Similigraphs in Vietnamese

* Put them in circles instead of tables – non-hierarchical

Auto-contents

Contents

[Dung 1](#_Toc193661588)

[Say / Sai 2](#_Toc193661589)

[Day / Dai 2](#_Toc193661590)

[Dau 4](#_Toc193661591)

An

Anh

Bat

Chinh

Cho

Dau

Den

Do

Don

Dong

Du

Dua

Duong

Giau, giao

Giai, Giay

Gioi

Hai, Hay

Han

Hung

Keo, keu

Khach, khac

Lai, Lay

Roi

Rua

Sau

Sua

Thuc

Thuong

Tien

Tre

Xay

Yeu

Valid vowel sequences:

a ai ao au

â ây âu

ă

But not all are allowed after every consonant.

# Dung

d đ / u ư / ng – 2x2x1 = 4

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | d | đ |
| u | dung | đung |
| ư | dung | đưng |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| dung | dúng | dùng | dủng | Dũng | dụng |
| content | / | use |  | a name; brave | use, employ |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| đung | đúng | đùng | đủng | đũng | đụng |
| tolerate | correct | bang; kind of field |  | ? | collide |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| dưng | dứng | dừng | dửng | dững | dựng |
| rise |  | stop | uncaring |  | build, erect |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| đưng | đứng | đừng | đửng | đững | đựng |
|  | stand; stand up for; halt | don’t |  |  | contain, hold |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| correct | đúng | Extremely common. You will say this 50 times a day: *đúng rồi!* |
| to use | dùng | Very common. Seems like a contraction of sử dụng. Note the change of tone. |
| to use | sử dụng | Common |
| build, erect | xây dựng | Common, you will see this on construction signs often. |
| stop | dừng | Common |
| don’t | đừng | Common. Compare with dừng. Used as imperative “don’t”. |
| stand | đứng | Normal, but you won’t need to use it often. |
| a name | Dũng | I know 3 people with this name. Fairly common. |
| content | dung | I’ve never heard this. (adjective, to feel content) |
| rise | dưng | I’ve never heard this. |
| uncaring | dửng | I’ve never heard this. |
| tolerate | đung | I’ve never heard this. |
| bang; kind of field | đùng | I’ve never heard this. May be a variant of động (field). |
| ? | đũng | I’ve never heard this. Couldn’t work out the meaning. |
| collide | đụng | I’ve never heard this. Also used as slang for “marry”. |
| contain, hold | đựng | I’ve never heard this. |

# Say / Sai

s / ai ay ây – 1x3 = 3

*⟨âi⟩ is invalid*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| say | sáy | sày | sảy | sãy | sạy |
| drunk, sick |  |  | to winnow; heat rash |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| sai | sái | sài | sải | sãi | sại |
| wrong, error; to give an order | ominous | firewood, brushwood; serious disease; to use/spend (xài) | arm span (from trải) | bonze (Eastern Asian Buddhist monk); warden |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| sây | sấy | sầy | sẩy | sẫy | sậy |
| sây sát/xát – scathe, abrasion | to dry | is scratched | to lose something |  | reed |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| drunk, sick | say | Viets drink a lot. |
| wrong, error | sai | Used opposite to *đúng* |
| to dry | sấy | Drying machine – *máy sấy*. Also used in “dry fruit” |
| to winnow; heat rash | sảy | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| ominous | sái | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| brushwood; serious disease; to use/spend | sài | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| arm span | sải | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| bonze (monk) | sãi | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| scathe | sây | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| is scratched | sầy | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| to lose something | sẩy | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |
| reed | sậy | I’ve never heard this. Probably rarely used. |

# Day / Dai

d đ / ai ay ây – 2x3 = 6

*⟨âi⟩ is invalid*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | d | đ |
| a | dai  day | đai  đay |
| â | dây | đây |

Most tone variants are valid words!

Order: day, đay, dây, đây, dai, đai

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **day** | to rub |
| dáy | dirty (dơ dáy) |
| dày | thick (deep), dense |
| dảy |  |
| dãy | range, row – mountain range (dãy núi) |
| dạy | teach (dạy học) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **đay** | to nag; jute |
| đáy | internal base (đế is external base) |
| đày | to exile a prisoner internally |
| đảy |  |
| đãy | large bag, sack |
| đạy |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dây** | rope, string |
| dấy | raise, rise up |
| dầy | dày |
| dẩy |  |
| dẫy | dãy |
| dậy | wake up (thức dậy), to rise |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **đây** | this place, this thing, here |
| đấy | that place, that thing, there ([Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/đấy)) |
| đầy | full, filled |
| đẩy | push (a door; opp. kéo, lôi), shove, thrust |
| đẫy | fat, full |
| đậy | to cover (with a lid); → *che đậy*, to conceal |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dai** | tough, persistent |
| dái | [Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/dái) |
| dài | long (object & duration); non-stop (adverb) |
| dải | a strip of something |
| dãi | saliva, especially sticky/slimy |
| dại | wild, naturally, uncontrolled |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **đai** | a belt |
| đái | urinate |
| đài | classifier for raised platforms (including media); a radio (extension from *platform*) |
| đải |  |
| đãi | to rinse, to wash out, to flay soybeans. To treat / entertain someone |
| đại | big, large (大); randomly, irresponsibly |

Words you should learn:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| teach (dạy học) | dạy | Extremely common |
| long (object & duration); non-stop (adverb) | dài | Extremely common |
| rope, string | dây | Common, useful |
| wake up (thức dậy), to rise | dậy | Very common |
| big, large (大); [also: randomly, irresponsibly] | đại | Rare but part of “university”, *trường đại học* |
| this place, this thing, here | đây | Extremely common |
| that place, that thing, there  [Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/đấy) | đấy | Tonic mutation of đây |
| push (a door; opp. kéo, lôi), shove, thrust | đẩy | Commonly seen on doors. |
| raise, rise up | dấy | I haven’t heard it but could be useful. I have usually heard *nhắc lên*. |
| urinate | đái | Don’t say by accident! (Usually hear tiểu.) |

# Dao / Dau

d đ / ao au âu – 2x3 = 6

*âo is invalid.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | d | đ |
| a | dao  dau | đao  đau |
| â | dâu | đâu |

Order: dao, đao, dau, đau, dâu, đâu

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dao** | knife (clsf: con) |
| dáo | [Glosbe](https://glosbe.com/vi/en/dáo) |
| dào | full, abundant, rich, ample, bounteous |
| dảo | [Glosbe](https://glosbe.com/vi/en/dảo) |
| dão |  |
| dạo | to walk, stroll |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **đao** | Chinese sabre, doublet of *dao* |
| đáo | unique, original – *độc đáo* |
| đào | peach (and many derived fruit names) |
| đảo | island (clsf: hòn); to turn upside-down |
| đão | leader, official |
| đạo | from “way” ([道](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E9%81%93#Vietnamese)): code of conduct, religion; province (historical & foreign placenames). Đạo Đức Kinh. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dau** | Overall, it seems like ⟨au⟩ after ⟨d⟩ is broadly invalid. |
| dáu | ? |
| dàu | term, length (or not? Maybe only tiếng Tày) |
| dảu |  |
| dãu |  |
| dạu |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **đau** | pain, sore, ache |
| đáu | Thi đáu – compete, competition.  Trận đáu – match.  Giải đáu – tournament.  Chiến đáu – fight.  Đau đáu – common in translations, not sure what it means. ([Glosbe](https://glosbe.com/vi/en/đáu)) Possibly it is a reduplication of đau as pain. Yes, it is on Wiktionary as *restlessly, anxiously, worriedly*. ([Wiktionary](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/đau_đáu)) |
| đàu | Seems to exist primarily as a misspelling of đầu, occurring especially often in two-part words. |
| đảu |  |
| đãu | Mutation of đâu (where)? [Glosbe](https://glosbe.com/vi/en/đãu) |
| đạu |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **dâu** | Mulberry (dâu ta, *our mulberry*) → strawberry (dâu tây, *western mulberry*). Strawberry is now more popular so most mentions of dâu probably refer to strawberry. |
| dấu | Mark, sign, diacritic (ký hiệu); tone (thanh điệu, thanh (âm thanh)). |
| dầu | Oil. Also, alternative pronunciation of dù & dẫu, *although (mặc dù)*. |
| dẩu | Perhaps valid as a phonic variant of something else? [Glosbe](https://glosbe.com/vi/en/dẩu) |
| dẫu | Variant pronunciation of dù/dầu in mặc dù (*although*). |
| dậu | Rooster? And a Chinese-origin given name. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **đâu** | Where. Part of the demonstrative series with *đây, đấy, đó*. |
| đấu | Battle, fight. Many derived terms (common: chiến đấu). |
| đầu | Head (also *trốc*). An end, extremity; First. |
| đẩu | Only in compound words. “Dipper” from [斗](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E6%96%97#Vietnamese). |
| đẫu |  |
| đậu | Bean; nut. *Many* derived terms, including things that western food culture does not necessarily deem to be a bean or a nut. |

Words you should learn:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| knife | dao | Common |
| a stroll around | dạo | Quite common, *hãy đi dạo* |
| peach | đào | Common flavour at smoothie bars. |
| island | đảo | Many islands around Viet Nam and the world. |
| pain | đau | Used in most words for aches and pains. |
| strawberry/mulberry | dâu | Very common, mostly used to mean *strawberry* instead of *mulberry*. |
| mark, sign, tone | dấu | Very common, especially talking about spelling & pronunciation |
| oil | dầu | Very common |
| where | đâu | Extremely common, *bạn đi đâu?* |
| fight, battle | đấu | Normal word but less commonly heard |
| head, first, extremity | đầu | Very common |
| bean, *rarely* nut | đậu | Extremely common in menus |
| battle | đáu | May be a tonic variant of đấu |

# Fruit names with d a u o

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| quả đào | peach |
| quả dâu | strawberry |
| dầu | oil |
| dừa | coconut |
| lá dứa | pandan leaf |
| quả dứa | pineapple |

## Not fruits but easy to confuse

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| dao | knife |
| đạo | way |
| đâu | where |
| đau | pain |
| đầu | head |
| đầu tiên | first |

## Phrases

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Đau ở đâu? | Where is the pain? |
| Tôi bị đau đầu. | I have a headache. |
| Dầu dừa | Coconut oil |
| Dứa và dừa | Pineapple and coconut |