

UKLO Round 2 March 2015

1. Do-This-Do-That in Hmong

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, written in a writing system called RPA (Romanized Popular Alphabet). In this writing system, a doubled vowel character is pronounced as nasalized or with a following “ng” sound, and a following consonant symbol is used to show the tone of the syllable (high, mid, low, rising, or falling pitch). Hmong Daw has seven tones, one of which is indicated by the absence of any symbol. For instance, in this system, Hmong is written as *Hmoob*.



The table on the next page contains 31 Hmong Daw sentences and phrases, and 31 English translations. Note that:

- the Hmong expressions and their English translations are in a different order.
- within a Hmong expression and its translation, words may be arranged differently.
- an English word may translate more than one word in Hmong, and vice versa.
- the abbreviations *sg*, *du* and *pl* mean ‘singular’, ‘dual’ (two) and ‘plural’ (more than two).

Q.3.1. Pair each Hmong expression with its English translation by writing the latter’s number in the first column of the table.

Q.3.2. Translate the following into Hmong:

Lao and Hmong people	
behave as primates	
have precious metals	

#	Hmong	#	English
	Neeg them nyiaj rau koj.	1.	a very tall tree
	Nej sib pom lawm.	2.	behave as one group
	phem dab phem tuag	3.	grass sprouts
	Kuv lub tsev nqeeb phem heev.	4.	He planted a grass plant.
	Ua ib pawg.	5.	People fear spirits.
	Wb sib ntsib.	6.	some legal proceedings
	Khib kuv heev.	7.	He is very upset.
	Dab tsis ntshai.	8.	It offends me very much.
	Nwg cog ib tsob tauj.	9.	We (du.) are very ugly.
	Nej tsis tau pom kuv.	10.	speak Hmong language
	Ntuj no lawm.	11.	Heaven is cold now.
	Neeg Nplog pe mlom.	12.	petition deities
	tej plaub tej ntug	13.	a band of monkeys
	Kuv tsis tau ntsib nwg.	14.	You (pl.) did not see me.
	tsev hais plaub	15.	You (pl.) see each other now.
	neeg loj neeg siab	16.	ugly as spirits and death
	hais lus Hmoob	17.	People pay silver to you.
	sib ntsib sib pom	18.	Lao people reverence images.
	tsis khib tsis chim	19.	not angry or offended
	pe dab pe mlom	20.	My grass house is very ugly.
	ib pab liab	21.	big and tall people
	Koj muaj kub.	22.	Apes are like people.
	ntau pab ntau pawg	23.	Spirits dont fear.
	Nej muaj tej tsev loj.	24.	You (sg.) have gold.
	Wb phem heev.	25.	many factions
	Neeg ntshai dab.	26.	I did not meet him.
	Nwg chim heev.	27.	worship images and spirits
	ntsis tauj ntsis nqeeb	28.	court (house of speaking legal proceedings)
	Cuam zoo li neeg.	29.	encounter one another
	thov ntuj thov dab	30.	You (pl.) have some big houses.
	ib tsob ntoo siab heev	31.	We (du.) met each other.

Do-This-Do-That in Hmong

43 points, 10 marks

3.1: 1 point per word (12)

3.2: 31 minus 1 for every missing, wrong or redundant word; ignore word order (31)

Q.3.1. See table on next page

Q.3.2.

Lao and Hmong people	neeg Nplog neeg Hmoob
behave as primates	ua liab ua cuam
have precious metals	muaj nyiaj muaj kub

#	Hmong	#	English
17	Neeg them nyiaj rau koj.	31.	a very tall tree
15	Nej sib pom lawm.	32.	behave as one group
16	phem dab phem tuag	33.	grass sprouts
20	Kuv lub tsev nqeeb phem heev.	34.	He planted a grass plant.
2	Ua ib pawg.	35.	People fear spirits.
31	Wb sib ntsib.	36.	some legal proceedings
8	Khib kuv heev.	37.	He is very upset.
23	Dab tsis ntshai.	38.	It offends me very much.
4	Nwg cog ib tsob tauj.	39.	We (du.) are very ugly.
14	Nej tsis tau pom kuv.	40.	speak Hmong language
11	Ntuj no lawm.	41.	Heaven is cold now.
18	Neeg Nplog pe mlom.	42.	petition deities
6	tej plaub tej ntug	43.	a band of monkeys
26	Kuv tsis tau ntsib nwg.	44.	You (pl.) did not see me.
28	tsev hais plaub	45.	You (pl.) see each other now.
21	neeg loj neeg siab	46.	ugly as spirits and death
10	hais lus Hmoob	47.	People pay silver to you.
29	sib ntsib sib pom	48.	Lao people reverence images.
19	tsis khib tsis chim	49.	not angry or offended
27	pe dab pe mlom	50.	My grass house is very ugly.
13	ib pab liab	51.	big and tall people
24	Koj muaj kub.	52.	Apes are like people.
25	ntau pab ntau pawg	53.	Spirits dont fear.
30	Nej muaj tej tsev loj.	54.	You (sg.) have gold.
9	Wb phem heev.	55.	many factions
5	Neeg ntshai dab.	56.	I did not meet him.
7	Nwg chim heev.	57.	worship images and spirits
3	ntsis tauj ntsis nqeeb	58.	court (house of speaking legal proceedings)
22	Cuam zoo li neeg.	59.	encounter one another
12	thov ntuj thov dab	60.	You (pl.) have some big houses.
1	ib tsob ntoo siab heev	31.	We (du.) met each other.

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<http://www.nacloweb.org/resources/problems/2015/N2015-OS.pdf>