

## Please and Thank You and Excuse Me Part 2 – *Thank You*

*You're my love, your my angel, you're the girl of my dreams  
I'd like to thank you, for waiting patiently  
- Daddy's Home Shep and the Limelites*

I say "Thank You" to almost everybody for almost everything. It works for me.

Almost all Thai words for *thank you* have the root word **ขอบ** / kòp /. It has a few other meanings but **ขอบ** / kòp / as a word-fragment cannot really be define other than it is used with a Thai *Thank You*.

A Thai *thank you* is expressed in much the same way as we would in English with an exception or two. Interestingly enough, I do not often hear a *thank you* expressed by the customer when one buys something from a vendor or shopkeeper. In English we usually will offer a *thank you* as the shopkeeper hands you the thing you are buying, or when they return your change, but I rarely hear this from a Thai shopper. On the other hand, vendors will almost always offer a *thank you* to their customer.

It doesn't matter to me though, I give a thanks anyway, as will most Thais who have empathy for those serving them. It just feels right.

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### **ขอบคุณ / kòp kun /**

Example of a simple *thank you* exchange.

You:           **ขอบคุณ / kòp kun /**

Answer:       **ไม่เป็นไร / mâi bpen rai /**

**ขอบคุณ / kòp kun /** has the word **คุณ / kun /** embedded in it, which makes up the "you" of *thank you*. We might say this simply, with no ending particle, possibly to a waitress as she places your order on the table, or the postman as he hands you a package.

The answer **ไม่เป็นไร / mâi bpen rai /** is sometimes translated as "It's nothing" which is the literal meaning, or "Never mind" which was made famous (although only partly accurate) in a popular book written by an American in the 1960s, [Mai Pen Rai Means Never Mind](#), Carol Hollinger (subtitled, an American Housewife's Honest Love Affair with

the Irrepressible People of Thailand), Asia Books, an early attempt to try and understand the Thai culture. But as a response to **ขอบคุณ** / kòp kun / , **ไม่เป็นไร** / mâi bpen rai / should be interpreted as “You’re welcome”.

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We can give a thanks with a little more politeness, and a little more gratefulness

- **ขอบคุณ ครับ/ค่ะ** / kòp kun kráp/ká /

Adding the polite particle at the end is always a good idea, especially if someone has given us something or done something for us.

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Even more:

- **ขอบคุณ มาก ครับ/ค่ะ** / Kòp kun mâak kráp/ká /

The word **มาก** / mâak / adds a “very much” to our *thank you*, but don’t worry, you won’t sound too much like Elvis’ “*Thank you very much.*”

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More still

- **ขอ ขอบคุณ ครับ/ค่ะ** / kǒr kòp kun kráp/ká /

The **ขอ** / kǒr / as we remember adds a “please” to your *thank you*. And since it is a bit formal could be interpreted as something like “Allow me to offer you my thanks.”

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## ขอใจ / kòp jai /

This is not a term we would use with adults, even close ones. It is more reserved to be used with children, although some people will use it with someone serving them, especially if they are much younger. It doesn't mean one is looking down on the person being spoken to and in many cases can be a term of endearment, especially if one uses the Thai ending particle **จ๊ะ** / jâ /.

- ขอใจ จ๊ะ / kòp jai jâ /

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## *Thank you in context*

*Thank you* when someone gives you something

A friend gives you a birthday present

- ขอขอบคุณ สำหรับ ของขวัญ วันเกิด / kòp kun sǎm-ràp kǒng kwǎn wan gèrt /  
Thank you for the birthday present.

You ask someone for a pen and she gives it to you

- ขอ ปากกา หน่อย / kǒr bpàak gaa nòi /  
(She gives you a pen)
- ขอขอบคุณ ครับ/ค่ะ / kòp kun kráp/ká /

May I have a pen please? Thanks.

You borrow some money from your father-in-law.

- ขอขอบคุณ มาก ครับ/ค่ะ ที่ ให้ ผม ยืม เงิน / kǒr kòp kun mâak kráp/ká tée hâi pǒm yeum ngern /

Thank you so much for lending me the money.

Your daughter hands you a plate for dinner.

- ขอใจ หนู จ๊ะ / kòp jai nǒo jà /  
Thank you dear.

When a guard at a gate hands you a card you will need to present when exiting. As he hands you the card you can say *Thank you* using a contraction.

- คุณ ครับ/ค่ะ / kun kráp/ká /

Thanks.

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*Thank you* when someone does something for you

Your daughter visits you in the hospital

- ขอบใจ ที่ มา เยี่ยม พ่อ / kòp jai têe maa yíam pôr /  
Thanks for visiting Dad (me). Thanks for coming.

*Thank you* when someone helps you

- ขอบคุณ ที่ ช่วย / kòp kun têe chûay /

Thanks for the help (for helping).

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**ขอบพระคุณ** - / kòp prá-kun / A very formal way to say *Thank You*. Your mother-in-law gives you a new motorcycle. The in-fix of พระ, a word often used for monks and clergy, makes it special.

- ขอบพระคุณ ครับ/ค่ะ / kòp prá-kun kráp/ká /

Thank you sooo much.

## Honorable Mentions

ยินดี / yin dee / (Lanna Thai for *Thank you*)

The word ยินดี in Central Thai means to be “happy” to do something, “to be pleased”. (Ex. ยินดี ที่ รู้จัก / yin dee tēe rōo jàk / – Good to know you, Glad to meet you.) But in the Lanna dialect of Chiang Mai and the north it means *Thank you*.

If you want to throw in a polite particle as a male you could say it the way northern Thais say it, without the initial consonant cluster. It is pronounced คับ / káp /. The northern Thai woman say the lyrical เจ้า / jǎo /.

- ยินดี คับ/เจ้า / yin dee káp/jǎo /

And then there is Issan Thai. This is a term that lots of Bangkokians use to sound humorous.

- ขอบใจหลาย ๆ เด้อ / kòp jai lǎai lǎai dêr /  
Issan for Thanks a lot

Note: Just yesterday I heard a Bangkokian say “Thank you หลาย ๆ” / Thank you lǎai lǎai /, mixing the two languages in a humorous way, when I gave him a glass of beer. I think maybe the beer helped his creativity.

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**ขอบคุณ ที่ อ่าน** / kòp kun tēe àan /

Thanks for reading.

### Vocabulary used in this chapter

ของขวัญ	kǒng kwǎn	present
ช่วย	chûay	to help
ปากกา	bpàak gaa	pen
พ่อ	pôr	father
มา เยี่ยม	maa yíam	to come for a visit
ไม่เป็นไร	mâi bpen rai	Never mind, Don't mention it, You're welcome
ให้ ยืม เงิน	hâi yeum ngern	to lend
รู้จัก	róo jàk	to know
วันเกิด	wan gèrt	birthday
สำหรับ	sǎm-ràp	for

## Examples of Thai *Thank You* sentences

ขอบคุณ	kòp kun
ขอบคุณ ครับ/ค่ะ	kòp kun kráp/ká
ขอบคุณ มาก ครับ/ค่ะ	kòp kun mâak kráp/ká
ขอ ขอขอบคุณ ครับ/ค่ะ	kǒr kòp kun kráp/ká
ขอใจ จ๊ะ	kòp jai jâ
ขอบคุณ สำหรับ ของขวัญ วันเกิด	kòp kun sǎm-ràp kǒng kwǎn wan gèrt
ขอขอบคุณ มาก ครับ/ค่ะ ที่ให้ผมยืมเงิน	kòp kun mâak kráp/ká tēe hâi pǒm yeum ngern
คุณ ครับ/ค่ะ	kun kráp/ká
ขอใจ ที่ มา เยี่ยม พ่อ	kòp jai tēe maa yiam pōr
ขอบคุณ ที่ ช่วย	kòp kun tēe chûay
ขอขอบคุณ ครับ/ค่ะ	kòp prá-kun kráp/ká
ยินดี คับ/เจ้า	yin dee káp/jǎo
ขอใจหลาย ๆ เต๋อ	kòp jai lǎai lǎai dēr
ขอบคุณ ที่ อ่าน	kòp kun tēe àan