how many" is "beh-HNA'" when used by itself, but becomes "beh-hna" when combined with other words, as in "beh-hna-na-yee" (how many hours).

ADDITIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Come in	win la-ba
Sit down	ta_eeen-ba
I don't know	jooon-daw ma- <u>THEE'</u> -BOO
Stop!	YAHT
Come here!	dee-go la-ba
Right away! <i>or</i> Quickly!	m_yahn-m_yahn
Come quickly	m_yahn-m_yahn la
Go quickly	m_yahn-m_yahn <u>THWA</u>
I am hungry	jooon-daw sa-deh
I am thirsty	jooon-daw yay <u>NGAHT</u> -deh
I am tired	jooon-daw MAW-deh
I have lost my way	jooon-daw LAHN HMA-nay-deh
Help!	goo-n_yee-ba
Help me	jooon- <u>DAW'</u> -go goo-ZAHN-ba



English

Bring help

I will pay you

Where are the
soldiers?

Where are the
American soldiers?

Which way is east?

Where is the nearest
town?

How far is it?

Is it far?

Draw me a map

Take me there

Take me to a doctor

Danger!

Take cover!

Gas!

Watch out!

Wait a minute!

Burmese Pronunciation

a-goo a-n_yee kaw-la-ba

kim-B_YA-go BA_EET-sahn
BAY-meh

SIT-THA-dway beh-hma-LEH

a-may-YEE'-gahn SIT-THA-
dway beh-hma-LEH

a-SHAY'-BET beh-hma-LEH

a-NEE-ZOAN M_YO'
beh-hma-LEH

beh-LOUT WAY-tha-LEH

WAY-tha-LA

joon-DAW'-go m_yay-boan
SWEH BAY-ba

joon-DAW'-go LA_EET
BO'-ba

sa-ya-woon-zee-go BO'-ba

BAY

BOAN-nay

DAHT-KO

tha-DEE' TA

ka-NA' SOUNT-nay



FILL-IN SENTENCES

In this section you will find a number of sentences, each containing a blank space which can be filled in with any one of the words in the list that follows. For example, if you want to say "I want soap," find the fill-in sentence for "I want" and, in the list following the sentences, the word for "soap." Then combine them as follows:

I want

soap

I want soap

joon-daw lo-jin-deh

SAHP-h_ya

joon-daw SAHP-h_ya

lo-jin-deh

English

Burmese Pronunciation

I want	joon-daw lo-jin-deh
We want	joon-daw-DO' lo-jin-deh
Give me	 BAY-ba
Bring me	 yoo la-ba
I have	joon-daw-DO'-zee-hma SHEE'-deh
We have	joon-daw-DO'-zee-hma SHEE'-deh
We don't have	joon-daw-DO'-zee-hma ma-SHEE'-BOO
Have you?	kim-B_YA-zee-hma SHEE'-tha-LA

Example:

I want	joon-daw lo-jin-deh
food	SA-za-ya
I want food	joon-daw SA-za-ya lo-jin-deh
bananas	nga-B_YAW-THEE
boiled water	yay-JET
cheese	dayn-GEH
guavas	ma-la-ga-THEE

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

mangos	th ^h a-YET-T ^h EE
mangosteens	MIN-GOOT-T ^h EE
papayas	T ^h IM-BAW-T ^h EE
pineapples	NAHT-NAHT-T ^h EE
plums	ZEE-T ^h EE
a cup	h ^h a-gahn-LOAN
a fork	ka-YIN
a knife	DA
a plate	h ^h a-gahn-B ^h YA
a spoon	ZOON
a bed	ka-din
a blanket	şoun
a mattress	HM ^h WAY'-ya
a mosquito net	chin-doun
a pillow	GOUN-OAN
a room	a-KAHN
a sheet	AYT-ya-GEN

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

a cigar	SAY-LAYT
a pipe	SAY-dahn
tobacco	SAY
ink	hmin
paper	SEK-goo
a pen	hmin-dahn
a pencil	KEH-dahn
a comb	BEE
hot water	yay-NWAY
a razor	thin-DOAN-DA
soap	SAHP-h_ya
a toothbrush	th_a-BOOT-dahn
toothpaste	THWA DA_EET-SAY
a towel	M_YET-hna-THOAT h_a-wa
a handkerchief	LEK-ga_een h_a-wa
a raincoat	MO-ga AYN-jee

WHICH IS WHICH?



A RAZOR



A TOOTHBRUSH



A COMB



SOAP



A TOWEL

1. BEE

2. SAHP-b_uya

3. tha-BOOT-dahn

4. M_uYET-hna-THOAT ba-wa

5. thin-DOAN-DA

(Answers on page 32.)

English

Burmese Pronunciation

a shirt	SHAHT AYN-jee
shoelaces	pa-NAHT-JO
shoe polish	pa-NAHT-SAY
shoes	pa-NAHT
an undershirt	CHWAY-gahn AYN-jee
undershorts	CHWAY-gahn BOUM-bee
buttons	jeh-THEE
a needle	AHT
pins	qweh-AHT
thread	AHT-chee
aspirin	"aspirin"
a bandage	SEE BAHT-DEH' a-WOOT
cotton	GOON
a disinfectant	a-hn_yaw THAHT-SAY
iodine	"iodine"
a laxative	WOON HNOAT-SAY
gasoline	DAHT-see

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

I want to

joon-daw jin-deh

We want to

joon-daw-DO' jin-deh

Example:

I want to

joon-daw jin-deh

eat

ŞA

I want to eat

joon-daw ŞA-jin-deh

buy this

da-go weh

drink water

yay THOUT

get a haircut

za-bin HN_YAHT

get a shave

YAYT

pay

BA_EET-sahn BAY

rest

NA

sleep

AYT

wash up

SAY

Where is a

..... beh-hma-LEH

or Where is

the ?

EnglishBurmese PronunciationExample:

Where is a? beh-hma-LEH
dentist THWA ŞA EET-sa-ya

Where is a dentist? THWA ŞA EET-sa-ya
beh-hma-LEH

doctor sa-ya-woon
laundryman doab-ee
mechanic ŞET-sa-ya
policeman b ya-ḍa
servant joon
shoemaker pa-NAHT CHOAT-tha-MA
tailor a-CHOAT-tha-MA

barber shop za-bin HN YAHT-sa een
barracks ŞIT-ḌAHN
bridge ḍa-DA
bus BAHT ḠA
clothing store a-teh-za een
filling station DAHT-see-za een

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

garage	maw-ḍa-ḠA-yoan
highway	ḥay ḍa-ya LAHN
hospital	SAY-yoan
house	ayn
main street	LAHM-MA'
market	ZAY
monastery	POAN-JEE-JOUN
nearest town	a-NEE-ZOAN_M_YO'
pagoda	zay-dee
police station	GAHT-ḌEH
post office	ṣa-DA_EET
railroad	MEE-ya-TA-LAHN
river	M_YIT
store or shop	sa_ēen
spring	ṢAHN
telegraph office	JEE-NAHN-DA_EET
telephone	ḍeh-lee-POAN
well	yay-DWIN

WHICH IS WHICH?



BUTTONS



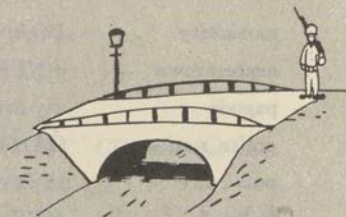
TELEPHONE



A BANDAGE



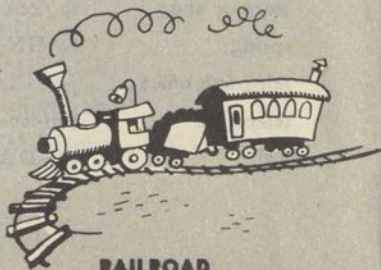
BUS



BRIDGE

1. deh-lee-POAN
2. da-DA
3. MEE-ya-TA-LAHN
4. jeh-THEE
5. BAHT GA
6. SEE BAHT-DEH' a-WOOT

(Answers on pages 34-37.)



RAILROAD

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

I am	joon-daw deh
He is	thoo deh
We are	joon-daw-DO' deh
They are	thoo-DO' deh
Are you	kim-B_YA tha-LA

Example:

Are you	kim-B_YA tha-LA
sick	P_YA
Are you sick?	kim-B_YA P_YA-tha-LA
hungry	sa
thirsty	yay NGAHT
cut	DA KOAT kahn-YA'
shot	tha-NAHT B_YIT kahn-YA'
tired	MAW

It is	 deh
Is it	 tha-LA
It is not	ma BOO

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

It is very

im-ma-dahn deh

That is

ho-ha deh

This is

dee-ha deh

Example:

It is not

ma BOO

big

JEE

It is not big

ma-JEE-BOO

small

ngeh

good

GOUN

expensive

ZAY JEE

cheap

BAW

clean

THAHNT-SHIN

dirty

N_YIT-BAHT

cold

AY

hot

hoo

warm

NWAY

much

M_YA

far

WAY

near

NEE

ALPHABETICAL WORD LIST

A

am

I am joon-daw deh

are

Are you? kim-B_YA tha-LA

They are thoo-DO' deh

We are joon-daw-DO' deh

B

bananas

nga-B_YAW-THEE

bandage

SEE BAHT-DEH' a-WOOT

barber shop

za-bin HN_YAHT-sa_eeen

barracks

SIT-DAH N

bed

ka-din

beer

bee-ya

blanket

soun

boiled water

yay-JET

bread

houn-MOANT

big

JEE

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

bridge

ḍa-DA

bring

Bring help

a-goo a-n_yee kaw-la-ba

Bring me

..... yoo la-ba

bus

BAHT ḠA

butter

TAW-BAHT

buttons

jeh-THEE

buy

weh

I want to buy this

joon-daw da-go weh-jin-deh

C

cheap

BAW

cheese

dayn-GEH

cigar

SAY-LAYT

cigarettes

"cigarette"

I want cigarettes

joon-daw "cigarette" lo-jen-deh

clean

THAHNT-SHIN

clothing store

a-teh-za_eeen

coffee

ga-pee

cold

AY



English

Burmese Pronunciation

comb

BEE

come

la

Come here

dee-go la-ba

Come in

win la-ba

Come quickly

m_yahn-m_yahn la

cotton

GOON

cover

Take cover

BOAN-nay

cup

ba-gahn-LOAN

cut

DA KOAT kahn-YA'

WHICH IS WHICH?



BREAD



BED



BEER



COFFEE



CHEESE



CUP

1. ɸa-gahn-LOAN
2. ɸoun-MOANT
3. ga-pee

4. bee-ya
5. ka-din
6. dayn-GEH

(Answers in Word List.)

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation**D**

danger	BAY
dentist	THWA ŞA EET-sa-ya
dirty	N YIT-BAHT
disinfectant	a-hn yaw THAHT-SAY
doctor	sa-ya-woon
Take me to a doctor	sa-ya-woon-zee-go BO'-ba
Draw me a map	joon-DAW'-go m yay-boan
	SWEH BAY-ba
drink	THOUT
I want to drink water	joon-daw yay THOUT-chin-deh

E

east	a-SHAY'-BET
Which way is east?	a-SHAY'-BET beh-hma-LEH
eat	ŞA
I want to eat	joon-daw ŞA-jin-deh
eggs	JET-OO'
eight	SHIK

English

Burmese Pronunciation

eleven

SEH' DIT

Excuse me

ga-DAW'-ba-YEH'

expensive

ZAY JEE

F

far

WAY

How far is it?

beh-LOUT WAY-tha-LEH

Is it far?

WAY-tha-LA

filling station

DAHT-see-za_ueen

fish

NGA

five

NGA

food

SA-za-ya

fork

ka-YIN

four

LAY

Friday

THOUT-ja

fruit

THIT-THÉE

G

garage

maw-ḍa-ḠA-yoan

gas

DAHT-KO

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

gasoline	DAHT-see
Give me	 BAY-ba
go	THWA
Go quickly	m_yahn-m_yahn THWA
Go straight ahead	DEH'-DEH' THWA
good	GOUN
Good-by	
<i>by person leaving</i>	THWA-DAW'-meh
<i>by person replying</i>	THWA-DAW'-naw
guavas	ma-la-ga-THEE
	H
haircut	
I want to get a haircut	joon-daw za-bin HN_YAHT- chin-deh
half	
half past six	CHOUT na-yee GWEH
handkerchief	LEK-ga_een ha-wa
have	
Have you?	kim-B_YA-zee-hma SHEE'-tha-LA

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

I have	jooon-DAW'-zee-hma SHEE'-deh
We have	jooon-daw-DO'-zee-hma SHEE'-deh
We don't have	jooon-daw-DO'-zee-hma ma-SHEE'-BOO
he	thoo
He is	thoo deh
Help!	a-goo a-n_yee
Bring help	a-goo a-n_yee kaw-la-ba
Help me	jooon-DAW'-go goo-ZAHN-ba
here	
Come here	dee-go la-ba
highway	bay da-ya LAHN
hospital	SAY-yoan
hot	hoo
hot water	yay-NWAY
hotel	haw-deh
house	ayn

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

how

How are you?
or How do you
do?

ma-YEH'-LA

How do you say "table"
in Burmese?

"Table"-go ba-ma-lo ba
kaw-tha-LEH

How much is it?

beh-LOUT-LEH

hundred

da-ya

hungry

sa

I am hungry

joon-daw sa-deh

I

I

joon-daw

I am

joon-daw deh

I have

joon-DAW'-zee-hma
SHEE'-deh

I want

joon-daw lo-jin-deh

I want to

joon-daw jin-deh

ice cream

yay-GEH-MOANT

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

ink

hmin

is

He is

thoo deh

It is

..... deh

it

Is it?

..... tha-LA

It is not

ma BOO

K

knife

DA

know

THEE'

I don't know

joon-daw ma-THEE'-BOO

L

laces

shoelaces

pa-NAHT-JO

laundryman

doab-ee

laxative

WOON HNOAT-SAY

leave

When does the
train leave?MEE-ya-TA beh-DAW'
TWET-ma-LEH

WHICH IS WHICH?



FRUIT



FORK



HANDKERCHIEF



INK

1. THIT-THEE
2. JET-OO'
3. ka-YIN
4. ayn
5. LEK-ga een ba-wa
6. DA
7. hmin



KNIFE



HOUSE



EGGS

(Answers in Word List.)

English

left

Turn left

lemons

main street

mangoes

mangosteens

map

Draw me a map

market

match

mattress

meat

mechanic

mile

milk

minute

Wait a minute

Burmese Pronunciation

beh-BET

beh-BET HLEH'-ba

thahm-ba-ya-THEE

M

LAHM-MA'

tha-YET-THEE

MIN-GOOT-THEE

m_yay-boan

joon-DAW'-go m_yay-boan

SWEH BAY-ba

ZAY

MEE-JIT

HM_WAY'-ya

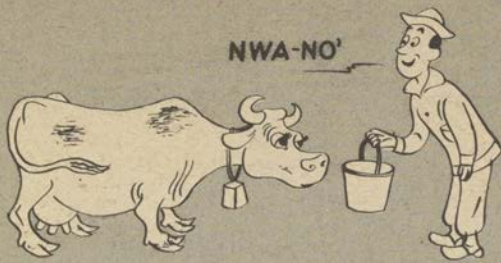
a-MEH-THA

SET-sa-ya

ma_een

NWA-NO'

ka-NA' SOUNT-nay



English

monastery

Monday

mosquito net

movie

When does the
movie start?

much

mutton

Burmese Pronunciation

POAN-JEE JOUN

ḡa-NEN-la

chin-doun

YOAT-shen

YOAT-shen beh-DAW'

B_YA'-ma-LEH

M_YA

SAYT-THA

N

name

na-meh

What is your name? kem-B_YA' na-meh ba-thoo-
LEH

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

My name is	joon-DAW' na-meh
near	NEE
needle	AHT
nine	GO
no	ma-HOAT-POO
not	ma BOO
It is not big	ma-JEE-BOO

O

one	ḐIT
oranges	laym-maw-THEE
o'clock	
one o'clock	ḑa-na-yee

P

pagoda	zay-dee
papayas	THIM-BAW-THEE
paper	SEK-goo
past	
half past six	CHOUT na-yee GWEH

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

quarter past five	NGA na-yee SEH' NGA ma-NIT
pay	BA EET-sahn BAY
I will pay you	kim-B YA-go BA EET-sahn BAY-meh
I want to pay	joon-daw BA EET-sahn BAY-jin-deh
pen	hmin-dahn
pencil	KEH-dahn
pillow	GOUN-OAN
pineapples	NAHT-NAHT-THEE
pins	qweh-AHT
pipe	SAY-dahn
plate	ba-gahn-B YA
please	qa-SAYT
plums	ZEE-THEE
point	
Please point	qa-SAYT B YA'-ba
policeman	b ya-qa
police station	GAHT-DEH

WHICH IS WHICH?



NEEDLE



MATCH



MEAT



PENCIL

1. KEH-dahn
2. a-MEH-THA
3. ba-gahn-B_YA
4. MEE-JIT
5. SEK-goo
6. AHT
7. hmin-dahn



PLATE



PAPER



PEN

(Answers in Word List.)

English

Burmese Pronunciation

polish

shoe polish

pork

post office

potatoes

pa-NAHT-SAY

WET-THA

şa-DA EET

ah-LOO

Q

quarter

quarter of nine

quarter past five

quickly

Come quickly

Go quickly

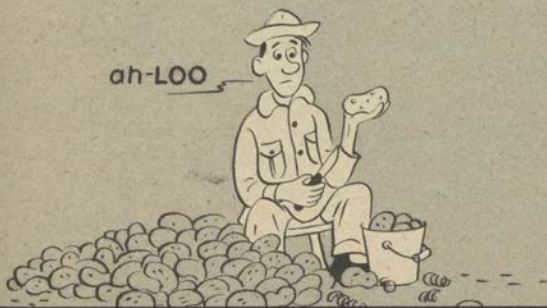
QO na-yee MAHT-DEN

NGA na-yee SEH'NGA
ma-NIT

m_yahn-m_yahn

m_yahn-m_yahn la

m_yahn-m_yahn THWA



English

Burmese Pronunciation

R

railroad

MEE-ya-TA-LAHN

raincoat

MO-ga AYN-jee

razor

thin-DOAN-DA

rest

NA

I want to rest

joon-daw NA-jin-deh

restaurant

la-PET-yay-za_ueen

rice

cooked rice

ta-MEN

right

n_uya-BET

Turn right

n_uya-BET HLEH'-ba

river

M_uYIT

room

a-KAHN

S

salad

a-DO'

salt

SA

Saturday

ṣa-nay

say

How do you say

"Table"-go ba-ma-lo ba

"table" in

kaw-tha-LEH

Burmese?

EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

servant

joon

seven

koan-NIT

shave

I want to get a
shave

joon-daw YAYT-chin-deh

sheet

AYT-ya-GEN

shirt

SHAHT AYN-jee

shoemaker

pa-NAHT CHOAT-tha-MA

shoes

pa-NAHT

shoelaces

pa-NAHT-JO

shoe polish

pa-NAHT-SAY

shot

tha-NAHT B_YIT kahn-YA'

sick

P_YA

six

CHOUT

sleep

AYT

I want to sleep
slowly

joon-daw AYT-chin-deh

Speak slowly

HNAY-HNAY B_YAW-ba

small

ngeh

soap

SAHP-b-ya

English

Burmese Pronunciation

soldiers

SIT-THA-dway

Where are the
American
soldiers?

a-may-YEE'-gahn SIT-THA-dway
beh-hma-LEH

Where are the
soldiers?

SIT-THA-dway beh-hma-LEH

soup

HEN-jo

speak

Speak slowly

HNAY-HNAY B_YAW-ba

spoon

ZOON

spring (*of water*)

SAHN

start

When does the
movie start?

YOAT-shen beh-DAW'
B_YA'-ma-LEH

station

boo-da-yoan

stop

YAHT

store *or* shop

sa_een

straight

Go straight ahead

DEH'-DEH' THWA

sugar

tha-JA

Sunday

da-NEN-ga-nway

EnglishBurmese PronunciationT

tailor

a-CHOAT-tha-MA

take

Take cover

BOAN-nay

Take me there

joon-DAW'-go LA EET

BO'-ba

Take me to a doctor

sa-ya-woon-zee-go BO'-ba

tea

la-PET-yay

telegraph office

JEE-NAHN-DA EET

telephone

deh-lee-POAN

ten

seh

Thank you

JAY-ZOO den-deh

that

That is

ho-ha deh

there

Take me there

joon-DAW'-go LA EET

BO'-ba

they

They are

thoo-DO' deh

thirty

THOAN-zeh

NA
ma-leh-BOO

*I wish I understood
Burmese
that
good.*



English

thirsty

I am thirsty

this

This is

What is this?

thousand

thread

three

Thursday

time

What time is it?

tired

I am tired

tobacco .

today

toilet

tomorrow

toothbrush

toothpaste

towel

Burmese Pronunciation

yay NGAHT

joon-daw yay NGAHT-dehdee-ha deh

da ba-LEH

da-toun

AHT-chee

THOAN

ja-tha-ha-DAY

beh-hna-na-yee TO-bee-LEH

MAW

joon-daw MAW-deh

SAY

ga-NAY'

ayn-tha

NET-p_yahn

tha-BOOT-dahn

THWA DA_EET-SAY

M_YET-hna-THOAT ha-wa

English

Burmese Pronunciation

town

M_YO'

nearest town

a-NEE-ZOAN M_YO'

train

MEE-ya-TA

When does the
train leave?

MEE-ya-TA beh-DAW'
TWET-ma-LEH

Tuesday

en-ga

turn

Turn left

beh-BET HLEH'-ba

Turn right

n_ya-BET HLEH'-ba

twelve

SEH' HNIT

twenty

hna-seh

twenty-one

hna-SEH' DIT

two

HNIT

U

undershirt

CHWAY-gahn AYN-jee

undershorts

CHWAY-gahn BOUM-bee

understand

Understand me?

NA leh-YEH'-LA

I don't understand

NA ma-leh-BOO

WHICH IS WHICH?



TOBACCO



THREAD



WATER



SPOON



TEA



SALT



SHOES

1. pa-NAHT
2. SAY
3. AHT-chee

4. SA
5. la-PET-yay
6. ZOON

7. yay

(Answers in Word List.)

English

Burmese Pronunciation

V

vegetables

HEN-THEE HEN-Y WET

very

It is very —

im-ma-dahn deh

W

wait

Wait a minute

ka-NA' ŞOUNT-nay

want

I want

joon-daw lo-jin-deh

I want to

joon-daw jin-deh

We want

joon-daw-DO' lo-jin-deh

warm

NWAY

wash

I want to wash up

joon-daw SAY-jin-deh

water

yay

boiled water

yay-JET

hot water

yay-NWAY

watch out

tha-DEE' TA

we

joon-daw-DO'

We are

joon-daw-DO' deh

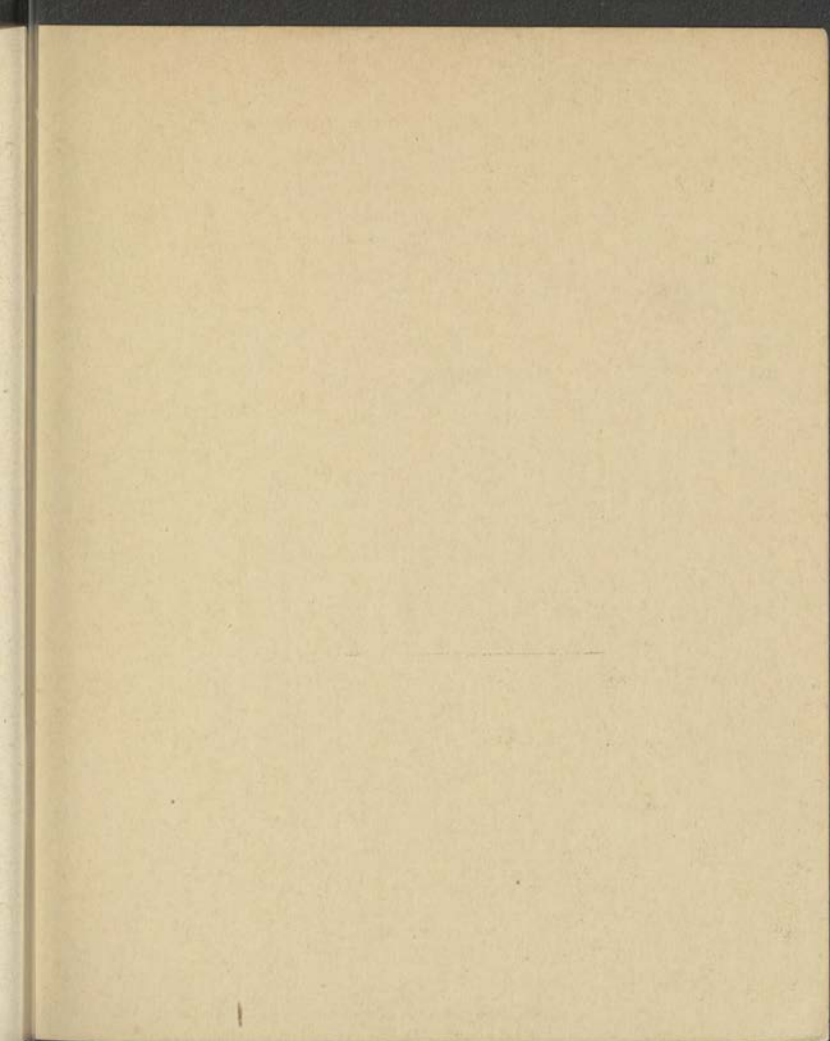
kim-B_YA joon-daw sa-deh.
sa-tha-LA la-PET-yay-zā_eeen
Beh-hma-LEH

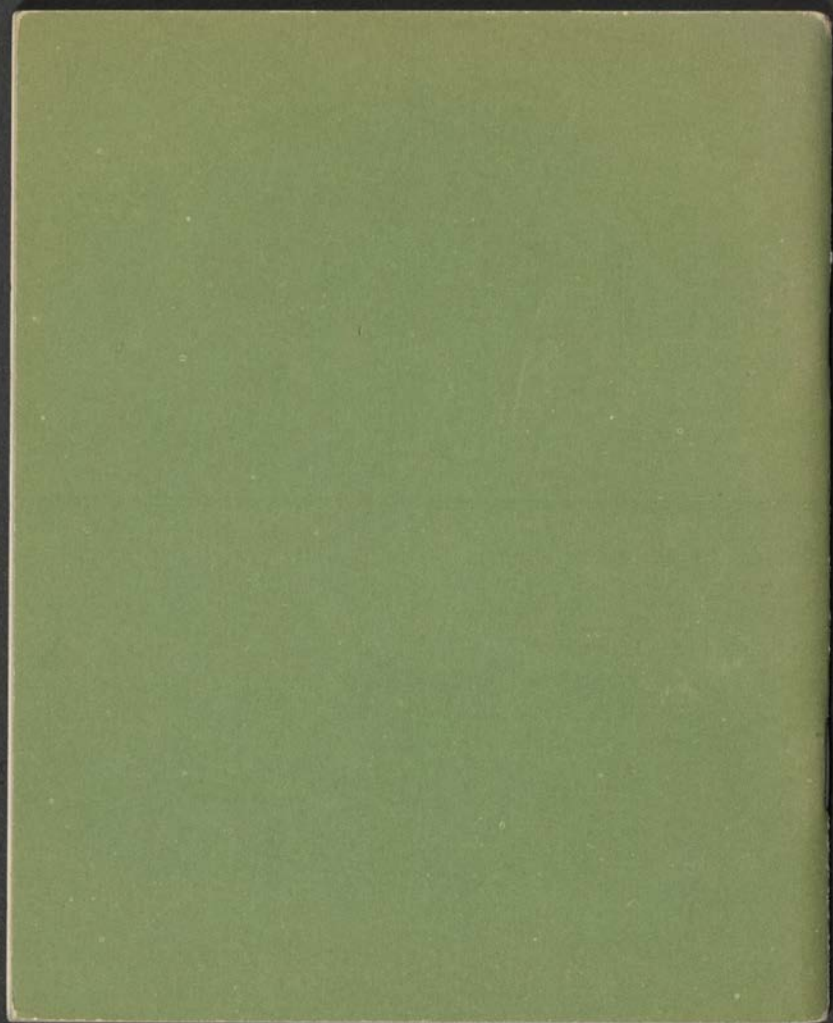
*Don't nobody
around
here talk
English?*



EnglishBurmese Pronunciation

We have	joon-daw-DO'-zee-hma
	SHEE'-dch
We don't	joon-daw-DO'-zee-hma
have	ma-SHEE'-BOO
We want	joon-daw-DO' lo-jin-dch
Wednesday	BOAT-da-HOO
well (for water)	yay-DWIN
what	
What is this?	da ba-LEH
What time is it?	beh-hna-na-ye TO-bee-LEH
when	
When does the	YOAT-shen beh-DAW'
movie start?	B_YA'-ma-LEH
When does the	MEE-ya-TA beh-DAW'
train leave?	TWET-ma-LEH
where	
Where is	beh-hma-LEH
	Y
yes	HOAT-GEH'
yesterday	ma-NAY'
you	
Are you?	kim-B_YA tha-LA
Have you?	kim-B_YA-zee-hma
	SHEE'-tha-LA





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