



Be a good visitor: always take off your shoes when you enter a Khmer home!

Audio Track Twenty-Nine: “រក្សយលេង” Conversation



q1. ប្អូនមានគ្រួសារហើយនៅ? Are you married yet?

q2. អ្នករៀបការហើយរឺនៅ? Are you married yet?

a1. នៅ Not yet. (see footnote 6)

a2. ប្អូន ខ្ញុំមានប្រពន្ធហើយ Yes, I have a wife.

a3. បាទ ខ្ញុំមានប្តីហើយ Yes, I have a husband.

q. បងឈ្មោះអី? What’s your name? (see footnote 7)

a. ខ្ញុំឈ្មោះសុខា My name is Sokha.

q. មានបងប្អូននៅស្រុកក្រៅទេ? Do you have relatives abroad?

a. អត់មានទេ No, I don’t have any. (see Grammar Note G.3)

រីឯនៅទីនេះប៉ុន្មានឆ្នាំហើយ? How long have you lived here?

Track Twenty-Seven through Twenty-Nine Footnotes

1. Rural Khmer homes are elevated; the area under the house is used for storage or for keeping animals, hence the “come up into the house”.
2. When លេង is added to verbs, it usually means “to do [verb] for fun” (remember ដើរលេង , “taking a walk” in Chapter One?).

3. When you visit a Cambodians, this is usually the first question you'll be asked. And there's a reason why we're not yet telling you how to say "I already ate" here! See Culture Note C.1, and Culture Note C.3 also (for a discussion of verbs meaning "to eat").

4. នាក់ is the "classifier" for humans. To find out what this means, see Grammar Note G.1.

5. It's assumed in Khmer culture that everyone will eventually have kids. If you're past the age of 20 and don't have any—especially if you're married—Cambodians will be curious as to why, and they'll come right out and ask you like this. If you don't have kids and don't plan to, you're going to have to get used to this and come up with a stock way to answer such questions. You've been warned!

6. Okay, this single word is also the way to answer the "did you eat yet" question, which uses the same form as this question. For an explanation of this structure, see Grammar Note G.2.

Audio Track Thirty: More Kinship Terms (see Culture Note C.2)



កូន	child(ren)	ប្តីម៉ាក	Phnom Penh version
ចៅ	grandchild(ren)		of the previous term
អ៊ី	old uncle or aunt	បងប្រុស	older brother
តា	grandfather	បងស្រី	older sister
យាយ	grandmother	ប្អូនប្រុស	younger brother
ក្មួយ	nephew / niece	ប្អូនស្រី	younger sister
ដំបូនមួយ	first cousin	ប្រពន្ធ	wife
ឪពុកម្តាយ	parents	សង្សារ	girlfriend / boyfriend
ឪម៉ែ	parents (only used to refer to / address one's own parents)	រៀបការ	to get married