

(H) Phàasàa and Pháasăa (1/2)

Shan (native term: Phàasàa Tái, ဗားသူးတိုး) and Lao (native term: Pháasăa Láaw, ພາສັລາວ) are Tai languages from Southeast Asia. Shan is spoken in Myanmar and Thailand by about 3 million people, and Lao is spoken in Laos and Thailand by about 20 million. They are quite closely related, but are essentially mutually incomprehensible due to grammatical changes in both languages. Similarly, they are both written in writing systems that descend from the ancient Sanskrit script Brahmi, but these writing systems have rather different ways of marking the same sounds. The Shan writing system is a modification of the alphabet used by Burmese and Mon, whereas the Lao script is a streamlined form of the Thai alphabet.

Note: the diacritics (accent marks) above the Shan and Lao vowels in the Roman transcription of the native terms for the two languages shown above serve to mark tone. The doubled vowels indicate long vowels.

H1. Your task is to determine what goes in the blanks in the Shan and Lao columns. If you think that more than one answer is possible, write the likeliest one first, then the second-likiest, and so on.

Shan	Lao	English	Shan	Lao	English
ထွေ။	ဗို့	belly	လိုတုံး	ເລື້ອດ	blood
လျှေး	ລູກ	child	ဝါ၏	ຊັງ	elephant
မာ၏	ໝາກ	fruit	မိတုံး	ນິດ	knife
ဟွေး။	ပံ့ည	large knife	သ။	ຊົງ	left
ဆိုဝါ။	ເນီးစ	meat	ခါ။	ນာ	mother's younger sibling
ဆွဲး	ນອກ	outside	ဂာပု။	ກາບ	pith
ဂြား။	အာက	root	ထွေး	ຊြိုက	rope
လို၏	ແಡ	sun	သိုံး	ຊို	to buy
ဂို။	ငှား	to chew	လို့၏	ເລື້ອກ	to choose
ထာ၏	တာက	to dry in the sun	ရွှေတုံး	ກອດ	to embrace
ဂူ။	သိုး	to know	ထွေး။	တော်	to pound



(H) Phàasàa and Pháasăa (2/2)

Shan	Lao	English
ဗုတ်,	ແຜດ	to roar
တို့	ແဏေ	to split
လိုဆ်。	လီးမ်	tongue
မုံ。	မှံး	wood
မူပုံ,		to crouch
	ແປດ	eight
	ပြီးခွာ	rind

Shan	Lao	English
သွန်း	ຊອກ	to seek
လူတ်,	ရူဂါ	to suck
ပို့	ပါက	wing
ဂျာ။		bad
လာဂုံး		to pull
(e)	မှာ	horse

H2. Out of the symbols ဗု, ဗုံး, ဗုံး, and ဗုံး in Shan, and ဉ္စ, ဉ္စ, ဉ္စ, and ဉ္စ in Lao, which represent consonants, which vowels, and which tones?

Consonants	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Vowels	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tones	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			

