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LAO BASICS

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An Introduction to the Lao Language



Sam Brier & Phouphanomlack (Tee) Sangkhampone

Speak the basics, fast!

Ask anyone what they most enjoyed about visiting Laos, and they'll undoubtedly say "the people." While experiencing the country's beauty you'll meet many Lao people, and this book's very simple approach enables you speak their language.

Learn how to build conversations, and how to read and write the artistic Lao script, with **Lao Basics** as your guide.

- You will gradually learn to read, write, speak and comprehend the 26 consonants. Once you have mastered these, it's on to the 28 vowels. As you go, you'll learn vocabulary, conversational phrases, and sentence structure.
- Throughout, review exercises with answer keys help you polish your skills.
- The vocabulary and phrases are written in Lao script, and are accompanied by pronunciations that help English-speakers to say them accurately.
- The MP3 audio CD includes every vocabulary item, sample phrase, and exercise, so that you can learn from native voices.

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Sam Brier

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Acknowledgments

Although this is a short book, many thanks are in order:

Thank you Gordon Allison, the author of *Easy Thai*—the book that *Lao Basics* is modeled after. I found *Easy Thai* in a Bangkok bookstore and quickly saw that it simplified what seemed to me a very complex language. After using it to grasp the basics of Thai in a rather short period of time, I thought to myself, “If there were only a book like this for learning Lao.” Unable to find one, I decided to write it myself.

Back in Lao, I asked Tee to be my co-author, and thankfully she accepted. Tee pushed *Lao Basics* through its most difficult phase—the first draft. Souphing Saphakdy edited it to this final version. Without either of them, this book would not be in your hands now. We hope that *Lao Basics* survives the test of time, as has Allison’s *Easy Thai*, first printed in 1968 and still widely available after more than 27 printings.

There are also the many others I met in Lao who made me want to stay longer than I had planned. Much longer. And I did. Their names, if I knew half of them, would double the size of this book. Some of them I can’t forget, however: Simon Creak, Leisa Tyler, Carrie-Anne Best, Clif Meys, Liam Thammavongsa, Manichanh (Lang) Sichanhthapadid, Rome, Alain, Nick, the entire staff of the U.S. Embassy, plus Ely Ruel and everyone else at the Vientiane International School.

Although I didn’t know my wife, Linh, when I started this project, it wouldn’t feel right if I didn’t thank her for supporting me since the day we met. It would be akin to not thanking my parents, who never thought I’d live in Asia so many years, but have come to visit many times. Thank you.

Even with a great co-author, editor and excellent friends, plus the inspiration, energy and support to finish a book, it takes something special to bring it to market. Some might call it luck, but I call it a publisher. The hardest part in the publishing process is not necessarily finding a publisher, however; it’s finding

the right publisher, and I have been fortunate enough to find Tuttle Publishing and Sandra Korinchak, my editor, who have been wonderful to work with on this and our other projects together so far: *A Chinese Phrase a Day Practice Pad* and *A Japanese Phrase a Day Practice Pad*.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for having an interest in Lao, a language spoken by relatively few, but more than worth the effort to learn.

Introduction

Why Lao Basics?

Some readers may wonder why this book is not called *Laotian Basics*, or perhaps even *Laos Basics*. The English words *Laos* and *Laotian* are derived from the Lao language, but they are not accurate transliterations. The French added the “s” to *Lao*, which is the correct pronunciation of the country as well as the language and the people. For example: “Lao people speak Lao in Lao.” Hence, we have called this book *Lao Basics*.

Lao Basics teaches conversational Lao from the very beginning with an emphasis on reading and writing. It follows the same simple, effective learning format as *Easy Thai* by Gordon Allison, which has remained popular and in print since its publication in 1968.

Students of Thai will find Lao quite simple, as much of these two languages are the same or very similar. Likewise, after learning Lao, Thai (with a more complex alphabet) will be much easier to study. These languages derive from Sanskrit and share many of the same consonants, vowels, vocabulary and grammar. A Thai speaker learning Lao would be comparable to a French speaker studying Italian or vice versa.

Lao Basics is organized so that you will first learn to read, write, speak and comprehend the 26 consonants in their tonal classes. Once you have mastered these, you will study the 28 vowels in subsets. Within each vowel grouping, you will learn vocabulary, conversational phrases, alphabetical order and sentence structure through exercises that grow more challenging as your vocabulary increases.

As you progress through *Lao Basics*, vocabulary from previous lessons will be repeated regularly and your command of the written and spoken language will steadily improve.

And you can do all of this on your own. Each chapter's Lao words and exercises have been recorded on the accompanying CD, and all of the exercise answers are in the back of the book.

How to Use This Book

The Lao alphabet may look formidable, but it contains clear rules, which make learning to read and spell in Lao much easier than in English. For example, consonants and vowels are read as they are written and vice versa, as in Spanish; i.e., pronunciation does not change. And even though vowel placement may look confusing to the novice, vowels do not change location. The logical design of the written language greatly helps to learn the spoken language, and *Lao Basics* takes advantage of this in its layout.

In *Lao Basics*, the 26 Lao consonants are broken down into three classes rather than taught in alphabetical order. This follows the traditional teaching format of Lao, and we also follow this method because each grouping references a tonal category.

To use *Lao Basics* effectively, plan to move on to the next chapter only after you are confident that you have mastered the previous one. Practice writing each letter as you say it until you are 75% sure that you can recognize, say and write each correctly from memory; then move on to the exercises for reinforcement. And don't forget to listen to the audio CD for correct pronunciation. The answers to all exercises are at the back of the book.

Like English, Lao is read left to right and follows the Subject-Verb-Object word order. Additionally, most Lao letters are pronounced just like sounds that exist in English.

Lao differs from English in other ways, however. Lao has relatively little grammar, no plurals, few articles, and regularly leaves out the subject pronoun (I, He, She...) at the beginning of sentences when the context is understood. In this sense Lao can be much easier to learn than other languages.

Other aspects are more difficult to get used to. For example, there are no spaces between words in the written language; a special word is added to the end of sentences (**baw**), rather than inflection, that turns statements into questions; some vowel sounds are unfamiliar to the English speaker, and certain vowels are placed to the left of consonants, while other vowels are placed to the right, above and below. But, have no fear—unlike English, the rules are easy to follow, and each vowel combination is only pronounced one way.

A note on writing Lao script: Most consonants and some vowels start with a small loop. In order to write the letter correctly, *start with the loop at one end of the letter* and follow the letter through to the other end. Here is an example:



Each chapter contains explanations where necessary to make your learning experience more enjoyable, so let's leave it at that and get started.

The Tones

Consonant/Tonal Groupings

This chapter gives a brief overview of the Lao tones, and we recommend that you work with both the accompanying audio CD and a Lao language teacher to master them.

Lao Basics divides each consonant into one of the three traditional groupings (or classes): Mid, Low, or High. The consonants in each particular grouping follow the same rules when accompanied by various combinations of ending consonants, vowels (short, long or nasal), and tonal marks. For example, all eight Mid consonants follow the same rules, whereas Low consonants have their own rules. And High consonants have their own rules. Sometimes, rules do overlap groups, but rules rarely cover all groups.

It can be very difficult to memorize a chart with all of these peculiarities, and for that reason *Lao Basics* takes a different path. **Instead of memorizing a chart, you will learn to read, write, comprehend and say each consonant, each vowel, each word and each sentence in this book; in short you will learn by doing.**

Listen closely to the pronunciation on the CD, and if possible, work with a native Lao speaker to master these sounds.

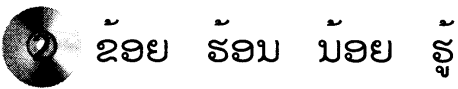
Tone Marks

There are four tonal marks that are placed over some Lao vowels from time to time, but only two are regularly used, and we have attempted to teach you mostly words without tone marks for the first part of the vowel section.

The first tonal symbol is called **mai eik** (pronounced “my ehk”). It looks like a short number “1” placed over a letter ['] and causes the sound of all words that contain this tone mark to take on a middle (slightly high) pitch. Here are some examples:



The second tonal symbol is called **mai too**. You will learn later in the vowel section that **mai** is a short sound and **too** is a long sound, pronounced “my toe.” Since English is rarely consistent in pronunciation, however, we use a different transliteration system, which you will learn as you progress through the book. **Mai too** looks like a tiny, squiggly number “2” with a long tail [~]. When this is placed over a vowel, it causes the sound of Mid and Low Consonant words to drop from a high tone to a low one, while it causes words starting with a High consonant to fall from an already low starting point. Here are some examples:



The third tonal symbol is **mai jat dta waa** or “my jaht dtah wah” [~] and the fourth is **mai dtii** or “my dtee” [*]. The former looks like a little lowercase *m* with a tail, and the latter looks like a tiny plus sign. They are both seldom used and change the sound of words to a short “pop”ping sound.

The Consonants

LESSON 1

Mid Consonants (Part I)



LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ᦅ	1	gaw	<i>g</i>
ᦑ	5	jaw	<i>j</i>
ᦅ	9	daw	<i>d</i>
ᦅ	10	dtaw	<i>dt</i>

The letter ᦅ is often transliterated as *k* in other Lao language books instead of *g*, as we have used here. When found at the *beginning* of a word, the American *g* sound is spot-on, but a soft *k* sound is appropriate when ᦅ is found at the *end* of a word. An easy way to remember this is that *g* comes before *k* in the English alphabet.

The sound *aw* is added to Lao letters to make the name of the letter. For example, instead of saying *gee* as we would for the letter *g* in English, one must say *gaw* for the letter ᦅ, as shown in the chart.

There are no capital or lowercase letters in Lao, and there are no spaces between words in sentences.

As you look at each Lao example and listen to the audio, below and throughout these chapters, focus on hearing the consonant's sound; don't worry about understanding entire words.



Examples of ᦅ sound at the beginning of a word: ກັບ / ກິນ

Examples of ᦅ sound at the end of a word: ນິກ / ຮັກ

The letter ᦑ is often written as *ch* in other guides (often printed in England), but once again you will find that the American English *j* is more accurate.

42 Example of ຈ sound: ຈະ / ຈີ້

The letter ຈ at the beginning of a word sounds like an American *d*, with the tongue curved farther back toward the center of the roof of the mouth. At the end of a word, ຈ has the sound of a soft *t*.

43 Examples of ດ sound at the beginning of a word: ດາວ / ດີ
Examples of ດ sound at the end of a word: ປີດ / ຢຸດ

The letter ຕ has no exact mirror sound in English, but does come close to the soft *t* spoken at the end of English words. For example: the soft *t* in *what*, but not the *t* in *Texas*. It is therefore not the equivalent of a plain *t* as it is so often written. It is rather a mix between a *d* and *t*, hence *dt*. This sound is made by slightly touching your tongue against the back of your upper-front teeth and making a *d* sound. These fine subtleties may not sound much different to you and me, but they do change the meaning for Lao people.

44 Examples of ຕ sound: ຕົວະ / ແຕກ

Exercises

Refer to the answer key at the back of the book when necessary. If you need to refer to the answer key during this first exercise you probably haven't spent enough time writing each letter and memorizing the chart.


A. Write in English:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. ດ | 6. ດ |
| 2. ຈ | 7. ກ |
| 3. ກ | 8. ຈ |
| 4. ຕ | 9. ຕ |
| 5. ຈ | 10. ກ |

45 Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD. Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. daw | 6. gaw |
| 2. gaw | 7. jaw |
| 3. dtaw | 8. dtaw |
| 4. jaw | 9. daw |
| 5. dtaw | 10. gaw |

 Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD. Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 2

Mid Consonants (Part II)

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ບ	14	baw	<i>b</i>
ຸ	15	bpaw	<i>bp</i>
ຢ	21	yaw	<i>y</i>
ອ	32	aw	<i>aw</i>


The letter ບ sounds like an American *b* at the beginning of a word, but a soft American *p* at the end of a word.

Examples of ບ sound at the beginning of a word: ບໍ່ / ບອກ
 Examples of ຸ sound at the end of a word: ກັບ / ແຂບ

The letter ຸ has no exact English counterpart and it is not a *p* as is so often written. Instead it is a *b* unaspirated (no air leaves your mouth) with a slight *p* sound included; hence use *bp*. This sound can be made by putting your lips together like you are going to say a *b* and then pushing your lips with a bit of air like you are saying a soft *p* sound (but do not let air out). It is not usually mastered too quickly and may require much practice. If you get frustrated with this sound, say the sound *p*, and most people will understand what you are saying.

Examples of ຢ sound: ປີດ / ປາ


The letter ອ has the audacity to act as a vowel, although it is included with the consonants. When accompanied by consonants, it sounds like *aw* (*awkward*); when combined only with a vowel it takes on that vowel's sound. For now, however, we will only focus on its use with consonants and will study how it works with vowels when we reach that section.

 Examples of ອ sound when combined with a consonant: ຂອງ / ບອກ

Exercises


A. Write in English:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. ດ | 9. ຕ |
| 2. ຈ | 10. ປ |
| 3. ຕ | 11. ຈ |
| 4. ຢ | 12. ອ |
| 5. ອ | 13. ບ |
| 6. ປ | 14. ຢ |
| 7. ບ | 15. ກ |
| 8. ອ | 16. ດ |

 Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.


B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. aw | 9. gaw |
| 2. yaw | 10. daw |
| 3. bpaw | 11. aw |
| 4. dtaw | 12. jaw |
| 5. gaw | 13. bpaw |
| 6. aw | 14. daw |
| 7. jaw | 15. yaw |
| 8. baw | 16. aw |

 Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.


LESSON 3

Low Consonants (Part I)




LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ຄ	3	kaw	<i>k</i>
ງ	4	ngaw	<i>ng</i>
ຊ	7	saw	<i>s</i>
ຍ	8	nyaw	<i>ny</i>
ທ	12	taw	<i>t</i>
ນ	13	naw	<i>n</i>

Found at the beginning and end of words, ງ is spoken just like the *ng* in *sing*. Native English speakers will have no problem correctly pronouncing *ng* at the end of words, but it can be difficult to grasp when spoken first. As the back of your tongue hits the top-back of the roof of your mouth, on the edge of your throat, your nose will vibrate a bit when you try to say the *ng* in *sing* without the *si*. The sound comes out of both your nose and mouth; i.e., you can't say it properly if you pinch your nose closed. One way to practice this sound is to say *Sing it* over and over, eventually getting to the point where you can remove the *s* and then the *i* from *sing*. Then you will be saying *ngit*, which is a good start.



Examples of ງ sound at the beginning of a word: ງົວ / ເງິນ
 Examples of ງ sound at the end of a word: ເຄື່ອງ / ສຽງ

The letter ຍ at the *beginning* of a word sounds like *nyuh* or like the *nio* in *onion*, but is pronounced like the *y* in *boy* at the *end* of a word.



Examples of ຍ sound at the beginning of a word: ຍັງ / ຍຸງ
 Examples of ຍ sound at the end of a word: ເຄີຍ / ນອຍ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. ດ | 9. ຊ | 17. ຄ |
| 2. ຊ | 10. ຕ | 18. ຢ |
| 3. ກ | 11. ຈ | 19. ບ |
| 4. ງ | 12. ດ | 20. ຕ |
| 5. ປ | 13. ນ | 21. ກ |
| 6. ຈ | 14. ງ | 22. ອ |
| 7. ຍ | 15. ບ | 23. ນ |
| 8. ຄ | 16. ປ | 24. ຊ |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. kaw | 9. nyaw | 17. saw |
| 2. daw | 10. bpaw | 18. gaw |
| 3. ngaw | 11. taw | 19. naw |
| 4. saw | 12. aw | 20. bpaw |
| 5. naw | 13. yaw | 21. ngaw |
| 6. baw | 14. daw | 22. baw |
| 7. dtaw | 15. jaw | 23. kaw |
| 8. ngaw | 16. kaw | 24. daw |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 4

Low Consonants (Part II)

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ພ	18	paw	<i>p</i>
ຟ	19	faw	<i>f</i>
ມ	20	maw	<i>m</i>
ລ	22	law	<i>l</i>
ວ	23	waw	<i>w</i>
ຮ	32	haw	<i>h</i>


ວ (**waw**) acts both as a consonant and vowel, which you will see later. Some language guides classify this sound as *v* and some as *w*, and sometimes it is hard to tell which it is when it begins a word. For clarity's sake we have chosen *w*, since it is quite clear that Lao people do say "wolleyball" rather than "volleyball." When placed at the end of a word, like ລາວ (*Lao*), ວ sounds like "oh" and is transliterated as the *o* in *Lao*. (Although some might feel that it sounds closer to the *ow* in *now*, the *ow* is used for another vowel sound.)

Examples of ວ sound at the beginning of a word: ວຽກ / ເວລາ

Examples of ວ sound at the end of a word: ລາວ / ດາວ



Note: You will see in the vowel section that *Lao* would normally be written as *Lao* using our transliteration system, but because it is so commonly written in English as "Lao," we have opted to simply leave it be when we use it as an English word. Remember, however, that *Lao* is a long sound (*laao*).

Before 1975, the Lao language did have the letter **ᨾ** (**raw**), which looks quite similar to the **ᨿ** (**haw**), except that the **r** is rounded at the top while the **h** is bent upward in the same place. It is worth noting this in case you study Thai or visit Thailand, where the **r** is still in use and regularly replaces the Lao **h** sound in words such as **hoong hian** (*school*). In Thai, it is **roong rian**.

 Example of **ᨿ** sound: ໂຮງຮຽນ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------|
|  1. ພ | 11. ຄ | 21. ດ |
| 2. ມ | 12. ຈ | 22. ລ |
| 3. ທ | 13. ຕ | 23. ຢ |
| 4. ດ | 14. ຊ | 24. ຮ |
| 5. ຟ | 15. ນ | 25. ມ |
| 6. ວ | 16. ຍ | 26. ພ |
| 7. ລ |  17. ທ | 27. ທ |
| 8. ບ | 18. ວ | 28. ອ |
| 9. ຮ | 19. ໆ | 29. ປ |
| 10. ພ | 20. ກ | 30. ດ |

Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write the English for the Lao script:


- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. daw | 11. baw | 21. dtaw |
| 2. paw | 12. dtaw | 22. kaw |
| 3. law | 13. maw | 23. naw |
| 4. maw | 14. waw | 24. bpaw |
| 5. naw | 15. faw | 25. waw |
| 6. aw | 16. yaw | 26. ngaw |
| 7. saw | 17. nyaw | 27. yaw |
| 8. jaw | 18. saw | 28. gaw |
| 9. faw | 19. ngaw | 29. nyaw |
| 10. paw | 20. taw | 30. faw |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.


LESSON 5

High Consonants



LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ຂ	2	k(h)aw	(h)
ສ	6	saw	s
ຖ	11	t(h)aw	t(h)
ຜ	16	p(h)aw	p(h)
ຝ	17	faw	f
ຫ	24	haw	h

The transliterated (*h*) that you will see from here on out means there is a slight aspiration (puff of air) after the initial letter. It's natural for English speakers to aspirate words unknowingly, such as *park*, *boy*, and *huh?* The letters we aspirate are not always the same in Lao, however. Pay close attention to these, as some look and sound quite similar, such as ພ (*p*) and ຜ (*ph*).



Examples of ພ sound: ແພງ / ສຸພາບ
 Examples of ຜ sound: ຜົວ / ຜູ້ສາວ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. ພ | 6. ດ | 11. ລ |
| 2. ນ | 7. ຟ | 12. ບ |
| 3. ຂ | 8. ວ | 13. ຮ |
| 4. ມ | 9. ສ | 14. ຜ |
| 5. ຫ | 10. ທ | 15. ທ |

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 16. ພ | 25. ວ | 34. ມ |
| 17. ຄ | 26. ງ | 35. ຝ |
| 18. ຈ | 27. ຫ | 36. ຜ |
| 19. ຕ | 28. ກ | 37. ທ |
| 20. ຊ | 29. ດ | 38. ອ |
| 21. ນ | 30. ລ | 39. ປ |
| 22. ຢ | 31. ຢ | 40. ຫ |
| 23. ທ | 32. ຂ | |
| 24. ຖ | 33. ຮ | |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:



- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. daw | 15. faw | 29. nyaw |
| 2. paw | 16. yaw | 30. faw |
| 3. law | 17. nyaw | 31. haw |
| 4. maw | 18. saw | 32. jaw |
| 5. naw | 19. ngaw | 33. maw |
| 6. aw | 20. taw | 34. p(h)aw |
| 7. haw | 21. dtaw | 35. paw |
| 8. jaw | 22. k(h)aw | 36. law |
| 9. t(h)aw | 23. naw | 37. faw |
| 10. p(h)aw | 24. bpaw | 38. dtaw |
| 11. baw | 25. waw | 39. saw |
| 12. kaw | 26. ngaw | 40. naw |
| 13. maw | 27. yaw | |
| 14. waw | 28. gaw | |



Note: Don't forget—there are now two ways to write the Lao *s*, *f* and *h*.

Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

You've finished learning the 26 Lao consonants. Now, there are just six special spellings to learn. **They are grouped along with the Rising Consonants** you just studied, but we are giving them their own special section so you don't get overloaded.

LESSON 6

High Consonants with Special Spellings

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ຫງ	26	ngaw	<i>ng</i>
ຫຍ	27	nyaw	<i>ny</i>
ໜ	28	naw	<i>n</i>
ໝ	29	maw	<i>m</i>
ຫຼ or ຫລ	30	law	<i>l</i>
ຫວ	31	waw	<i>w</i>

The letter ຫ (haw) is added to the other letters only for some words, but the word maintains the sound of the second letter.

ໜ and ໝ are created like this: ຫ + ນ = ໜ

ຫ + ມ = ໝ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|--------|
| 24 | 1. ຫ | 10. ຍ | 19. ຫວ |
| | 2. ທ | 11. ລ | 20. ຫລ |
| | 3. ສ | 12. ໝ | 21. ປ |
| | 4. ຊ | 13. ຈ | 22. ຜ |
| | 5. ຟ | 14. ໜ | 23. ບ |
| | 6. ຫຍ | 15. ຖ | 24. ຫຼ |
| | 7. ກ | 16. ຂ | 25. ວ |
| | 8. ພ | 17. ຕ | 26. ຝ |
| | 9. ນ | 25 | 18. ຄ |
| | | | 27. ຫງ |

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 28. ມ | 37. ກ | 46. ຝ |
| 29. ອ | 38. ທ | 47. ຖ |
| 30. ຮ | 39. ທລ | 48. ຄ |
| 31. ຜ | 40. ບ | 49. ຕ |
| 32. ງ | 41. ຢ | 50. ທຍ |
| 33. ໝ | 42. ນ | 51. ຊ |
| 34. ຫຼ | 43. ຮ | 52. ທ |
| 35. ສ | 44. ພ | |
| 36. ດ | 45. ຢ | |

Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

Note: There are two ways to write the characters you just learned: with and without the ທ.

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------|----|------------|----|------------|
| 25 | 1. daw | 27 | 19. bpaw | 28 | 37. haw |
| | 2. k(h)aw | | 20. faw | | 38. nyaw |
| | 3. waw | | 21. t(h)aw | | 39. paw |
| | 4. paw | | 22. nyaw | | 40. yaw |
| | 5. taw | | 23. ngaw | | 41. maw |
| | 6. saw | | 24. p(h)aw | | 42. daw |
| | 7. yaw | | 25. law | | 43. aw |
| | 8. haw | | 26. saw | | 44. t(h)aw |
| | 9. law | | 27. taw | | 45. faw |
| | 10. jaw | | 28. dtaw | | 46. ngaw |
| | 11. dtaw | | 29. bpaw | | 47. p(h)aw |
| | 12. faw | | 30. yaw | | 48. law |
| | 13. aw | | 31. gaw | | 49. baw |
| | 14. gaw | | 32. kaw | | 50. bpaw |
| | 15. k(h)aw | | 33. naw | | 51. daw |
| | 16. baw | | 34. jaw | | 52. maw |
| | 17. maw | | 35. taw | | |
| | 18. naw | | 36. waw | | |

Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD. You'll notice that in cases where there are two spellings, the audio states both, as they are spoken slightly differently.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

REVIEW 1

LESSON 7



Alphabetical Order of Consonants as Found in Dictionary:

- | | |
|-------|------------|
| 1. ກ | 17. ຝ |
| 2. ຂ | 18. ພ |
| 3. ຄ | 19. ຟ |
| 4. ງ | 20. ມ |
| 5. ຈ | 21. ຢ |
| 6. ສ | 22. ລ |
| 7. ຊ | 23. ວ |
| 8. ຍ | 24. ຫ |
| 9. ດ | 25. ອ |
| 10. ຕ | 26. ຮ |
| 11. ຖ | 27. ຫງ |
| 12. ທ | 28. ຫຍ |
| 13. ນ | 29. ຫ |
| 14. ບ | 30. ຫ |
| 15. ປ | 31. ຫ / ຫລ |
| 16. ຜ | 32. ຫວ |

The Vowels

LESSON 8

Right Side Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH SPELLING
X ^๕	1	as in <i>ha!</i> (short)	<i>a</i>
X ^๑	3	as in <i>father</i> (long)	<i>aa</i>
X ^๑	32	as in U.S. <i>Mom</i> (long)	<i>aam</i>

Examples of X^๕ sound: ຈ^๕, ຕ^๕, ມ^๕

Examples of X^๑ sound: ປ^๑, ມ^๑, ຫ^๑

Examples of X^๑ sound: ນ^๑, ດ^๑, ທ^๑

The construction of Lao words, with the above vowels, is shown below:

Ex. ຈ + x^๕ = ຈ^๕

J + a = Ja

Ex. ມ + x^๑ = ມ^๑

M + aa = Maa

Ex. ດ + x^๑ = ດ^๑

D + aam = Daam


Notice that Lao has “short” and “long” vowel sounds. It is important to pay attention to this point in words that you learn, because meanings do vary accordingly.

The vowel x^๑ is made up of two separate vowel parts: X̣ and X^๑. You’ll learn more about these soon.

Exercises


A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|--------|---------|------------|
| 1. ຈະ | 8. ປາ | 15. ຖາມ |
| 2. ມາ | 9. ລາວ | 16. ທຳລາຍ |
| 3. ນ້ຳ | 10. ງາມ | 17. ຫາກ |
| 4. ຢາ | 11. ດຳ | 18. ຕະຫຼາດ |
| 5. ຕາ | 12. ຊາ | 19. ຢາກ |
| 6. ຕາຍ | 13. ຍາກ | 20. ຂາວ |
| 7. ຢາກ | 14. ດາວ | |

 Now listen to these words, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. daao | 8. yaa | 15. dtalaat |
| 2. laao | 9. naam | 16. daam |
| 3. ngaam | 10. yaak | 17. bpaa |
| 4. ja | 11. haak | 18. saa |
| 5. yaak | 12. k(h)aao | 19. maa |
| 6. nyaak | 13. naam | 20. dtaai |
| 7. t(h)aam | 14. laao | |

 Now listen to these words, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

- ລາວ, ຊາ, ຈະ, ຫາກ
- ຢາກ, ຕາ, ຢາ, ງາມ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ດາວ
- ຂາວ, ປາ, ຕາ, ນ້ຳ ຖາມ, ຢາກ, ຕາຍ, ດາວ, ລາວ

LESSON 9

Vocabulary A

Some of the words you just learned to read and write, along with a few new ones, are listed in alphabetical order below with their meanings.



#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ຂາວ	k(h)aa0	white (<i>adj</i>)
2	ລາວ	laao	(s)he (<i>n</i>), Laos (<i>n</i>)
3	ງາມ	ngaam	pretty (<i>adj</i>)
4	ຈະ	ja	will (<i>in the future</i>)
5	ຊາ	saa	tea (<i>n</i>)
6	(ຊອກ)ຫາ	(sawk) haa	look for (<i>v</i>)
7	ຍາກ	nyaak	difficult (<i>adj</i>)
8	ດາວ	daao	star in sky (<i>n</i>), person's name
9	ຕະຫຼາດ	dtalaat	market (<i>n</i>)
10	ຖາມ	t(h)aam	ask (<i>v</i>)
11	ນ້ຳ	naam	water (<i>n</i>)
12	ປາ	bpaa	fish (<i>n</i>)
13	ມາ	maa	come (<i>v</i>)
14	ຢາ	yaa	medicine (<i>n</i>)
15	ຢາກ	yaak	want (<i>v</i>)
16	ຮາກ	haak	vomit (<i>n</i>), (<i>v</i>)

Nouns and verbs do not change form in Lao. In other words, *come* and *came* are both the same word: ມາ (**maa**). Other words are added in Lao to give time/tense context. This will be explained in more detail further on.

Articles that we are familiar with in English, such as *a*, *an*, *the*, are not used in Lao, but other words are used to signify superlatives and the kinds of objects you are counting (round, flat, animal, person, etc.).

ຢາກ (**yaak**) means *to want*. When a verb follows, it means you want to do something. When you want an object, say “Yaak dai [object].”

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. ຢາດາວ | 5. ລາວຢາກມາຕະຫຼາດ |
| 2. ປາງາມ | 6. ດາວມາ |
| 3. ດາວຊອກຫາຊາ | 7. ປາຂາວ |
| 4. ລາວຮາກ | 8. ລາວຈະຊອກຫາປາ |



Now listen to these phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. White fish. | 5. The fish will come. |
| 2. Dao is looking for medicine. | 6. Dao's tea. |
| 3. It's difficult. | 7. She is pretty. |
| 4. (S)he vomited. | 8. The fish wants to vomit. |



Now listen to these phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

Notes:

Adjectives follow their respective nouns. For example, “black car” in English becomes “car black” in Lao.

Possessives work like this: “Sam’s dog” in English becomes “dog (of) Sam” in Lao, but the *of* is often left out. This will be explained in more detail when we learn about the word for *of*.

LESSON 10

Top Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH SPELLING
ᨧᨶ	2	as in <i>ah!</i> (short) same as Xᨶ	<i>a</i>
ᨧᨶᨶ	17	as in <i>home</i>	<i>o</i>
ᨧᨶᨶᨶ	4	as in <i>it</i> (short)	<i>i</i>
ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶ	5	as in <i>bee</i> (long)	<i>ii</i>
ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ	6	as in <i>look</i> (short)	<i>uh</i>
ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ	7	as in <i>look</i> (long)	<i>uhh</i>
ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ	20	as in <i>law</i>	<i>aw</i>

- Examples of ᨧᨶ sound: ກັບ, ຮັກ, ຍັງ
- Examples of ᨧᨶᨶ sound: ຄົນ, ຫົກ, ນົກ
- Examples of ᨧᨶᨶᨶ sound: ປິດ, ກິນ
- Examples of ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶ sound: ມີ, ດີ
- Examples of ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ sound: ຂົມ, ສີ
- Examples of ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ sound: ລົມ, ຈີ້, ຄືກັນ
- Examples of ᨧᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶᨶ sound: ຂໍ, ບໍ່

The construction of Lao words, with the above vowels, is shown below:

Ex. ກ + ຳ + ບ = ກັບ
g + a + p = gap

Ex. ຄ + ື + ນ = ຄົນ
k + o + n = kon

Ex. ບ + ື + ດ = ບິດ
bp + i + t = bpit

Ex. ມ + ື = ມີ
m + ii = mii

Ex. ຂ + ື + ມ = ຂຶ້ນ
k(h) + uh + m = k(h)uhm

Ex. ລ + ື + ມ = ລືມ
l + uhh + m = luhhm

Ex. ຂ + ະ = ຂໍ
k(h) + aw = k(h)aw

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. ດີຫຼາຍ | 8. ຮັກ | 15. ຍັງ |
| 2. ກັບ | 9. ຫຼື | 16. ບໍ່ |
| 3. ຈີ້ | 10. ຫົກ | 17. ຖືກ |
| 4. ຂໍ | 11. ບໍ່ | 18. ຄືກັນ |
| 5. ມີ | 12. ທຳມະດາ | 19. ນົກ |
| 6. ບິດ | 13. ຄົນລາວ | 20. ຫ້ຍງ |
| 7. ກິນ | 14. ລືມ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. mii | 11. t(h)uhhk |
| 2. luhhm | 12. hak |
| 3. kuhhn | 13. nok |
| 4. dii laai | 14. gin |
| 5. baw | 15. kuhh gan |
| 6. nyang | 16. tam ma daa |
| 7. yaa | 17. juh |
| 8. bpit | 18. gap |
| 9. k(h)aw | 19. kon laao |
| 10. hok | 20. baw |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

- ນົກ, ກັບ, ທຳມະດາ, ລົມ
- ຈີ່, ຂໍ່, ມີ, ປິດ, ກັບ, ບໍ່, ຄົນລາວ, ກິນ
- ຄືກັນ, ຮັກ, ຫຼື, ກິນ, ຍັງ, ບໍ່, ຂໍ່, ດີຫຼາຍ

LESSON 11

Vocabulary B

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ກັບ(ບ້ານ)	gap(baan)	with, return (home) (v), (n)
2	ກິນ	gin	eat (v)
3	ຂໍ	k(h)aw	may (used when asking for something)
4	ຄືກັນ	kuhh'gan	same, also (adj)
5	ຄົນລາວ	kon laao	Lao person (n)
6	ຈື່	juhh	remember (v)
7	ຍັງ	nyang	not yet (adv)
8	ດີຫຼາຍ	dii laai	very good (adv, adj)
9	ທຳມະດາ	tam ma daa	normal, regular (adj)
10	ນົກ	nok	bird, person's name (n)
11	ບໍ່	baw	no, ?
12	ປິດ	bpit	close (v)
13	ມັກ	mak	like (v)
14	ມີ	mii	have (v)
15	ລືມ	luhbm	forget (v)
16	ຮັກ	hak	love (v)

ກັບ (gap) is often used in conjunction with a place you are going back to such as home (ກັບບ້ານ / gap baan). For example, someone might ask you where you're going: jow pbai sai? You can reply gap baan ("Returning home").

401 ກັບ gap
ເຈົ້າໄປໃສ? jow pbai sai?
ກັບບ້ານ gap ban.

ຂໍ (k(h)aw) is usually used to ask for something. For example, k(h)aw bpa daae (May I have the fish, please?). Daae means “please.”

402 ຂໍ k(h)aw
ຂໍປາແດ່ k(h)aw bpa daae?

ຄືກັນ (kuhh'gan) is usually placed after a subject or verb, similar to how we use *too*, *also*, *either* and *neither* in English. For example, k(h)awy kuhh'gan means “Me, too.” k(h)awy means “I” or “me.”

403 ຄືກັນ kuhh'gan
ຂອຍຄືກັນ k(h)awy kuhh'gan.

ດີ (dii) means “good”; ຫຼາຍ (laai) means “very” or “really.” These words are used as often as we use them in English. ຫຼາຍ is always placed *after* the adjective (meaning “very” _____) or noun (meaning “many” or “a lot of” _____). For example, dii laai means “very good,” and nok laai means “a lot of birds.”

404 ດີ dii
ດີຫຼາຍ dii laai
ນົກຫຼາຍ nok laai

405 ທຳມະດາ (tam ma daa) is used to describe something as “regular, normal,” or “so-so.” It can indicate, for instance, the kind of gasoline that you want. Or if something is “only okay,” ທຳມະດາ is the perfect thing to say.

ບໍ່ (baw) has a tonal mark over it called mai ehk. It has been covered in the tones chapter. ບໍ່ carries with it two meanings:

1) When used at the beginning of a sentence, or alone, it means “No,” or “Don’t.”

- 2) When placed at the end of a sentence, ບໍ່ turns the statement into a question. But note, ບໍ່ is not needed to make interrogative sentences when question words are used, such as “what?”, “how many?”, “who?”, etc.

423

ບໍ່ baw

ບໍ່ກິນປາ baw gin bpaā = Don't eat fish.

ກິນປາ gin bpaā = Eat fish.

ກິນປາບໍ່? gin bpaā baw? = Do you eat fish?

ບໍ່ກິນປາບໍ່? baw gin bpaā baw? = You don't eat fish?

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. ລາວຍັງບໍ່ກັບມາລາວ | 5. ນົກຈະຊອກຫາປາ |
| 2. ດາວມີນົກ | 6. ມັກບໍ່? |
| 3. ຄົນລາວມັກກິນປາ | 7. ດາວມີຢາດີຫຼາຍ |
| 4. ລົມຄືກັນ | |

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Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. She likes white birds.
2. He has a lot of water.
3. (I will) come back to the market, too.
4. Do you love her/him?
5. (S)he doesn't have any.
6. Ask her.
7. The market still has pretty birds, white fish (and) very good medicine.

44

Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 12

Bottom Vowels

LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH
ຸ	8	as in <i>glue</i> (short)	<i>u</i>
ູ	9	as in <i>dude</i> (long)	<i>uu</i>

Examples of ຸ sound: ຢູ່, ກູ່ງ

Examples of ູ sound: ຢູ່, ສູ່

In Between Vowels

LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH
ຸອຸ	21	as in <i>law</i> (long)	<i>aw</i>
ຸຸ	27	as in the name <i>Ian</i> (short)	<i>ia</i>

Examples of ຸອຸ sound: ຂອງ, ນອນ

Examples of ຸຸ sound: ສຸນ, ວຸກ

Top and Right/Middle Vowels

LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH
ໂວະ, ັວ໋	30, 31	as in u + a (short)	<i>ua</i>
ໂວ, ະວ	32, 33	as in uu + a (long)	<i>uua</i>

Example of ໂວະ, ັວ໋ sound: ຕົວະ

Examples of ໂວ, ະວ sound: ງົວ, ກ່ວາ

ອ (**aw**) and ວ (**uua**) are both consonants as well as vowels (learned earlier). ອ is pronounced **aw**- unless next to another vowel, when it takes on the sound of that vowel.

481 ອ **aw**

ວ **uua**

Examples of ອ next to another vowel: ອາ / ອັງກິດ

Remember, when ວ begins or ends a word, it sounds like **w**. But as a vowel, in the middle of a word, it sounds like a short or long (**u**)**ua**.

482 Example of *short* ວ sound in the middle of a word: ຕົວະ


483 Examples of *long* ວ sound in the middle of a word: ຜົວ / ຄວາຍ

Exercises

A. Write in English:


- | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 1. ກຸ້ງ | 4. ຂຽນ | 7. ກ່ວາ |
| 2. ງົວ | 5. ຂອງ | 8. ຮຽນ |
| 3. ສຸພາບ | 6. ນອນ | 9. ຕົວະ |

- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| 10. ກ່ວາ | 17. ຍຸງ | 24. ຂອຍ |
| 11. ສອນ | 18. ໝູ່ | 25. ຮອນ |
| 12. ບອກ | 19. ສຽງ | 26. ນອຍ |
| 13. ສູບ | 20. ຢຸດ | 27. ຮູ້ |
| 14. ຈອກ | 21. ຜູ້ຊາຍ | 28. ຜູ້ສາວ |
| 15. ຄວາຍ | 22. ດຽວ | |
| 16. ວຽກ | 23. ຂວາ | |

 Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. p(h)uua | 11. huu | 21. k(h)awy |
| 2. nawn | 12. kuaay | 22. p(h)uu saai |
| 3. gung | 13. k(h)awg | 23. bawk |
| 4. jawk | 14. p(h)uu saao | 24. hian |
| 5. yut | 15. hawn | 25. diao |
| 6. suup | 16. nyung | 26. siang |
| 7. supaap | 17. dtua | 27. sawn |
| 8. nguua | 18. muu | 28. nawy |
| 9. wiak | 19. k(h)ian | |
| 10. k(h)uaa | 20. guaa | |

 Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

- ສຸພາບ, ຢຸດ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ຄວາຍ
- ຈອກ, ກຸ້ງ, ດຽວ, ຂອງ, ໝູ່, ຜູ້ສາວ, ວຽກ, ດີກ່ວາ
- ສູບ, ສອນ, ຜົວ, ຮູ້, ບອກ, ຮຽນ, ງົວ, ຍຸງ

LESSON 13

Vocabulary C

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ກຸ່ງ	gung	shrimp (<i>n</i>)
2	ກ່ວາ	guaa	intensifier (“-er”)
3	ຂອງ	k(h)awng	possessive “of”
4	ຂ້ອຍ	k(h)awy	I (<i>personal pronoun</i>)
5	ຂຽນ	k(h)ian	write (<i>v</i>)
6	ຄວາຍ	kuaay	water buffalo (<i>n</i>)
7	ງົວ	nguaa	cow, beef (<i>n</i>)
8	ຈອກ	jawk	cup, glass (<i>n</i>)
9	ສູບ	suup	smoke (<i>v</i>)
10	ສຽງ	siang	sound (<i>n</i>)
11	ຍຸງ	nyung	mosquito (<i>n</i>)
12	ດຽວ	diao	only (<i>adj</i>)
13	ຕົວະ	dtua	lie (<i>v</i>)
14	ນ້ອຍ	nawy	little (<i>adj</i>), name (<i>person</i>)
15	ນອນ	nawn	sleep (<i>v</i>)
16	ບອກ	bawk	tell (<i>v</i>)
17	ຜູ້ສາວ	p(h)uu saao	woman (<i>n</i>)
18	ຜູ້ຊາຍ	p(h)uu saai	man (<i>n</i>)
19	ຜົວ	p(h)uua	husband (<i>n</i>)

20	ໝູ່	muu	friend (<i>n</i>)
21	ຢຸດ	yut	stop (<i>v</i>)
22	ວຽກ	wiak	work (<i>n</i>)
23	ຮູ້	huu	know (<i>v</i>)
24	ຮຽນ	hian	study (<i>v</i>)
25	ຮ້ອນ	hawn	hot (<i>adj</i>)

ຂອງ (**k(h)awng**) is commonly left out of daily speech but is used often enough to learn. For example, “I” is ຂອຍ (**k(h)awy**), but “my” or “mine” is ຂອງຂອຍ. In other words, “of I” or “of me.” Although Lao people may not use ຂອງ often, it may help you make yourself understood more clearly.

Suppose you’re at a bar and you’re not sure which drink is yours. You may point to a glass and ask, “ຂອງຂອຍບໍ່?” **k(h)awng k(ha)wy baw?** (Is it mine?) And the person you’re asking may very well say, “ຂອງຂອຍ.” **k(h)awng k(h)awy.** (It’s mine.) Or (s)he may say **baw huu**, “(I) don’t know.” Note that the subject, *glass* in this case, is usually left out if it is understood.

You’ll see a few water buffaloes in Laos, but not as many as before. Remember, ຂໍ (**k(h)aw**) means “please,” ຂອຍ (**k(h)awy**) means “I,” and ຄວາຍ (**kuuay**: the long *uua* sounds like *waa*) means “water buffalo.”



ຂອງ **k(h)awng**

ຂອງຂອຍບໍ່? **k(h)awng k(ha)wy baw?**

ຂອງຂອຍ. **k(h)awng k(h)awy.**

ຂໍ **k(h)aw**

ຂອຍ **k(h)awy**

ຄວາຍ **kuuay**

ດຽວ (**diao**) is a classifier that is generally placed after a noun to mean only one of that noun. For example, ຄົນດຽວ (**kon diao**) means “only me; just one person,” “alone,” or “just me” (if you’re talking about yourself).


 522 ດົງວ ດiao

Do not use ຕົວະ (dtua) in any accusing manner. Lao people don't raise their voices often, but this could cause a flareup of emotions, just as it would anywhere else.

Exercises


A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ຜົວຂອງດາວ | 5. ນ້ອຍຊອກຫາຢາສູບ |
| 2. ຄົນລາວ | 6. ມີບໍ່? |
| 3. ນ້ອຍຮຽນຫຼາຍໆ | 7. ບໍ່ມີ |
| 4. ຮອນຫຼາຍ | 8. ຂ້ອຍມີວຽກຫຼາຍ |

 53 Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD. Repeat each one several times to practice.

B: Translate into Lao:

1. Only one person.
2. I don't smoke.
3. Stop!
4. You still don't know?
5. My friend's husband ate my water buffalo.
6. Ask Nawy, "Do you know Nok?"
7. He lies a lot.
8. The mosquito is smaller than the white bird.
9. Do you eat shrimp?
10. Women write better than men.

 54 Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD. Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 14

Left Side Only Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຸ	12	as in game (long)	<i>eei</i>
ເືເຸ	15	as in air (long)	<i>aae</i>

Example of ເຸ sound: ເວລາ

Examples of ເືເຸ sound: ແດ່, ແລ້ວ

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ໂຸ	18	as in phone (long)	<i>oo</i>
ໃຸ, ໄຸ	35, 36	as in hi (short & long)	<i>ai</i>

Examples of ໂຸ sound: ໂພດ, ໂດລາ

Example of ໃຸ / ໄຸ sound: ໃຈ / ໄປ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. ເວລາ | 8. ໂກ | 15. ແລ້ວ |
| 2. ແຊບ | 9. ແດງ | 16. ໂພດ |
| 3. ໃຈ | 10. ໂຈນ | 17. ຍຸງ |
| 4. ນອນ | 11. ມີ | 18. ແຕ່ງງານ |
| 5. ລຶມ | 12. ໄວ | 19. ຫຼາຍ |
| 6. ແຂງແຮງ | 13. ຄືກັນ | 20. ແພງ |
| 7. ໄປ | 14. ໂດລາ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. yaa nawy | 11. poot |
| 2. joon | 12. wai |
| 3. tai | 13. gung |
| 4. soodaa | 14. dtaaeng ngaan |
| 5. kon laao | 15. jai |
| 6. weei laa | 16. doo laa |
| 7. dtaaek | 17. hoong maw |
| 8. moong | 18. yaak maa |
| 9. tam ma daa | 19. nai look |
| 10. saaep | 20. maak dtaaeng |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

1. ໄວ, ໂຊກດີ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ໃຈ, ໂກ
2. ໂພດ, ຢາ, ຕົວຂ, ຜົວ, ແຊບ, ໝາກແຕງ, ໂຮງໝໍ
3. ເວລາ, ກັບ, ແດງ, ແລ້ວ, ໃນ, ເພງ, ຈີ້, ດີ, ໂທ

LESSON 15

Vocabulary D

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ໄກ	gai	far (<i>adj</i>)
2	ແຂງແຮງ	khaaeng haaeng	healthy (<i>adj</i>)
3	ໂຈນ	joon	criminal (<i>n</i>)
4	ໃຈ	jai	heart (<i>n</i>)
5	ໃສ່	sai	with, use; put on/in (<i>v</i>)
6	ແຂບ	saaep	delicious (<i>adj</i>)
7	ໂຊກດີ	sook dii	good luck, goodbye
8	ສີແດງ	sii daaeng	red (<i>adj</i>)
9	ແດ່	daae	please
10	ໂດລາ	doo laa	U.S. \$ dollar (<i>n</i>)
11	ໄດ້	dai	can, able; received; did (<i>v</i>)
12	ແຕກ	dtaaek	break (<i>v</i>)
13	ແຕ່ງງານ	dtaaeng ngaan	marry (<i>v</i>)
14	ປະເທດໄທ	pba teeit tai	Thailand (<i>n</i>)
15	ໄປ	pbai	go (<i>v</i>)
16	ໃນ	nai	in
17	ແຟນ	faaen	girlfriend/boyfriend (<i>n</i>)
18	ແພງ	paaeng	expensive (<i>adj</i>)
19	ໂພດ	poot	too much (<i>adv</i>)

20	ໄຟ	fai	fire (n)
21	ໝາກແຕງ	maak dtaaeng	cucumber (n)
22	ໂມງ	moong	o'clock, clock, watch (n)
23	ແລ້ວ	laaeo	already (adv); finish(ed)
24	ເວລາ	weei laa	time (n)
25	ໄວ	wai	fast (adj)
26	ໂຮງຮຽນ	hoong hian	school (n)
27	ໃຫ້	hai	give (v)

ໂຊກດີ (**sook dii**) is used primarily to say “goodbye” by the person who is staying behind. The person leaving usually says ລາກ່ອນ (**laa gawn**). ໂຊກດີ also means “Good luck.”

ສີ (**sii**) means “color.” ແດງ (**daaeng**) means “red.” Always use ສີ before a color, as in ສີແດງ (“color red”).

ແດ່ (**daae**) is a common word that means “please.” It is usually placed after the request, and is sometimes used in conjunction with ຂໍ but that is not necessary. **k(h)aw sawng jawk daae** means “Please bring two cups.”

ໄດ້ (**dai**) means “can,” as in ability. To ask for a discount, you would ask: **lut dai baw?** The answer will be: **dai** (can) or **baw dai** (can't).

ໄພດ (**poot**) means “too,” but is used *after* adjectives. For example, **paaeng poot** means “Too expensive.”

ໂມງ (**moong**) is used to talk about the time of day. For example, **jak moong** means “What time (will something happen)?” The answer will be a time, such as 1:00 P.M. ເວລາ (**weei laa**) refers to “time” in the general sense, such as: ບໍ່ມີເວລາ (**baw mii weei laa**), which is a common expression that means: “I don't have time.”

ແລ້ວ (laeo) is one of the most common words in Lao. It is usually used to signify that something has finished, and is often translated as “already.” For example, **gin laeo baw?** means, “Have you (already) eaten?” **gin laeo** means, “I’ve already eaten.”

ໃຫ້ (hai) is used alone to mean “give,” and it also used in conjunction with ເອົາ (ow) “take”—to mean “give something to someone.” For example, **ow bik hai khawy** means, “Take (the) pen (to) give me,” or “Give me (a/the) pen.”



ໂຊກດີ **sook dii.**

ລາກ່ອນ **laa gawn.**

ສີ **sii**

ສີແດງ **sii daaeng** (“color red”)

ແດ່ **daae**

ຂໍສອງຈອກແດ່ **k(h)aw sawng jawk daae.** (Please bring two cups.)

ໄດ້ **dai**

ຫຼຸດໄດ້ບໍ່? **lut dai baw?** (Can I have a discount?)

ໄດ້ **dai.** (You can have a discount.)

ບໍ່ໄດ້ **baw dai.** (You can’t have a discount.)

ໂພດ **poot**

ເພງໂພດ **paaeng poot.** (Too expensive.)

ໂມງ **moong**

ມີເອລາ **baw mii weei laa.** (I don’t have time.)

ແລ້ວ **laeo**

ກິນແລ້ວບໍ່? **gin laeo baw?** (Have you eaten yet?)

ກິນແລ້ວ **gin laeo.** (I’ve already eaten.)

ໃຫ້ **hai**

ເອົາ **ow**

ເອົາບິກໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍ **ow bik hai khawy.** (Give me a/the pen.)

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. ແຊບບໍ່? | 5. ໄປໄວໆໄດ້ບໍ່? |
| 2. ນ້ອຍແຕ່ງງານແລ້ວ | 6. ບໍ່ມີເວລາ |
| 3. ລາວຍັງບໍ່ມີແຟນ | 7. ໄປໂຮງຮຽນຈັກໂມງ? |
| 4. ຈັກໂມງແລ້ວ? | 8. ໝາກແຕງແພງຫຼາຍໂພດ |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. Good luck!
2. What time does the market close?
3. I will go to work at 10 o'clock.
4. Lao (language) is not too difficult.
5. My glass is (already) broken.
6. I already ate.
7. The strong man wants to marry the pretty woman.
8. Can you write Lao?

Note: The number “10” is written ສິບ (sip).



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 16

Left & Top Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເັ	11	as in bet (short)	<i>e</i>

Examples of ເັ sound: ເັກ, ເັນ, ເັບ

LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເີ	23	as in numbe(r) (short)	<i>(er)</i>
ເື	24	as in numbe(r) (long)	<i>(err)</i>

Examples of ເີ sound: ເີ່ງ, ເີນ, ເີ່ງ

Example of ເີ sound alone: ເີ

Examples of ເີ sound followed by a consonant: ເີດ, ເີນ

The *(er)* and *(err)* transliterations are widely used, but are not entirely accurate. They do come close to the sound required, but with this caveat: the “*r*” sound is more pronounced when nothing follows the “*r*,” and only slightly spoken, if at all, when a consonant follows.

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. ເປີດ | 8. ຄືກັນ | 15. ເງິນ |
| 2. ເຢັນ | 9. ເຈັບ | 16. ເຮັດ |
| 3. ເຊິນ | 10. ເບິ່ງ | 17. ເປັນ |
| 4. ໃຫ້ | 11. ເຄີຍ | 18. ເໝ້ນ |
| 5. ເດັກ | 12. ເຜັດ | 19. ເຄິ່ງ |
| 6. ເຝີ | 13. ເຄ້ມ | 20. ເຕ້ມ |
| 7. ເວລາ | 14. ເລວ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. ng(er)n | 8. k(h)aw | 15. phet |
| 2. kem | 9. het | 16. saaep |
| 3. men | 10. k(err)'y | 17. k(er)ng |
| 4. f(err) | 11. paaeng poot | 18. ngaam laai |
| 5. s(err)n | 12. dek | 19. b(er)ng |
| 6. nok nawy | 13. yen | 20. nai |
| 7. jep | 14. pben | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

- ເປັນ, ໃຫ້, ເຄ້ມ, ເວລາ, ເຕ້ມ, ເດັກ
- ເຝີ, ເປີດ, ເຜັດ, ເງິນ, ເຄິ່ງ, ຄືກັນ, ເຄີຍ
- ເຮັດ, ເຈັບ, ເບິ່ງ, ເດັກ, ເຄ້ມ, ເປັນ, ເງິນ, ເຊິນ

LESSON 17

Vocabulary E

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ເຄັມ	kem	salty (<i>adj</i>)
2	ເຄິ່ງ	k(er)ng	½ (<i>one half</i>)
3	ເຄີຍ	k(err)'y	have ever
4	ເງິນ	ng(er)n	money (<i>n</i>)
5	ເຈັບ	jep	hurt (<i>v</i>), (<i>adj</i>)
6	ເຊີນ	s(err)n	invite (<i>v</i>)
7	ເດັກນ້ອຍ	dek nawy	child (<i>n</i>)
8	ເຕັມ	dtem	full (for cups, etc.) (<i>adj</i>)
9	ເປັນ	bpen	am, is (for people)
10	ເປີດ	bp(er)t	open (<i>v</i>)
11	ເຜັດ	p(h)et	spicy (<i>adj</i>)
12	ເຝີ	f(err)	rice noodle dish (<i>n</i>)
13	ເຢັນ	yen	cool (<i>adj</i>)
14	ເໝັນ	men	stinks (<i>adj</i>)
15	ເຮັດ	het	do (<i>v</i>)

ເຄິ່ງ (k(er)ng) means “half” and is often used when telling the time. For example, sawng moong k(er)ng means “2:30.”

ເຄີຍ (k(err)y) means “have ever” and “have never,” depending on its placement in the sentence. For example, jow k(err)y bpai bpateit thai baw?

translates to “Have you ever been to Luang Prabang?” And **baw k(ery)y (pbai)** means “I haven’t (ever) been” or “I’ve never been.”

ເປັນ (pben) is used to say that a person “is” something. For example, **khawy bpen aajaan sawn** means “I am a teacher.”

ເຮັດ (het) means “do/make,” and needs to be followed by an object, verb or question word. For example, **jow het wiak laai baw?** means “Do you work a lot?” and **jow het nyang?** means “What are you doing?”



ເຄິ່ງ k(er)ng

ສອງໂມງເຄິ່ງ sawng moong k(er)ng (2:30)

ເຄີຍ k(ery)y

ເຈົ້າເຄີຍໄປປະເທດໄທບໍ່? **jow k(ery)y bpai bpateeit thai baw?** (Have you ever been to Luang Prabang?)

ບໍ່ເຄີຍ(ໄປ). **baw k(ery)y (pbai).** (I haven’t [ever] been. or I’ve never been.)

ເປັນ pben

ຂ້ອຍເປັນອາຈານສອນ. **khawy bpen aajaan sawn.** (I am a teacher.)

ເຮັດ het

ເຈົ້າເຮັດວຽກຫຼາຍບໍ່? **jow het wiak laai baw?** (Do you work a lot?)

ເຈົ້າເຮັດຫຍັງ? **jow het nyang?** (What are you doing?)

ສາມ (saam) is the number “3.” To say “30,” for example, you would say “3” (saam) and then “10” (sip). Hence: **saam sip** means “30.” To say the number “13,” you would reverse this: “10” sip and then “3” saam would be **sip saam**, or “13.”



ສາມ saam (3)

ສິບສາມ sip saam (13)

ສາມສິບ saam sip (30)

ຫຍັງ? (nyang) means “what?” when combined with a verb. For example, **het nyang** (What are you doing?) literally means, “Do what?” In common

speech, the subject “you” is understood. **maeen nyang** literally means “Is what?” but in everyday speech it just means “What?” as in “What? (I didn’t quite hear you).”



ຫຍັງ **nyang**

ເຮັດຫຍັງ? **het nyang?** (What are you doing?)

ແມ່ນຫຍັງ? **maeen nyang?** (What? [I didn’t quite hear you].)

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. ມີຊາເຢັນບໍ່? | 5. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ມີເງິນຫຼາຍ |
| 2. ເຄີຍໄປປະເທດໄທບໍ່? | 6. ເຜັດຫຼາຍບໍ່? |
| 3. ເຈັບ! | 7. ເດັກນ້ອຍເຮັດຫຍັງ? |
| 4. ສອງໂມງເຄິ່ງ | 8. ມີເວລາບໍ່? |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. The *f(err)* is really spicy.
2. Look at him.
3. The fish is too salty.
4. Have you already been?
5. I haven’t been yet.
6. Can you come to my house at 3:30?
7. She is a man.
8. Is it delicious?



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 18

Left & Right Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຊ	10	as in <i>net</i> (short & rarely written)	<i>e</i>
ເຊ ເຊັ (rare)	13, 14	as in <i>air</i> or <i>eh</i> (short)	<i>ae</i>

Examples of ເຊ sound: ເຊ, ເມຍ

Example of ເຊ / ເຊັ sound: ເລະ, ເນະນຳ

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ໂ	16	as in <i>go</i> or <i>oh</i> (short)	<i>o</i>
ເາ	19	mix <i>aw</i> & <i>o</i> as in <i>naughty</i> (very short)	<i>aw</i>
ເຍ ເຍັ (rare spelling)	26	as in U.S. <i>via</i> or U.K. <i>ear</i> (long)	<i>iaa</i>

Examples of ໂ sound: ໂຕ, ໂຊ

Examples of ເາ sound: ເາ, ເາວ່າ

Examples of ເຍ sound: ເຍ, ເຍ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|
| 1. ເລະ | 4. ເມຍ | 7. ເງິນ |
| 2. ເຊ | 5. ເພາະວ່າ | 8. ຢາກ |
| 3. ເຜັດ | 6. ເນາະ | 9. ໂຕ |

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| 10. ແນະນຳ | 13. ເສຍ | 16. ຍຸງ |
| 11. ເຕະ | 14. ໂຊຍ | 17. ເຊີນ |
| 12. ຈອກ | 15. ເບຍ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. lae | 6. dto | 11. s(err)n |
| 2. saw | 7. nyung | 12. naw |
| 3. dte | 8. paw waa | 13. jawk |
| 4. nae nam | 9. ng(er)n | 14. yaak |
| 5. miaa | 10. siaa | 15. so |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put in alphabetical order:

1. ເຕະ, ຢາກ, ເພາະວ່າ, ໂຕະ
2. ເລະ, ເນາຍ, ແນະນຳ, ເຜັດ, ໂຊຍ
3. ເຊຍ, ເສຍ, ຍຸງ, ແນະນຳ, ຢາກ, ກິນ

LESSON 19

Vocabulary F



#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ເສຍ	siaa	lose something (v)
2	ເຊຍ	se	<i>get the heck out of here!</i> (for dogs)
3	ໂຊຍ	so	<i>get out of here!</i> (for chickens)
4	ຕະ	dte	kick (v)
5	ໂຕະ	dto	desk, table (n)
6	ເນະນຳ	nae nam	introduce (v); advice
7	ເນາະ	naw	huh? right?
8	ເບຍ	biaa	beer (n)
9	ເພາະວ່າ	paw waa	because
10	ເມຍ	miaa	wife (n)
11	ແລະ	lae	and (for nouns)

The written structure ເຊັ່ນ is almost obsolete; ເຊຍ has taken its place. You will see this on T-shirts and beer bottles that read: ເບຍລາວ (biaa laao). “Beer Lao” is the country’s only domestically produced beer label.

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

1. ແນະນຳໝູ່ຂອງຂ້ອຍ
2. ກິນປາເພາະວ່າແຊບຫຼາຍ
3. ດາວແລະນ້ອຍເຄີຍໄປລາວ
4. ແພງຫຼາຍເນາະ
5. ໂຊຍ!
6. ເມຍນ້ອຍຂອງລາວສູບຢາຫຼາຍ
7. ລາວກິນຫຍັງ?
8. ນົກເສຍຄວາຍຂອງເມຍລາວ



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. It's really hard (difficult), huh?
2. Has she ever eaten *f(err)*?
3. I don't have money because I eat a lot.
4. It's hot, huh?
5. Do you like my desk?
6. This is too spicy, huh.
7. My friend's husband lost my water buffalo.



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 20

Left, Top & Right Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເືອ (rare)	29	as in look + <i>ah</i> (short)	<i>uh'a</i>
ເືອ	30	as in look + <i>ah</i> (long)	<i>uhh'a</i>

Examples of ເືອ sound: ເຮືອ, ເມືອຍ

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເືາ	34	as in now	<i>ow</i>

Examples of ເືາ sound: ເອົາ, ເຈົ້າ, ເຖົ້າ, ເປົາ

The vowel ເືາ is often transcribed as *ao*, but we use *ow* as it better corresponds to English words such as *now*, *how*, *cow*, *wow* and *vow*. Do not get confused when you see **bow** and **tow**, though—they too are pronounced with the *ow* as in *now*.

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. ເຈົ້າ | 8. ເຄື່ອງ | 15. ເລືອດ |
| 2. ເຮືອ | 9. ປີດ | 16. ເມືອງ |
| 3. ຮຽນ | 10. ເມົາ | 17. ເປົາ |
| 4. ເມືອຍ | 11. ເລະ | 18. ເວົ້າ |
| 5. ເຮືອນ | 12. ແຕ່ງງານ | 19. ເມືອກ |
| 6. ເຖົ້າ | 13. ເດືອນ | 20. ເຮັດ |
| 7. ເທື່ອໜ້າ | 14. ເອົາ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. duhh'an | 8. ow | 15. mow |
| 2. wow | 9. naw | 16. muhh'ay |
| 3. huhh'an | 10. luhh'at | 17. muhh'ak |
| 4. k(h)aao | 11. huhh'a | 18. muhh'ang |
| 5. het | 12. kuhh'ang | 19. bow |
| 6. jow | 13. daao | 20. tuh'h'a naa |
| 7. t(h)ow | 14. saaep | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Arrange in alphabetical order:

1. ເມືອງ, ເຈົ້າ, ເລືອດ, ປິດ, ເບິ່ງ
2. ແລະ, ເທື່ອໜ້າ, ເມື່ອຍ, ເອົາ, ເຖົ້າ, ເວົ້າ, ເມືອກ
3. ເມົາ, ເດືອນ, ເຮັດ, ເຮືອ, ເທື່ອໜ້າ, ເບົາ, ເລືອດ, ເຄື່ອງ

LESSON 21

Vocabulary G



#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ພວກເຂົາ	puak k(h)ow	they, them
2	ເຄື່ອງ	kuhh'ang	thing (<i>n</i>)
3	ເຈົ້າ	jow	you
4	ເສື້ອ	suhh'a	shirt (<i>n</i>)
5	ເດືອນ	duhh'an	month, moon (<i>n</i>)
6	ເດົາ	dow	guess (<i>n</i>), (<i>v</i>)
7	ເຖົ້າ	t(h)ow	old (<i>adj</i>)
8	ເບົາ	bow	light, soft (not heavy) (<i>adj</i>)
9	ເມືອງ	muhh'ang	city (<i>n</i>)
10	ເມືອກ	muhh'ak	humid; oily (<i>adj</i>)
11	ເມື່ອຍ	muhh'ay	tired (<i>adj</i>)
12	ເມົາ	mow	drunk (<i>adj</i>)
13	ເລືອດ	luhh'at	blood (<i>n</i>)
14	ເວົ້າ	wow	say, speak (<i>v</i>)
15	ເອົາ	ow	take (<i>v</i>)
16	ເຮືອ	huhh'a	boat (<i>n</i>)
17	ເຮືອດ	huhh'at	bed bugs (<i>n</i>)
18	ເຮືອນ	huhh'an	house (<i>n</i>)

ພວກເຂົາ (**puak k(h)ow**) is the proper way to say “they” or “them.” Do not confuse it with **puak how** (“we”).

ເປົາ (**bow**) can be combined with other words to create new ones. This is very common practice in Lao. For example, **huu bow** (ຫຼູເປົາ) literally translates as “ear soft” (*soft ear*) or “gullible.”

ເລືອດ (**luhh’at**) is put in many Lao dishes. If you don’t want it, you’ll be better off learning how to say **baw sai luhh’at**, which literally means “not with blood,” or simply “without blood.”

ເອົາ (**ow**) is used to ask for something or ask if someone wants something. For example, “ow baw?” ເອົາບໍ່? means “Do you want it?” ເອົາ (**ow**) means “I’ll take it.”

ເອົາ can also be combined with other words: **ow maa** (ເອົາມາ) literally means “take come,” that is, “bring,” and **ow pbai** (ເອົາໄປ) literally means “take go”: simply, “take.”

ພວກເຂົາ **puak k(h)ow**

ເປົາ **bow**

ຫຼູເປົາ **huu bow** (gullible)

ເລືອດ **luhh’at**

ບໍ່ໃສເລືອດ **baw sai luhh’at**. (Not with blood. [regarding food])

ເອົາ **ow**

ເອົາບໍ່? **ow baw?** (Do you want it?)

ເອົາ **ow**. (I’ll take it.)

ບໍ່ເອົາ **baw ow**. (I don’t want it.)

ເອົາມາ **ow maa** (bring)

ເອົາໄປ **ow pbai** (take)

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

1. ເຈົ້າມີແຟນແລ້ວບໍ່?
2. ພວກເຂົາເມົາແລ້ວ
3. ລາວເວົ້າຫຍັງ?
4. ເອົາໃຫ້ຂ້ອຍແດ່
5. ເມື່ອກຫຼາຍແນະ?
6. ເຈົ້າຢາກໄປເດືອນໜ້າບໍ່?
7. ເມື່ອຍບໍ່?
8. ຄົນລາວມັກເວົ້າວ່າບໍ່ເປັນຫຍັງ



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

Notes:

ໜ້າ (naa) means “face,” “in front” and “next.”

ບໍ່ເປັນຫຍັງ (baw pben nyang) is one of the most common phrases in Lao. It means “Never mind” or “Don’t worry about it.”

B. Translate into Lao:

1. Did you already tell him?
2. I’ll take *F(err)* without blood.
3. Do you remember me?
4. You’re very pretty, too.
5. Two cups, please.
6. Water buffaloes are better than bed bugs.
7. What did you lose?
8. Are you drunk (already)?



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

REVIEW 2

LESSON 22

85 Vowels in Alphabetical Order as Found in Dictionary:

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------|
| 1. xɛ | 14. ເເັ້x | 27. xɿx |
| 2. ັx | 15. ເເx | 28. ເັ້ອ |
| 3. xɹ | 16. ໂໂx | 29. ເັ້ອ |
| 4. ືx | 17. ືx | 30. ືວະ |
| 5. ືx | 18. ໂໂ | 31. ັວະ |
| 6. ືx | 19. ເເາະ | 32. ືວ |
| 7. ືx | 20. ັ | 33. xɔx |
| 8. x | 21. xອx | 34. ືx |
| 9. x | 22. ເັ | 35. ໂໂ |
| 10. ເເຂ | 23. ເັ | 36. ເັາ |
| 11. ເັ້x | 24. ເັ້ງ | 37. xໍ |
| 12. ເເx | 25. ັ້x | 38. xອຍ |
| 13. ເເເຂ | 26. ເເຍ, (ເັ້ງ) | |

REVIEW 3

LESSON 23

Here are some of the most useful words and phrases you have learned.

Exercises

A. Give the English meanings:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. ໄປ | 11. ຍຸງ | 21. ແລ້ວ |
| 2. ເຄີຍ | 12. ເມົາ | 22. ຜົວ |
| 3. ບໍ່ | 13. ຕະຫຼາດ | 23. ກິນ |
| 4. ຜູ້ຊາຍ | 14. ແຟນ | 24. ແຕ່ງງານ |
| 5. ເນາະ | 15. ຮຽນ | 25. ອັງກິດ |
| 6. ລາວ | 16. ເຜີ້ | 26. ເຜັດ |
| 7. ເອົາ | 17. ຢາສູບ | 27. ລືມ |
| 8. ໂຊກດີ | 18. ຄົນລຽວ | 28. ມາ |
| 9. ທຳມະດາ | 19. ເຮັດວຽກ | 29. ເຈົ້າ |
| 10. ຂອງຂ້ອຍ | 20. ປິດ | 30. ນ້ອຍ |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write the Lao:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. have | 11. very pretty | 21. friend |
| 2. hot | 12. delicious | 22. speak |
| 3. fish | 13. can | 23. water |
| 4. tell | 14. not | 24. know |
| 5. return home | 15. money | 25. lose, pay |
| 6. woman yet | 16. want | 26. like |
| 7. remember | 17. sleep | 27. too expensive |
| 8. 10:30 | 18. stop | 28. fast |
| 9. tired | 19. better | 29. time |
| 10. wife | 20. open | 30. heart |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put in alphabetical order:

1. ຮຽນ, ຍັງ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ລາວ, ແຊບ, ບໍ່
2. ຢາກ, ເນາະ, ດາວ, ໝູ່, ຄືກັນ, ປາ, ເວົ້າ, ເສຍ, ບອກ
3. ເມົາ, ກັບ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ຫຼາຍ, ໃຈ, ປິດ, ແດງ, ຂ້ອຍ, ເຈົ້າ, ນ້ຳ, ເຜີ

D. Translate into Lao:

1. Have you already eaten?
2. I'm very tired.
3. What time is it?
4. Are you (already) married?
5. Very delicious.
6. It's hot, huh?
7. Have you ever been to Thailand?
8. Can you go faster?
9. I don't have time.
10. I want to eat spicy *F(err)*.
11. Tell him what you told me.
12. I don't speak Lao very well yet.
13. Do you smoke?
14. I will go to sleep. (I'm going to sleep.)
15. Don't you remember me?

Note:

ພາສາ (paasaa) means "language" and is stated before the language referred to. For example, paasaa lao (ພາສາລາວ).



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

E. Translate into English:

1. ຂ້ອຍຈະກັບບ້ານສອງໂມງເຄິ່ງ
2. ເຈົ້າໃຈດີ
3. ຮ້ອນເນາະ?
4. ໝູ່ຂອງຂ້ອຍມັກນອນຫຼາຍໆ
5. ແພງໂພດເນາະ
6. ຜົວເຈົ້າເຮັດວຽກຫຍັງ?
7. ເມົາແລ້ວບໍ່?
8. ແຊບບໍ່?
9. ລາວເວົ້າພາສາລາວດີກ່ວາຂ້ອຍ
10. ຖາມລາວແດ່
11. ເອົາເງິນມາ
12. ລາວມີແຟນແລ້ວບໍ່?
13. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍກິນຍຸງ
14. ເມຍຂອງໝູ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ຜົວຂອງໝູ່ນີກ
15. ກິນແລ້ວບໍ່?



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 24

Extra Vocabulary

In alphabetical order:

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ຂອບໃຈ	k(h)awp jai	thank you
2	ເຂົ້າໃຈ	k(h)ow jai	understand (v)
3	ຂົວມິດຕະພາບ	k(h)uua mit dtaapaap	The Friendship Bridge (n)
4	ສະບາຍດີ	sabaaidii	hello, good
5	ໂທລະສັບ	toolasaap	phone (n), call (v)
6	ເທົ່າໃດ?	tow dai	how much?
7	ແນວໃດ?	naeo dai	how?
8	ເປັນຫຍັງ?	pben nyang	why?
9	ພົບ, ເຈີ	pop, j(er)	meet (v)
10	ແມ່ນບໍ່?	maeen baw	really?, right?
11	(ແມ່ນ)ໃຜ?	(maeen) p(h)ai	who?
12	(ແມ່ນ)ຫຍັງ?	(maeen) nyang	what?
13	ເມື່ອໃດ?	muhh'a dai	when?
14	(ຢູ່)ໃສ?	(yuu) sai	where?
15	ໜາວ	naao	cold (adj)
16	ຫຼຸດໄດ້ບໍ່?	lut dai baw?	Can I have a discount?
17	ອົມ	iim	full (not hungry)

ສະບາຍດີບໍ່? (sabaaidii baww) means “How are you?”

ສະບາຍດີ is the most common answer, which means “Good, fine.” When used alone as a statement, it means “Hello.”



Person A: ສະບາຍດີ (Hello.)

Person B: ສະບາຍດີ (Hi.)

Person A: ສະບາຍດີບໍ່? (How are you?)

Person B: ສະບາຍດີ (Good.)

The letter ງ is unspoken, but signals to the reader that the word before it is to be repeated. For example, k(h)awp jai lai lai means “Thank you very, very much.”



ຂອບໃຈຫຼາຍໆ k(h)awp jai lai lai (Thank you very, very much.)

Answer Key

Answer Key

Lessons 1–7

Lesson 1

A.	B.
1. daw	1. ဝ
2. jaw	2. ဂ
3. gaw	3. ဓ
4. dtaw	4. ခ
5. jaw	5. ဓ
6. daw	6. ဂ
7. gaw	7. ခ
8. jaw	8. ဓ
9. dtaw	9. ဝ
10. gaw	10. ဂ

Lesson 2

A.		
1. daw	7. baw	13. baw
2. jaw	8. aw	14. yaw
3. dtaw	9. dtaw	15. gaw
4. yaw	10. bpaw	16. daw
5. aw	11. jaw	
6. bpaw	12. aw	
B.		
1. ဝ	7. ခ	13. ဟ
2. ဗ	8. ဗ	14. ဝ
3. ဟ	9. ဂ	15. ဗ
4. ဓ	10. ဝ	16. ဝ
5. ဂ	11. ဝ	
6. ဝ	12. ခ	

Lesson 3

A.

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. daw | 9. saw | 17. kaw |
| 2. saw | 10. dtaw | 18. yaw |
| 3. gaw | 11. jaw | 19. baw |
| 4. ngaw | 12. daw | 20. dtaw |
| 5. bpaw | 13. naw | 21. gaw |
| 6. jaw | 14. ngaw | 22. aw |
| 7. nyaw | 15. baw | 23. naw |
| 8. kaw | 16. bpaw | 24. saw |

B.

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. 𑄀 | 9. 𑄂 | 17. 𑄄 |
| 2. 𑄁 | 10. 𑄃 | 18. 𑄅 |
| 3. 𑄂 | 11. 𑄆 | 19. 𑄇 |
| 4. 𑄃 | 12. 𑄇 | 20. 𑄈 |
| 5. 𑄄 | 13. 𑄈 | 21. 𑄉 |
| 6. 𑄅 | 14. 𑄁 | 22. 𑄂 |
| 7. 𑄆 | 15. 𑄃 | 23. 𑄀 |
| 8. 𑄇 | 16. 𑄀 | 24. 𑄁 |

Lesson 4

A.

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. paw | 11. kaw | 21. daw |
| 2. maw | 12. jaw | 22. law |
| 3. taw | 13. dtaw | 23. yaw |
| 4. daw | 14. saw | 24. haw |
| 5. faw | 15. naw | 25. maw |
| 6. waw | 16. nyaw | 26. paw |
| 7. law | 17. taw | 27. taw |
| 8. baw | 18. waw | 28. aw |
| 9. haw | 19. ngaw | 29. bpaw |
| 10. paw | 20. gaw | 30. daw |

B.

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. ၎ | 11. ဗ | 21. ဓ |
| 2. ဃ | 12. န | 22. စ |
| 3. ည | 13. မ | 23. ဂ |
| 4. မ | 14. ဝ | 24. ပ |
| 5. ဂ | 15. ဃ | 25. ဝ |
| 6. ဓ | 16. ဗ | 26. ဂ |
| 7. ည | 17. ဗ | 27. ဗ |
| 8. ခ | 18. ည | 28. ဂ |
| 9. ဃ | 19. ဂ | 29. ဗ |
| 10. ဃ | 20. ဗ | 30. ဃ |

Lesson 5

A.

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. paw | 11. law | 21. naw | 31. yaw |
| 2. naw | 12. baw | 22. nyaw | 32. k(h)aw |
| 3. k(h)aw | 13. haw | 23. taw | 33. haw |
| 4. maw | 14. p(h)aw | 24. t(h)aw | 34. maw |
| 5. taw | 15. haw | 25. waw | 35. faw |
| 6. daw | 16. paw | 26. ngaw | 36. p(h)aw |
| 7. faw | 17. kaw | 27. haw | 37. taw |
| 8. waw | 18. jaw | 28. gaw | 38. aw |
| 9. saw | 19. dtaw | 29. daw | 39. bpaw |
| 10. haw | 20. saw | 30. law | 40. haw |

B.

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. ၎ | 11. ဗ | 21. ဓ | 31. ဗ, ဖ |
| 2. ဃ | 12. စ | 22. ည | 32. ခ |
| 3. ည | 13. မ | 23. ဂ | 33. မ |
| 4. မ | 14. ဝ | 24. ပ | 34. ဗ |
| 5. ဂ | 15. ဃ, ဃ | 25. ဝ | 35. ဃ |
| 6. ဓ | 16. ဗ | 26. ဂ | 36. ည |
| 7. ဗ, ဖ | 17. ဗ | 27. ဗ | 37. ဃ, ဃ |
| 8. ခ | 18. ဓ, ည | 28. ဂ | 38. ဓ |
| 9. ဂ | 19. ဂ | 29. ဗ | 39. ဓ, ည |
| 10. ဗ | 20. ဗ | 30. ဃ, ဃ | 40. ဂ |

Lesson 6

A.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. haw | 19. waw | 37. gaw |
| 2. taw | 20. law | 38. haw |
| 3. saw | 21. bpaw | 39. law |
| 4. saw | 22. p(h)aw | 40. baw |
| 5. faw | 23. baw | 41. nyaw |
| 6. nyaw | 24. law | 42. naw |
| 7. gaw | 25. waw | 43. haw |
| 8. paw | 26. faw | 44. paw |
| 9. naw | 27. ngaw | 45. yaw |
| 10. nyaw | 28. maw | 46. faw |
| 11. law | 29. aw | 47. t(h)aw |
| 12. maw | 30. haw | 48. kaw |
| 13. jaw | 31. p(h)aw | 49. dtaw |
| 14. naw | 32. ngaw | 50. nyaw |
| 15. t(h)aw | 33. maw | 51. saw |
| 16. k(h)aw | 34. law | 52. naw |
| 17. dtaw | 35. saw | |
| 18. kaw | 36. daw | |

B.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. ၈ | 15. ၂ | 29. ပ |
| 2. ၂ | 16. ပ | 30. ဗ |
| 3. ဝ, စာဝ | 17. မ, ဟ | 31. ဂ |
| 4. ဟ | 18. ဂ, ဟ | 32. ဓ |
| 5. စ | 19. ပ | 33. ဂ, ဟ |
| 6. ဓ, ၂ | 20. င, ဟ | 34. ခ |
| 7. ဗ | 21. ဂ | 35. စ |
| 8. စ, င | 22. ဗ, စာဗ | 36. ဝ, စာဝ |
| 9. ဓ, ဟ, စာဓ | 23. ဂ, စာဂ | 37. စ, င |
| 10. ခ | 24. င | 38. ဗ, စာဗ |
| 11. ဓ | 25. ဓ, ဟ, စာဓ | 39. ဟ |
| 12. ဟ, င | 26. ဓ, ၂ | 40. ဗ |
| 13. ဝ | 27. စ | 41. မ, ဟ |
| 14. ဂ | 28. ဓ | 42. ၈ |

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------|
| 43. ອ | 47. ຜ | 51. ດ |
| 44. ຖ | 48. ລ, ຫຼື, ຫລ | 52. ມ, ໝ |
| 45. ຟ, ຝ | 49. ບ | |
| 46. ງ, ຫງ | 50. ປ | |

Lesson 7

- | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. gaw | 12. taw | 23. waw |
| 2. k(h)aw | 13. naw | 24. haw |
| 3. kaw | 14. baw | 25. ngaw |
| 4. ngaw | 15. bpaw | 26. nyaw |
| 5. jaw | 16. p(h)aw | 27. naw |
| 6. saw | 17. faw | 28. maw |
| 7. saw | 18. paw | 29. law |
| 8. nyaw | 19. faw | 30. waw |
| 9. daw | 20. maw | 31. aw |
| 10. dtaw | 21. yaw | 32. haw |
| 11. t(h)aw | 22. law | |

Lessons 8–18

Lesson 8

A.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. ja | 8. bpa | 15. t(h)aam |
| 2. maa | 9. laao | 16. tamlaai |
| 3. naam | 10. ngaam | 17. haak |
| 4. yaa | 11. dam | 18. dtalaat |
| 5. dtaa | 12. saa | 19. yaak |
| 6. dtaai | 13. yaak | 20. k(h)aao |
| 7. yaak | 14. daao | |

B.

- | | | |
|--------|---------|------------|
| 1. ດາວ | 6. ຍາກ | 11. ຫາກ |
| 2. ລາວ | 7. ຖາມ | 12. ຂາວ |
| 3. ງາມ | 8. ຢາ | 13. ນໍ້າ |
| 4. ຈະ | 9. ນໍ້າ | 14. ລາວ |
| 5. ຢາກ | 10. ຢາກ | 15. ຕະຫຼາດ |

16. ດຳ

17. ປາ

18. ຊາ

19. ມາ

20. ຕາຍ

C.

1. ຈະ, ຊາ, ລາວ, ຫາກ

2. ງາມ, ດາວ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ຕາ, ຢາ, ຢາກ

3. ຂາວ, ດາວ, ຕາ, ຕາຍ, ຖາມ, ນຳ, ປາ, ຢາກ, ລາວ

Lesson 9

A.

1. Dao's medicine

2. Pretty fish

3. Dao is looking for tea.

4. (S)he vomited.

5. (S)he wants to come to the market.

6. Dao is coming.

7. White fish

8. (S)he will look for fish.

B.

1. ປາຂາວ

2. ດາວຊອກຫາຢາ

3. ຍາກ

4. ລາວຮາກ

5. ປາຈະມາ

6. ຊາດາວ

7. ລາວງາມ

8. ປາຢາກຮາກ

Lesson 10

A.

1. dii laai

2. gap

3. juh

4. k(h)aw

5. mii

6. bpit

7. gin

8. hak

9. luh

10. hok

11. baw

12. tammadaa

13. konlao

14. luhm

15. nyang

16. baw

17. t(h)uhk

18. kuhgan

19. nok

20. nyang

B.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| 1. ມີ | 8. ປິດ | 15. ຄືກັນ |
| 2. ລືມ | 9. ຂໍ | 16. ທຳມະດາ |
| 3. ຄືນ | 10. ຫີກ | 17. ຈີ້ |
| 4. ດີຫຼາຍ | 11. ຖືກ | 18. ກັບ |
| 5. ບໍ່ | 12. ຮັກ | 19. ຄົນລາວ |
| 6. ຍັງ, ຫຍັງ | 13. ນົກ | 20. ບໍ່ |
| 7. ຢາ | 14. ກິນ | |

C.

1. ກັບ, ທຳມະດາ, ນົກ, ລືມ
2. ກັບ, ກິນ, ຂໍ, ຄົນລາວ, ຈີ້, ບໍ່, ປິດ, ມີ
3. ກິນ, ຂໍ, ຄືກັນ, ຍັງ, ດີຫຼາຍ, ບໍ່, ຫຼື, ຮັກ

Lesson 11

A.

1. (S)he still has not returned to Lao.
2. Dao has a bird.
3. Lao people like to eat fish.
4. I forgot too.
5. The bird is going to look for fish.
6. Do you like it?
7. Dao has some very good medicine.

B.

1. ລາວມັກນົກຂາວ
2. ລາວມີນ້ຳຫຼາຍ
3. (ຂ້ອຍຈະ) ກັບຕະຫຼາດຄືກັນ
4. ເຈົ້າຮັກລາວບໍ່?
5. ລາວບໍ່ມີ
6. ຖາມລາວ
7. ຕະຫຼາດຍັງມີນົກງາມ, ປາຂາວ(ແລະ)ຢາດີ

Lesson 12

A.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. gung | 11. sawn | 21. p(h)usaai |
| 2. nguua | 12. bawk | 22. diao |
| 3. supaap | 13. suup | 23. k(h)uaa |
| 4. k(h)ian | 14. jawk | 24. k(h)awy |
| 5. k(h)awng | 15. kuaay | 25. hawn |
| 6. nawn | 16. wiak | 26. nawy |
| 7. guaa | 17. nyung | 27. huu |
| 8. hian | 18. muu | 28. p(h)uusaa |
| 9. dtua | 19. siang | |
| 10. guaa | 20. yut | |

B.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| 1. ຜົວ | 11. ຮູ້ | 21. ຂ້ອຍ |
| 2. ນອນ | 12. ຄວາຍ | 22. ຜູ້ຊາຍ |
| 3. ກຸ້ງ | 13. ຂອງ | 23. ບອກ |
| 4. ຈອກ | 14. ຜູ້ສາວ | 24. ຮຽນ |
| 5. ຢຸດ | 15. ຮອນ | 25. ດຽວ |
| 6. ສູບ | 16. ຍຸງ | 26. ສຽງ |
| 7. ສຸພາບ | 17. ຕົວະ | 27. ສອນ |
| 8. ງົວ | 18. ໝູ່ | 28. ນ້ອຍ |
| 9. ວຽກ | 19. ຊຽນ | |
| 10. ຂວາ | 20. ກ່ວາ | |

C.

1. ຄວາຍ, ສຸພາບ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ຢຸດ
2. ກຸ້ງ, ຂອງ, ຈອກ, ຕົວກ່ວາ, ດຽວ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ວຽກ, ໝູ່
3. ງົວ, ສູບ, ສອນ, ຍຸງ, ບອກ, ຜົວ, ຮູ້, ຮຽນ

Lesson 13**A.**

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. I know Dao's husband. | 5. Nawy is looking for cigarettes. |
| 2. Lao person | 6. Do you have it? |
| 3. Nawy studies a lot. | 7. I don't have any. |
| 4. It's very hot. | 8. I have a lot of work (to do). |

B.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. ຄົນດຽວ | 6. ຖາມນ້ອຍຮູ້ນີກບໍ່? |
| 2. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ສູບຢາ | 7. ລາວຕົວະຫຼາຍ |
| 3. ຢຸດ! | 8. ຍຸງນ້ອຍກ່ວານີກຂາວ |
| 4. ຍັງບໍ່ຮູ້ບໍ່? | 9. ກິນກຸ້ງບໍ່? |
| 5. ຜົວຂອງໝູ່ຂ້ອຍກິນຄວາຍຂອງຂ້ອຍ | 10. ຜູ້ຍິງຂຽນດີກ່ວາຜູ້ຊາຍ |

Lesson 14**A.**

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. weei laa | 11. mii |
| 2. saaep | 12. wai |
| 3. jai | 13. kuhh gan |
| 4. nawn | 14. doo laa |
| 5. luhhm | 15. laaeo |
| 6. k(h)aaeng haaeng | 16. poot |
| 7. bpai | 17. nyung |
| 8. gai | 18. dtaaeng ngaan |
| 9. daaeng | 19. laai |
| 10. joon | 20. paaeng |

B.

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 1. ຢານ້ອຍ | 8. ໂມງ | 15. ໃຈ |
| 2. ໂຈນ | 9. ທຳມະດາ | 16. ໂດລາ |
| 3. ໄທ | 10. ແຊບ | 17. ໂຮງໝໍ |
| 4. ໂຊດາ | 11. ໂພດ | 18. ຢາກມາ |
| 5. ຄົນລາວ | 12. ໄວ | 19. ໃນລົກ |
| 6. ເວລາ | 13. ກຸ້ງ | 20. ໝາກແຕງ |
| 7. ແຕກ | 14. ແຕ່ງງານ | |

C.

1. ໄກ, ໃຈ, ໂຊກດີ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ໄວ
2. ແຊບ, ຕົວຂ, ຜົວ, ໂພດ, ໝາກແຕງ, ຢາ, ໂຮງໝໍ
3. ກັບ, ຈີ້, ດີ, ແດງ, ໄທ, ໃນ, ເພງ, ແລ້ວ, ເວລາ

Lesson 15

A.

1. Is it (delicious)?
2. Nawy is already married.
3. (S)he still doesn't have a boyfriend/girlfriend.
4. What time is it?
5. Can you go faster?
6. I don't have time.
7. What time are you going to school?
8. Cucumbers are really too expensive.

B.

1. ໂຊກດີ!
2. ຕະຫຼາດປິດຈັກໂມງ?
3. ສິບໂມງຂ້ອຍຈະໄປວຽກ
4. ພາສາລາວບໍ່ຍາກໂພດ
5. ຈອກ (ຂ້ອຍ) ແຕກແລ້ວ
6. ກິນແລ້ວ
7. ຜູ້ຊາຍແຂງແຮງຢາກແຕ່ງງານຜູ້ສາວງາມ
8. ຂຽນລາວໄດ້ບໍ່?

Lesson 16

A.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. bp(erro)t | 8. kuhh gan | 15. ng'n |
| 2. yen | 9. jep | 16. het |
| 3. s(erro)n | 10. b(er)ng | 17. pben |
| 4. hai | 11. k(erro)'y | 18. men |
| 5. dek | 12. p(h)et | 19. k(er)ng |
| 6. f(erro) | 13. kem | 20. dtem |
| 7. weei laa | 14. laaeo | |

B.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. ເງິນ | 8. ຂໍ | 15. ເຜັດ |
| 2. ເຄັມ | 9. ເຮັດ | 16. ແຊບ |
| 3. ໝັ້ນ | 10. ເຄີຍ | 17. ເຄິ່ງ |
| 4. ເຝີ | 11. ເພງໂພດ | 18. ງາມຫຼາຍ |
| 5. ເຊີນ | 12. ເດັກ | 19. ເບິ່ງ |
| 6. ນົກນ້ອຍ | 13. ເຢັນ | 20. ໃນ |
| 7. ເຈັບ | 14. ເປັນ | |

C.

- ເຄັມ, ເດັກ, ເຕັມ, ເປັນ, ເວລາ, ໃຫ້
- ເຄິ່ງ, ເຄີຍ, ຄືກັນ, ເງິນ, ເປີດ, ເຜັດ, ເຝີ
- ເຄັມ, ເງິນ, ເຈັບ, ເຊີນ, ເດັກ, ເບິ່ງ, ເປັນ, ເຮັດ

Lesson 17

A.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Do you have cold (iced) tea? | 5. I don't have a lot of money. |
| 2. Have you ever been to Thailand? | 6. Is it too spicy? |
| 3. Ouch! (It hurts) | 7. What is the little kid doing? |
| 4. 2:30 | 8. Do you have time? |

B.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. ເຝີເຜັດຫຼາຍ | 5. ຍັງບໍ່ເຄີຍໄປ |
| 2. ເບິ່ງລາວ | 6. ສາມໂມງເຄິ່ງມາບ້ານຂ້ອຍໄດ້ບໍ່? |
| 3. ປາເຄັມໂພດ | 7. ລາວເປັນຜູ້ຊາຍ |
| 4. ເຄີຍໄປບໍ່? | 8. ແຊບບໍ່? |

Lesson 18

A.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. lae | 7. ng'n | 13. siaa |
| 2. saw | 8. yaak | 14. so |
| 3. p(h)et | 9. dto | 15. biao |
| 4. miaa | 10. nae nam | 16. nyung |
| 5. paw waa | 11. dte | 17. s(err)n |
| 6. naw | 12. jawk | |

B.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|
| 1. ແລະ | 6. ໂຕະ | 11. ເຊີນ |
| 2. ໂຊຍ | 7. ຍຸງ | 12. ເນາຍ |
| 3. ເຕຍ | 8. ເພາະວ່າ | 13. ຈອກ |
| 4. ແນະນຳ | 9. ເງິນ | 14. ຢາກ |
| 5. ເມຍ | 10. ເສຍ | 15. ໂຊຍ |

C.

1. ເຕຍ, ໂຕະ, ເພາະວ່າ, ຢາກ
2. ໂຊຍ, ແນະນຳ, ເນາຍ, ເຜັດ, ແລະ
3. ກິນ, ເສຍ, ໂຊຍ, ຍຸງ, ແນະນຳ, ຢາກ

Lessons 19–23**Lesson 19**

A.

1. Introduce my friend.
2. Eat fish because it's delicious.
3. Dao and Nawy have been to Lao.
4. Very expensive, huh.
5. Get out of here!
6. His mistress smokes a lot.
7. What is (s)he eating?
8. Nok lost his wife's water buffalo.

B.

1. ຍາກຫຼາຍເນາຍ?
2. ລາວເຄີຍກິນເຜີ້ບໍ່?
3. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ມີເງິນເພາະວ່າຂ້ອຍກິນຫຼາຍໆ
4. ຮ້ອນເນາຍ?
5. ມັກໂຕະຂ້ອຍບໍ່?
6. ເຜັດໂພດເນາຍ
7. ຜິວຂອງໝູ່ຂ້ອຍເສຍຄວາຍຂອງຂ້ອຍ

Lesson 20**A.**

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. jow | 11. lae |
| 2. huhh'a | 12. dtaaeng ngaan |
| 3. hian | 13. duhh'an |
| 4. muhh'ai | 14. ow |
| 5. huhh'an | 15. luhh'at |
| 6. t(h)ow | 16. muhh'ang |
| 7. tuhh'a naa | 17. bow |
| 8. kuhh'ang | 18. wow |
| 9. bpit | 19. muhh'ak |
| 10. mow | 20. het |

B.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. ເດືອນ | 11. ເຮືອ |
| 2. ເວົ້າ | 12. ເຄື່ອງ |
| 3. ເຮືອນ | 13. ດາວ |
| 4. ຂາວ | 14. ແຊບ |
| 5. ເຮັດ | 15. ເມົາ |
| 6. ເຈົ້າ | 16. ເມື່ອຍ |
| 7. ເຖົ້າ | 17. ເມືອງ |
| 8. ເອົາ | 18. ເມືອງ |
| 9. ເນາະ | 19. ເບົາ |
| 10. ເລືອດ | 20. ເທື່ອໜ້າ |

C.

- ເຈົ້າ, ເບິ່ງ, ປິດ, ເມືອງ, ເລືອດ
- ເຖົ້າ, ເທື່ອໜ້າ, ເມືອງ, ເມື່ອຍ, ແລະ, ເວົ້າ, ເອົາ
- ເຄື່ອງ, ເດືອນ, ເທື່ອໜ້າ, ເບົາ, ເມົາ, ເລືອດ, ເຮັດ, ເຮືອ

Lesson 21**A.**

- Do you already have a girlfriend/boyfriend?
- They are drunk already.
- What did (s)he say?
- Give it to me.

5. It's really humid, huh?
6. Do you want to go next month?
7. Are you tired?
8. Lao people like to say "Never mind (no problem)."

B.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ເຈົ້າບອກລາວແລ້ວບໍ່? | 5. ຂໍສອງຈອກແດ່ |
| 2. ເອົາເຝີບໍ່ໃສ່ເລືອດ | 6. ຄວາຍດີກ່ວາເຮືອດ |
| 3. ເຈົ້າຈີ່ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ບໍ່? | 7. ເສຍຫຍັງ? |
| 4. ເຈົ້າງາມຫຼາຍຄືກັນ | 8. ເມົາແລ້ວບໍ່? |

Lesson 23**A.**

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. bpai | 16. f(err) |
| 2. k(err)'y | 17. yaasuup |
| 3. baw | 18. kondiao |
| 4. p(h)uu saai | 19. het wiak |
| 5. naw | 20. bpit |
| 6. laao | 21. laaeo |
| 7. ow | 22. p(h)uua |
| 8. sook dii | 23. gin |
| 9. tam ma daa | 24. dtaaeng ngaan |
| 10. k(h)awng k(h)awy | 25. anggit |
| 11. nyung | 26. p(h)et |
| 12. mow | 27. luhhm |
| 13. dtalaat | 28. maa |
| 14. faaen | 29. jow |
| 15. hian | 30. nawy |

Anggit (ອັງກິດ) means "English," as in paasaa anggit (the English language).

B.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. ມີ | 11. ງາມຫຼາຍ | 21. ໝູ່ |
| 2. ຮ້ອນ | 12. ແຊບ | 22. ເວົ້າ |
| 3. ປາ | 13. ໄດ້ | 23. ນ້ຳ |
| 4. ບອກ | 14. ຍັງ | 24. ຮູ້ |
| 5. ກັບບ້ານ | 15. ເງິນ | 25. ເສຍ |
| 6. ຜູ້ສາວ | 16. ຢາກ | 26. ມັກ |
| 7. ຈີ່ | 17. ນອນ | 27. ແພງໂພດ |
| 8. ສົບໂມງເຄິ່ງ | 18. ຢຸດ | 28. ໄວ |
| 9. ເມື່ອຍ | 19. ດີກ່ວາ | 29. ເວລາ |
| 10. ເມຍ | 20. ເປີດ | 30. ໃຈ |

C.

- ແຊບ, ຍັງ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ບໍ່, ລາວ, ຮຽນ
- ໝູ່, ຄືກັນ, ດາວ, ບອກ, ປາ, ຢາກ, ເນາະ, ເສຍ, ເວົ້າ
- ກັບ, ຂ້ອຍ, ໃຈ, ເຈົ້າ, ແດງ, ນ້ຳ, ປິດ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ເຜີ, ເມົາ, ຫຼາຍ

D.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. ກິນແລ້ວບໍ່? | 9. ບໍ່ມີເວລາ |
| 2. ເມື່ອຍຫຼາຍ | 10. ຂ້ອຍຢາກກິນເຜີເຜັດ |
| 3. ຈັກໂມງແລ້ວ? | 11. ບອກລາວເຈົ້າບອກຫຍັງຂ້ອຍ |
| 4. ເຈົ້າແຕ່ງງານແລ້ວບໍ່? | 12. ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າພາສາລາວຍັງບໍ່ດີ |
| 5. ແຊບຫຼາຍ | 13. ສູບຢາບໍ່? |
| 6. ຮ້ອນຫຼາຍເນາະ? | 14. ຂ້ອຍຈະໄປນອນ |
| 7. ເຈົ້າເຄີຍໄປປະເທດໄທບໍ່? | 15. ເຈົ້າບໍ່ຈີ່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່? |
| 8. ໄປໄວກ່ວາໄດ້ບໍ່? | |

E.

- I'm going back home at 2:30.
- You are kind.
- It's hot, huh?
- My friend likes to sleep a lot.
- Too expensive, huh.

6. What does your husband do?
7. Are you already drunk?
8. Is it delicious?
9. He speaks Lao (language) better than me.
10. Please ask him/her.
11. Bring the money.
12. Does (s)he have a boyfriend/girlfriend already?
13. I've never eaten mosquitoes.
14. My friend's wife knows Nok's friend's husband.
15. Have you already eaten?

NOTE

Practice your Lao with the included MP3 audio files!

This CD contains MP3 audio files.

You can play MP3 files on your computer (most computers include a default MP3 player); in your portable MP3 player; on many mobile phones and PDAs; and on some newer CD and DVD players.

You can also convert the MP3 files and create a regular audio CD, using software and a CD writing drive.

To play your MP3 files:

1. Open the CD on your computer.
2. Click on the MP3 file that you wish to play, to open it. The file should start playing automatically. *(If it doesn't, then perhaps your computer does not have an MP3 player; you will need to download one. There are dozens of players available online, and most of them are free or shareware. You can type "mp3 player" or "music downloads" into your search engine to find some.)*