

# (O) Do-This-Do-That (1/3)

Hmong is a language of Southern China and Southeast Asia, especially the countries of Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. One dialect of Hmong that is spoken in all of these countries is called Hmong Daw (or White Hmong). The sentences and phrases that you see below are from Hmong Daw. They are written in a writing system called RPA (Romanized Popular Alphabet). In this writing system, the initial consonant of a syllable is written first, followed by the vowel. If this vowel is doubled in writing, it is pronounced as nasalized or with a following “ng” sound. Last of all, a consonant symbol is used to represent the tone of the syllable (tone is a meaningful difference in pitch; for instance, Mandarin Chinese differentiates syllables with high, low, rising, and falling pitch). Hmong Daw has seven tones, one of which is indicated by the absence of any symbol. In this system, Hmong is written as *Hmoob*.

**O1.** In the following section, you are given a set of Hmong Daw sentences and phrases. English translations are presented in no particular order. Your task is to match the Hmong phrases and sentences with English translations; write your answers in the Answer Sheets. You should be aware that the order of words may differ significantly between the original phrases/sentences and their translations into the other language. Also note that the same word in English may translate to more than one word in Hmong, and vice versa.

Abbreviations: sg. = singular; du. = dual (two participants); pl. = plural.

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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Neeg them nyiaj rau koj.      | 17. hais lus Hmoob         |
| 2. Nej sib pom lawm.             | 18. sib ntsib sib pom      |
| 3. phem dab phem tuag            | 19. tsis khib tsis chim    |
| 4. Kuv lub tsev nqeeb phem heev. | 20. pe dab pe mlom         |
| 5. ua ib pawg                    | 21. ib pab liab            |
| 6. Wb sib ntsib.                 | 22. Koj muaj kub.          |
| 7. Khib kuv heev.                | 23. ntau pab ntau pawg     |
| 8. Dab tsis ntshai.              | 24. Nej muaj tej tsev loj. |
| 9. Nwg cog ib tsob tauj.         | 25. Wb phem heev.          |
| 10. Nej tsis tau pom kuv.        | 26. Neeg ntshai dab.       |
| 11. Ntuj no lawm.                | 27. Nwg chim heev.         |
| 12. Neeg Nplog pe mlom.          | 28. ntsis tauj ntsis nqeeb |
| 13. tej plaub tej ntug           | 29. Cuam zoo li neeg.      |
| 14. Kuv tsis tau ntsib nwg.      | 30. thov ntuj thov dab     |
| 15. tsev hais plaub              | 31. ib tsob ntoo siab heev |
| 16. neeg loj neeg siab           |                            |



## (O) Do-This-Do-That (2/3)

- |                                    |                                                   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| A. 'a very tall tree'              | Q. 'People pay silver to you.'                    |
| B. 'behave as one group'           | R. 'Lao people reverence images.'                 |
| C. 'grass sprouts'                 | S. 'not angry or offended'                        |
| D. 'He planted a grass plant.'     | T. 'My grass house is very ugly.'                 |
| E. 'People fear spirits.'          | U. 'big and tall people'                          |
| F. 'some legal proceedings'        | V. 'Apes are like people.'                        |
| G. 'He is very upset.'             | W. 'Spirits don't fear.'                          |
| H. 'It offends me very much.'      | X. 'You (sg.) have gold.'                         |
| I. 'We (du.) are very ugly.'       | Y. 'many factions'                                |
| J. 'speak Hmong language'          | Z. 'I did not meet him.'                          |
| K. 'Heaven is cold now.'           | AA. 'worship images and spirits'                  |
| L. 'petition deities'              | BB. 'court (house of speaking legal proceedings)' |
| M. 'a band of monkeys'             | CC. 'encounter one another'                       |
| N. 'You (pl.) did not see me.'     | DD. 'You (pl.) have some big houses.'             |
| O. 'You (pl.) see each other now.' | EE. 'We (du.) met each other.'                    |
| P. 'ugly as spirits and death'     |                                                   |

- I.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9.  10.  11.
12.  13.  14.  15.  16.  17.  18.  19.  20.  21.  22.
23.  24.  25.  26.  27.  28.  29.  30.  31.

**O2.** Translate these English phrases into Hmong; write your answers in the Answer Sheets.

a. Lao and Hmong people

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b. behave as primates

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## (O) Do-This-Do-That (3/3)

c. have precious metals

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n → a → c → l → **o**