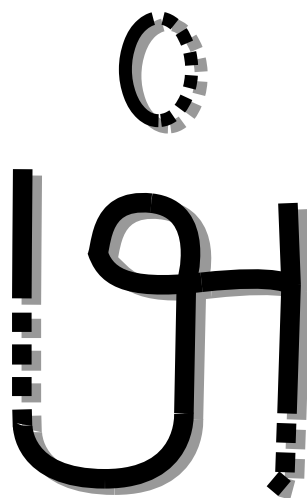


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Live Hmong



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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.

- 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

Nouns

neeg (<i>tus</i>)	person
kws (<i>tus</i>)	skilled expert
laib (<i>tus</i>)	punk
neej (<i>lub</i>)	life
niam (<i>tus</i>)	mother
ntxhais (<i>tus</i>)	daughter
npe (<i>lub</i>)	name
pog (<i>tus</i>)	grandmother
phooj ywg (<i>tus</i>)	friend
tub (<i>tus</i>)	son
txiv	father
txiv (<i>tus</i>)	husband
yawg (<i>tus</i>)	grandfather

Verbs

haum	get along/fit
hlub	love
hu	call
khav	brag
laum	tickle
luag	laugh
mloog	listen
nco	miss
noog	ask
nwj	kiss
ntsib	meet
ntxhi	whisper
nyiam	like
pab	help
quaj	cry
qawm	hug
teb	answer
xav	want

Clothing

Nouns

tiab (<i>daim</i>)	shirt
tiab (<i>lub</i>)	dress
kaus mom (<i>lub</i>)	hat
khau (<i>nkawm, lub</i>)	shoes
khia mis (<i>lub</i>)	bra
hnab (<i>lub</i>)	bag
moo (<i>lub</i>)	watch
nplhaib (<i>lub</i>)	ring
saw (<i>txoj</i>)	necklace
thoom thaub	socks
tsho (<i>lub</i>)	shirt
ris (<i>lub</i>)	pants

Verbs

hle	take off
hnav	put on
rhuav	tear
xaws	sew

Household

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

Nouns

dej (<i>cov</i>)	water
dib (<i>lub</i>)	cucumber
diav (<i>lub</i>)	spoon
diav rawg (<i>rab</i>)	fork
dos (<i>lub</i>)	onion
fwj (<i>lub</i>)	bottle
khaub rhuab (<i>tus</i>)	mushroom
khob (<i>lub</i>)	cup
kua (<i>cov</i>)	liquid
kua txob (<i>lub</i>)	pepper
lauj kaub (<i>lub</i>)	pot
mij (<i>lub</i>)	noodles
mov (<i>cov, pob</i>)	rice
phaj (<i>lub</i>)	plate
nqaij (<i>daim</i>)	meat
qe (<i>lub</i>)	egg
riam (<i>rab</i>)	knife
rawg tais (<i>rab</i>)	chopstick
tais (<i>lub</i>)	bowl
tshuaj (<i>pob</i>)	medicine
txiv (<i>lub</i>)	fruit
yias (<i>pob</i>)	frying pan
zaub (<i>cov</i>)	vegetables

Verbs

haus	drink
huv	clean/neat
noj	eat
nqos	swallow
ntxais	suck
ntxuav	wash
qhvv	wrap
saj	taste
sim	try
tawv	peel
tseg	spare
tsw	smell
tos	wait
zom	chew

Outdoors

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 (<i>lub</i>)	neck
caj npab (<i>txhais</i>)	arm
ceg (<i>txhais</i>)	leg
di ncauj (<i>daim</i>)	lip
hauv caug (<i>lub</i>)	knee
hlwb (<i>lub</i>)	brain
hniav (<i>cov, tus</i>)	teeth
ko taw (<i>txhais</i>)	foot
luj tshib (<i>lub</i>)	elbow
nplaig (<i>tus</i>)	tongue
nrab qaum (<i>lub</i>)	back
ntsej muag (<i>lub</i>)	face
ntshav (<i>cov</i>)	blood
ntiv taw (<i>cov, tus</i>)	toes
ntiv tes (<i>cov, tus</i>)	fingers
ntsws (<i>lub</i>)	lungs
mob (<i>txoj</i>)	ache/pain
plab (<i>lub</i>)	stomach
plaub (<i>cov, txoj</i>)	hair
plawv (<i>lub</i>)	heart
pob nsteg (<i>lub</i>)	ear
pob tw (<i>lub</i>)	butt
pob txha (<i>tus</i>)	bone
qhov muag (<i>lub</i>)	eye
qhov ncauj (<i>lub</i>)	mouth
siab (<i>lub</i>)	liver
taub hau (<i>lub</i>)	head
tes (<i>txhais</i>)	hand
zog (<i>lub</i>)	energy

Verbs

hais	say
hnov	hear
ev	carry
khiaiv	run
kov	feel (touch)
muaj	have
mus	go
ncaws	kick
nkag	crawl
plhaw/dhia	hop/jump
pom	see
pw	lay
pov	throw
qw	yell
rho	pull
saib	look/observe
sawv	stand
thawb	push
tso	drop
txav	move

Tools and Weapons

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
hmuiv (<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

Nouns

dab neeb (<i>txoj</i>)	story
dab (<i>tus</i>)	monster
kev (<i>txoj</i>)	way of
lus (<i>lo, cov</i>)	word
npiv (<i>tus</i>)	pen
ntawv (<i>phau</i>)	book
moo (<i>txoj</i>)	news/report
qhov (<i>lub</i>)	hole/thing
tshooj (<i>tus</i>)	chapter/section
yeem (<i>txoj</i>)	symbol
xaum (<i>tus</i>)	writing utensil
zos (<i>lub</i>)	village

Verbs

kawm	study/learn
kos	mark/engrave
nyeeg	read
paub	know
piav	explain
qhia	teach/tell
qaug	copy
sau	write
to taub	understand
txhais	translate

Spiritual

Nouns

plig (<i>tus</i>)	spirit
hmoov (<i>txoj</i>)	luck
mlom (<i>lub</i>)	idol/sculpture
neeb (<i>tus</i>)	shaman
tshawj (<i>lub</i>)	church
Vajtswv (<i>tus</i>)	god

Verbs

hloov	change/evolve
ntseeg	believe
tsib	command

Unsorted Words

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

Adjectives

ceev	fast
qeeb	slow
loj	big
me	small
zoo	good
phem	bad
rog	fat
yuag	skinny
ntse	smart
ruam	dumb
siab	tall
luv	short
sib	light
hnyav	heavy
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

Prepositions

dhau	through
hauv	in
hauv qab	under/beneath
ncig	around
nram	downhill
nraum	outside
ntawm	of
ntawd	that/there
pem	up hill
qab	below
saum	above/on
tim	over there
tom	there (near)
tom qab	behind