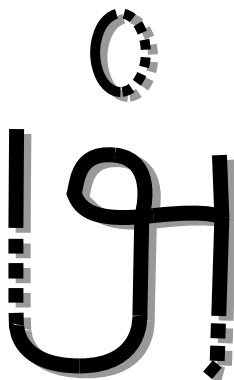


# Live Hmong



## **Live Hmong**

A book of basic Hmong words.  
(ib phau ntawv txog lus Hmoob.)

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# Introduction

Live Hmong is a small collection of basic vocabulary words for beginners. Most Hmong vocabulary resources are organized like dictionaries, and try to cover a wide list of words overwhelming, and unnecessary for most beginners. Live Hmong is unique in that organizes words based on life context to give beginners a grasp of everyday language. It also focuses on mostly single symbol words, which provide intuition and foundation for understanding compound words.

I created this guide, with help from my teacher Ku Moua, to help me while I was studying Hmong. I am by no means a language expert and the book likely contains mistakes. If you have any suggestions or contributions feel free to contact me at [justin.meiners@gmail.com](mailto:justin.meiners@gmail.com).

- Justin Meiners

# Basics

## Colors

dawb ( <i>xim</i> )	white
daj ( <i>xim</i> )	yellow
dub ( <i>xim</i> )	black
nstuav ( <i>xim</i> )	green
kas fes ( <i>xim</i> )	brown
liab ( <i>xim</i> )	red
xiav ( <i>xim</i> )	blue
paj yeeb ( <i>xim</i> )	purple
txaij ( <i>xim</i> )	striped
txho tshuav ( <i>xim</i> )	gray
xoob ( <i>xim</i> )	orange

## Numbers

ib	1
ob	2
peb	3
plaub	4
tsib	5
rau	6
xya	7
yi	8
cuj	9
kaum	10

## Classifiers

lub	round, large, buildings
tus	people, animals, long, straight, systems
leej	important people
phau	books
daim	flat objects
txoj	abstract, long flexible
zaj	paragraphs, speeches
lo	single words
tsob	single words
rab	tools used with hands
nkawm	pairs
pob	packets
pluas	meals
yav	time of day
pawg	groups, herds
cov, tej	pluralizers

# People, Friends, and Family

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## Nouns

neeg (*tus*)

kws (*tus*)

laib (*tus*)

neej (*lub*)

niam (*tus*)

ntxhais (*tus*)

npe (*lub*)

pog (*tus*)

phooj ywg (*tus*)

tub (*tus*)

txiv

txiv (*tus*)

yawg (*tus*)

person

skilled expert

punk

life

mother

daughter

name

grandmother

friend

son

father

husband

grandfather

## Verbs

haum

hlub

hu

khav

laum

luag

mloog

nco

noog

nwj

ntsib

ntxhi

nyiam

pab

quaj

qawm

teb

xav

get along/fit

love

call

brag

tickle

laugh

listen

miss

ask

kiss

meet

whisper

like

help

cry

hug

answer

want

# Clothing

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## Nouns

tiab (*daim*)

tiab (*lub*)

kaus mom (*lub*)

khau (*nkawm, lub*)

khia mis (*lub*)

hnab (*lub*)

moo (*lub*)

nplhaib (*lub*)

saw (*txoj*)

thoom thaub

tsho (*lub*)

ris (*lub*)

shirt

dress

hat

shoes

bra

bag

watch

ring

necklace

socks

shirt

pants

## Verbs

hle

hnav

rhuav

xaws

take off

put on

tear

sew

# Household

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## Nouns

hoob ( <i>lub</i> )	room
duab ( <i>daim</i> )	picture
khw ( <i>lub</i> )	store
khoom	stuff
ncej ( <i>tus</i> )	pole/pillar
ntaub ( <i>daim</i> )	cloth
qhov rais ( <i>lub</i> )	window
qhov rooj ( <i>lub</i> )	door
rooj ( <i>nkawm</i> )	table
teeb ( <i>lub</i> )	light
tog ( <i>lub</i> )	chair
tsev ( <i>lub</i> )	house
tsheb ( <i>lub</i> )	car
tshuab ( <i>lub</i> )	machine
txaj ( <i>lub</i> )	bed
txee ( <i>lub</i> )	cabinet

## Verbs

da dej	bathe
hau lwm	work
kaw	close
los	come (family)
ncaim	leave
nyiag	steal
muag	sew
poob	misplace/lose
qhib	open
so	rest
tawm	leave (command)
tsav	drive
tuaj	come
xauv	rent
xyuas	visit
yuav	buy

# Kitchen

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## Nouns

dej (*cov*)  
 dib (*lub*)  
 diav (*lub*)  
 diav rawg (*rab*)  
 dos (*lub*)  
 fwj (*lub*)  
 khaub rhuab (*tus*)  
 khob (*lub*)  
 kua (*cov*)  
 kua txob (*lub*)  
 lauj kaub (*lub*)  
 mij (*lub*)  
 mov (*cov, pob*)  
 phaj (*lub*)  
 nqaij (*daim*)  
 qe (*lub*)  
 riam (*rab*)  
 rawg tais (*rab*)  
 tais (*lub*)  
 tshuaj (*pob*)  
 txiv (*lub*)  
 yias (*pob*)  
 zaub (*cov*)

## Verbs

water	haus	drink
cucumber	huv	clean/neat
spoon	noj	eat
fork	nqos	swallow
onion	ntxais	suck
bottle	ntxuav	wash
mushroom	qhvv	wrap
cup	saj	taste
liquid	sim	try
pepper	tawv	peel
pot	tseg	spare
noodles	tsw	smell
rice	tos	wait
plate	zom	chew
meat		
egg		
knife		
chopstick		
bowl		
medicine		
fruit		
frying pan		
vegetables		

# Outdoors

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## Nouns

av ( <i>daim</i> )	dirt/ground
choj ( <i>lub</i> )	bridge
hmab ( <i>tsob</i> )	vine
hnub ( <i>lub</i> )	sun
hli ( <i>lub</i> )	moon
kev ( <i>txoj</i> )	path
ncaws pob	soccer
nkoj ( <i>lub</i> )	boat
nroj ( <i>tsob</i> )	weed
ntaus pob	volley ball
ntoo ( <i>lub</i> )	sky
nyav ( <i>tus</i> )	valley
nyom ( <i>cov</i> )	grass
paj ( <i>lub, tsob</i> )	plant/flower
pas ( <i>tus</i> )	stick
pob ( <i>lub</i> )	ball
roob ( <i>lub</i> )	mountain
suab ( <i>tsob</i> )	bush
teb ( <i>daim</i> )	farm
tuj lub ( <i>lub</i> )	tops (game)
tsua ( <i>lub</i> )	cave
vaj ( <i>lub</i> )	garden
xyoob ( <i>tsob</i> )	bamboo
zeb ( <i>lub</i> )	rock

## Verbs

khawb	dig
nce	climb
ncig	explore
nkaum	hide
ntab	float
si	play



# Animals

## Nouns

dais ( <i>tus</i> )	bear
dev ( <i>tus</i> )	dog
hma ( <i>tus</i> )	wolf
kab ( <i>tus</i> )	beetle
kheb ( <i>luv</i> )	alligator
lom ( <i>cov</i> )	poison
miv ( <i>tus</i> )	cat
muv ( <i>tus</i> )	bee
nas ( <i>tus</i> )	rodent
nees ( <i>tus</i> )	horse
noog ( <i>tus</i> )	bird
npua ( <i>tus</i> )	pig
nquab ( <i>lub</i> )	dove/quail
ntses ( <i>lub</i> )	fish
ntxhw ( <i>tus</i> )	elephant
nyuj ( <i>tus</i> )	cow
qav ( <i>tus</i> )	frog
qaib ( <i>tus</i> )	chicken
tw ( <i>tus</i> )	tail
tsiaj lub ( <i>tus</i> )	animal
tsov ( <i>tus</i> )	tiger
vaub ki ( <i>tus</i> )	turtle
yaj ( <i>tus</i> )	sheep
zaj ( <i>tus</i> )	dragon

## Verbs

caij	ride
coj	guide/lead
cuab	trap
hem	scare
plev	string
qw	scream/shout
tom	bite
tua	kill
tuag	die (less formal)
ya	fly
zov	care/guard

# Body

## Nouns

caj dab (*lub*)  
 caj npab (*txhais*)  
 ceg (*txhais*)  
 di ncauj (*daim*)  
 hauv caug (*lub*)  
 hlwb (*lub*)  
 hniav (*cov, tus*)  
 ko taw (*txhais*)  
 luj tshib (*lub*)  
 nplaig (*tus*)  
 nrab qaum (*lub*)  
 ntsej muag (*lub*)  
 ntshav (*cov*)  
 ntiv taw (*cov, tus*)  
 ntiv tes (*cov, tus*)  
 ntsws (*lub*)  
 mob (*txoj*)  
 plab (*lub*)  
 plaub (*cov, txoj*)  
 plawv (*lub*)  
 pob nsteg (*lub*)  
 pob tw (*lub*)  
 pob txha (*tus*)  
 qhov muag (*lub*)  
 qhov ncauj (*lub*)  
 siab (*lub*)  
 taub hau (*lub*)  
 tes (*txhais*)  
 zog (*lub*)

## Verbs

neck	hais	say
arm	hnov	hear
leg	ev	carry
lip	khiav	run
knee	kov	feel (touch)
brain	muaaj	have
teeth	mus	go
foot	ncaws	kick
elbow	nkag	crawl
tongue	plhaw/dhia	hop/jump
back	pom	see
face	pw	lay
blood	pov	throw
toes	qw	yell
fingers	rho	pull
lungs	saib	look/observe
ache/pain	sawv	stand
stomach	thawb	push
hair	tso	drop
heart	txav	move
ear		
butt		
bone		
eye		
mouth		
liver		
head		
hand		
energy		

## Tools and Weapons

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### Nouns

ciaj ( <i>rab</i> )	pliers
duav ( <i>rab</i> )	shovel
hlau ( <i>txoj, daim</i> )	metal
hlau ( <i>rab</i> )	hoe
hlua ( <i>txoj</i> )	rope
hmuṽ ( <i>rab</i> )	spear
ntaj ( <i>rab</i> )	sword
ntaiv ( <i>tus</i> )	ladder
ruaj ( <i>rab</i> )	hammer
thoob ( <i>lub</i> )	bucket

### Verbs

dam	break in two
hno	insert/puncture
kho	fix
koom	join
nkaug	stab
ntaus	hit/strike
ntsuas	measure
puas	break (machinery)
phob	use wastefully
quav	separate/divide
siv	use
tawg	explode/burst
tu	break (tension)
txiav	cut/clib

# Literature

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## Nouns

dab neeb (*txoj*)  
dab (*tus*)  
kev (*txoj*)  
lus (*lo, cov*)  
npiv (*tus*)  
ntawv (*phau*)  
moo (*txoj*)  
qhov (*lub*)  
tshooj (*tus*)  
yeem (*txoj*)  
xaum (*tus*)  
zos (*lub*)

## Verbs

story	kawm	study/learn
monster	kos	mark/engrave
way of	nyeeg	read
word	paub	know
pen	piav	explain
book	qhia	teach/tell
news/report	qaug	copy
hole/thing	sau	write
chapter/section	to taub	understand
symbol	txhais	translate
writing utensil		
village		

# Spiritual

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## Nouns

plig (*tus*)  
hmoov (*txoj*)  
mlom (*lub*)  
neeb (*tus*)  
tshawj (*lub*)  
Vajtswv (*tus*)

spirit  
luck  
idol/sculpture  
shaman  
church  
god

## Verbs

hloov    change/evolve  
ntseeg    believe  
tsib    command

# Unsorted Words

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## Nouns

## Verbs

coj	bring
dag	lie
kiv	spin
kawg	end
npuaj	slap
nres	stop
ntob	hit
peg	beat/hit
pib	begin
poob	fall
rhuav	take down
xaiv	choose

# Description

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Adjectives		Prepositions	
ceev	fast	dhau	through
qeeb	slow	hauv	in
loj	big	hauv qab	under/beneath
me	small	ncig	around
zoo	good	nram	downhill
phem	bad	nraum	outside
rog	fat	ntawm	of
yuag	skinny	ntawd	that/there
ntse	smart	pem	up hill
ruam	dumb	qab	below
siab	tall	saum	above/on
luv	short	tim	over there
sib	light	tom	there (near)
hnyav	heavy	tom qab	behind
ntiav	shallow		
tob	deep		
nyuaj	difficult		
yooj yim	easy		
kim	expensive		
pheej yig	cheap		
tuab	thick		
nyias	thin		
txawv	different		
tseeb	true		
kawg	extremely		
kawg nkaus	incredibly		
tsis tsua	not really		