Thai Language Connectors: Starter Pack

By Cat & Yuki

Thai Language Connectors: Starter Pack...

Anthony Lauder (Fluent Czech on YouTube) is the Mr Rogers of language learning. Due to his dry wit, his knowledgeable videos are a doddle to watch.

Also a fan of How to Improve Your Foreign Language Immediately, Anthony put together an invaluable list of intermediate level phrases described on his site: Conversational Intimacy Connectors and the Connectors Starter Pack.

> *Conversational Intimacy Connectors: Conversations need to flow. Conversational intimacy connectors help establish and maintains that relationship (so the listener feels better connected to you) as well as getting over the "urm" moments that make people uncomfortable.*

When I came across Anthony's list of connectors I just KNEW I had to have it for Thai. Problem is, not many would be capable of successfully translating the connectors from English into Thai. I'm certainly not! Actually, out of my circle of Thai speakers (native and not), only a few would feel comfortable translating at that level.

Carefully looking around (and asking opinions to be doubly sure) I approached Yuki from PickupThai. Yuki has wonderful English skills (she's more switched on than I am and her grammar rocks). She also teaches real Thai (not Thai teacher Thai).

I can't tell you how chuffed I was when Yuki agreed to spend the huge chunk of time needed to not only translate the entire list, but to record it as well. I owe… I owe…

Disclaimer: There are almost 500 connectors (448 at last count) that have been translated from English to Thai. And with some being difficult to translate there are sure to be a couple that people won't 100% agree with. It's just the way interpretation goes. So if you have differing opinions, do please let us know. We are open for consideration (but no promises).

Please note that we are dropping any connectors in the original list that are not common in Thai. An * means there is no equivalent expression in Thai but it sounds more or less ok anyway.

And now to the Thai Language Connectors Starter Pack...

Anthony's Connectors Starter Pack has 100 connectors (a sample from each subject). And being manageable, that's the one we'll start with. Later posts in the series will be one subject per post.

> *A few tips from Anthony:* I practiced these phrases dozens (maybe even hundreds) of times until I could say them automatically, without having to put any effort into thinking about them. Then I studied each one in depth, and thought hard about it to think of real-life situations when it would be used. At first, I used imaginary situations, until I felt that I associated a given connector automatically with those situations.

Connectors help smooth the way without resorting to stuttering and stumbling. Some are there to give you thinking space, so's you can come up with something appropriate (or not) to say. For the descriptions below I've pared down Anthony's, but if you need longer explanations you know where to find them.

Opening Connectors...

Opening Connectors are responses to questions. They give you needed time to mentally form your actual answers.

Thank you heartily.
ขอบคุณจากใจ
kòp kun jàak jai

Note: Literal meaning: "I thank you from the heart."

That is such a good question.
นั่นเป็นคำถามที่ดี
nân bpen kam tăam têe dee

That is a difficult question.
นั่นเป็นคำถามที่ตอบลำบาก
nân bpen kam tăam têe dtòp lam-bàak

Once upon a time, long ago…
กาลครั้งหนึ่งนานมาแล้ว…
gaala kráng nèung naan maa láew…

Note: Only used in tales and stories.

Filler Connectors…

Filler Connectors also give you time to come up with something to say (and are far better than stuttering your way to results).

*Understandably…
อย่างที่ทุกคนเข้าใจได้
yàang têe túk kon kâo jai dâai

Frankly speaking…
พูดตามตรงนะ…
pôot dtaam dtrong ná…

Between you and me…
ระหว่างคุณกับผม/ฉัน…
rá-wàang kun gàp pŏm/chăn…

Anyway…
อย่างไรก็ดี…
yàang rai gôr dee…

Well then…
อืม ถ้าอย่างนั้น…
eum · tâa yàang nán…

Well, as a matter of fact…
อืม จริงๆแล้ว…
eum · jing jing láew…

How can I put it?
พูดยังไงดี
pôot yang ngai dee

Note: If it's something that's somewhat complicated, you can use "อธิบาย /a-tí-baai/" (explain) instead.

I must say that…
ผม/ฉันต้องบอกว่า…
pŏm/chăn dtông bòk wâa…

Firstly…
ก่อนอื่น…
gòn èun…

Secondly…
ข้อสอง…
kôr sŏng…

I would like you to know that…
ผม/ฉันอยากให้คุณรู้ว่า...
pŏm/chăn yàak hâi kun róo wâa…

I am afraid that…
ผม/ฉันเกรงว่า…
pŏm/chăn grayng wâa…

Now and then it seems to me that…
บางทีผม/ฉันก็รู้สึกว่า…
baang tee pŏm/chăn gôr róo sèuk wâa…

As far as I am concerned…
ในความคิดผม/ฉัน…
nai kwaam kít pŏm/chăn…

*More and more…
…มากกว่าที่ผ่านมา
… mâak gwàa têe pàan maa

Actually…
จริงๆแล้ว…
jing jing láew…

All joking aside…
โอเค ผม/ฉันพูดเล่น แต่…จริงๆ
oh kay · pŏm/chăn poo-dà-làyn · dtàe jing jing …

Note: You're saying that you're joking but something related to what you said is true or that it happened/ is really going to happen.

Now seriously…
โอเค คราวนี้ผม/ฉันพูดจริง
oh kay · kraao née pŏm/chăn pôot jing

Apologising Connectors…

Mistakes in our target language are a given. I can name more than a few gaffs, and that was before I moved to Thailand! When that happens, just insert an Apologising Connector, then change the subject right quick.

Don't be upset, but…
อย่าโกรธนะ ผม/ฉัน…
yàa gròht ná · pŏm/chăn…

Note: "But" in this sense is not commonly used in the Thai language. You can just start saying what you need to say without saying "but."

It was a slip of the tongue.
ผม/ฉันเผลอพูดผิดไปเท่านั้น
pŏm/chăn plĕr pôot pìt bpai tâo nán

I said it that way by mistake.
ผม/ฉันไม่ได้ตั้งใจพูดแบบนั้น
pŏm/chăn mâi dâai dtâng jai pôot bàep nán

ผม/ฉันขอโทษที่
I am sorry that…
pŏm/chăn kŏr tôht têe…

Qualifying Connectors…

Some Qualifying Connectors soften statements, and apparently help to avoid coming off as an arrogant know-all.

To tell the truth…
เอาจริงๆแล้ว…
ao jing jing láew…

I presume that…
ผม/ฉันเดาว่า…
pŏm/chăn dao wâa…

I hope that…
ผม/ฉันหวังว่า…
pŏm/chăn wăng wâa…

In my opinion…
ตามความคิดผม/ฉัน…
dtaam kwaam kít pŏm/chăn…

If that is true…
ถ้าเป็นเรื่องจริง…
tâa bpen rêuang jing…

I don't know exactly…
ผม/ฉันไม่รู้แน่นอนว่า…
pŏm/chăn mâi róo nâe non wâa…

The way I see it is that…
ผม/ฉันมองว่า…
pŏm/chăn mong wâa…

I would like to think that…
ผม/ฉันอยากจะคิดว่า…
pŏm/chăn yàak jà kít wâa…

As you may know…
อย่างที่คุณรู้…
yàang têe kun róo…

I don't have a big interest in that.
ผม/ฉันไม่ค่อยสนใจเรื่องนั้น
pŏm/chăn mâi kôi sŏn jai rêuang nán

If I understand correctly…
ถ้าผม/ฉันเข้าใจถูกต้อง
tâa pŏm/chăn kâo jai tòok dtông

As you already know…
อย่างที่คุณรู้อยู่แล้ว…
yàang têe kun róo yòo láew…

That isn't such a big problem.
นั่นไม่ใช่ปัญหาใหญ่…
nân mâi châi bpan-hăa yài…

That is a matter of opinion.
แล้วแต่ว่าแต่ละคนคิดยังไง
láew dtàe wâa dtàe lá kon kít yang ngai

Note: Literal meaning: "It depends on what each person thinks."

As far as I know…
เท่าที่ผม/ฉันรู้…
tâo têe pǒm/chǎn róo…

I have the impression that…
ผม/ฉันรู้สึกว่า…
pǒm/chǎn róo sèuk wâa…

It is usually true that…
ปกติแล้ว จริงที่ว่า…
bpòk-gà-dtì láew · jing têe wâa…

You never know, but…
ไม่มีใครสามารถรู้ได้ แต่…
mâi mee krai sǎa-mâat róo dâai · dtàe…

Note: Literal meaning: "No one can know but…"

I haven't thought about it before, but…
ผม/ฉันไม่เคยคิดเรื่องนี้มาก่อน แต่…
pǒm/chǎn mâi koie kít rêuang née maa gòn · dtàe…

If I am not mistaken…
ถ้าผม/ฉันจำไม่ผิด…
tâa pǒm/chǎn jam mâi pìt…

I am not certain whether…
ผม/ฉันไม่แน่ใจว่า…ไหม
pǒm/chǎn mâi nâe jai wâa… mǎi

Like every other man…
…เหมือนคนอื่นๆ
… měuan kon èun èun

Notice that Thai uses the politically correct คน /kon/ (person) instead of man.

I have my own opinion on it, but…
ผม/ฉันมีความคิดเห็นส่วนตัวเกี่ยวกับเรื่องนี้แต่...
pŏm/chăn mee kwaam kít hĕn sùan dtua gìeow gàp rêuang née dtàe...

I am not such an expert, but…
ผม/ฉันไม่เก่งเรื่องนี้มากแต่…
pŏm / chăn mâi gèng rêuang née mâak dtàe…

Agreeing and Disagreeing Connectors...

The Agreeing and Disagreeing Connectors take you beyond the often erroneous ใช่ /châi/ and ไม่ใช่ /mâi châi/ (yes/no) answers beginners respond with.

One hundred percent.
แน่นอน(ร้อยเปอร์เซนต์)
nâe-non (rói bper-sayn)

Without question.
แน่นอน
nâe-non

Exactly / Exactly right.
นั่นแหละ / ใช่เลย
nân làe / châi loie

Most certainly.
ถูกที่สุด
tòok têe-sùt

Without a doubt.
อย่างไม่ต้องสงสัย
yàang mâi dtông sŏng-săi

In no case.
ไม่…ไม่ว่ากรณีใดก็ตาม
mâi… mâi wâa gor-rá-nee dai gôr dtaam

That isn't true at all.
ไม่จริงเลย
mâi jing loie

That is an exaggeration.
เว่อร์เกินไปแล้ว
wêr gern bpai láew

Note: This is an informal way to say it. In a formal situation, you can use "คุณก็พูด
เกินจริงไปหน่อย". Even so, it is not very polite to accuse someone of exaggerating.

In principle that is true, but…
ตามหลักแล้วมันก็ถูก แต่…
dtaam làk láew man gôr tòok · dtàe…

Admittedly that is true, but…
ผม/ฉันยอมรับว่าคุณพูดถูก แต่…
pŏm/chăn yom ráp wâa kun pôot tòok · dtàe…

That's one way to say it.
ก็แล้วแต่คุณจะพูด แต่…
gôr láew dtàe kun jà pôot · dtàe…

Note: We don't have an equivalent of "That's one way to say it." in Thai. The closest
common Thai expression is "ก็แล้วแต่คุณจะพูด" which means "Whatever you want to
say!" It is usually followed by your own perspective/opinion on that matter.

Only up to a certain point.
แค่ระดับหนึ่ง
kâe rá-dàp nèung

Certainly, why not?
ทำไมจะไม่ล่ะ
tam-mai jà mâi lâ

I agree…
ผม/ฉันตกลง
pŏm/chăn dtòk long

Elaborating Connectors…

Elaborating Connectors work similar to the Agreeing and Disagreeing Connectors in
that they expand short replies.

*To be more precise…
ถ้าจะให้พูดแบบเฉพาะเจาะจงก็คือ…
tâa jà hâi pôot bàep chà-pór jòr jong gôr keu…

And what's more…
แล้วอะไรอีก…
láew a-rai èek…

*While I am already talking about it…
ขณะที่ผม/ฉันกำลังพูดเรื่องนี้…
kà-nà têe pŏm/chăn gam-lang pôot rêuang née…

I would like to emphasise that…
ผม/ฉันขอเน้นว่า…
pŏm/chăn kŏr náyn wâa…

Should I explain in greater detail?
ให้ผม/ฉันอธิบายให้ฟังละเอียดกว่านี้ไหม
hâi pŏm/chăn a-tí-baai hâi fang lá-ìat gwàa née măi

Allow me to say it another way…
ขอผม/ฉันพูดใหม่
kŏr pŏm/chăn pôot mài

That is to say…
ซึ่งนั่นก็คือ…
sêung nân gôr keu…

*And more specifically…
ถ้าจะให้พูดแบบเฉพาะเจาะจงกว่านั้น…
tâa jà hâi pôot bàep chà-pór jòr jong gwàa nán…

Nevertheless…
อย่างไรก็ตาม…
yàang rai gôr dtaam…

Even though…
ถึงแม้ว่า…
tĕung máe wâa…

That sounds like…
ฟังดูเหมือนว่า…
fang doo mĕuan wâa…

And that is why…
นั่นเป็นสาเหตุที่…
nân bpen săa-hàyt têe…

In other words…
หรือพูดอีกอย่างหนึ่งก็คือ…
rěu pôot èek yàang nèung gôr keu…

To say it another way…
พูดอีกอย่างหนึ่งก็คือ…
pôot èek yàang nèung gôr keu…

Quoting Connectors…

Quoting Connectors are there to feed our gossip gene. I'm kidding. But I'm sure you know what I mean.

She said something like…
เขาพูดอะไรประมาณว่า…
kǎo pôot a-rai bprà-maan wâa…

Recently, I heard that…
เมื่อไม่นานมานี้ ผม/ฉันได้ยินมาว่า…
mêua mâi naan maa née · pǒm/chǎn dâai yin maa wâa…

Switching Connectors…

Switching Connectors are wonderful because you can use them to change subjects to ones you have enough vocabulary for.

*Now it occurs to me that…
ตอนนี้ผม/ฉันนึกได้ว่า…
dton-née pǒm/chǎn néuk dâai wâa…

By the way…
อย่างไรก็ดี…
yàang rai gôr dee…

I have an interesting story about it.
ผม/ฉันมีเรื่องราวที่น่าสนใจ(มาเล่าให้ฟัง)เกี่ยวกับเรื่องนี้
pǒm/chǎn mee rêuang raao têe nâa sǒn jai (maa lâo hâi fang) gìeow gàp rêuang née

And besides that…
นอกจากนั้น …
nôk jàak nán…

Oh, I nearly forgot…
โอ้ ผม/ฉันเกือบลืมไป…
ôh · pŏm/chăn gèuap leum bpai…

And one more thing…
อีกอย่างนึง…
èek yàang neung…

On the other hand…
ในทางกลับกัน…
nai taang glàp gan…

Closing Connectors…

Closing Connectors are just that – phrases to help you close out a conversation.

That is all there is to say (with that, that is everything said).
นอกจากนั้น ผม/ฉันก็ไม่มีอะไรจะพูดแล้ว
nôk jàak nán · pŏm/chăn gôr mâi mee a-rai jà pôot láew

That is all for now.
วันนี้เท่านี้ก่อนแล้วกัน
wan née tâo née gòn láew gan

Note: Literal meaning: "That's all for today."

To sum up.
ขอสรุปที่พูดมาทั้งหมด
kŏr sà-rùp têe pôot maa táng mòt

Note: Literal meaning: "Let me summarize everything I've said."

*And there (in that) is the problem.
นั่นไงปัญหามาแล้ว
nân ngai bpan-hăa maa láew

Note: Literal meaning: "And there comes a problem." A response used after someone says something that you think is or will be a problem. Note that it's not very common.

I hope it is only a question of time.
ผม/ฉันหวังว่าจะเป็นเรื่องของเวลา
pŏm/chăn wăng wâa jà bpen rêuang kŏng way-laa

That remains to be seen.
ยังต้องดูกันต่อไป
yang dtông doo gan dtòr bpai

Passing Connectors...

This is another Connector I'm sure you'll use often. When your head is threatening to explode from speaking in a foreign language, or you just want to give someone else a chance to share their views, use Passing Connectors.

Can you tell me please…
คุณบอกผม/ฉันได้ไหมว่า…
kun bòk pŏm/chăn dâai măi wâa…

*Would you be interested in us talking about something else?
คุณอยากให้เราพูดถึงเรื่องอื่นไหม
kun yàak hâi rao pôot tĕung rêuang èun măi

And what do you think?
แล้วคุณคิดว่ายังไง
láew kun kít wâa yang ngai

Downloads: Thai Language Connectors Starter Pack...

Thai Language Connectors Starter Pack: Audio (Male) 4.9mg

Thai Language Connectors Starter Pack: Audio (Female) 4.8mg

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TO DOWNLOAD FILES: http://womenlearnthai.com/index.php/thai-language-connectors-starter-pack/

Note: These files are for personal use only (do not place them on other websites).

More Thai Language Connectors...

Coming up in this series will be the rest of: Opening Connectors, Filler Connectors, Apologising Connectors, Qualifying Connectors, Agreeing and Disagreeing Connectors, Elaborating Connectors, Quoting Connectors, Switching Connectors, Closing Connectors and Passing Connectors (in that order).

Cheers! Catherine & Yuki

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