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An Introduction to the Lao Language



Sam Brier & Phouphanomlack (Tee) Sangkhampone

Speak the basics, fast!

Ask anyone what they most enjoyed about visiting Laos, and they'll undoubtedly say "the people." While experiencing the country's beauty you'll meet many Lao people, and this book's very simple approach enables you speak their language.

Learn how to build conversations, and how to read and write the artistic Lao script, with **Lao Basics** as your guide.

- You will gradually learn to read, write, speak and comprehend the 26 consonants. Once you have mastered these, it's on to the 28 vowels. As you go, you'll learn vocabulary, conversational phrases, and sentence structure.
- Throughout, review exercises with answer keys help you polish your skills.
- The vocabulary and phrases are written in Lao script, and are accompanied by pronunciations that help English-speakers to say them accurately.
- The MP3 audio CD includes every vocabulary item, sample phrase, and exercise, so that you can learn from native voices.

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Sam Brier
Phouphanomlack (Tee) Sangkhamphone

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Acknowledgments

Although this is a short book, many thanks are in order:

Thank you Gordon Allison, the author of *Easy Thai*—the book that *Lao Basics* is modeled after. I found *Easy Thai* in a Bangkok bookstore and quickly saw that it simplified what seemed to me a very complex language. After using it to grasp the basics of Thai in a rather short period of time, I thought to myself, “If there were only a book like this for learning Lao.” Unable to find one, I decided to write it myself.

Back in Lao, I asked Tee to be my co-author, and thankfully she accepted. Tee pushed *Lao Basics* through its most difficult phase—the first draft. Souphing Saphakdy edited it to this final version. Without either of them, this book would not be in your hands now. We hope that *Lao Basics* survives the test of time, as has Allison’s *Easy Thai*, first printed in 1968 and still widely available after more than 27 printings.

There are also the many others I met in Lao who made me want to stay longer than I had planned. Much longer. And I did. Their names, if I knew half of them, would double the size of this book. Some of them I can’t forget, however: Simon Creak, Leisa Tyler, Carrie-Anne Best, Clif Meys, Liam Thammavongsa, Manichanh (Lang) Sichanhthapadid, Rome, Alain, Nick, the entire staff of the U.S. Embassy, plus Ely Ruel and everyone else at the Vientiane International School.

Although I didn’t know my wife, Linh, when I started this project, it wouldn’t feel right if I didn’t thank her for supporting me since the day we met. It would be akin to not thanking my parents, who never thought I’d live in Asia so many years, but have come to visit many times. Thank you.

Even with a great co-author, editor and excellent friends, plus the inspiration, energy and support to finish a book, it takes something special to bring it to market. Some might call it luck, but I call it a publisher. The hardest part in the publishing process is not necessarily finding a publisher, however; it’s finding

the right publisher, and I have been fortunate enough to find Tuttle Publishing and Sandra Korinchak, my editor, who have been wonderful to work with on this and our other projects together so far: *A Chinese Phrase a Day Practice Pad* and *A Japanese Phrase a Day Practice Pad*.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for having an interest in Lao, a language spoken by relatively few, but more than worth the effort to learn.

Introduction

Why *Lao Basics*?

Some readers may wonder why this book is not called *Laotian Basics*, or perhaps even *Laos Basics*. The English words *Laos* and *Laotian* are derived from the Lao language, but they are not accurate transliterations. The French added the “s” to *Lao*, which is the correct pronunciation of the country as well as the language and the people. For example: “Lao people speak Lao in Lao.” Hence, we have called this book *Lao Basics*.

Lao Basics teaches conversational Lao from the very beginning with an emphasis on reading and writing. It follows the same simple, effective learning format as *Easy Thai* by Gordon Allison, which has remained popular and in print since its publication in 1968.

Students of Thai will find Lao quite simple, as much of these two languages are the same or very similar. Likewise, after learning Lao, Thai (with a more complex alphabet) will be much easier to study. These languages derive from Sanskrit and share many of the same consonants, vowels, vocabulary and grammar. A Thai speaker learning Lao would be comparable to a French speaker studying Italian or vice versa.

Lao Basics is organized so that you will first learn to read, write, speak and comprehend the 26 consonants in their tonal classes. Once you have mastered these, you will study the 28 vowels in subsets. Within each vowel grouping, you will learn vocabulary, conversational phrases, alphabetical order and sentence structure through exercises that grow more challenging as your vocabulary increases.

As you progress through *Lao Basics*, vocabulary from previous lessons will be repeated regularly and your command of the written and spoken language will steadily improve.

And you can do all of this on your own. Each chapter's Lao words and exercises have been recorded on the accompanying CD, and all of the exercise answers are in the back of the book.

How to Use This Book

The Lao alphabet may look formidable, but it contains clear rules, which make learning to read and spell in Lao much easier than in English. For example, consonants and vowels are read as they are written and vice versa, as in Spanish; i.e., pronunciation does not change. And even though vowel placement may look confusing to the novice, vowels do not change location. The logical design of the written language greatly helps to learn the spoken language, and *Lao Basics* takes advantage of this in its layout.

In *Lao Basics*, the 26 Lao consonants are broken down into three classes rather than taught in alphabetical order. This follows the traditional teaching format of Lao, and we also follow this method because each grouping references a tonal category.

To use *Lao Basics* effectively, plan to move on to the next chapter only after you are confident that you have mastered the previous one. Practice writing each letter as you say it until you are 75% sure that you can recognize, say and write each correctly from memory; then move on to the exercises for reinforcement. And don't forget to listen to the audio CD for correct pronunciation. The answers to all exercises are at the back of the book.

Like English, Lao is read left to right and follows the Subject-Verb-Object word order. Additionally, most Lao letters are pronounced just like sounds that exist in English.

Lao differs from English in other ways, however. Lao has relatively little grammar, no plurals, few articles, and regularly leaves out the subject pronoun (I, He, She...) at the beginning of sentences when the context is understood. In this sense Lao can be much easier to learn than other languages.

Other aspects are more difficult to get used to. For example, there are no spaces between words in the written language; a special word is added to the end of sentences (**baw**), rather than inflection, that turns statements into questions; some vowel sounds are unfamiliar to the English speaker, and certain vowels are placed to the left of consonants, while other vowels are placed to the right, above and below. But, have no fear—unlike English, the rules are easy to follow, and each vowel combination is only pronounced one way.

A note on writing Lao script: Most consonants and some vowels start with a small loop. In order to write the letter correctly, *start with the loop at one end of the letter* and follow the letter through to the other end. Here is an example:



Each chapter contains explanations where necessary to make your learning experience more enjoyable, so let's leave it at that and get started.

The Tones

Consonant/Tonal Groupings

This chapter gives a brief overview of the Lao tones, and we recommend that you work with both the accompanying audio CD and a Lao language teacher to master them.

Lao Basics divides each consonant into one of the three traditional groupings (or classes): Mid, Low, or High. The consonants in each particular grouping follow the same rules when accompanied by various combinations of ending consonants, vowels (short, long or nasal), and tonal marks. For example, all eight Mid consonants follow the same rules, whereas Low consonants have their own rules. And High consonants have their own rules. Sometimes, rules do overlap groups, but rules rarely cover all groups.

It can be very difficult to memorize a chart with all of these peculiarities, and for that reason *Lao Basics* takes a different path. **Instead of memorizing a chart, you will learn to read, write, comprehend and say each consonant, each vowel, each word and each sentence in this book; in short you will learn by doing.**

Listen closely to the pronunciation on the CD, and if possible, work with a native Lao speaker to master these sounds.

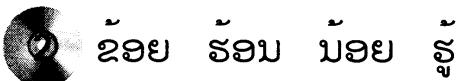
Tone Marks

There are four tonal marks that are placed over some Lao vowels from time to time, but only two are regularly used, and we have attempted to teach you mostly words without tone marks for the first part of the vowel section.

The first tonal symbol is called **mai eik** (pronounced “my ehk”). It looks like a short number “1” placed over a letter ['] and causes the sound of all words that contain this tone mark to take on a middle (slightly high) pitch. Here are some examples:



The second tonal symbol is called **mai too**. You will learn later in the vowel section that **mai** is a short sound and **too** is a long sound, pronounced “my toe.” Since English is rarely consistent in pronunciation, however, we use a different transliteration system, which you will learn as you progress through the book. **Mai too** looks like a tiny, squiggly number “2” with a long tail [~]. When this is placed over a vowel, it causes the sound of Mid and Low Consonant words to drop from a high tone to a low one, while it causes words starting with a High consonant to fall from an already low starting point. Here are some examples:



The third tonal symbol is **mai jat dta waa** or “my jaht dtah wah” [~] and the fourth is **mai dtii** or “my dtee” [^]. The former looks like a little lowercase *m* with a tail, and the latter looks like a tiny plus sign. They are both seldom used and change the sound of words to a short “pop”ping sound.

The Consonants

LESSON 1

Mid Consonants (Part I)

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ກ	1	gaw	g
ຈ	5	jaw	j
ດ	9	daw	d
ຕ	10	dtaw	dt

The letter ນ is often transliterated as *k* in other Lao language books instead of *g*, as we have used here. When found at the *beginning* of a word, the American *g* sound is spot-on, but a soft *k* sound is appropriate when ນ is found at the *end* of a word. An easy way to remember this is that *g* comes before *k* in the English alphabet.

The sound *aw* is added to Lao letters to make the name of the letter. For example, instead of saying *gee* as we would for the letter *g* in English, one must say *gaw* for the letter ນ, as shown in the chart.

There are no capital or lowercase letters in Lao, and there are no spaces between words in sentences.

As you look at each Lao example and listen to the audio, below and throughout these chapters, focus on hearing the consonant's sound; don't worry about understanding entire words.

4 Examples of ນ sound at the beginning of a word: ກັບ / ກິນ

Examples of ນ sound at the end of a word: ນົກ / ສົກ

The letter ທ is often written as *ch* in other guides (often printed in England), but once again you will find that the American English *j* is more accurate.



Example of ດ sound: ຈະ / ຈີ້

The letter ດ at the beginning of a word sounds like an American *d*, with the tongue curved farther back toward the center of the roof of the mouth. At the end of a word, ດ has the sound of a soft *t*.



Examples of ດ sound at the beginning of a word: ດາວ / ດີ

Examples of ດ sound at the end of a word: ປິດ / ຢຸດ

The letter ດ has no exact mirror sound in English, but does come close to the soft *t* spoken at the end of English words. For example: the soft *t* in *what*, but not the *t* in *Texas*. It is therefore not the equivalent of a plain *t* as it is so often written. It is rather a mix between a *d* and *t*, hence *dt*. This sound is made by slightly touching your tongue against the back of your upper-front teeth and making a *d* sound. These fine subtleties may not sound much different to you and me, but they do change the meaning for Lao people.



Examples of ດ sound: ຕົວະ / ເຕັກ

Exercises

Refer to the answer key at the back of the book when necessary. If you need to refer to the answer key during this first exercise you probably haven't spent enough time writing each letter and memorizing the chart.

A. Write in English:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. ດ | 6. ດ |
| 2. ຈ | 7. ນ |
| 3. ນ | 8. ຈ |
| 4. ຕ | 9. ຕ |
| 5. ຖ | 10. ນ |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD. Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. daw | 6. gaw |
| 2. gaw | 7. jaw |
| 3. dtaw | 8. dtaw |
| 4. jaw | 9. daw |
| 5. dtaw | 10. gaw |

 Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD. Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 2

Mid Consonants (Part II)

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ຸ	14	baw	<i>b</i>
ູ	15	bpaw	<i>bp</i>
ຍ	21	yaw	<i>y</i>
ອ	32	aw	<i>aw</i>

The letter **ຸ** sounds like an American ***b*** at the beginning of a word, but a soft American ***p*** at the end of a word.

Examples of **ຸ** sound at the beginning of a word: ບໍ່ / ບອນ

Examples of **ູ** sound at the end of a word: ກົບ / ເຊັບ

The letter **ູ** has no exact English counterpart and it is not a ***p*** as is so often written. Instead it is a ***b*** unaspirated (no air leaves your mouth) with a slight ***p*** sound included; hence use ***bp***. This sound can be made by putting your lips together like you are going to say a ***b*** and then pushing your lips with a bit of air like you are saying a soft ***p*** sound (but do not let air out). It is not usually mastered too quickly and may require much practice. If you get frustrated with this sound, say the sound ***p***, and most people will understand what you are saying.

Examples of **ູ** sound: ປົດ / ປາ

The letter **ອ** has the audacity to act as a vowel, although it is included with the consonants. When accompanied by consonants, it sounds like ***aw*** (***awkward***); when combined only with a vowel it takes on that vowel's sound. For now, however, we will only focus on its use with consonants and will study how it works with vowels when we reach that section.

 Examples of ທ sound when combined with a consonant: ຂອງ / ບອນ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. ຖ | 9. ຕ |
| 2. ດ | 10. ປ |
| 3. ດ | 11. ດ |
| 4. ດ | 12. ທ |
| 5. ນ | 13. ວ |
| 6. ວ | 14. ສ |
| 7. ວ | 15. ນ |
| 8. ນ | 16. ຕ |

 Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. aw | 9. gaw |
| 2. yaw | 10. daw |
| 3. bpaw | 11. aw |
| 4. dtaw | 12. jaw |
| 5. gaw | 13. bpaw |
| 6. aw | 14. daw |
| 7. jaw | 15. yaw |
| 8. baw | 16. aw |

 Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 3

Low Consonants (Part I)

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LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ຄ	3	kaw	k
ງ	4	ngaw	ng
ຊ	7	saw	s
ຍ	8	nyaw	ny
ທ	12	taw	t
ນ	13	naw	n

Found at the beginning and end of words, ຜ is spoken just like the *ng* in *sing*. Native English speakers will have no problem correctly pronouncing *ng* at the end of words, but it can be difficult to grasp when spoken first. As the back of your tongue hits the top-back of the roof of your mouth, on the edge of your throat, your nose will vibrate a bit when you try to say the *ng* in *sing* without the *si*. The sound comes out of both your nose and mouth; i.e., you can't say it properly if you pinch your nose closed. One way to practice this sound is to say *Sing it* over and over, eventually getting to the point where you can remove the *s* and then the *i* from *sing*. Then you will be saying *ngit*, which is a good start.

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Examples of ຜ sound at the beginning of a word: ວິວ / ເງິນ

Examples of ຜ sound at the end of a word: ເຄືອງ / ສູງ

The letter ນ at the *beginning* of a word sounds like *nyuh* or like the *nio* in *onion*, but is pronounced like the *y* in *boy* at the *end* of a word.

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Examples of ນ sound at the beginning of a word: ຍັງ / ຍຸງ

Examples of ນ sound at the end of a word: ເຄີຍ / ນອຍ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. ຕ | 9. ຊ | 17. ດ |
| 2. ຂ | 10. ຜ | 18. ພ |
| 3. ນ | 11. ຖ | 19. ວ |
| 4. ກ | 12. ລ | 20. ຢ |
| 5. ບ | 13. ພ | 21. ພ |
| 6. ຈ | 14. ພ | 22. ອ |
| 7. ພ | 15. ວ | 23. ວ |
| 8. ຕ | 16. ປ | 24. ຂ |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. kaw | 9. nyaw | 17. saw |
| 2. daw | 10. baw | 18. gaw |
| 3. ngaw | 11. taw | 19. naw |
| 4. saw | 12. aw | 20. bpaw |
| 5. naw | 13. yaw | 21. ngaw |
| 6. baw | 14. daw | 22. baw |
| 7. dtaw | 15. jaw | 23. kaw |
| 8. ngaw | 16. kaw | 24. daw |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 4

Low Consonants (Part II)

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ວ	18	paw	p
ິ	19	faw	f
ົ	20	maw	m
ລ	22	law	l
ອ	23	waw	w
ຮ	32	haw	h

ອ (waw) acts both as a consonant and vowel, which you will see later. Some language guides classify this sound as *v* and some as *w*, and sometimes it is hard to tell which it is when it begins a word. For clarity's sake we have chosen *w*, since it is quite clear that Lao people do say "volleyball" rather than "olleyball." When placed at the end of a word, like ລາວ (*Lao*), ອ sounds like "oh" and is transliterated as the *o* in *Lao*. (Although some might feel that it sounds closer to the *ow* in *now*, the *ow* is used for another vowel sound.)

1 Examples of ອ sound at the beginning of a word: ວຽກ / ເວລາ

Examples of ອ sound at the end of a word: ລາວ / ດາວ

Note: You will see in the vowel section that *Lao* would normally be written as *Lao* using our transliteration system, but because it is so commonly written in English as "Lao," we have opted to simply leave it be when we use it as an English word. Remember, however, that *Lao* is a long sound (*laao*).

Before 1975, the Lao language did have the letter **ສ** (raw), which looks quite similar to the **ສ** (haw), except that the *r* is rounded at the top while the *h* is bent upward in the same place. It is worth noting this in case you study Thai or visit Thailand, where the *r* is still in use and regularly replaces the Lao *h* sound in words such as **hoong hian** (*school*). In Thai, it is **roong rian**.



Example of **ສ** sound: ໄຮງຮຽນ

Exercises

A. Write in English:



- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. ພ | 11. ຕ | 21. ດ |
| 2. ມ | 12. ທ | 22. ລ |
| 3. ທ | 13. ຕ | 23. ຍ |
| 4. ດ | 14. ຂ | 24. ສ |
| 5. ພ | 15. ນ | 25. ມ |
| 6. ອ | 16. ຍ | 26. ພ |
| 7. ລ | 17. ທ | 27. ທ |
| 8. ບ | 18. ອ | 28. ອ |
| 9. ສ | 19. ກ | 29. ບ |
| 10. ພ | 20. ນ | 30. ດ |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write the English for the Lao script:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. daw | 11. baw | 21. dtaw |
| 2. paw | 12. dtaw | 22. kaw |
| 3. law | 13. maw | 23. naw |
| 4. maw | 14. waw | 24. bpaw |
| 5. naw | 15. faw | 25. waw |
| 6. aw | 16. yaw | 26. ngaw |
| 7. saw | 17. nyaw | 27. yaw |
| 8. jaw | 18. saw | 28. gaw |
| 9. faw | 19. ngaw | 29. nyaw |
| 10. paw | 20. taw | 30. faw |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 5

High Consonants

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ຂ	2	k(h)aw	(h)
ສ	6	saw	s
ຖ	11	t(h)aw	t(h)
ຜ	16	p(h)aw	p(h)
ຝ	17	faw	f
ຫ	24	haw	h

The transliterated **(h)** that you will see from here on out means there is a slight aspiration (puff of air) after the initial letter. It's natural for English speakers to aspirate words unknowingly, such as *park*, *boy*, and *huh?* The letters we aspirate are not always the same in Lao, however. Pay close attention to these, as some look and sound quite similar, such as ຂ (*p*) and ຜ (*ph*).

 Examples of ຂ sound: ເຢັງ / ສຸພາບ

Examples of ຜ sound: ຜົວ / ຜູ້ສາວ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. ຂ | 6. ຕ | 11. ດ |
| 2. ນ | 7. ພ | 12. ບ |
| 3. ຂ | 8. ອ | 13. ຕ |
| 4. ມ | 9. ສ | 14. ຜ |
| 5. ຫ | 10. ບ | 15. ຫ |

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 16. ວ | 25. ອ | 34. ພ |
| 17. ສ | 26. ກ | 35. ພ |
| 18. ຈ | 27. ທ | 36. ແ |
| 19. ຕ | 28. ນ | 37. ຖ |
| 20. ຊ | 29. ດ | 38. ອ |
| 21. ບ | 30. ລ | 39. ປ |
| 22. ຝ | 31. ຍ | 40. ຜ |
| 23. ພ | 32. ຂ | |
| 24. ຕ | 33. ສ | |



Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:



- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. daw | 15. faw | 29. nyaw |
| 2. paw | 16. yaw | 30. faw |
| 3. law | 17. nyaw | 31. haw |
| 4. maw | 18. saw | 32. jaw |
| 5. naw | 19. ngaw | 33. maw |
| 6. aw | 20. taw | 34. p(h)aw |
| 7. haw | 21. dtaw | 35. paw |
| 8. jaw | 22. k(h)aw | 36. law |
| 9. t(h)aw | 23. naw | 37. faw |
| 10. p(h)aw | 24. bpaw | 38. dtaw |
| 11. baw | 25. waw | 39. saw |
| 12. kaw | 26. ngaw | 40. naw |
| 13. maw | 27. yaw | |
| 14. waw | 28. gaw | |



Note: Don't forget—there are now two ways to write the Lao *s*, *f* and *h*.

Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

You've finished learning the 26 Lao consonants. Now, there are just six special spellings to learn. **They are grouped along with the Rising Consonants** you just studied, but we are giving them their own special section so you don't get overloaded.

LESSON 6

High Consonants with Special Spellings

23

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH PHONETICS	ENGLISH SOUND
ໜງ	26	ngaw	ng
ໜຍ	27	nyaw	ny
ໜນ	28	naw	n
ໜມ	29	maw	m
ໝ or ໜລ	30	law	l
ໜວ	31	waw	w

The letter ໜ (haw) is added to the other letters only for some words, but the word maintains the sound of the second letter.

ໜນ and ໜມ are created like this: ໜ + ນ = ໜນ

ໜ + ມ = ໜມ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

24

- | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. ໜ | 10. ໔ | 19. ໜວ |
| 2. ໜ | 11. ລ | 20. ໜລ |
| 3. ສ | 12. ໜມ | 21. ປ |
| 4. ຊ | 13. ຈ | 22. ພ |
| 5. ພ | 14. ໜນ | 23. ບ |
| 6. ໜຍ | 15. ຖ | 24. ໝ |
| 7. ກ | 16. ຂ | 25. ອ |
| 8. ພ | 17. ຕ | 26. ພ |
| 9. ນ | 18. ຄ | 27. ໜງ |

25

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 28. ລ | 37. ນ | 46. ພ |
| 29. ອ | 38. ບ | 47. ຖ |
| 30. ສ | 39. ບລ | 48. ຕ |
| 31. ແ | 40. ວ | 49. ຕ |
| 32. ກ | 41. ນ | 50. ບຍ |
| 33. ນມ | 42. ນ | 51. ຊ |
| 34. ນງ | 43. ສ | 52. ບນ |
| 35. ສ | 44. ພ | |
| 36. ຕ | 45. ນ | |

Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

Note: There are two ways to write the characters you just learned: with and without the ວ.



1. **daw**
2. **k(h)aw**
3. **waw**
4. **paw**
5. **taw**
6. **saw**
7. **yaw**
8. **haw**
9. **law**
10. **jaw**
11. **dtaw**
12. **faw**
13. **aw**
14. **gaw**
15. **k(h)aw**
16. **baw**
17. **maw**
18. **naw**



19. **bpaw**
20. **faw**
21. **t(h)aw**
22. **nyaw**
23. **ngaw**
24. **p(h)aw**
25. **law**
26. **saw**
27. **taw**
28. **dtaw**
29. **bpaw**
30. **yaw**
31. **gaw**
32. **kaw**
33. **naw**
34. **jaw**
35. **taw**
36. **waw**



37. **haw**
38. **nyaw**
39. **paw**
40. **yaw**
41. **maw**
42. **daw**
43. **aw**
44. **t(h)aw**
45. **faw**
46. **ngaw**
47. **p(h)aw**
48. **law**
49. **baw**
50. **bpaw**
51. **daw**
52. **maw**

Now listen to these letters, pronounced on the CD. You'll notice that in cases where there are two spellings, the audio states both, as they are spoken slightly differently.

Repeat each one several times to practice.



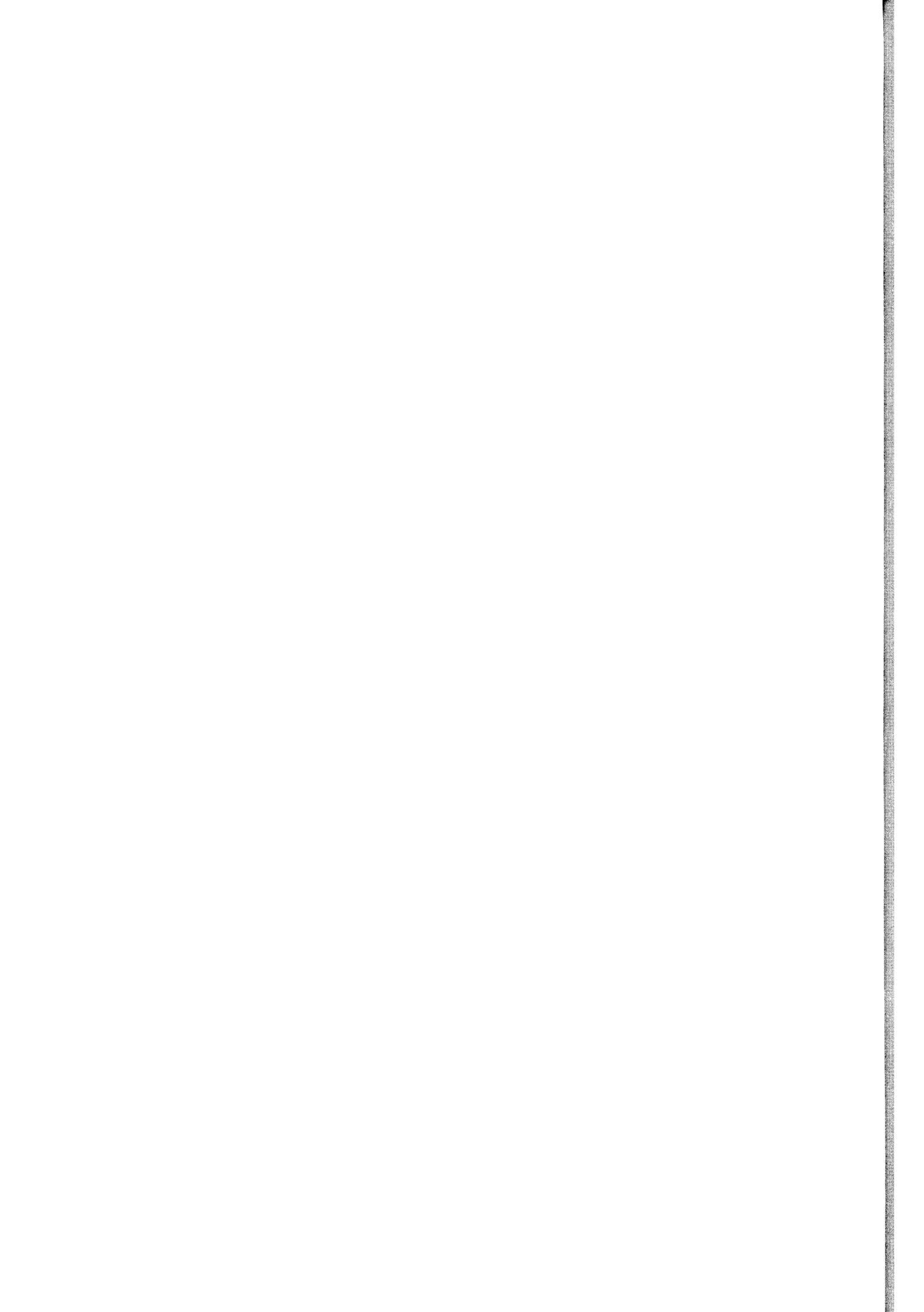
REVIEW 1

LESSON 7

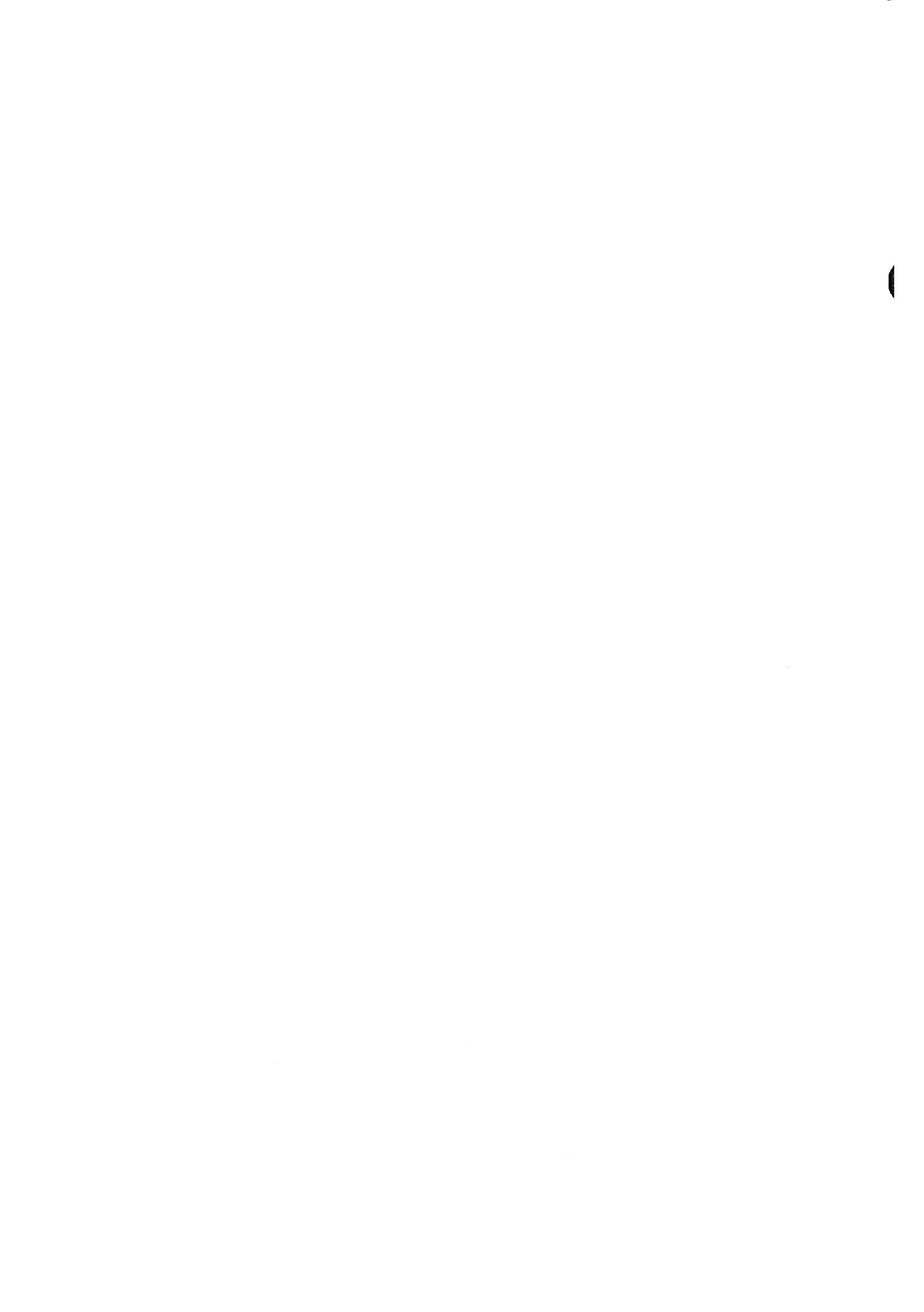
29

Alphabetical Order of Consonants as Found in Dictionary:

- | | |
|-------|-------------|
| 1. ກ | 17. ယ |
| 2. ຂ | 18. 豫 |
| 3. စ | 19. ယ |
| 4. ဂ | 20. မ |
| 5. ຈ | 21. ຢ |
| 6. ສ | 22. လ |
| 7. ဋ | 23. ခ |
| 8. ထ | 24. ဗ |
| 9. ဓ | 25. ဓ |
| 10. က | 26. ဋ |
| 11. ຖ | 27. ဟာ |
| 12. ဟ | 28. ဟယ |
| 13. ນ | 29. ဉာ |
| 14. ပ | 30. ဉာ |
| 15. ပ | 31. ဉူ / ဟလ |
| 16. ယ | 32. ဟခ |



The Vowels



LESSON 8

Right Side Vowels

30

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH SPELLING
Xຂ	1	as in <i>ha!</i> (short)	<i>a</i>
Xາ	3	as in <i>father</i> (long)	<i>aa</i>
Xົ່າ	32	as in U.S. <i>Mom</i> (long)	<i>aam</i>

Examples of Xຂ sound: ຈຂ, ຕຂ, ມຂ

Examples of Xາ sound: ບາ, ມາ, ຫາກ

Examples of Xົ່າ sound: ນົ້າ, ດົ່າ, ທົ່າ

The construction of Lao words, with the above vowels, is shown below:

Ex. ຖ + xຂ = ຈຂ

J + **a** = **Ja**

Ex. ມ + xາ = ມາ

M + **aa** = **Maa**

Ex. ດ + xົ່າ = ດົ່າ

D + **aam** = **Daam**

Notice that Lao has “short” and “long” vowel sounds. It is important to pay attention to this point in words that you learn, because meanings do vary accordingly.

The vowel xົ່າ is made up of two separate vowel parts: X and Xາ. You’ll learn more about these soon.

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|---------|----------|------------|
| 1. ຈະ | 8. ປາ | 15. ຖາມ |
| 2. ມາ | 9. ລາວ | 16. ທຳລາຍ |
| 3. ນົ່ງ | 10. ແກມ | 17. ຫາກ |
| 4. ຢາ | 11. ດົ່ງ | 18. ຕະຫຼາດ |
| 5. ຕາ | 12. ຂາ | 19. ຍາກ |
| 6. ຕາຍ | 13. ຍາກ | 20. ຂາວ |
| 7. ຍາກ | 14. ດາວ | |



Now listen to these words, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. daao | 8. yaa | 15. dtalaat |
| 2. laao | 9. naam | 16. daam |
| 3. ngaam | 10. yaak | 17. bpaa |
| 4. ja | 11. haak | 18. saa |
| 5. yaak | 12. k(h)aao | 19. maa |
| 6. nyaak | 13. naam | 20. dtaai |
| 7. t(h)aam | 14. laao | |



Now listen to these words, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

1. ລາວ, ຂາ, ຈະ, ຫາກ
2. ຍາກ, ຕາ, ຢາ, ແກມ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ດາວ
3. ຂາວ, ປາ, ຕາ, ນົ່ງ ຖາມ, ຍາກ, ຕາຍ, ດາວ, ລາວ

LESSON 9

Vocabulary A

Some of the words you just learned to read and write, along with a few new ones, are listed in alphabetical order below with their meanings.

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#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ຂາວ	k(h)aao	white (<i>adj</i>)
2	ລາວ	laao	(s)he (<i>n</i>), Laos (<i>n</i>)
3	ງາມ	ngaam	pretty (<i>adj</i>)
4	ຈະ	ja	will (<i>in the future</i>)
5	ຊາ	saa	tea (<i>n</i>)
6	(ຊອກ)ຫາ	(sawk) haa	look for (<i>v</i>)
7	ຢາກ	nyaak	difficult (<i>adj</i>)
8	ດາວ	daao	star in sky (<i>n</i>), person's name
9	ຕະຫຼາດ	dtalaat	market (<i>n</i>)
10	ຖາມ	t(h)aam	ask (<i>v</i>)
11	ນໍ້າ	naam	water (<i>n</i>)
12	ປາ	bpaa	fish (<i>n</i>)
13	ມາ	maa	come (<i>v</i>)
14	ຢາ	yaa	medicine (<i>n</i>)
15	ຢາກ	yaak	want (<i>v</i>)
16	ຮາກ	haak	vomit (<i>n</i>), (<i>v</i>)

Nouns and verbs do not change form in Lao. In other words, *come* and *came* are both the same word: ມາ (maa). Other words are added in Lao to give time/tense context. This will be explained in more detail further on.

Articles that we are familiar with in English, such as a, *an*, *the*, are not used in Lao, but other words are used to signify superlatives and the kinds of objects you are counting (round, flat, animal, person, etc.).

ຢ້າກ (yaak) means *to want*. When a verb follows, it means you want to do something. When you want an object, say “Yaak dai [object].”

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. ຢັດາວ | 5. ລາວຍໍາກມາຕະຫຼາດ |
| 2. ປ່າງໝາມ | 6. ໄາວມາ |
| 3. ດາວຊອກຫາຊາ | 7. ປ່າຂ່າວ |
| 4. ລາວຮາກ | 8. ລາວຈະຊອກຫາປາ |



Now listen to these phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. White fish. | 5. The fish will come. |
| 2. Dao is looking for medicine. | 6. Dao's tea. |
| 3. It's difficult. | 7. She is pretty. |
| 4. (S)he vomited. | 8. The fish wants to vomit. |



Now listen to these phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

Notes:

Adjectives follow their respective nouns. For example, “black car” in English becomes “car black” in Lao.

Possessives work like this: “Sam’s dog” in English becomes “dog (of) Sam” in Lao, but the *of* is often left out. This will be explained in more detail when we learn about the word for *of*.

LESSON 10

Top Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH SPELLING
ຂຂ	2	as in <i>ah!</i> (short) same as ແຂ	<i>a</i>
ໝໝ	17	as in <i>home</i>	<i>o</i>
ໝ	4	as in <i>it</i> (short)	<i>i</i>
ຝ	5	as in <i>bee</i> (long)	<i>ii</i>
ຝ	6	as in <i>look</i> (short)	<i>uh</i>
ຝ	7	as in <i>look</i> (long)	<i>uhh</i>
ໝ	20	as in <i>law</i>	<i>aw</i>

Examples of ຂຂ sound: ນັບ, ຮັກ, ຍັງ

Examples of ໝໝ sound: ຄິນ, ຫິກ, ນິກ

Examples of ໝ sound: ປິດ, ກິນ

Examples of ໝ sound: ມີ, ດີ

Examples of ໝ sound: ໃມ, ສີ

Examples of ໝ sound: ລືມ, ຈື, ຄີກັນ

Examples of ໝ sound: ຂໍ, ບໍ່

The construction of Lao words, with the above vowels, is shown below:

Ex. ກ + ແ + ປ = ກຳປ

g + a + p = gap

Ex. ຄ + ແ + ນ = ຄິນ

k + o + n = kon

Ex. ຖ + ແ + ດ = ບິດ

bp + i + t = bpit

Ex. ມ + ແ = ມີ

m + ii = mii

Ex. ຂ + ແ + ມ = ຂີມ

k(h) + uh + m = k(h)uhm

Ex. ລ + ແ + ມ = ລີມ

l + uhh + m = luhhm

Ex. ຂ + ແ = ຂ

k(h) + aw = k(h)aw

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. ດີຫຼາຍ | 8. ສັກ | 15. ຍັງ |
| 2. ກຳປ | 9. ຫິ | 16. ບໍ່ |
| 3. ຈື່ | 10. ຫົກ | 17. ທຶກ |
| 4. ຂຳ | 11. ບໍ່ | 18. ຄືກັນ |
| 5. ມີ | 12. ທຳມະດາ | 19. ນິກ |
| 6. ບິດ | 13. ຄິນລາວ | 20. ຫ້ຍງ |
| 7. ກິນ | 14. ລີມ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. mii | 11. t(h)uhhk |
| 2. luhhm | 12. hak |
| 3. kuhhn | 13. nok |
| 4. dii laai | 14. gin |
| 5. baw | 15. kuhh gan |
| 6. nyang | 16. tam ma daa |
| 7. yaa | 17. juhh |
| 8. bpit | 18. gap |
| 9. k(h)aw | 19. kon laao |
| 10. hok | 20. baw |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

1. ນິກ, ກັບ, ທຳມະດາ, ລືມ
2. ຈີ້, ຂໍ, ມີ, ປິດ, ກັບ, ບໍ່, ຄົນລາວ, ກິນ
3. ຄືກັນ, ຮັກ, ຫຼື, ກິນ, ຍັງ, ບໍ່, ຂໍ, ດີຫຼາຍ

LESSON 11

Vocabulary B

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ກັບ(ບ້ານ)	gap(baan)	with, return (home) (<i>v</i>), (<i>n</i>)
2	ກິນ	gin	eat (<i>v</i>)
3	ຂໍ	k(h)aw	may (used when asking for something)
4	ຄືກັນ	kuhh'gan	same, also (<i>adj</i>)
5	ຄົນລາວ	kon laao	Lao person (<i>n</i>)
6	ຈື່ງ	juhh	remember (<i>v</i>)
7	ຍັງ	nyang	not yet (<i>adv</i>)
8	ດີຫຼາຍ	dii laai	very good (<i>adv, adj</i>)
9	ທຳມະດາ	tam ma daa	normal, regular (<i>adj</i>)
10	ນິກ	nok	bird, person's name (<i>n</i>)
11	ບໍ່	baw	no, ?
12	ປິດ	bpit	close (<i>v</i>)
13	ມັກ	mak	like (<i>v</i>)
14	ມີ	mii	have (<i>v</i>)
15	ລືມ	luhhm	forget (<i>v</i>)
16	ຮັກ	hak	love (<i>v</i>)

ກັບ (gap) is often used in conjunction with a place you are going back to such as home (ກັບບ້ານ / gap baan). For example, someone might ask you where you're going: **jow pbai sai?** You can reply **gap baan** ("Returning home").



ກັບ gap

ເຈົ້າໄປໃສ? jow pbai sai?

ກັບບ້ານ gap ban.

ຂໍ (k(h)aw) is usually used to ask for something. For example, k(h)aw bpaa daae (May I have the fish, please?). Daae means “please.”



ຂໍ k(h)aw

ຂໍປາແດ່ k(h)aw bpaa daae?

ຄືກັນ (kuhh'gan) is usually placed after a subject or verb, similar to how we use *too*, *also*, *either* and *neither* in English. For example, k(h)awy kuhh'gan means “Me, too.” k(h)awy means “I” or “me.”



ຄືກັນ kuhh'gan

ຂອຍຄືກັນ k(h)awy kuhh'gan.

ດີ (dii) means “good”; ຫຼາຍ (laai) means “very” or “really.” These words are used as often as we use them in English. ຫຼາຍ is always placed *after* the adjective (meaning “very” _____) or noun (meaning “many” or “a lot of” _____). For example, dii laai means “very good,” and nok laai means “a lot of birds.”



ດີ dii

ດີຫຼາຍ dii laai

ນິກຫຼາຍ nok laai



ທຳມະດາ (tam ma daa) is used to describe something as “regular, normal,” or “so-so.” It can indicate, for instance, the kind of gasoline that you want. Or if something is “only okay,” ທຳມະດາ is the perfect thing to say.

ບໍ່ (baw) has a tonal mark over it called mai ehk. It has been covered in the tones chapter. ບໍ່ carries with it two meanings:

- 1) When used at the beginning of a sentence, or alone, it means “No,” or “Don’t.”

- 2) When placed at the end of a sentence, ບໍ່ turns the statement into a question.
 But note, ບໍ່ is not needed to make interrogative sentences when question words are used, such as “what?”, “how many?”, “who?”, etc.

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ບໍ່ baw**ບໍ່ກິນປາ baw gin bpaa** = Don't eat fish.**ກິນປາ gin bpaa** = Eat fish.**ກິນປາບໍ່? gin bpaa baw?** = Do you eat fish?**ບໍ່ກິນປາບໍ່? baw gin bpaa baw?** = You don't eat fish?

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

1. ລາວຍັງບໍ່ກັບມາລາວ
2. ດາວມີນິກ
3. ຄົນລາວມັກກິນປາ
4. ລືມຄືກັນ
5. ນິກຈະຊອກຫາປາ
6. ມັກບໍ່?
7. ດາວມີຢາເດືອງຈາຍ

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Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. She likes white birds.
2. He has a lot of water.
3. (I will) come back to the market, too.
4. Do you love her/him?
5. (S)he doesn't have any.
6. Ask her.
7. The market still has pretty birds, white fish (and) very good medicine.

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Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 12

Bottom Vowels

LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH
X ₉	8	as in glue (short)	u
X ₉	9	as in dude (long)	uu

Examples of X₉ sound: ຂູ້, ກູງ

Examples of X₉ sound: ຂູ່, ກູ່

In Between Vowels

LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH
xəx	21	as in law (long)	aw
xjx	27	as in the name Ian (short)	ia

Examples of xəx sound: ແກ້ວ, ນອນ

Examples of xjx sound: ສຈຸ, ວຈຸ

Top and Right/Middle Vowels

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LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH
ຂົວໜ, ຂ້ວໜ (rare)	30, 31	as in u + a (short)	ua
ຂວ, ຂ້ວໜ	32, 33	as in uu + a (long)	uua

Example of ຂົວໜ, ຂ້ວໜ sound: ຕົວະ

Examples of ຂວ, ຂ້ວໜ sound: ວິວ, ກວາ

ອ (aw) and ອ (uua) are both consonants as well as vowels (learned earlier). ອ is pronounced aw- unless next to another vowel, when it takes on the sound of that vowel.

48.1

ອ aw

ອ uua

Examples of ອ next to another vowel: ອາ / ອັງກິດ

Remember, when ອ begins or ends a word, it sounds like w. But as a vowel, in the middle of a word, it sounds like a short or long (u)ua.

48.2

Example of *short* ອ sound in the middle of a word: ຕົວະ

48.3

Examples of *long* ອ sound in the middle of a word: ຜົວ / ຄວາຍ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

1. ກຸງ
2. ວິວ
3. ສູພາບ

4. ຂົມ
5. ຂອງ
6. ນອນ

7. ກວາ
8. ຮົງ
9. ຕົວະ

- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| 10. ກ່ວາ | 17. ໍູງ | 24. ໂອຍ |
| 11. ສອນ | 18. ໝູ້ | 25. ຮອນ |
| 12. ບອກ | 19. ສູງ | 26. ນອຍ |
| 13. ສູບ | 20. ຢຸດ | 27. ອູ້ |
| 14. ຈອກ | 21. ຜູ້ຊາຍ | 28. ຜູ້ສາວ |
| 15. ຄວາຍ | 22. ດູງວ | |
| 16. ວົກ | 23. ຂວາ | |

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Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. p(h)uuua | 11. huu | 21. k(h)awy |
| 2. nawn | 12. kuaay | 22. p(h)uu saai |
| 3. gung | 13. k(h)awg | 23. bawk |
| 4. jawk | 14. p(h)uu saao | 24. hian |
| 5. yut | 15. hawn | 25. diao |
| 6. suup | 16. nyung | 26. siang |
| 7. supaap | 17. dtua | 27. sawn |
| 8. nguua | 18. muu | 28. nawy |
| 9. wiak | 19. k(h)ian | |
| 10. k(h)uua | 20. guaa | |

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Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

1. ສູພາບ, ຢຸດ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ຄວາຍ
2. ຈອກ, ກຸງ, ດູງວ, ຂອງ, ໝູ້, ຜູ້ສາວ, ວົກ, ດີກ່ວາ
3. ສູບ, ສອນ, ຜິວ, ອູ້, ບອກ, ຮົມ, ວິວ, ຍູງ

LESSON 13

Vocabulary C

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#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ກຸງ	gung	shrimp (<i>n</i>)
2	ກ່ວາ	guaa	intensifier (“-er”)
3	ຂອງ	k(h)awng	possessive “of”
4	ຂອຍ	k(h)awy	I (<i>personal pronoun</i>)
5	ຊົມ	k(h)ian	write (<i>v</i>)
6	ຄວາຍ	kuaay	water buffalo (<i>n</i>)
7	ງົວ	nguua	cow, beef (<i>n</i>)
8	ຈອກ	jawk	cup, glass (<i>n</i>)
9	ສູບ	suup	smoke (<i>v</i>)
10	ສັງ	siang	sound (<i>n</i>)
11	ຍຸງ	nyung	mosquito (<i>n</i>)
12	ດົງ	diao	only (<i>adj</i>)
13	ຕົວ	dtua	lie (<i>v</i>)
14	ນ້ອຍ	nawy	little (<i>adj</i>), name (<i>person</i>)
15	ນອນ	nawn	sleep (<i>v</i>)
16	ບອກ	bawk	tell (<i>v</i>)
17	ຜູ້ສາວ	p(h)uu saao	woman (<i>n</i>)
18	ຜູ້ຊາຍ	p(h)uu saai	man (<i>n</i>)
19	ຜົວ	p(h)uua	husband (<i>n</i>)

20	ໜູ້	muu	friend (<i>n</i>)
21	ຢຸດ	yut	stop (<i>v</i>)
22	ວິກ	wiak	work (<i>n</i>)
23	ຮູ້	huu	know (<i>v</i>)
24	ຮັນ	hian	study (<i>v</i>)
25	ຮອນ	hawn	hot (<i>adj</i>)

ຂອງ (**k(h)awng**) is commonly left out of daily speech but is used often enough to learn. For example, “I” is ຂອຍ (**k(h)awy**), but “my” or “mine” is ຂອງຂອຍ. In other words, “of I” or “of me.” Although Lao people may not use ຂອງ often, it may help you make yourself understood more clearly.

Suppose you’re at a bar and you’re not sure which drink is yours. You may point to a glass and ask, “ຂອງຂອຍບໍ່?” **k(h)awng k(ha)wy baw?** (Is it mine?) And the person you’re asking may very well say, “ຂອງຂອຍ.” **k(h)awng k(h)awy.** (It’s mine.) Or (s)he may say **baw huu**, “(I) don’t know.” Note that the subject, *glass* in this case, is usually left out if it is understood.

You’ll see a few water buffaloes in Laos, but not as many as before. Remember, ຊໍ (**k(h)aw**) means “please,” ຂອຍ (**k(h)awy**) means “I,” and ຄວາຍ (**kuuay**: the long *uuu* sounds like *waa*) means “water buffalo.”



ຂອງ **k(h)awng**

ຂອງຂອຍບໍ່? **k(h)awng k(ha)wy baw?**

ຂອງຂອຍ. **k(h)awng k(h)awy.**

ຊໍ **k(h)aw**

ຂອຍ **k(h)awy**

ຄວາຍ **kuuay**

ດົຈ (diao) is a classifier that is generally placed after a noun to mean only one of that noun. For example, ຄົນດົຈ (kon diao) means “only me; just one person,” “alone,” or “just me” (if you’re talking about yourself).

522 ດົວ diao

Do not use ຕົວະ (dtua) in any accusing manner. Lao people don't raise their voices often, but this could cause a flareup of emotions, just as it would anywhere else.

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ຂອຍຮູ້ຜົວຂອງດາວ | 5. ນ້ອຍຊອກຫາຢາສູບ |
| 2. ຄືນລາວ | 6. ມີບໍ່? |
| 3. ນ້ອຍກົງບູາຍ່າງ | 7. ບໍ່ມີ |
| 4. ຮອນບູາຍ | 8. ຂອຍມີວິກບູາຍ |

Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B: Translate into Lao:

1. Only one person.
2. I don't smoke.
3. Stop!
4. You still don't know?
5. My friend's husband ate my water buffalo.
6. Ask Nawy, "Do you know Nok?"
7. He lies a lot.
8. The mosquito is smaller than the white bird.
9. Do you eat shrimp?
10. Women write better than men.

Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 14

Left Side Only Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຂ	12	as in game (long)	<i>eei</i>
ເແຂ	15	as in air (long)	<i>aae</i>

Example of ເຂ sound: ເລາ

Examples of ເແຂ sound: ເດ, ເລວ

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ໂຂ	18	as in phone (long)	<i>oo</i>
ໃຂ, ໄຂ	35, 36	as in hi (short & long)	<i>ai</i>

Examples of ໂຂ sound: ໂພດ, ໂດລາ

Example of ໃຂ / ໄຂ sound: ໃຈ / ໄປ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1. ເລາ | 8. ໄກ | 15. ເລວ |
| 2. ແຊບ | 9. ເຮງ | 16. ໂພດ |
| 3. ໃຈ | 10. ໂຈນ | 17. ຢູ່ງ |
| 4. ນອນ | 11. ມີ | 18. ແຕ່ງໆນານ |
| 5. ລືມ | 12. ໄວ | 19. ຫຼາຍ |
| 6. ແຂງເຮງ | 13. ຄິກັນ | 20. ແຍງ |
| 7. ໄປ | 14. ໂດລາ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. yaa nawy | 11. poot |
| 2. joon | 12. wai |
| 3. tai | 13. gung |
| 4. soodaa | 14. dtaaeng ngaan |
| 5. kon laao | 15. jai |
| 6. weei laa | 16. doo laa |
| 7. dtaaek | 17. hoong maw |
| 8. moong | 18. yaak maa |
| 9. tam ma daa | 19. nai look |
| 10. saaep | 20. maak dtaaeng |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

1. ໄວ, ໂຊກດີ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ໃຈ, ໄກ
2. ໂພດ, ຍາ, ຕົວະ, ຜົວ, ແຊບ, ຫມາກເຕັງ, ໂຮງໝໍ
3. ເວລາ, ກັບ, ເຄີງ, ເລວ, ໃນ, ແຍ່ງ, ຈື່, ດີ, ໄຫ

LESSON 15

Vocabulary D

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ໄກ	gai	far (<i>adj</i>)
2	ແຂງແຮງ	khaaeng haaeng	healthy (<i>adj</i>)
3	ໂຈນ	joon	criminal (<i>n</i>)
4	ໃຈ	jai	heart (<i>n</i>)
5	ໃສ້	sai	with, use; put on/in (<i>v</i>)
6	ເຊັບ	saaep	delicious (<i>adj</i>)
7	ໄຊກົດີ	sook dii	good luck, goodbye
8	ສີແຮງ	sii daaeng	red (<i>adj</i>)
9	ແດ່	daae	please
10	ໂດລາ	doo laa	U.S. \$ dollar (<i>n</i>)
11	ໄດ້	dai	can, able; received; did (<i>v</i>)
12	ເຕັກ	dtaaek	break (<i>v</i>)
13	ເຕັງງານ	dtaaeng ngaan	marry (<i>v</i>)
14	ປະເທດໄທ	pba teeit tai	Thailand (<i>n</i>)
15	ໄປ	pbai	go (<i>v</i>)
16	ໃນ	nai	in
17	ແຍນ	faaen	girlfriend/boyfriend (<i>n</i>)
18	ແຍງ	paaeng	expensive (<i>adj</i>)
19	ໄພດ	poot	too much (<i>adv</i>)

20	ໄຟ	fai	fire (<i>n</i>)
21	ໝາກເຕັງ	maak dtaaeng	cucumber (<i>n</i>)
22	ໄມ່ງ	moong	o'clock, clock, watch (<i>n</i>)
23	ແລ້ວ	laaeo	already (<i>adv</i>); finish(ed)
24	ເວລາ	weei laa	time (<i>n</i>)
25	ໄວ	wai	fast (<i>adj</i>)
26	ໂຮງຮຽນ	hoong hian	school (<i>n</i>)
27	ໃຫ້	hai	give (<i>v</i>)

ໄຊກດີ (sook dii) is used primarily to say “goodbye” by the person who is staying behind. The person leaving usually says ລາກອນ (laa gawn). ໄຊກດີ also means “Good luck.”

ສີ (sii) means “color.” ເຕັງ (daaeng) means “red.” Always use ສີ before a color, as in ສີເຕັງ (“color red”).

ແດ່ (daae) is a common word that means “please.” It is usually placed after the request, and is sometimes used in conjunction with ຊໍາ but that is not necessary. ກ(ຫ)າວ ສາວງ ຈັກ ດາເ ແນວນ (k(h)aw sawng jawk daae) means “Please bring two cups.”

ໄດ້ (dai) means “can,” as in ability. To ask for a discount, you would ask: ລູດ ດາ ບັວ? The answer will be: **dai** (can) or **baw dai** (can't).

ໄພດ (poot) means “too,” but is used *after* adjectives. For example, **paaeng poot** means “Too expensive.”

ໄມ່ງ (moong) is used to talk about the time of day. For example, **jak moong** means “What time (will something happen)?” The answer will be a time, such as 1:00 P.M. **ເວລາ** (weei laa) refers to “time” in the general sense, such as: **ບໍ່ມີເວລາ** (baw mii weei laa), which is a common expression that means: “I don't have time.”

ເລື່ວ (laaeo) is one of the most common words in Lao. It is usually used to signify that something has finished, and is often translated as “already.” For example, **gin laaeo baw?** means, “Have you (already) eaten?” **gin laaeo** means, “I’ve already eaten.”

ໃຫ້ (hai) is used alone to mean “give,” and it also used in conjunction with ເອີ້ນ (ow) “take”—to mean “give something to someone.” For example, **ow bik hai khawy** means, “Take (the) pen (to) give me,” or “Give me (a/the) pen.”

ສູກດີ sook dii.

ລາກອນ laa gawn.

ສີ sii

ສີແຮງ sii daaeng (“color red”)

ແດ່ daae

ຂໍສອງຈອກແດ່ k(h)aw sawng jawk daae. (Please bring two cups.)

ໄດ dai

ຫຼຸດໄດບໍ່? lut dai baw? (Can I have a discount?)

ໄດ dai. (You can have a discount.)

ບໍ່ໄດ baw dai. (You can’t have a discount.)

ໂພດ poot

ເຢັງໂພດ paaeng poot. (Too expensive.)

ໂມງ moong

ມີເອລາ baw mii wee i laa. (I don’t have time.)

ເລື່ວ laaeo

ກິນເລື່ວບໍ່? gin laaeo baw? (Have you eaten yet?)

ກິນເລືວ gin laaeo. (I’ve already eaten.)

ໃຫ້ hai

ເອີ້ນ ow

ເອີ້ນບິກໃຫ້ຂອຍ ow bik hai khawy. (Give me a/the pen.)

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ແຊບບໍ່? | 5. ໄປໄວ້ໄດ້ບໍ່? |
| 2. ນອຍເຕັ້ງໆນາມເລືວ | 6. ບໍ່ມີເວລາ |
| 3. ລາວຢ້າງບໍ່ມີເຢັນ | 7. ໄປໂຮງຮຽນຈັກໄມ້? |
| 4. ຈັກໄມ້ງເລືວ? | 8. ຂໍາກເຕັ້ງເພົ່າຫຼາຍໄພດ |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. Good luck!
2. What time does the market close?
3. I will go to work at 10 o'clock.
4. Lao (language) is not too difficult.
5. My glass is (already) broken.
6. I already ate.
7. The strong man wants to marry the pretty woman.
8. Can you write Lao?

Note: The number “10” is written ສີບ (sip).



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 16

Left & Top Vowels

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LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຊ	11	as in bet (short)	e

Examples of ເຊ sound: ເດັກ, ເຢັນ, ເຈັບ

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LAO	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຮ	23	as in numbe(r) (short)	(er)
ເຮ	24	as in numbe(r) (long)	(err)

Examples of ເຮ sound: ເຄືງ, ເຮີນ, ເຂົ້າງ

Example of ເຮ sound alone: ເຜີ

Examples of ເຮ sound followed by a consonant: ເປີດ, ເຂີນ

The (er) and (err) transliterations are widely used, but are not entirely accurate. They do come close to the sound required, but with this caveat: the “r” sound is more pronounced when nothing follows the “r,” and only slightly spoken, if at all, when a consonant follows.

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. ເປີດ | 8. ຄືກັນ | 15. ເງິນ |
| 2. ເຢັນ | 9. ເຈັບ | 16. ເຮັດ |
| 3. ແຊືນ | 10. ເບິ່ງ | 17. ເປົນ |
| 4. ໃຫ້ | 11. ເຄີຍ | 18. ແໜັນ |
| 5. ເດັກ | 12. ເຜັດ | 19. ເຄົ່ງ |
| 6. ເຜີ | 13. ເຄົມ | 20. ເຕັມ |
| 7. ເວລາ | 14. ເລວ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. ng(er)n | 8. k(h)aw | 15. phet |
| 2. kem | 9. het | 16. saaep |
| 3. men | 10. k(err)'y | 17. k(er)ng |
| 4. f(err) | 11. paaeng poot | 18. ngaam laai |
| 5. s(err)n | 12. dek | 19. b(er)ng |
| 6. nok nawy | 13. yen | 20. nai |
| 7. jep | 14. pben | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put the following words in alphabetical order:

1. ເປົນ, ໃຫ້, ເຄົມ, ເວລາ, ເຕັມ, ເດັກ
2. ເຜີ, ເປີດ, ເຜັດ, ເງິນ, ເຄົ່ງ, ຄືກັນ, ເຄີຍ
3. ເຮັດ, ເຈັບ, ເບິ່ງ, ເດັກ, ເຄົມ, ເປົນ, ເງິນ, ແຊືນ

LESSON 17

Vocabulary E

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#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ເຄີມ	kem	salty (<i>adj</i>)
2	ເຄື່ງ	k(er)ng	$\frac{1}{2}$ (<i>one half</i>)
3	ເຄີຍ	k(err)'y	have ever
4	ເງິນ	ng(er)n	money (<i>n</i>)
5	ເຈັບ	jep	hurt (<i>v</i>), (<i>adj</i>)
6	ເຊີນ	s(err)n	invite (<i>v</i>)
7	ເດັກນົອຍ	dek nawy	child (<i>n</i>)
8	ເຕັມ	ditem	full (for cups, etc.) (<i>adj</i>)
9	ເປັນ	bpen	am, is (for people)
10	ເປີດ	bp(er)t	open (<i>v</i>)
11	ເຜັດ	p(h)et	spicy (<i>adj</i>)
12	ເຜີ	f(err)	rice noodle dish (<i>n</i>)
13	ເຢັນ	yen	cool (<i>adj</i>)
14	ເໝັນ	men	stinks (<i>adj</i>)
15	ເຮັດ	het	do (<i>v</i>)

ເຄື່ງ (k(er)ng) means “half” and is often used when telling the time. For example, sawng moong k(er)ng means “2:30.”

ເຄີຍ (k(err)y) means “have ever” and “have never,” depending on its placement in the sentence. For example, jow k(err)y bpai bplateit thai baw?

translates to “Have you ever been to Luang Prabang?” And **baw k(err)y** (pbai) means “I haven’t (ever) been” or “I’ve never been.”

ເປັນ (pben) is used to say that a person “is” something. For example, **khawy bpen aajaan sawn** means “I am a teacher.”

ເຮັດ (het) means “do/make,” and needs to be followed by an object, verb or question word. For example, **jow het wiak laai baw?** means “Do you work a lot?” and **jow het nyang?** means “What are you doing?”



ເຄື່ອງ k(er)ng

ສອງໄມ້ງເຄື່ອງ sawng moong k(er)ng (2:30)

ເຄີຍ k(err)y

ເຈົ້າເຄີຍໄປປະເທດໄທບໍ່? **jow k(err)y bpai bplateit thai baw?** (Have you ever been to Luang Prabang?)

ບໍ່ເຄີຍ(ໄປ). **baw k(err)y** (pbai). (I haven’t [ever] been. or I’ve never been.)

ເປັນ pben

ຂອຍເປັນອາຈານສອນ. **khawy bpen aajaan sawn.** (I am a teacher.)

ເຮັດ het

ເຈົ້າເຮັດວຽກຫຼາຍບໍ່? **jow het wiak laai baw?** (Do you work a lot?)

ເຈົ້າເຮັດຫຍັງ? **jow het nyang?** (What are you doing?)

ສາມ (saam) is the number “3.” To say “30,” for example, you would say “3” (**saam**) and then “10” (**sip**). Hence: **saam sip** means “30.” To say the number “13,” you would reverse this: “10” **sip** and then “3” **saam** would be **sip saam**, or “13.”



ສາມ saam (3)

ສີບສາມ sip saam (13)

ສາມສີບ saam sip (30)

ຫຍັງ? (nyang) means “what?” when combined with a verb. For example, **het nyang** (What are you doing?) literally means, “Do what?” In common

speech, the subject “you” is understood. **maaen nyang** literally means “Is what?” but in everyday speech it just means “What?” as in “What? (I didn’t quite hear you).”

ຫຍ້ງ nyang

 **ເຮັດຫຍ້ງ?** *het nyang?* (What are you doing?)

ແມ່ນຫຍ້ງ? *maaen nyang?* (What? [I didn’t quite hear you.])

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ມີຊາເຢັນບໍ່? | 5. ຂອຍບໍ່ມີເງິນຫຼາຍ |
| 2. ເຄີຍໄປປະເທດໄທບໍ່? | 6. ແຜົດຫຼາຍບໍ່? |
| 3. ເຈັບ! | 7. ເດັກນີ້ອຍເຮັດຫຍ້ງ? |
| 4. ສອງໂມງເຄື່ອງ | 8. ມີເວລາບໍ່? |

 Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. The *f(err)* is really spicy.
2. Look at him.
3. The fish is too salty.
4. Have you already been?
5. I haven’t been yet.
6. Can you come to my house at 3:30?
7. She is a man.
8. Is it delicious?

 Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 18

Left & Right Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຂະ	10	as in <i>net</i> (short & rarely written)	<i>e</i>
ເຂົກ ເຂົ້າ (rare)	13, 14	as in <i>air</i> or <i>eh</i> (short)	<i>ae</i>

Examples of ເຂະ sound: ແຊະ, ເມຍ

Example of ເຂົກ / ເຂົ້າ sound: ເຮເ, ເນະນຳ

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ໂຂະ	16	as in <i>go</i> or <i>oh</i> (short)	<i>o</i>
ເຂາະ	19	mix <i>aw</i> & <i>o</i> as in <i>naughty</i> (very short)	<i>aw</i>
ເຂຢ ເຂັງ (rare spelling)	26	as in U.S. <i>via</i> or U.K. <i>ear</i> (long)	<i>iaa</i>

Examples of ໂຂະ sound: ໂຕະ, ໂຊະ

Examples of ເຂາະ sound: ເມາະ, ເພາະວ່າ

Examples of ເຂຢ sound: ເບຢ, ເມຍ

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|
| 1. ເຮເ | 4. ເມຍ | 7. ເງິນ |
| 2. ແຊະ | 5. ເພາະວ່າ | 8. ຢາກ |
| 3. ເຜັດ | 6. ເມາະ | 9. ໂຕະ |

- | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| 10. ເນະນຳ | 13. ເສຍ | 16. ຍຸງ |
| 11. ແຕະ | 14. ໄຊະ | 17. ແຊີນ |
| 12. ຈອກ | 15. ເບຍ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. lae | 6. dto | 11. s(err)n |
| 2. saw | 7. nyung | 12. naw |
| 3. dte | 8. paw waa | 13. jawk |
| 4. nae nam | 9. ng(er)n | 14. yaak |
| 5. miaa | 10. siaa | 15. so |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put in alphabetical order:

1. ແຕະ, ຢາກ, ເພາະວ່າ, ໂຕະ
2. ເຮັດ, ເນະ, ເນະນຳ, ແຜົດ, ໄຊະ
3. ແຊີນ, ເສຍ, ຍຸງ, ເນະນຳ, ຢາກ, ກິນ

LESSON 19

Vocabulary F



#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ເສຍ	siaa	lose something (v)
2	ເຊະ	se	<i>get the heck out of here!</i> (for dogs)
3	ໄຊະ	so	<i>get out of here!</i> (for chickens)
4	ເຕະ	dte	kick (v)
5	ໂຕະ	dto	desk, table (n)
6	ແນະນຳ	nae nam	introduce (v); advice
7	ເນາະ	naw	huh? right?
8	ເບຍ	biaa	beer (n)
9	ເຢາະວ່າ	paw waa	because
10	ເມຍ	miaa	wife (n)
11	ເລະ	lae	and (for nouns)

The written structure ເຂີງ is almost obsolete; ເຂຍ has taken its place. You will see this on T-shirts and beer bottles that read: ເບຍລາວ (**biaa laao**). “Beer Lao” is the country’s only domestically produced beer label.

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

1. ເມະນຳໜູ້ຂອງຂ້ອຍ
2. ກິນປາເພາະວ່າເຊັບຫຼາຍ
3. ດາວແລະນອຍເຕີຍໄປລາວ
4. ເພັງຫຼາຍເບາະ
5. ໂຊະ!
6. ເມຍນອຍຂອງລາວສູບຢາຫຼາຍ
7. ລາວກິນຫຍັງ?
8. ນິກເສຍຄວາຍຂອງເມຍລາວ



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Translate into Lao:

1. It's really hard (difficult), huh?
2. Has she ever eaten *f(err)*?
3. I don't have money because I eat a lot.
4. It's hot, huh?
5. Do you like my desk?
6. This is too spicy, huh.
7. My friend's husband lost my water buffalo.



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 20

Left, Top & Right Vowels

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຂົອ (rare)	29	as in look + ah (short)	uh'a
ເຂົອ	30	as in look + ah (long)	uhh'a

Examples of ເຂົອ sound: ເວົອ, ເມືອຍ

LAO LETTER	ALPHABETICAL ORDER	ENGLISH SOUND	ENGLISH LETTER
ເຂົາ	34	as in now	ow

Examples of ເຂົາ sound: ເອົາ, ເຈົ້າ, ເຕົ້າ, ເບົາ

The vowel ເຂົາ is often transcribed as ao, but we use **ow** as it better corresponds to English words such as *now*, *how*, *cow*, *wow* and *vow*. Do not get confused when you see **bow** and **tow**, though—they too are pronounced with the **ow** as in *now*.

Exercises

A. Write in English:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. ເຈົ້າ | 8. ເຄືອງ | 15. ເລືອດ |
| 2. ເຮືອ | 9. ປິດ | 16. ເມືອງ |
| 3. ນູນ | 10. ເມົາ | 17. ເບົາ |
| 4. ເມືອຍ | 11. ແລະ | 18. ເວົາ |
| 5. ເຮືອນ | 12. ແຕ່ງງານ | 19. ເມືອກ |
| 6. ເຕົ້າ | 13. ເດືອນ | 20. ເຮັດ |
| 7. ເຫຼືອໝໍາ | 14. ເອົາ | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write in Lao:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. duhh'an | 8. ow | 15. mow |
| 2. wow | 9. naw | 16. muhh'ay |
| 3. huhh'an | 10. luhh'at | 17. muhh'ak |
| 4. k(h)aaō | 11. huhh'a | 18. muhh'ang |
| 5. het | 12. kuhh'ang | 19. bow |
| 6. jow | 13. daao | 20. tuhh'a naa |
| 7. t(h)ow | 14. saaep | |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Arrange in alphabetical order:

1. ເມືອງ, ເຈົ້າ, ເລືອດ, ບິດ, ເບິງ
2. ເລະ, ເຫຼືອໜ້າ, ເມື່ອຍ, ເອົາ, ເຖິ້າ, ເວັ້າ, ເມືອກ
3. ເມີ້າ, ເດືອນ, ເຮັດ, ເຮືອ, ເຫຼືອໜ້າ, ເບິ່າ, ເລືອດ, ເຄື່ອງ

LESSON 21

Vocabulary G

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#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ພວກເຂົາ	puak k(h)ow	they, them
2	ເຄື່ອງ	kuhh'ang	thing (n)
3	ເຈົ້າ	jow	you
4	ເສື້ອ	suhh'a	shirt (n)
5	ເດືອນ	duhh'an	month, moon (n)
6	ເດີາ	dow	guess (n), (v)
7	ເຕົ້າ	t(h)ow	old (adj)
8	ເບິ່ງ	bow	light, soft (not heavy) (adj)
9	ເມືອງ	muhh'ang	city (n)
10	ເມືອກ	muhh'ak	humid; oily (adj)
11	ເມື່ອຍ	muhh'ay	tired (adj)
12	ເມີ້າ	mow	drunk (adj)
13	ເລື້ອດ	luhh'at	blood (n)
14	ເວົ້າ	wow	say, speak (v)
15	ເອົາ	ow	take (v)
16	ເຮືອ	huhh'a	boat (n)
17	ເຮືອດ	huhh'at	bed bugs (n)
18	ເຮືອນ	huhh'an	house (n)

ພວກເຂົາ (**puak k(h)ow**) is the proper way to say “they” or “them.” Do not confuse it with **puak how** (“we”).

ເບີ້າ (**bow**) can be combined with other words to create new ones. This is very common practice in Lao. For example, **huu bow** (ຫຼູເບີ້າ) literally translates as “ear soft” (*soft ear*) or “gullible.”

ເລື້ອດ (**luhh'at**) is put in many Lao dishes. If you don't want it, you'll be better off learning how to say **baw sai luhh'at**, which literally means “not with blood,” or simply “without blood.”

ເອົາ (**ow**) is used to ask for something or ask if someone wants something. For example, “**ow baw?**” ເອົາບໍ່? means “Do you want it?” ເອົາ (**ow**) means “I'll take it.”

ເອົາ can also be combined with other words: **ow maa** (ເອົາມາ) literally means “take come,” that is, “bring,” and **ow pbai** (ເອົາໄປ) literally means “take go”: simply, “take.”

ພວກເຂົາ **puak k(h)ow**

ເບີ້າ **bow**

ຫຼູເບີ້າ **huu bow** (gullible)

ເລື້ອດ **luhh'at**

ບໍ່ໃສເລື້ອດ **baw sai luhh'at.** (Not with blood. [regarding food])

ເອົາ **ow**

ເອົາບໍ່? **ow baw?** (Do you want it?)

ເອົາ **ow.** (I'll take it.)

ບໍ່ເອົາ **baw ow.** (I don't want it.)

ເອົາມາ **ow maa** (bring)

ເອົາໄປ **ow pbai** (take)

Exercises

A. Translate into English:

1. ເຈົ້າມີແຍ່ນເລືວບໍ່?
2. ພວກເຂົາເມີນເລືວ
3. ລາວເວົ້າຫຍ້ງ?
4. ເອົາໃຫ້ຂອຍແດ່
5. ເມືອກຫຼາຍແນະໆ?
6. ເຈົ້າຢາກໄປເດືອນໜ້າບໍ່?
7. ເມື່ອຍບໍ່?
8. ຄິນລາວມັກເວົ້າວ່າບໍ່ເປັນຫຍ້ງ



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

Notes:

ໜ້າ (*naa*) means “face,” “in front” and “next.”

ບໍ່ເປັນຫຍ້ງ (*baw pben nyang*) is one of the most common phrases in Lao. It means “Never mind” or “Don’t worry about it.”

B. Translate into Lao:

1. Did you already tell him?
2. I'll take *F(err)* without blood.
3. Do you remember me?
4. You're very pretty, too.
5. Two cups, please.
6. Water buffaloes are better than bed bugs.
7. What did you lose?
8. Are you drunk (already)?



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

REVIEW 2

LESSON 22

Vowels in Alphabetical Order as Found in Dictionary:

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|----------|
| 1. xະ | 14. ဧော် | 27. xjx |
| 2. ဗုံ | 15. ဧော | 28. ဧော |
| 3. x၏ | 16. ဗိုံ | 29. ဧော |
| 4. ဗု | 17. ဗုံ | 30. ဗိုံ |
| 5. ဗု | 18. ဗို | 31. ဗိုံ |
| 6. ဗု | 19. ဗော် | 32. ဗု |
| 7. ဗု | 20. ဗု | 33. xəx |
| 8. ဗု | 21. xəx | 34. ဗု |
| 9. ဗ | 22. ဗု | 35. ဗု |
| 10. ဗော် | 23. ဗု | 36. ဗို |
| 11. ဗုံ | 24. ဗုံ | 37. ဗု၏ |
| 12. ဗု | 25. ဗုံ | 38. xəy |
| 13. ဗော် | 26. ဗုံ, (ဗုံ) | |

REVIEW 3

LESSON 23

Here are some of the most useful words and phrases you have learned.

Exercises

A. Give the English meanings:

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. ໄປ | 11. ຍຸງ | 21. ເລີວ |
| 2. ເຄີຍ | 12. ເມື່າ | 22. ຜິວ |
| 3. ບັ່ງ | 13. ຕະຫຼາດ | 23. ກິນ |
| 4. ຜູ້ຊາຍ | 14. ແພນ | 24. ເຕັງງານ |
| 5. ເນາະ | 15. ອຽນ | 25. ອັງກິດ |
| 6. ລາວ | 16. ແຜ | 26. ແຜົດ |
| 7. ເອົາ | 17. ຢາສູບ | 27. ລຶມ |
| 8. ໂຊກດີ | 18. ຄົນດູວ | 28. ມາ |
| 9. ທຳມະດາ | 19. ເຮັດວຽກ | 29. ເຈົ້າ |
| 10. ຂອງຂອຍ | 20. ປິດ | 30. ນອຍ |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

B. Write the Lao:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. have | 11. very pretty | 21. friend |
| 2. hot | 12. delicious | 22. speak |
| 3. fish | 13. can | 23. water |
| 4. tell | 14. not | 24. know |
| 5. return home | 15. money | 25. lose, pay |
| 6. woman yet | 16. want | 26. like |
| 7. remember | 17. sleep | 27. too expensive |
| 8. 10:30 | 18. stop | 28. fast |
| 9. tired | 19. better | 29. time |
| 10. wife | 20. open | 30. heart |



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

C. Put in alphabetical order:

1. ກຽນ, ຍັງ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ລາວ, ແຊບ, ບໍ່
2. ຢາກ, ເນາະ, ດາວ, ໝູ້, ຄືກັນ, ປາ, ເວົ້າ, ເສຍ, ບອກ
3. ເມີ້າ, ກັບ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ຫຼາຍ, ໃຈ, ປິດ, ເຮັງ, ຂອຍ, ເຈົ້າ, ນຳ, ເຜີ

D. Translate into Lao:

1. Have you already eaten?
2. I'm very tired.
3. What time is it?
4. Are you (already) married?
5. Very delicious.
6. It's hot, huh?
7. Have you ever been to Thailand?
8. Can you go faster?
9. I don't have time.
10. I want to eat spicy *F(err)*.
11. Tell him what you told me.
12. I don't speak Lao very well yet.
13. Do you smoke?
14. I will go to sleep. (I'm going to sleep.)
15. Don't you remember me?

Note:

ພາສາ (paasaa) means “language” and is stated before the language referred to. For example, **paasaa laao** (ພາສາລາວ).



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.
Repeat each one several times to practice.

E. Translate into English:

1. ຂ້ອຍຈະກັບບ້ານສອງໄມ່ເຄື່ອງ
2. ເຈົ້າໃຈດີ
3. ຮອນເນາະ?
4. ຫຼູ່ຂອງຂ້ອຍມັກນອນຫຼາຍໆ
5. ເພິ່ງໄພດເນາະ
6. ຜົວເຈົ້າເຮັດວຽກທີ່ຍັງ?
7. ເມີນເລີວບໍ່?
8. ແຊຸບບໍ່?
9. ລາວເວົ້າພາສາລາວດີກ່າວ່າຂ້ອຍ
10. ຖາມລາວແດ່
11. ເອົາເຕິ່ນມາ
12. ລາວມີເພີ່ມແລ້ວບໍ່?
13. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ເຄີຍກິນຢູ່ງ
14. ເມຍຂອງໝູ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ຜົວຂອງໝູ່ນິກ
15. ກິນເລີວບໍ່?



Now listen to these words/phrases, pronounced on the CD.

Repeat each one several times to practice.

LESSON 24

Extra Vocabulary

In alphabetical order:

#	LAO	ENGLISH	TRANSLATION(S)
1	ຂອບໃຈ	k(h)awp jai	thank you
2	ເຂົ້າໃຈ	k(h)ow jai	understand (v)
3	ຂວົມີດຕະພາບ	k(h)uua mit dtaapaap	The Friendship Bridge (<i>n</i>)
4	ສະບາຍດີ	sabaaidii	hello, good
5	ໂທລະສັບ	toolasaap	phone (<i>n</i>), call (v)
6	ເຫຼື່າໄດ?	tow dai	how much?
7	ແນວໄດ?	naaeo dai	how?
8	ເປັນຫຍໍງ?	pben nyang	why?
9	ພິບ, ເຈີ	pop, j(er)	meet (v)
10	ແມ່ນບໍ່?	maaen baw	really?, right?
11	(ແມ່ນ)ໃຜ?	(maaen) p(h)ai	who?
12	(ແມ່ນ)ຫຍໍງ?	(maaen) nyang	what?
13	ເມື່ອໄດ?	muhh'a dai	when?
14	(ຢູ່)ໃສ?	(yuu) sai	where?
15	ໜາວ	naao	cold (<i>adj</i>)
16	ໝູດໄດ້ບໍ່?	lut dai baw?	Can I have a discount?
17	ື້ມ	iim	full (not hungry)

ສະບາຍດີບໍ່? (**sabaaidii baww**) means “How are you?”

ສະບາຍດີ is the most common answer, which means “Good, fine.” When used alone as a statement, it means “Hello.”



Person A: ສະບາຍດີ (Hello.)

Person B: ສະບາຍດີ (Hi.)

Person A: ສະບາຍດີບໍ່? (How are you?)

Person B: ສະບາຍດີ (Good.)

The letter ແ is unspoken, but signals to the reader that the word before it is to be repeated. For example, **k(h)awp jai lai lai** means “Thank you very, very much.”



ຂອບໃຈຫຼາຍໆ **k(h)awp jai lai lai** (Thank you very, very much.)

Answer Key

Answer Key

Lessons 1–7

Lesson 1

- | | |
|---------|-------|
| A. | B. |
| 1. daw | 1. ດ |
| 2. jaw | 2. ກ |
| 3. gaw | 3. ຜ |
| 4. dtaw | 4. ຈ |
| 5. jaw | 5. ຜ |
| 6. daw | 6. ກ |
| 7. gaw | 7. ຈ |
| 8. jaw | 8. ຜ |
| 9. dtaw | 9. ດ |
| 10. gaw | 10. ກ |

Lesson 2

- | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|
| A. | | |
| 1. daw | 7. baw | 13. baw |
| 2. jaw | 8. aw | 14. yaw |
| 3. dtaw | 9. dtaw | 15. gaw |
| 4. yaw | 10. bpaw | 16. daw |
| 5. aw | 11. jaw | |
| 6. bpaw | 12. aw | |

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| B. | | |
| 1. ດ | 7. ຈ | 13. ບ |
| 2. ຍ | 8. ບ | 14. ດ |
| 3. ປ | 9. ກ | 15. ຍ |
| 4. ຜ | 10. ຕ | 16. ອ |
| 5. ກ | 11. ອ | |
| 6. ອ | 12. ຈ | |

Lesson 3**A.**

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. daw | 9. saw | 17. kaw |
| 2. saw | 10. dtaw | 18. yaw |
| 3. gaw | 11. jaw | 19. baw |
| 4. ngaw | 12. daw | 20. dtaw |
| 5. bpaw | 13. naw | 21. gaw |
| 6. jaw | 14. ngaw | 22. aw |
| 7. nyaw | 15. baw | 23. naw |
| 8. kaw | 16. bpaw | 24. saw |

B.

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. ဓ | 9. ဧ | 17. ဋ |
| 2. ဓ | 10. ပ | 18. ဏ |
| 3. ဂ | 11. ဓ | 19. ဗ |
| 4. ဋ | 12. ဓ | 20. ပ |
| 5. ဗ | 13. ဧ | 21. ဂ |
| 6. ပ | 14. ဓ | 22. ဏ |
| 7. ဏ | 15. ဂ | 23. ဓ |
| 8. ဂ | 16. ဓ | 24. ဓ |

Lesson 4**A.**

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. paw | 11. kaw | 21. daw |
| 2. maw | 12. jaw | 22. law |
| 3. taw | 13. dtaw | 23. yaw |
| 4. daw | 14. saw | 24. haw |
| 5. faw | 15. naw | 25. maw |
| 6. waw | 16. nyaw | 26. paw |
| 7. law | 17. taw | 27. taw |
| 8. baw | 18. waw | 28. aw |
| 9. haw | 19. ngaw | 29. bpaw |
| 10. paw | 20. gaw | 30. daw |

B.

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. ဂ | 11. ပ | 21. က |
| 2. သ | 12. ဏ | 22. ဏ |
| 3. လ | 13. မ | 23. ဗ |
| 4. ပ | 14. စ | 24. ပ |
| 5. ဗ | 15. ဿ | 25. ဓ |
| 6. ဓ | 16. ဈ | 26. ၂ |
| 7. ဋ | 17. ဇ | 27. ဇ |
| 8. ခ | 18. ဋ | 28. ဏ |
| 9. ဿ | 19. ၂ | 29. ဈ |
| 10. သ | 20. ဟ | 30. ဿ |

Lesson 5**A.**

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. paw | 11. law | 21. naw | 31. yaw |
| 2. naw | 12. baw | 22. nyaw | 32. k(h)aw |
| 3. k(h)aw | 13. haw | 23. taw | 33. haw |
| 4. maw | 14. p(h)aw | 24. t(h)aw | 34. maw |
| 5. taw | 15. haw | 25. waw | 35. faw |
| 6. daw | 16. paw | 26. ngaw | 36. p(h)aw |
| 7. faw | 17. kaw | 27. haw | 37. taw |
| 8. waw | 18. jaw | 28. gaw | 38. aw |
| 9. saw | 19. dtaw | 29. daw | 39. bpaw |
| 10. haw | 20. saw | 30. law | 40. haw |

B.

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. ဂ | 11. ပ | 21. က | 31. ဗ, ဋ |
| 2. သ | 12. ဏ | 22. ဋ | 32. ခ |
| 3. လ | 13. မ | 23. ဗ | 33. ပ |
| 4. ပ | 14. စ | 24. ပ | 34. ဿ |
| 5. ဗ | 15. ဿ, ဿ | 25. ဓ | 35. သ |
| 6. ဓ | 16. ဈ | 26. ၂ | 36. လ |
| 7. ဗ, ဋ | 17. ဈ | 27. ဈ | 37. ဿ, ဿ |
| 8. ခ | 18. ဏ, ဋ | 28. ဏ | 38. က |
| 9. ဏ | 19. ၂ | 29. ဈ | 39. ဏ, ဋ |
| 10. ဿ | 20. ဟ | 30. ဿ, ဿ | 40. ဗ |

Lesson 6**A.**

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. haw | 19. waw | 37. gaw |
| 2. taw | 20. law | 38. haw |
| 3. saw | 21. bpaw | 39. law |
| 4. saw | 22. p(h)aw | 40. baw |
| 5. faw | 23. baw | 41. nyaw |
| 6. nyaw | 24. law | 42. naw |
| 7. gaw | 25. waw | 43. haw |
| 8. paw | 26. faw | 44. paw |
| 9. naw | 27. ngaw | 45. yaw |
| 10. nyaw | 28. maw | 46. faw |
| 11. law | 29. aw | 47. t(h)aw |
| 12. maw | 30. haw | 48. kaw |
| 13. jaw | 31. p(h)aw | 49. dtaw |
| 14. naw | 32. ngaw | 50. nyaw |
| 15. t(h)aw | 33. maw | 51. saw |
| 16. k(h)aw | 34. law | 52. naw |
| 17. dtaw | 35. saw | |
| 18. kaw | 36. daw | |

B.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. ဓ | 15. ဋ | 29. ပ |
| 2. ဋ | 16. ပ | 30. ယ |
| 3. ခ, ာခ | 17. မ, ဗု | 31. န |
| 4. ဗ | 18. ပ, ဗု | 32. ဓ |
| 5. ဟ | 19. ပ | 33. ပ, ဗု |
| 6. ရ, ဗု | 20. ယ, ဗ | 34. ခ |
| 7. ယ | 21. တ | 35. ဟ |
| 8. ဗ, န | 22. ယ, ဗယ | 36. ခ, ာခ |
| 9. လ, ဗူ, ဗလ | 23. ၅, ဗ၁ | 37. ဗ, န |
| 10. ခ | 24. ယ | 38. ယ, ဗယ |
| 11. ဏ | 25. လ, ဗူ, ဗလ | 39. ဗ |
| 12. ဗ, ယ | 26. ရ, ဗ | 40. ယ |
| 13. ခ | 27. ဟ | 41. မ, ဗု |
| 14. န | 28. ဏ | 42. ဓ |

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| 43. ອ | 47. ແ | 51. ອ |
| 44. ນ | 48. ລ, ແນ, ຫລ | 52. ມ, ແນ |
| 45. ພ, ພ | 49. ບ | |
| 46. ຖ, ຫງ | 50. ບ | |

Lesson 7

- | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. gaw | 12. taw | 23. waw |
| 2. k(h)aw | 13. naw | 24. haw |
| 3. kaw | 14. baw | 25. ngaw |
| 4. ngaw | 15. bpaw | 26. nyaw |
| 5. jaw | 16. p(h)aw | 27. naw |
| 6. saw | 17. faw | 28. maw |
| 7. saw | 18. paw | 29. law |
| 8. nyaw | 19. faw | 30. waw |
| 9. daw | 20. maw | 31. aw |
| 10. dtaw | 21. yaw | 32. haw |
| 11. t(h)aw | 22. law | |

Lessons 8–18**Lesson 8****A.**

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. ja | 8. bpaa | 15. t(h)aam |
| 2. maa | 9. laao | 16. tamlai |
| 3. naam | 10. ngaam | 17. haak |
| 4. yaa | 11. dam | 18. dtalaat |
| 5. dtaa | 12. saa | 19. yaak |
| 6. dtaaai | 13. yaak | 20. k(h)aa |
| 7. yaak | 14. daao | |

B.

- | | | |
|--------|---------|------------|
| 1. ດາວ | 6. ຍາກ | 11. ຫາກ |
| 2. ລາວ | 7. ຖາມ | 12. ຂ່າວ |
| 3. ງາມ | 8. ຢາ | 13. ນັ້ງ |
| 4. ຈະ | 9. ນັ້ງ | 14. ລາວ |
| 5. ຍາກ | 10. ຢາກ | 15. ຕະຫຼາດ |

16. ດັ່ງ 18. ຊາ
 17. ປາ 19. ມາ

C.

1. ຈະ, ຊາ, ລາວ, ຫາກ
2. ເງາມ, ດາວ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ຕາ, ຢ່າ, ຢ່າກ
3. ຊາວ, ດາວ, ຕາ, ຕາຍ, ຖາມ, ນັ້ນ, ປາ, ຢ່າກ, ລາວ

Lesson 9

A.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Dao's medicine | 5. (S)he wants to come to the market. |
| 2. Pretty fish | 6. Dao is coming. |
| 3. Dao is looking for tea. | 7. White fish |
| 4. (S)he vomited. | 8. (S)he will look for fish. |

B.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. ປາຂາວ | 5. ປາຈະມາ |
| 2. ດາວຊອກຫາຍາ | 6. ຊາດາວ |
| 3. ຍ່າກ | 7. ລາວງາມ |
| 4. ລາວຫາກ | 8. ປາຢາກຫາກ |

Lesson 10

A.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. dii laai | 8. hak | 15. nyang |
| 2. gap | 9. luhh | 16. baw |
| 3. juhh | 10. hok | 17. t(h)uhhk |
| 4. k(h)aw | 11. baw | 18. kuhhgan |
| 5. mii | 12. tammadaa | 19. nok |
| 6. bpit | 13. konlaao | 20. nyang |
| 7. gin | 14. luhhm | |

B.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| 1. มี | 8. ປິດ | 15. ຄືກັນ |
| 2. ລື້ມ | 9. ແຂ່ງ | 16. ທຳມະດາ |
| 3. ຄືນ | 10. ຫີກ | 17. ຈື່ງ |
| 4. ດີຫຼາຍ | 11. ຖືກ | 18. ກັບ |
| 5. ບໍ່ | 12. ຮັກ | 19. ຄືນລາວ |
| 6. ຍັງ, ຫຍັງ | 13. ນິກ | 20. ບໍ່ |
| 7. ຍາ | 14. ກິນ | |

C.

1. ກັບ, ທຳມະດາ, ນິກ, ລື້ມ
2. ກັບ, ກິນ, ແຂ່ງ, ຄືນລາວ, ຈື່ງ, ບໍ່, ປິດ, ມີ
3. ກິນ, ແຂ່ງ, ຄືກັນ, ຍັງ, ດີຫຼາຍ, ບໍ່, ຫຼື, ຮັກ

Lesson 11

A.

1. (S)he still has not returned to Lao.
2. Dao has a bird.
3. Lao people like to eat fish.
4. I forgot too.
5. The bird is going to look for fish.
6. Do you like it?
7. Dao has some very good medicine.

B.

1. ລາວມັກນິກຂາວ
2. ລາວມິນໍ້ຫຼາຍ
3. (ຂອຍຈະ) ກັບຕະຫຼາດຄືກັນ
4. ເຈົ້າຮັກລາວບໍ່?
5. ລາວບໍ່ມີ
6. ຖາມລາວ
7. ຕະຫຼາດຍັງມີນິກາງາມ, ປາຂາວ(ແລະ)ຢາດີ

Lesson 12**A.**

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. gung | 11. sawn | 21. p(h)usaai |
| 2. nguua | 12. bawk | 22. diao |
| 3. supaap | 13. suup | 23. k(h)uaa |
| 4. k(h)ian | 14. jawk | 24. k(h)awy |
| 5. k(h)awng | 15. kuaay | 25. hawn |
| 6. nawn | 16. wiak | 26. nawy |
| 7. guaa | 17. nyung | 27. huu |
| 8. hian | 18. muu | 28. p(h)uusaao |
| 9. dtua | 19. siang | |
| 10. guaa | 20. yut | |

B.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| 1. ຜົວ | 11. ຊົ່ງ | 21. ຂອຍ |
| 2. ນອນ | 12. ຄວາຍ | 22. ຜູ້ຊາຍ |
| 3. ກຸ່ງ | 13. ຂອງ | 23. ບອກ |
| 4. ຈອກ | 14. ຜູ້ສາວ | 24. ອົງນ |
| 5. ຢຸດ | 15. ຮອນ | 25. ດົງວ |
| 6. ສູບ | 16. ຍຸງ | 26. ສົງ |
| 7. ສູພາບ | 17. ຕົວະ | 27. ສອນ |
| 8. ວິວ | 18. ໝູ້ | 28. ນ້ອຍ |
| 9. ວົກ | 19. ຂົງນ | |
| 10. ຂວາ | 20. ກ່ວາ | |

C.

1. ຄວາຍ, ສູພາບ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ຢຸດ
2. ກຸ່ງ, ຂອງ, ຈອກ, ດີກ່ວາ, ດົງວ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ວົກ, ໝູ້
3. ວິວ, ສູບ, ສອນ, ຍຸງ, ບອກ, ຜົວ, ຊົ່ງ, ອົງນ

Lesson 13

A.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. I know Dao's husband. | 5. Nawy is looking for cigarettes. |
| 2. Lao person | 6. Do you have it? |
| 3. Nawy studies a lot. | 7. I don't have any. |
| 4. It's very hot. | 8. I have a lot of work (to do). |

B.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. ຄົນດູວ | 6. ຖາມນ້ອຍຮູ້ນິກບໍ່? |
| 2. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ສູບຍາ | 7. ລາວຕີວະບູາຍ |
| 3. ຢຸດ! | 8. ຍຸງນ້ອຍກ່ວານິກຂາວ |
| 4. ຍັງບໍ່ຮູ້ບໍ? | 9. ກິນກຸງບໍ່? |
| 5. ຜົວຂອງໝູ້ຂ້ອຍກິນຄວາຍຂອງຂ້ອຍ | 10. ຜູ້ຍິງຂົງດີກ່ວາຜູ້ຊາຍ |

Lesson 14

A.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. weei laa | 11. mii |
| 2. saaep | 12. wai |
| 3. jai | 13. kuhh gan |
| 4. nawn | 14. doo laa |
| 5. luhhm | 15. laaeo |
| 6. k(h)aaeng haaeng | 16. poot |
| 7. bpai | 17. nyung |
| 8. gai | 18. dtaaeng ngaan |
| 9. daaeng | 19. laai |
| 10. joon | 20. paaeng |

B.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. ຢ່ານນ້ອຍ | 8. ໂມງ | 15. ໄຈ |
| 2. ໄຈນ | 9. ທຳມະດາ | 16. ໄດລາ |
| 3. ໄທ | 10. ເຊີບ | 17. ໄຮງໝໍ |
| 4. ໄຊດາ | 11. ໂພດ | 18. ຢາກມາ |
| 5. ຄົນລາວ | 12. ໄວ | 19. ໃນລິກ |
| 6. ເວລາ | 13. ກຸງ | 20. ໝາກເຕັງ |
| 7. ເຕັກ | 14. ເຕັງງານ | |

C.

1. ໄກ, ໃຈ, ໂຊກດີ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ໄວ
2. ແຊບ, ຕົວະ, ຜົວ, ໂພດ, ພາກເຕັງ, ຢາ, ໂຮງໝໍ
3. ກັບ, ຈື່, ດີ, ເຕັງ, ໄທ, ໃນ, ເພັງ, ເລືວ, ເວລາ

Lesson 15

A.

1. Is it (delicious)?
2. Nawy is already married.
3. (S)he still doesn't have a boyfriend/girlfriend.
4. What time is it?
5. Can you go faster?
6. I don't have time.
7. What time are you going to school?
8. Cucumbers are really too expensive.

B.

1. ໂຊກດີ!
2. ຕະຫຼາດປິດຈັກໄມ່?
3. ສີບໄມ່ຂອຍຈະໄປວຽກ
4. ພາສາລາວບໍ່ຍາກໄພດ
5. ຈອກ (ຂູ້ອຍ) ເຕັກເລືວ
6. ກິນເລືວ
7. ຜູ້ຊາຍແຂງແຮງຢາກເຕັ້ງງານຜູ້ສາວງາມ
8. ຂູນລາວໄດ້ບໍ່?

Lesson 16

A.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. bp(err)t | 8. kuhh gan | 15. ng'n |
| 2. yen | 9. jep | 16. het |
| 3. s(err)n | 10. b(er)ng | 17. pben |
| 4. hai | 11. k(err)'y | 18. men |
| 5. dek | 12. p(h)et | 19. k(er)ng |
| 6. f(err) | 13. kem | 20. dtem |
| 7. weeि laa | 14. laaeo | |

B.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. ເງິນ | 8. ຂໍ | 15. ແຜົດ |
| 2. ເຄັມ | 9. ເຮັດ | 16. ແຊບ |
| 3. ແໜ້ນ | 10. ເຄີຍ | 17. ເຄື່ງ |
| 4. ເຟີ | 11. ເພົງໄພດ | 18. ຖາມຫຼາຍ |
| 5. ເຊີນ | 12. ເດັກ | 19. ເບິ່ງ |
| 6. ນິກນ້ອຍ | 13. ເປັນ | 20. ໃນ |
| 7. ເຈັບ | 14. ເປັນ | |

C.

1. ເຄັມ, ເດັກ, ເຕັມ, ເປັນ, ເວລາ, ໃຫ້
2. ເຄື່ງ, ເຄີຍ, ຄືກັນ, ເງິນ, ເປີດ, ແຜົດ, ເຟີ
3. ເຄັມ, ເງິນ, ເຈັບ, ເຊີນ, ເດັກ, ເບິ່ງ, ເປັນ, ເຮັດ

Lesson 17**A.**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Do you have cold (iced) tea? | 5. I don't have a lot of money. |
| 2. Have you ever been to Thailand? | 6. Is it too spicy? |
| 3. Ouch! (It hurts) | 7. What is the little kid doing? |
| 4. 2:30 | 8. Do you have time? |

B.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. ເຟີແຜົດຫຼາຍ | 5. ຍັງບໍ່ເຄີຍໄປ |
| 2. ເບິ່ງລາວ | 6. ສາມໂມງເຄື່ງມາບ້ານຂ້ອຍໄດ້ບໍ່? |
| 3. ບາເຄັມໄພດ | 7. ລາວເປັນຜູ້ຊາຍ |
| 4. ເຄີຍໄປບໍ່? | 8. ແຊບບໍ່? |

Lesson 18**A.**

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. lae | 7. ng'n | 13. siaa |
| 2. saw | 8. yaak | 14. so |
| 3. p(h)et | 9. dto | 15. biaa |
| 4. miaa | 10. nae nam | 16. nyung |
| 5. paw waa | 11. dte | 17. s(err)n |
| 6. naw | 12. jawk | |

B.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|
| 1. ເລະ | 6. ໂຕະ | 11. ເຊີນ |
| 2. ໄຊະ | 7. ຍຸງ | 12. ເມາຈ |
| 3. ແຕະ | 8. ເພາະວ່າ | 13. ຈອກ |
| 4. ເນະນຳ | 9. ເຖິນ | 14. ຢາກ |
| 5. ເມຍ | 10. ເສຍ | 15. ໄຊະ |

C.

1. ແຕະ, ໂຕະ, ເພາະວ່າ, ຢາກ
2. ໄຊະ, ເນະນຳ, ເມາຈ, ເຜັດ, ເລະ
3. ກິນ, ເສຍ, ໄຊະ, ຍຸງ, ເນະນຳ, ຢາກ

Lessons 19–23

Lesson 19

A.

1. Introduce my friend.
2. Eat fish because it's delicious.
3. Dao and Nawy have been to Lao.
4. Very expensive, huh.
5. Get out of here!
6. His mistress smokes a lot.
7. What is (s)he eating?
8. Nok lost his wife's water buffalo.

B.

1. ຍາກຫຼາຍເມາຈ?
2. ລາວເດືອກິນເຜີບ?
3. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ມີເຖິນເພາະວ່າຂ້ອຍກິນຫຼາຍໆ
4. ຮົນເມາຈ?
5. ມັກໂຕະຂ້ອຍບໍ່?
6. ເຜັດໄພດເມາຈ
7. ຜົວຂອງໜູ້ຂ້ອຍເສຍຄວາຍຂອງຂ້ອຍ

Lesson 20

A.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. jow | 11. lae |
| 2. huhh'a | 12. dtaaaeng ngaan |
| 3. hian | 13. duhh'an |
| 4. muhh'ai | 14. ow |
| 5. huhh'an | 15. luhh'at |
| 6. t(h)ow | 16. muhh'ang |
| 7. tuhh'a naa | 17. bow |
| 8. kuhh'ang | 18. wow |
| 9. bpit | 19. muhh'ak |
| 10. mow | 20. het |

B.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. ເດືອນ | 11. ເຮືອ |
| 2. ເວົ້າ | 12. ເຄື່ອງ |
| 3. ເຮືອນ | 13. ດາວ |
| 4. ຂາວ | 14. ແຊບ |
| 5. ເຮັດ | 15. ເມີ້າ |
| 6. ເຈົ້າ | 16. ເມື່ອຍ |
| 7. ເຖິ່ງ | 17. ເມືອກ |
| 8. ເອົາ | 18. ເມື່ອງ |
| 9. ເມາະ | 19. ເບີ້າ |
| 10. ເລື້ອດ | 20. ເທື່ອໜ້າ |

C.

1. **ເຈົ້າ, ເບີ້າ, ບິດ, ເມື່ອງ, ເລື້ອດ**
2. **ເຖິ່ງ, ເທື່ອໜ້າ, ເມືອກ, ເມື່ອຍ, ແລະ, ເວົ້າ, ເອົາ**
3. **ເຄື່ອງ, ເດືອນ, ເທື່ອໜ້າ, ເບີ້າ, ເມີ້າ, ເລື້ອດ, ເຮັດ, ເຮືອ**

Lesson 21

A.

1. Do you already have a girlfriend/boyfriend?
2. They are drunk already.
3. What did (s)he say?
4. Give it to me.

5. It's really humid, huh?
6. Do you want to go next month?
7. Are you tired?
8. Lao people like to say "Never mind (no problem)."

B.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ເຈົ້າບອກລາວເລີວບໍ່? | 5. ຂໍສອງຈອກເດືອນ |
| 2. ເອົາແປີບໍ່ໃສ່ເລືອດ | 6. ຄວາຍດີກ່ວາເຮືອດ |
| 3. ເຈົ້າຈຶ່ຂອຍໄດ້ບໍ່? | 7. ເສຍຫຍ້ງ? |
| 4. ເຈົ້າງາມຫຼາຍຄືກັນ | 8. ເມີນເລີວບໍ່? |

Lesson 23

A.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. bpai | 16. f(err) |
| 2. k(err)'y | 17. yaasuup |
| 3. baw | 18. kondiao |
| 4. p(h)uu saai | 19. het wiak |
| 5. naw | 20. bpit |
| 6. laao | 21. laaeo |
| 7. ow | 22. p(h)uua |
| 8. sook dii | 23. gin |
| 9. tam ma daa | 24. dtaaeng ngaan |
| 10. k(h)awng k(h)awy | 25. anggit |
| 11. nyung | 26. p(h)et |
| 12. mow | 27. luhhm |
| 13. dtalaat | 28. maa |
| 14. faaen | 29. jow |
| 15. hian | 30. nawy |

Anggit (ອັງກິດ) means "English," as in **paasaa anggit** (the English language).

B.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. มี | 11. ງາມຫຼາຍ | 21. ຫຼູ້ |
| 2. ຮອນ | 12. ແຊບ | 22. ເວົ້າ |
| 3. ປາ | 13. ໄດ້ | 23. ນຳ |
| 4. ບອກ | 14. ຍັງ | 24. ອູ້ |
| 5. ກັບບ້ານ | 15. ເງິນ | 25. ເສຍ |
| 6. ຜູ້ສາວ | 16. ຢາກ | 26. ມັກ |
| 7. ຈຶ່ງ | 17. ນອນ | 27. ເຢັງໂພດ |
| 8. ສີບໄມ້ເຄື່ອງ | 18. ຍຸດ | 28. ໄວ |
| 9. ເມື່ອຍ | 19. ດີກ່ວາ | 29. ເລາ |
| 10. ເມຍ | 20. ເປີດ | 30. ໄຈ |

C.

1. ແຊບ, ຍັງ, ຕະຫຼາດ, ບໍ່, ລາວ, ອຸນ
2. ຫຼູ້, ຄືກັນ, ດາວ, ບອກ, ປາ, ຢາກ, ເມາະ, ເສຍ, ເວົ້າ
3. ກັບ, ຂ້ອຍ, ໄຈ, ເຈົ້າ, ແຮງ, ນຳ, ປິດ, ຜູ້ສາວ, ເຜີ, ເມີ້າ, ຫຼາຍ

D.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. ກິນເລື່ອບໍ່? | 9. ບໍ່ມີເລາ |
| 2. ເມື່ອຍຫຼາຍ | 10. ຂ້ອຍຢາກກິນເຜີແຜດ |
| 3. ຈັກໄມ້ເລື່ອ? | 11. ບອກລາວເຈົ້າບອກຫຍັງຂ້ອຍ |
| 4. ເຈົ້າເຕັ້ງງານເລື່ອບໍ່? | 12. ຂ້ອຍເວົ້າພາສາລາວຍັງບໍ່ດີ |
| 5. ແຊບຫຼາຍ | 13. ສູບຢາບໍ່? |
| 6. ຮອນຫຼາຍເມາະ? | 14. ຂ້ອຍຈະໄປນອນ |
| 7. ເຈົ້າເຄີຍໄປປະເທດໄທບໍ່? | 15. ເຈົ້າບໍ່ຈື່ຂ້ອຍບໍ່? |
| 8. ໄປໄວກ່ວາໄດ້ບໍ່? | |

E.

1. I'm going back home at 2:30.
2. You are kind.
3. It's hot, huh?
4. My friend likes to sleep a lot.
5. Too expensive, huh.

6. What does your husband do?
7. Are you already drunk?
8. Is it delicious?
9. He speaks Lao (language) better than me.
10. Please ask him/her.
11. Bring the money.
12. Does (s)he have a boyfriend/girlfriend already?
13. I've never eaten mosquitoes.
14. My friend's wife knows Nok's friend's husband.
15. Have you already eaten?

NOTE

Practice your Lao with the included MP3 audio files!

This CD contains MP3 audio files.

You can play MP3 files on your computer (most computers include a default MP3 player); in your portable MP3 player; on many mobile phones and PDAs; and on some newer CD and DVD players.

You can also convert the MP3 files and create a regular audio CD, using software and a CD writing drive.

To play your MP3 files:

1. Open the CD on your computer.
2. Click on the MP3 file that you wish to play, to open it. The file should start playing automatically. (*If it doesn't, then perhaps your computer does not have an MP3 player; you will need to download one. There are dozens of players available online, and most of them are free or shareware. You can type "mp3 player" or "music downloads" into your search engine to find some.*)