

THAI TEACHER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS...

Below are questions from the series on WLT, 'What Makes a Good Teacher: Interviewing Thai Teachers'. Not all of the questions will interest you enough to ask potential Thai teachers but there should be enough for everyone.

How long have you been teaching Thai to foreigners?

What made you want to teach Thai?

Who, if anyone, inspired you to become a teacher?

What motivates you to continue teaching Thai?

How long do you see yourself teaching Thai?

What qualifications do you have to teach the Thai language?

Please describe your strengths and weaknesses.

- Strengths:
- Weaknesses:

What student age brackets do you teach?

What are the types of courses that you offer?

What nationalities have you taught?

What percentage of your students are beginner, intermediate, advanced?

Apart from Thai, what other languages do you use to teach Thai?

What is your level of proficiency in those languages?

Have you studied and/or lived abroad before?

If yes, please tell us about your experiences as an overseas student or expat.

Is your teaching approach more teacher centered or student centered?

- Teacher centered: teacher teaches, students take notes.
- Student centered: student determines what they want to learn.

What are some of your favorite teaching methods?

What is your philosophy regarding the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing?

Do you use course books in teaching Thai?

If yes, which course books do you use?

What is the transliteration system used in the course books?

In your experience what, if any, are the shortcomings of the said system?

If you do not use course books, what do you use?

Do you prepare your own materials to give to your students?

If yes, what system of transliteration do you use?

In your experience what, if any, are the shortcomings of that system?

What your thoughts about the use of transliteration in teaching Thai?

In your opinion, how important is reading and writing Thai in helping foreigners learn the language?

Ideally, when should foreigners start to learn how to read and write Thai?

Do you use technology in teaching Thai? If yes, what do you use?

Do you teach in a classroom, venue(s) determined by your student(s), or via Skype?

Which setting(s) do you prefer and why?

What do you believe is the hardest subject matter to teach in the Thai language?

What are some of the issues unique to a particular nationality in learning Thai that you have observed in your students?

How do you help your students overcome those issues?

In your opinion, how important is learning about Thai culture in helping foreigners learn the language?

How do you structure courses for beginning level students?

How do you structure courses for intermediate level students?

How do you structure courses for advanced level students?

What is your philosophy in respect of teaching vocabulary?

How do you assess whether or not your students understand what you are saying and/or teaching?

What do you do when it is obvious that your students do not understand what you are saying and/or teaching?

Ideally, when should an absolute beginner begin to speak Thai?

What is your philosophy in respect of the usage of Thai during a lesson?

How do you get your students to use Thai?

How strict are you in respect of tones and/or vowel length?

What are some of the pronunciation problems unique to a particular nationality in learning Thai that you have observed in your students?

What are your thoughts about beginners learning and using colloquialisms, slang and/or swear words when they speak Thai?

What are your thoughts about beginners using ภาษาวิบัติ or 'social media Thai'?

Describe what you know about Thai language proficiency tests.

In respect of standards, what are the general expectations you have of your students?

What have you found to be the most challenging aspects of teaching Thai?

What advice would you give to students of the Thai language?

What do you do to relax? lol ...

Good luck!

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