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Hmong For Beginners Glossary Part 1

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## English-Hmong Glossary

by Elizabeth Riddle

This is a brief glossary rather than a full dictionary and is not meant to be comprehensive. In addition to including all the Hmong words contained in the text, other common words are included such as beginners in the language might find useful in a variety of circumstances when interacting with Hmong people or reading simple texts such as folk tales. As in any language, usage varies across regions and individuals. The items included here represent the usage of many, but not necessarily all, speakers of White Hmong.

The following conventions are used. Parts of speech are labeled for most individual words (but not complex phrases containing more than one part of speech except where useful for disambiguation) in order to help distinguish senses and usage. It must be kept in mind that Hmong parts of speech classification is more flexible than that of English and there is often no simple correspondence or single classification. Where the part of speech of the English and Hmong words is the same, it is given before any parentheses. Where the part of speech is different, or where there is more than one classification for a given English entry in Hmong, it is given within parentheses, where additional meanings or other explanatory material are also given. In some cases the part of speech classification is not clearcut or is difficult to explain fully in a brief entry. In those cases the decision was made according to what might most help a beginner whose point of departure is English to get a sense of the basic Hmong usage.

An entry is repeated within the parentheses along with any other possible senses when it is a reasonably close translation of the Hmong item or items. The entry is not repeated within the parentheses when there is no true Hmong equivalent and the translation is only an approximate paraphrase which may be used in some situations. In many cases a number of possible English senses, but not necessarily all, are given in parentheses in order to give a sense of the range of meaning of a Hmong item. In any given case the Hmong translation(s) do(es) not necessarily correspond to all senses or all uses of the English items given in the parentheses. Context must always be taken into consideration.

Classifiers for nouns which generally take them are given in square brackets immediately before the Hmong nouns. When the classifier is an integral part of the Hmong noun and forms a compound with it, it is not put in square brackets, but simply included as part of the word. It still performs the classifier functions. Other nouns for which no classifiers are given either self-classify or do not normally use an

individual classifier (i.e. other than the plural or group word *cov*).

Items within parentheses in the Hmong translations are optional, ultimately depending on context. Lines indicate where in a phrase an item appears. A slash indicates alternate forms, such as alternate pronunciations for the same meaning. For items where there is a commonly used translation borrowed from Lao, this is labelled (L), and from English, (E). No attempt has been made to provide consistent etymological information. This labelling is done simply to help indicate the generally perceived status of an item in everyday usage.

Following one common convention and that used in the textbook, a space is left between each syllable of a word, which has the effect of making the tone letter salient. It should be noted, however, that others prefer to omit spaces between syllables inside words.

The following abbreviations are used: ADV - adverb, CLF - classifier, CONJ - conjunction, DEM - demonstrative, esp. - especially, INT - interjection, L - Lao, lit. - literally, NEG - negative, N - noun, OBJ - object (to indicate a form used as a grammatical object of a verb, used here only in those cases where ambiguity would otherwise result), PREP - preposition, POSS - possessive modifier, PRO - pronoun, Q - quantifier, V - verb.

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### A

**AM** ADV ( \_\_\_ AM) \_\_\_ (teev/moos) thaum sawv  
ntxov

**abandon** V (abandon, cast away, discard, leave  
behind, reject) tseg

**abdomen** N (stomach) [lub] plab  
• N (lower abdominal area) [lub] plab mog

**able** V (able, can as acquired ability, know how to)  
txawj  
• V (able, can as situational, external possibility)  
tau  
• V (able, can as physical, internal  
ability/resources) taus

**abnormal** (V be abnormal, as for a medical test,  
unusual) (L) tsis thas ma das

**abortion** (V abort, have an abortion) rho me nyuam

**about** (ADV about, approximately, ADV probably, V guess) kwv yeas

- ADV (about, in vicinity of, around) ib ncig
- (PREP about, concerning, V arrive at) txog
- (talk about) hais txog
- (how about\_\_?) \_\_ne

**above** PREP (higher than, on top of) saum

- ADV (in a higher position) saud
- PREP (up, uphill, [up] above) pem

**absent** (V has not come) tsis tuaj

**absolutely** ADV kiag (li)

**accept** V (accept, catch something thrown, receive) txais

**accident** (V collide, as of cars) sib tsoo

**according to** PREP raws li

**account** N (bank account) naj nbawb cia nyiaj

**accustomed** (V be accustomed to, be willing, agreeable) kam

- (V be familiar) swm

**ache** V (ache, hurt, be sick) mob

- N (pain, sickness) [tus] mob
- (V have an earache) mob ntsej rag
- (V have a headache) dias taub hau
- (V have a toothache) mob hniav
- (V have a stomachache) mob plab

**across** PREP (opposite, facing, across the valley, [over] to [laterally, east-west]) tim

- ADV (over there) tid
- (V go across, cross) hla
- (PREP across, through, after [time], V go across, cross over, pass through/by) dhau

**act** V (act, do, make, produce) ua

**add** V (add, added to, join to, make an increment to) ntxiv

- (V added to, CONJ plus in math) ntxiv rau
- (V put extra, surpass) tshaj

**address** N [lub/tus] chaw nyob, qhov chaw nyob

**adult** N [tus] neeg laus

**advice** N [lo] lus ntuas, lus qhuab ntuas

**advise** V (advise against an intended course of action, seek to dissuade) txw

- V (advise, recommend, admonish) qhuab qhia
- V (exhort, rebuke) ntuas
- V (advise, explain, inform, instruct, show, teach, tell) qhia

**affect** V (be affected, afflicted with, suffer, encounter) raug

**affection** (V show affection) qawm

**afflict** (V be afflicted with, affect, suffer, encounter) raug

**afford** (V be able to buy) yuav tau

**afraid** (V be afraid, frightened, fear) ntshai

- (V be fearful, startled, suddenly afraid) siab poob nthav

**after** PREP (after, afterward, behind) tom qab

- (V after the passing of a particular time) dhau

• (after a day/days, another day) lwv hnuv tso

• (after finishing an action) V + tag

• (after midnight) ib tag hmo dua

• (CONJ after that, [and] then, so then) ces

• (the day after tomorrow) nag nag kis/nas kis

**afternoon** N yav tav su dua, tav su dua, caij tav su

• (from 1-4 PM) hnuv qaib

• (late afternoon, 4-6PM) yuav tsaus ntuj, yav tsaus ntuj

**afterward** ADV tom qab no, rov yav zaum tom qab

**again** (ADV again, more than, used to form comparative, V surpass) dua

- ADV (again, V add to) ntxiv (dua)

**against** (V turn against) fav xeeb

- (V turn against, change the mind, have a change of heart) ntxeev siab

**age** N (length of time, period, epoch, season [lub] caij

- (time, years, a person's age) hnuv nyooq

**agency** N (place) [lub] tsev kab xwm

**ago** ADV (long ago) thaum ub

- ADV (a very long time ago) puag thaum, puag ta
- ADV (just, a moment ago) nyuam qhuav
- ADV (previously, period up till now) nram ntej

**agree** V (agree to, consent, give permission) tso lus, pluam lus

- V (agree, be willing) nyoo
- V (agree to, be willing, admit) yeem
- V (concur in an opinion, agree with) raug
- V (approve of, agree with) pom zoo
- V (think the same) xav li nws thiab
- V (agree with the heart) dhos siab, hum siab

**agreeable** (V be agreeable to, willing) kam, nyoo

**agreement** N (written agreement) [daim] ntawv cog lus

**ahead** PREP (ahead of, in front of) tom ntej

- ADV (ahead, before in time or location, previous) ntej

- aid** V (aid, help) pab  
 • N [txoj] kev pab
- aim** V (a gun) tsom (phom )
- air** N (air as gaseous substance, breath, gas) pa  
 • N (atmosphere, the air) hav cua  
 • N (air-conditioning) cua txias
- airplane** N [lub] dav hlau, (L) nyooj hoom
- airport** N [lub] tshav dav hlau, (L) tshav nyooj hoom
- alcohol** N (for drinking) (dej) cawv
- alike** ADV (same, same as) ib yam, tib yam li
- alive** (V be alive, living) cياج (siav), ua cياج, muaj sia  
 • (be alive, dwell, live at, stay at, be at) nyob
- all** Q (all, every) txhia, txhua (txhia)  
 • (ADV all, completely, finished) tas/g nrho, tas  
 • (ADV all, completely) txhua nrho  
 • (ADV all, altogether) huv (si), huv tib si, tib si  
 • (PRO all of people, everybody) puav leej
- allergic** (V something doesn't agree with one, not fit) tsis haum
- allow** V (allow, abandon, free, leave, let, permit, place, release, relinquish) tso  
 • V (allow, permit, let, put aside, store) cia  
 • V (allow, permit, let, give as a gift) pub
- almost** ADV yuav luag
- alone** ADV ib leeg
- along** (V go along, by the side of) raws, taug  
 • (V follow along a route) lam
- aloud** (V be loud, make a noise, sound, ring) nrov
- alphabet** N cov tsiaj ntawv
- already** ADV (already, marker of perfective aspect) lawm  
 • ADV (already, really, even, indeed) twb  
 • (V be finished) tas, tag
- also** (ADV also, CONJ and) thiab  
 • ADV (also, moreover, consequently, therefore) kuj  
 • ADV (also, the same) ib yam
- although** ADV (although, though, even if/though) tab (yog), tab txawm (tias), txawm yog/tias + subordinate clause + los + main clause  
 • ADV (although, even if, if only) tab (yog)
- altogether** ADV (altogether, all) huv (si), huv (tib si)
- always** ADV (always, all the time) txhua lub caij
- (always, from the beginning, originally) ib txwm  
 • (always, repeatedly) pheej
- am** V (all forms of be) yog
- ambulance** N [lub] tsheb thauj neeg mob
- America** N (America, the United States) (Teb chaws) As mes lis kas, As mes lis kas teb, As mes liv kas, A me li kas, Mi li kas, Mi kas, Mis kuj
- American** (V be American) As mes liv kas, etc.  
 • N (person) [tus] neeg As mes liv kas, etc.
- among** PREP txij li  
 • (within) hauv
- and** (CONJ and, ADV also) thiab  
 • (ADV and then, and so, then) ces  
 • (ADV and then, thereupon) ntxawm  
 • (ADV and then, therefore) thiaj li, mam li  
 • (ADV and so, and then, so, therefore) ho  
 • (ADV and so, also, moreover, consequently) kuj  
 • (and [how about] \_\_\_ ?) \_\_\_ ne?
- angry** (V be angry) chim, chim siab, npau taws  
 • (V be angry, lose one's balance) npau siab, siab npau  
 • (V be prone to anger, hot tempered) siab kub, siab ceev
- animal** N [tus] tsiaj  
 • N (animals of all types) tsiaj txhu  
 • N (wild animal) [tus] tsiaj qus  
 • N (domestic animal) [tus] tsiaj nyeg
- animism** N (native Hmong religion) kev cai dab qhuas
- ankle** N [lub] dab taws  
 • (ankle bone) [lub] pob taws
- another** Q (another, other, a second, next) lwm  
 • (additional one) ib \_\_\_\_\_ ntxiv  
 • (another time) ib zaug ntxiv, lwm zaug, lwm lub caij  
 • (ADV again) dua
- answer** V teb (lus)  
 • N [lo] lus teb
- ant** N [tus] ntsaum
- anus** N [lub] qhov qhuav
- anyone** PRO (used in statements, questions: anyone/body [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], someone/body, no one/body [+ NEG on V], who) leej twg  
 • PRO (anyone/body at all) tus twg los tau

**anything** PRO (used in statements, questions: anything [+NEG on V for NEG meaning], something, what) dab tsi, ab tsi  
 • PRO (anything at all) ib yam dab tsi

**anyway** ADV txawm li cas los

**anywhere** ADV (used in statements, questions: anywhere [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], nowhere [+ NEG on V], somewhere, where) qhov twg  
 • ADV (anywhere at all) qhov twg los tau

**apartment** N [lub] chav tsev, tsev kem

**apologize** V thov zam txim  
 • V (apologize, "excuse me/I'm sorry") thov txim

**appear** V (appear, be like, be similar, be the same, seem) zoo li  
 • V (appear, emerge, show up) tshwm

**apple** N [lub] (E) txiv ev paum, txiv zuaj

**apply** V (apply oneself to something) rau siab  
 • V (apply for, make an application, sign up for) sau npe

**appointment** N kev teem caij sib ntsib  
 • (V make an appointment for a meeting, doctor) teem caij  
 • (V appoint to a position) tsa

**appreciate** V nuj nqis, nco txiaj ntsis

**approve** V (approve of, agree with) pom zoo

**April** N [lub] plaub hlis ntuj

**apron** N [daim] sev

**argue** V (argue, quarrel) sib ceg, sib cav, sib cam  
 • V (argue a price, bargain) nyom nqi/nqe

**arm** N (body) [txhais] caj npab

**army** N pawg tub rog, pab tub rog

**around** ADV (as in going around, about, looking around someplace) ib ncig  
 • (V turn around, revolve) tig

**arrest** V (arrest, catch) ntes  
 • V (arrest, be closed, close, close up, shut in) kaw

**arrive** V (arrive at, until, to a certain point, about) txog  
 • V (arrive at, come to) los txog

**arrow** N [xib] xub

**as** (ADV, CONJ as, like, V be like, similar, the same) xws li  
 • CONJ (as \_\_\_ as) \_\_\_ xws li  
 • (V be as much/many as, equal to) npaum (li)  
 • (V be as, be in the same way, be according to, follow after) raws li

**ashamed** (V be ashamed, embarrassed, shy) txaj muag

**Asia** N [lub] Es xias

**ask** V (a question) nug/noog  
 • V (ask or order someone to do something) kom  
 • V (ask for, beg) thov

**asleep** (V be asleep) tsaug zog

**assistant** N tus pab

**association** N (association, organization) [lub] tsev khoom haum

**at** PREP (at, to (nearby)) ntawm  
 • PREP (over at, over to) tom  
 • PREP (over at, over to, esp. laterally, east-west, across the valley, farther than tom) tim  
 • PREP (up at, up to [geographic elevation], up in the north) pem  
 • PREP (down at, down to [geographic elevation], down in the south) nram  
 • (ADV at the same time) ib txhij

**attach** V (be attached, stuck to) txuas

**attack** V (kill each other) sib tua  
 • V (attack, beat, fight, hit, play piano, strike, type) ntaus

**attempt** V sim

**attention** N [txoj] kev xyaum xim

**attic** N (attic, loft, storage platform) [lub] nthab

**August** N [lub] yim hli ntuj

**aunt** N [tus] (father's older or younger sister) phauj  
 • N (mother's older sister) niam tais hlob  
 • N (mother's younger sister) niam tais yau  
 • N (mother's older/younger brother's wife) niam dablaug  
 • N (father's older brother's wife) niam hlob  
 • N (father's younger brother's wife) niam ntxawm

**Australia** N [lub] Au ta li as

**author** N tus sau

**autumn** N [lub] caij nplooj (ntoos) zeeg

**available** (V for a person to be available, free, at leisure) khoom

**awaken** V (for a person to awaken) tsim  
 • V (to awaken someone) tsa

**away** (V cast away, discard, leave, abandon) tseg  
 • (V throw away) pov tseg  
 • (V be far away) deb

**ax** N [rab] taus

## B

- baby** N [tus] mos liab, me nyuam mos liab  
• N (baby carrier) [daim] nyias (ev me nyuam)
- babysit** V (guard, watch over) zov  
• N (babysitter) [tus] neeg zov me nyuam
- back** N [lub] (body) nraub qaum  
• N (back, top side of something) [lub] qaum  
• V [go] back, return; ADV again) rov qab  
• V (put back) coj mus cia  
• (PREP in back of; behind, after; ADV in the back) tom qab  
• (PREP in the back of) tom sab rau qaum  
• (PREP in back of, on the other side of, behind, outside) nraum
- bad** (V be bad) tsis' zoo  
• (V be bad, evil, ugly) phem
- bag** N (bag, pocket, purse, sack) [lub] hnab
- bake** V (bake, barbecue, roast, toast) ci
- ball** N [lub] pob, npas  
• N (Hmong cloth New Year's ball) mov pob  
• (V to toss balls at Hmong New Year) pov pob
- ballad** N (traditional Hmong ballad) [zaj] kwv txhij
- bamboo** N [tus for single length] xyoob  
• N (bamboo shoot) [tus] ntsuag xyoob  
• N (bamboo tray) [lub] vab
- banana** N [lub] txiv tsawb
- barbecue** V (barbecue, bake, roast, toast) ci
- bargain** V hias nqi/nqe  
• V (bargain, argue a price) nyom nqi/nqe
- bark** N (tree) [daim] tawv ntoo  
• V (dog) tsem
- basin** N (basin, trough, tub) [lub] dab
- basket** N [lub] tawb  
• N (round basket) [lub] pob tawb  
• N (basket for back) [lub] kawm
- bat** N (animal) [tus] puav
- bathe** V da dej
- bathroom** N [lub] tsev dej, chav da dej, (L) hoob nab
- bathtub** N (bathtub, sink, tub) [lub] dab dej
- be** V (all forms of be) yog  
• V (be at, stay, live) nyob  
• V (be/become a kind of worker or have a particular profession) ua \_\_\_\_  
• V (there is/are) muaj  
• V (be \_\_\_\_ years old) muaj \_\_\_\_ xyoo lawm
- bean** N (beans, legumes, peas) [tus, pluav] taum  
• N (long beans) [tus] taum lag  
• N (bean curd) taum hww  
• N (bean sprouts) [tus] taum pauv
- bear** N (animal) [tus] dais  
• V (bear, endure, as pain) nyiaj
- beard** N [cov] fwj/hwj txwv
- beat** V (beat, slap, whip) nplawm  
• V (beat, attack, fight, hit, play piano, strike, type) ntaus  
• V (beat, collide) tsoo  
• V (beat, pound, grasp) tuav  
• V (beat someone in a game, win) yeej
- beautiful** (V be beautiful) zoo nkauj  
• (V dress up beautifully) ua zam
- because** CONJ vim (tias/yog), rau qhov
- become** V (become, change into) txia, hloov (los) ua  
• V (become/be a kind of worker or have a particular profession, do) ua \_\_\_\_
- bed** N (bed, bedroom) [lub] txaj
- bedroom** N [lub] kem tsev pw, chav pw, txaj (pw)
- bee** N [tus] muv
- beef** N nqaij nyug  
• N (ground beef) nqaij nyug zom
- beer** N npias
- before** PREP (before in time or location) tom ntej  
• ADV (before, ahead, first, preceding) ua ntej  
• ADV (before, some time ago) thaum ub
- beg** V (beg, ask for, 'please') thov
- begin** V pib, chiv, chiv keeb  
• N (beginner) [tus] nyuam qhuav pib  
• N (beginning) chiv thawj, chiv keeb
- behind** PREP (behind, after, in back of) tom qab  
• PREP (behind, in the back of) tom sab rau qaum  
• PREP (behind, in back of, on the other side, outside) nraum  
• ADV (behind, on the other side, outside) nraud  
• N (one's behind, buttocks) [lub] pob/caj tw, ntsag
- belief** N (beliefs, customs, ways, laws) [txoj] kev cai
- believe** V ntseeg
- bell** N [lub] tswb
- belong** V (lit. be \_\_\_\_ 's) yog \_\_\_\_ li

- below** PREP (below, under) hauv qab, nram qab  
 • PREP (down below, below in a text) nram  
 • ADV (down below) nrad
- belt** N [txoj] siv  
 • N (variegated band around Hmong women's head wrap) [txoj] siv ceeb  
 • N (Hmong belt of silver money) [txoj] hlab nyiaj  
 • (V wear, put on, wrap around waist for belt, sash) sia
- bench** N (bench, seat, chair) [lub] rooj zaum
- best** (V be the best) zoo tshaj (plaws), zoo kawg, zoo kawg nkaus
- better** (V be better) zoo dua, zoo tshaj
- between** PREP (between, in the middle, in the center) (hauv) nruab nrab
- bicycle** N [lub] nees zab, tsheb kauj vab, (L) luv tees, luv thi
- big** (V be big) loj
- bird** N [tus] noog
- birth** (V for humans to give birth, raise, feed and care for) yug  
 • (V for animals to give birth) xya
- birthday** N [lub] hnub yug
- bit** Q (a little bit, small amount) ntsis  
 • (ADV a little bit) me ntsis  
 • Q (a little bit of something) ib nyag qhov  
 • ADV (a little bit of time, a moment) ib pliaj  
 • ADV (not a bit, not at all) hlo li
- bite** V tom
- bitter** (V be bitter) iab
- black** (V be black) (xim) dub  
 • N (the color black) xim dub
- blackboard** N [daim] (L) kab das
- blanket** N [daim] pam, pam vov
- bleed** V ntshav los, ntshav tawm
- blind** (V be blind) dig muag
- block** N (city block) [lub] (E) nplov  
 • (V block street, way) tav kev
- blond** (V be blond/e, yellow) (xim) daj
- blood** N ntshav
- blouse** N [lub] tsho poj niam
- blow** V (blow air from mouth, play a wind instrument) tshuab  
 • (V blow on a leaf to call to people over a long distance) tshuab nplooj
- blue** (V be blue) (xim) xiav  
 • (V be blue, used only of sky; otherwise = green) ntsuab  
 • (Blue/Green Hmong) Hmoob ntsuab, Hmoob leeg  
 • N (the color blue) xim xiav
- board** N (wooden board) [daim] txiag
- boat** N (boat, ship) [lub] nkoj
- body** N [lub] cev
- boil** V (be boiling, bubble up) npau  
 • (boil something in liquid) hau
- bone** N [tus] pob txha
- book** N phau ntawv
- bookcase** N [lub] txee rau ntawv
- boot** N (boot, shoe) [txhais] khau  
 • (a pair of shoes) nkawm khau  
 • (V wear, put on boots, gloves, leg wrappings, shoes, socks) rau
- border** N (country) [tus] (ciaj) ciam te
- born** (V be born) xeeb, yug (los/ua)
- borrow** V qev/qiv  
 • V (borrow, receive) txais
- boss** N tus saib xyuas hauj lwm
- both** Q (of things) ob yam  
 • Q (of people) ob leeg  
 • (PRO they two) nkawd
- bother** V (bother, make trouble for someone) thab  
 • (bother, annoy, cause trouble for) siv
- bottle** N [lub] fwj/hwj
- bottom** N (of things) qhov hauv qab  
 • N (body) [lub] pob/caj tw, ntsag
- bow** N (cross bow) [rab] hncev
- bowl** N [lub] tais  
 • N (small rice bowl) [lub] ntim
- box** N [lub] thawv  
 • N (cardboard [paper] box) [lub] thawv ntawv
- boy** N (boy, son) [tus] tub  
 • N (boyfriend, young man) hluas nraug
- bra** N [lub] khiab mis
- bracelet** N [txoj] saw caj npab (tes), xauv tes  
 • N (solid Hmong bracelet) [lub] kauj toog npab, tooj npab  
 • (V wear, put on bracelet, earrings, eyeglasses, necklace, watch) coj

**brain** N [thooj] paj hlwb

**branch** N (of a tree) [tus] ceg

**brave** (V be brave, be strong) siab loj, siab tawv,  
siab loj siab tawv, siab tuab

**bread** N mov ci, mov mog, (L) qhaub cib

**break** V (break, break up, shatter) tawg

- V (break in two, break off) lov
- V (be broken in two, broken off) dam
- V (break apart, to part) tu
- V (break down, be broken down, not working) puas
- V (break off, broken off) ntai
- V (break/pinch off) npaws
- V (break a law) txhaum
- V (break a promise, tear down) rhuav
- (V be broken, ruined, useless) piam
- V (take a break, rest, relax) so

**breakfast** N pluas tshais

- V noj tshais

**breast** N [lub] mis

**breath** N (breath, air, gas) pa

- (a deep breath) ib pa loj loj
- (take a breath) ua ib pa
- (hold the breath) pem pa
- (be out/short of breath) txog txog siav

**breathe** V ua pa

**bride** N (girl) [tus] ntxhais

- N (daughter-in-law) nyab

**bridegroom** N (bridegroom, groom) nraug vauv

- N (son-in-law) [tus] vauv

**bridge** N [tus] choj

**bright** (V be bright, shine) ci

- (V be smart) ntse

**bring** V nqa + los/tuaj/mus

- V (bring along) coj los

**broccoli** N [lub] zaub paj ntsuab

**broom** N [rab] khaub ruab

**brother** N [tus] (male's older brother) tij laug

- N (male's younger brother) kwv
- N (female's older or younger brother) nus
- N (brother-in-law, uncle = mother's brother) dab laug

**brown** (V/N be brown, the color brown) xim kas fes

**brush** V txhuam

- (brush teeth) txhuam hniav
- N [rab] txhuam

**bucket** N [lub] thoob

**buffalo** N (water buffalo) [tus] twm

**bug** N [tus] kab

- N (different kinds of bugs) kab ntsaum

**build** V (construct, make) txua

- V (make, do) ua
- V (build something between two points) tuam
- V (build cities, roads) rhawv
- V (build a fire) rauv

**building** N [lub] tsev (loj)

**bull** N (bull, cow) [tus] nyuj

- N (older male) [tus] txiv nyuj
- N (younger male) [tus] heev nyuj, phaw nyuj

**bunch** (CLF bunch, cluster of fruit) tauv, ib tau

- (CLF group, some, plural marker) cov
- (Q bunch, some) ib co
- (CLF bunch for bananas) thij
- (CLF bunch, bundle) re
- (CLF one bunch, bundle) ib res

**Burma** N Phaj mab teb

**Burmese** (V be Burmese) Phaj mab

- N (Burmese language) lus Phaj mab
- N (Burmese person) [tus] neeg Phaj mab

**burn** V (be burning, burned, hot) kub

- V (burn something) hlavv

**bury** V (bury a body) los

- V (bury a person, turn over earth, cultivate) faus
- V (bury something in the ground) log

**bus** N [lub] tshab ntiav loj, (E) npav

- N (bus station) [lub] chaw nres tshab ntiav loj
- N (bus stop) [lub] chaw tos luv npav, chaw tos tshab ntiav loj

**business** N [txoj] kev ua lag (ua) luam

- (V do business, do trade) ua lag ua luam

**busy** (V be busy, not be free, not at leisure) tsis (tau) khoom, muaj num ntau

**but** CONJ tiam sis, tab sis

**butcher** V (kill \_\_\_ to eat) tua \_\_\_ noj

- N [tus] neeg tua tsiaj

**butterfly** N [tus] npauj npaim

**buttocks** N [lub] pob/caj tw, ntsag

**button** N [lub] (me nyuam) khawm

- V khaws

**buy** V muas

- V (buy, get) yuav

**by** PREP (by, near) ze ntawd, los ntawm

- PREP (by doing) los ntawm



## C

- cab** N (taxicab) [lub] tsheb tav xis
- cabbage** N [lub] zaub qhvw
- cake** N (Hmong New Year's rice cake) [lub] ncuav
- call** V hu
- V (be called, name, to name) hu ua
  - V (call on the phone) hu xov tooj, hu tes les foos
- camera** N [lub] yees duab, (L) khoob thais duab
- can** V (can, able as acquired ability, know how to) txawj
- V (can, able as situational, external possibility) tau
  - V (can, able as physical, internal ability, resources) taus
- can** N (container) [lub] kos poos
- (N canned foods) kaub poom zaub
- candle** N [tus] roj ntses, tswm ciab, roj ntses
- car** N [lub] tsheb, (L) luv (fais)
- card** N [daim] menyuam ntawv txhav
- N (playing card) [daim] phaib
- care** V (care for, take care of) tu
- (don't care about) tsis quav ntsej
- careful** (V be careful, ADV carefully) ceev faj, maj mam
- careless** (V be careless) luam thuam, tsis saib xyuas, tsis tu
- carpenter** N [tus] kws ua vaj tse
- carpet** N [daim] ntaub pua tsev
- carrot** N [tus] ntug daj, zaub ntug hauv paus
- carry** V (carry in hand) nqa
- (carry on back, usually children) ev
  - (carry on back, usually things) ris
  - (carry over shoulder) kwv
- case** (CONJ in that case) mam li
- cash** N (money) nyiaj
- cashier** N [tus] neeg sau nyiaj, neeg khaws nyiaj
- cat** N [tus] miv
- catch** V (catch, chase) caum
- V (catch, capture, arrest) ntes
  - V (catch a ball, receive) txais
- cattle** N [cov] nyuj twm
- cauliflower** N [lub] zaub paj
- cause** V (cause, bring into effect, tell/ask/order to do) kom, ua kom
- celebrate** V (idiom: celebrate Hmong New Year) noj (tsiab) peb caug
- cent** N (cent, penny) [lub] xees
- center** N (center, heart of) [lub] (hauv) plawv
- (N middle, PREP in the middle) nruab nrab
- century** N [lub] tiam neej
- ceremony** N [txoj] kab ke
- chair** N [lub] rooj zaum
- chalk** N [tus] hmoov sib, cwj mem av dawb
- chalkboard** N [daim] (L) kab das
- chance** N (time) [lub] sij hawm
- N (fate, fortune) [txoj] hmoov (hmoo when used with txoj)
- change** V (change, exchange, trade) pauv, hloov
- V (change one's mind, change of heart) hloov siab
  - N (money returned to customer) nyiaj ntxiv
- chapter** N tshooj, toom
- chase** V (chase, catch) caum
- V (chase after) raws, raws khiav
- chat** V tham
- V (chat together, converse, discuss) sib tham
- cheap** (V be cheap) pheej yig
- cheat** V tsis ncaj, (L) khib lav
- cheek** N [lub] plhu
- cheerful** V (be cheerful) ua kom zoo siab
- chest** N (body) [lub] hauv siab
- chick** N [tus] me nyuam qaib
- chicken** N (animal) [tus] qaib
- N (meat) nqaj qaib
  - N (hen) [tus] poj qaib
  - N (chicken coop/roost) cooj
- child** N [tus] me nyuam
- chin** N [lub] puab tsaig
- China** N [lub] Suav teb, Teb chaws Suav, Tuam tshoj teb, Tsoob kuj
- Chinese** (V be Chinese) Suav
- (N Chinese language) lus Suav
  - (N Chinese person) [tus] neeg Suav
- chocolate** N tshas kos las
- choice** N [txoj] kev xaiv

**choose** N xaiv

**chop** V (chop up, cut fine) tsuav  
• V (chop, cut as firewood, hair) txiav

**chopstick** N [rab] rawg  
• (CLF pair of) txwm

**church** N (place) [lub] tsev teev ntuj

**cigarette** N [tus] luam yeeb  
• (V light \_\_\_ ) hlawv  
• (V put out \_\_\_ ) tua  
• (V smoke \_\_\_ , drink) haus

**cilantro** N (cilantro, coriander leaves, Chinese parsley) zaub txhwb

**circle** N [lub] voj

**citizenship** N (citizenship, nationality, ethnicity, of another surname) haiv neeg

**city** N (large city) [lub] nroog  
• N (small city, town, village) [lub] zos

**clan** N [lub] (clan, surname) xeem

**classroom** N [lub] chav kawm ntawv

**clean** (V be clean, not dirty) huv  
• V (to clean) tu kom huv  
• (V be clear of extraneous matter, smooth. level) du

**clear** (V be clear, as of ideas, hearing, sight) meej  
• (V be clear, fresh, as water) ntshiab

**clerk** N (salesperson) [tus] neeg muag khoom

**clever** (V be clever, sharp) ntse

**climb** V nce

**clock** N [lub] teev, (L) moos

**close** V (close, close up, arrest, be closed, shut in) kaw

**close** (V be close to, near) ze

**closet** N [lub] txee dai khaub ncaws

**cloth** N [daim] ntaub  
• N (traditional Hmong "flower cloth," pandau) paj ntaub

**clothes** N [cev] khaub ncaws, ris tsho

**cloud** N [tau] huab

**cloudy** (V be cloudy) pos huab

**coast** N [lub] ntug dej hiav txwv

**coat** N (winter coat) [lub] tsho tiv no  
• N (raincoat) tsho tiv nag  
• N (sport coat) tsho loj

**cockroach** N [tus] laum

**coconut** N [lub] txiv plaws poom  
• [lub] (L) txiv mav poj

**coffee** N kav fes, (dej) kas fes

**coin** N [lub] (nyiaj) npib, npib nyiaj

**cold** (V be cold for weather, person) no  
• (V be cold for liquids, meat, wind) txias  
• (V have a cold) mob khaub thuas

**collar** N [lub] caj daj tshos

**collect** V (gather) sau  
• V (collect something flowing) cug

**college** N [lub] tsev kawm ntawv them siab

**collide** V (sib) tsoo

**color** N (L) xim, kob

**comb** V (hair) ntsis  
• N (for hair) [lub] zuag

**come** V (come back to where one belongs or is from) tuaj  
• V (come to place not where one is from) los  
• V (invitation to come into one's home) los tsev os  
• V (come into, enter) nkag los  
• V (come/be from \_\_\_ ) tuaj \_\_\_ tuaj  
• V (come out) tawm los  
• V (come out from) tawm hauv los  
• V (come back) rov qab los

**comfort** V (comfort, console) nplij

**comfortable** (V be comfortable to body) zoo nyob  
• (for a person to be comfortable, feel well) xis nyob

**common** (V be common) zoo sib xws, hom niaj hnuab ua

**Communism** N (txoj) kev cai koom tshas/pheej

**Communist** (V be Communist) koom tshas  
• (V be Red) liab

**company** N (business) [lub] tsev ua khoom ub no

**compare** V (sib) piv, ua piv txwv

**comparison** N [zaj] piv txwv

**compete** V (with someone) sib twv

**complain** V (complain, murmur, scold) yws

**complete** V (finish action \_\_\_\_, do/be done completely) \_\_\_\_, tas (lawm)

- V (finish with result that something is ready) ua \_\_\_\_, tiav
- V (can't complete something) ua tsis tsheej
- (V be completed) (ua) tas, tas lawm, tag, tiav, ua tsheej lawm
- (V be whole) txhij, (txhij) txhua
- (ADV completed, finished) lawm
- (V pre-verbal auxiliary expresses completion/attainment of the action of the verb) tau
- (ADV completely, intensely, all) tas/g nrho
- (ADV completely) thoob plaws, yam puy txaus nkaus

**concern** (V be concerned, regret) khuv xim

**concerning** (PREP about) hais txog

**confused** (V be confused, mind not clear) siab fab

**connect** V (connect, join together, be physically connected to something) txuas

**conquer** V (conquer, win) yeej

**consequently** ADV (consequently, also, moreover, therefore) kuj

- ADV (consequently, thereupon, therefore, then, after that) txawm
- ADV (consequently, so, so then, therefore, thus, thereby) thiaj (li)

**constipated** (V be constipated) cam quav

**contain** V (have) muaj

**continually** ADV (constantly, always) pheej

- (neverending) tas mus li
- (all the time) txhia hnub txhua hmo

**continue** V ntxiv mus

**contraceptives** N khoom ua kom tsis txhob xeeb tub, khoom ua kom tsis txhob muaj me nyuam

**cook** V ua mov noj, ua \_\_\_\_, noj, ua noj ua haus

- (V be cooked, ripe) siav

**cool** (V be cool, cold, as for liquids, meat, wind) txias

**cooperate** V (do with, do together) nrog ua, sib koom ua

**copy** V (copy, photocopy, press, print, xerox) luam

- V (copy a cassette tape) theej

**corn** N [lub] pob kws

**corner** N [lub] (ceg) kaum, kaum kev

**correct** (V be correct, be, exist) yog

- (V be correct) yog lawm lauj, thwj

- V (correct/fix something) kho kom raug, pab kho

**cost** V (cost a price) raug nqi/nqe

- (How much does it cost?) Raug nqi/nqe pes tsawg
- N (price) [tus] nqi/nqe

**cotton** N (substance) paj, rwb

- N (cloth) ntaub pag

**couch** N [lub] rooj (zaum) ntev

**cough** V hnoos

**could** V (can \_\_\_\_, in future) yuav \_\_\_\_, tau

- (ADV as in something could/will happen soon if something is not done soon) nyob tsam
- (ADV as in something could happen, maybe) tej zaum + SUBJECT ho + V

**count** V suav

**country** N (nation) [lub] teb chaws

- N (rural, field) [daim] teb, tiaj

**couple** N (pair) nkawm

- N (poetic: young couple) nkauj nraug

**court** N (of law) [lub] tsev hais plaub (ntug)

**cousin** N [tus] (male cousin of different surname) npawg

- N (female cousin of different surname, as called by male) muam npaws
- N (male cousin as called by female) yaum dab
- N (female cousin as called by female, sister) viv ncaus

**cover** V (cover as to hide) npog

- V (cover up/over, as with a hand) khwb
- V (cover an opening with a finger, hand) pos
- V (cover from above as shelter) roos
- V (cover [over], roof over) vov
- V (cover with a blanket) vov pam
- N [daim] npog

**cow** N [tus] nyuj

**crab** N (animal) [tus] raub ris, roob ris

- N (meat) nqaij raub ris, nqaij roob ris

**craftsman** N (craftsperson, expert) [tus] kws

**crash** V (crash from a collision) tsoo ua kom tawg

- V (airplane falling) poob

**crawl** V (crawl, go underneath, enter) nkag

**crazy** (V be crazy) vwm

**create** V tsim, kwv yees ua

**crocodile** N [tus] khej

**crop(s)** N qoob loo

**cross** V hla  
 • V (cross over, pass [through/by], surpass, exceed) dhau

**crossbow** N [rab] hneev

**crossroad** N (txoj) kev tshuam

**crowd** N neeg nyob coob ua ke

**cruel** (V be cruel) siab phem, siab txia ntshav

**cry** V quaj

• V (cry out) qw

• V (cry out, call, sing) hu

**cucumber** N [lub] dib

**cultivate** V (turn over soil, bury) faus

• V (farm) ua teb

**cup** N [lub] khob

**cure** V (cure, heal someone, fix, repair) kho

**currently** (ADV now/still happening) sam sim

**curtain** N [daim] ntaub (npog) qhov rai

**custom** N (law, rule, custom) [txoj] cai, kev cai

**cut** V (cut open, do surgery, operate) phais

• V (cut with slicing motion, slice) suam, hlais

• V (cut hair, wood into pieces) txiav

• V (cut into pieces) txhoov

• V (cut up, chop) tsuav

• V (cut/chop down a tree, wood) ntov

## D

**daily** ADV (every day) niaj hnuv

**damage** N [txoj] kev puas

• V ua puas

**dance** V (L) ua las voos

**dark** (V be dark) tsaus

• (V be nighttime) tsaus ntuj

• (V be darker, blacker) dub dua

**date** N (calendar) [lub] hnuv tim, (L) vas nthib

**daughter** N [tus] (me nyuam) ntxhais

• N (daughter-in-law) [tus] nyab

**dawn** N (daylight) [lub] kaj ntug

• N (early dawn) [lub] kaj ntug txoog

**day** N (day, sun) [lub] hnuv

• (ADV day before yesterday) hnuv hnuv

• (ADV day after tomorrow) nag kis, neeg kis

• (ADV daytime, during the day, middle of the day) nruab hnuv

**dead** (V be dead) tuag (lawm)

**deaf** (V be deaf) lag ntseg

**dear** (V salutation in a letter) nco qab, nco txog, nyob zoo

• (N loved one) tus hlub

**death** N [txoj] kev/qhov tuag, kev ploj (kev) tuag

**deceive** V (deceive, lie, cheat) dag

• V (deceive, entice) ntxias

**December** N [lub] kaum ob hlis ntuj

**decide** V txiav txim (siab), txiav siab

• V (choose) xaiv

**decision** N [txoj] kev txiav (txim) siab

**decrease** V tsawg zus

**deep** (V be deep) tob

**deer** N [tus] muas lwj

• N (barking deer) [tus] kauv

**defecate** V tso quav

**defend** V (defend, obscure the view, protect, shelter) thaiv

**delay** V (lit. inconvenience) sav tsam

• V (lit. make slow) ua kom qeeb

**delicious** (V be delicious) qab

**dentist** N [tus] kws kho hniav

**deny** V tsis kam txais

**departure** N [txoj] kev tawm mus taug kev

**depend** V (for a situation to depend on someone, be up to) nyob ntawm, xij peem

• V (be dependent on, rely on) vam khom

**deposit** N (bank) nyiaj tso ua ntej

**depressed** (V be depressed, sad, worried) tu siab

**descendant** N (progeny) xeeb ntxwv, xeeb leej

**describe** V piav (qhia txog)

• (N description) [txoj] kev piav qhia txog

**deserve** V ntxim

**desk** N (furniture) [lub] rooj sau ntawv

**dessert** N (sweets) khoom qab zib

**destroy** V (ruin) ua kom puas

• V (dismantle and throw away) rhuav pov tseg (tas)

**develop** V (photography) ntxuav duab

**diarrhea** N (mob) zawv plab, thoj plab, raws plab

**dictionary** N phau ntawv txhais lus

**die** V tuag

- different** (V be different) txawv  
 • Q (lit. other, another, a second, next) lwm
- difficult** (V be difficult) nyuaj
- dig** V (dig, scratch out, hoe) khawb  
 • V (dig out, hoe out) nthua
- dime** N [lub] npib kaum xee
- dinner** N pluas hmo
- direction** N (side) sab
- directly** (ADV straight) ncaj nraim
- dirt** N (dirt, earth, floor, ground, soil) av  
 • N (dirt on unwashed skin) kauv
- dirty** (V be dirty) lo lo av, lo phem
- disagree** V tsis sib xeem
- disappear** V ploj
- disappointed** (V be disappointed) poob siab
- discount** N [txoj] kev luv nqi/nqe  
 • V (lower a price) luv nqi/nqe
- discourage** V tsus  
 • (V be discouraged) tsis muaj siab  
 • (V be discouraged, distressed) poob siab
- discover** V nrhiav pom
- discuss** V (sib) sab laj  
 • V (discuss, chat, converse) sib tham
- disease** N [tus] kab mob, [txoj] kev mob kev nkees
- disgusting** (V be disgusting) qias neeg, vuab tshuab
- dish** N (plate) [lub] phaj  
 • (N dishes including all eating utensils) tais diav  
 • (N dish towel) [daim] ntaub so tais diav
- dishonest** (V be dishonest) siab nkhaus
- dislike** V tsis nyiam
- disobedient** (V be disobedient) tawv ncauj, tsis ris siab
- dissatisfied** (V be displeased) xu siab  
 • (V dislike) tsis nyiam
- distant** (V be far) deb
- divide** V (distribute) faib  
 • V (divide, separate from, divorce) ncaim  
 • V (put a portion aside) qee
- divorce** N [txoj] kev sib nrauj  
 • V nrauj, ncaim
- dizzy** (V be dizzy) daj muag, nraug zeeg muag, qhov muag kiv
- do** V (do, act, make, produce) ua
- doctor** N [tus] kws kho mob
- dog** N [tus] dev, aub
- dollar** N dos las, daus las
- domestic** (V be domestic, of animals) nyeg
- done** (V be done, finished, completed) tag
- don't** (ADV general NEG) tsis  
 • (ADV NEG for commands, uncertainty) (tsis) txhob
- door** N [lub] qhov rooj
- down** PREP (down, down to, downhill) nram  
 • (ADV down, down to) nrad  
 • (PREP down below, under) hauv qab
- downstairs** ADV theem hauv qab  
 • (PREP downstairs from) sab hauv
- downtown** N [lub] plawv zos/nroog
- drag** V luag
- dragon** N [tus] zaj
- draw** V (a picture) sau duab
- drawer** N [daim] rub tawm
- dream** (N) [zaj] npau suav  
 • V ua npau suav
- dress** N [lub] cev tiab  
 • N (dress, skirt) [daim] tiab  
 • V (dress up, dress beautifully) ua zam  
 • V (get dressed, wear clothes) hnav khaub ncaws, hnav ris tsho
- drink** V (drink, smoke, as cigarettes) haus
- drive** V (vehicle) tsav  
 • N (driver) tus tsav
- drop** V (let drop) ua poob  
 • V (for someone, something to drop, fall) poob  
 • (N drop of liquid) tee
- drug** N (drug, medicine) tshuaj
- drugstore** N [lub] tsev thov tshuaj
- drunk** (V be drunk) qaug cawv
- dry** V (be dry, arid) qhuav  
 • V (dry by the fire) txhiab  
 • V (cause to dry in the sun, in a clothes dryer) ziab
- dryer** N (clothes) [lub] tshuab ziab khaub ncaws
- duck** N [tus] os
- dull** (V be dull, not sharp) npub

**dumb** (V be unintelligent, stupid) ruam, siab ruam  
**during** ADV (during, [time] when) thaum  
**dusk** N tsaus ntuj zuag, tsaus zem zuag  
 • N (4-6 PM) yuav/yav tsaus ntuj  
**dust** N plua tshuav, hmoov  
**dusty** (V be dusty, dirty) paug plua tshauv (cho cho),  
 cho pa av, muaj plua play

## E

**each** Q (each, every) niaj  
 • Q (each, every, all) txhua, txhia  
 • (each/every day) niaj hnuv  
 • (each/every time) txhia zaus  
 • (each/every year) txhua ib xyoo  
 • (each other, reciprocal sense) sib/sis  
 • (each \_\_\_ own) nyias \_\_\_ nyias  
**eager** (V be eager, want to do) xav ua  
**eagle** N [tus] dav  
**ear** N [lub] pob ntseg  
 • N (ear drops) tshuaj mob pob ntseg  
 • N (ear of corn) lub pob kws  
 • (V have an earache) mob ntseg  
**early** ADV ntxov  
**earn** V (money) tau nyiaj  
**earring** N [lub] qhws ntsej, qhws pob ntseg, kauj  
 plua  
 • V (wear, put on earrings, bracelet, eyeglasses,  
 necklace, watch) coj  
**earth** N (world) [lub] ntiaj teb  
 • N (earth, dirt, floor, ground, soil) av  
**east** N (name of direction) sab hnuv tuaj, sab hnuv  
 tawm  
**easy** (V be easy) yooj yim  
**eat** V noj  
 • (eat a meal) noj mov  
**eclipse** N (moon) dab noj hlis  
**edema** (V have edema) nphob vog  
**edge** N (shore of a body of water) ntug  
 • N (edge of a cliff) npoo  
 • N (edge of a bladed instrument, tooth) hniav  
**effective** (V be effective, meet the need) ntxim  
**egg** N [lub] qe  
 • (N egg shell) [daim] plhaub qe/qes  
 • (N egg yolk) [lub] nkaub qes daj, nkaub qe  
 • (N egg white) [lub] hli qe  
**eggplant** N [lub] lws  
**eight** Q yim  
**eighteen** Q kaum yim  
**eighteenth** (V be eighteenth) thib kaum ib  
**eighth** (V be eighth) thib yim  
**eightieth** (V be eightieth) thib yim caum  
**eighty** Q yim caum  
**elbow** N [lub] luj tshib  
**elder** (V be older/oldest in a family) hlob  
 • (N elders) tej laus  
**elect** V xaiv tsa  
 • V (lit. choose) xaiv  
**electricity** N (L) fais fab, hluav taws xob  
**elementary** (N elementary school) [lub] tsev kawm  
 ntauv them pib  
**elephant** N [tus] ntxhw  
**eleven** Q kaum ib  
**eleventh** (V be eleventh) thib kaum ib  
**elope** V khiav raws lwm tus mus  
**embarrassed** (V be embarrassed, shy, ashamed) txaj  
 muag  
**embrace** V puag  
**embroider** V ua paj ntaub  
**embroidery** N (piece of embroidery, Hmong "flower  
 cloth," pandau) [daim] paj ntaub  
**emergency** N (affair, matter, things, business) xwm  
**employ** V (hire) ntiav  
**empty** V (pour out) nchuav  
 • (V be empty, dry, having nothing) qhuav nquas  
 • (V be finished, gone) tas  
**encourage** V (encourage, urge, persuade) yaum  
**end** (N end of, extremity, V finish, be final) kawg  
 • (N time) yav kawg/tas  
 • (V be ended) tag/kawg lawm, tas,  
 • (ADV ended, complete, superlative degree) kawg  
 nkaus  
 • (ADV at/in the end, finally) thaum kawg  
**enemy** N [tus] yeeb ncuab  
**energetic** (V be not tired) nquag  
**energetically** (V use/have strength) siv zog, muaj  
 zog(qees)(zis)  
**energy** N [lub] zog

- engine** N [lub] tshuab tsheb
- English** (V be English) As kiv  
 • N (English language) lus As kiv  
 • N (American English language) lus Mis kas  
 • (N English person) [tus] neeg As kiv
- enjoy** V (have fun) yam lom zem, lom zem
- enough** V (be enough) txaus (lawm)
- enroll** V (enroll, register) sau npe cia  
 • V (enroll, register, sign one's name) sau npe
- enter** V nkag mus/los
- entire** Q (whole, complete, all, each, every) txhua
- entrance** N [lub] qhov rooj nkag
- envelope** N [lub] hnab ntawv
- envious** (V be envious) khib siab
- environs** N (neighborhood) (ib) cheeb tсам
- envy** V khib
- equal** (V be equal to each other) sib npaug (li)  
 • (V be equal to, as much/many as) npaum (li)
- erase** V (erase, brush, scrub) txhuam  
 • V (erase, wipe) so
- error** N qhov yuam kev
- escape** V (escape, run out of/away from) khiav tawm  
 • V (escape, release, be released, be saved) dim, khiav dim
- Europe** N Sab Aws lauv
- even** (V be smooth, level, clear of extraneous matter) di  
 • (ADV to express unexpected fact) twb  
 • (CONJ even if) tab (yog), tab txawm (tias) + subordinate clause + los  
 • (CONJ even though) txawm (yog/tias), txawm yog li ntawd los
- evening** N (6-7 PM) tsaus ntuj zuag  
 • N (approximately 7 PM to 12 AM) (yav/thaum/caij) tsaus ntuj  
 • N (night, nighttime) hmo ntuj, tav hmo
- ever** (V to have ever done \_\_\_ ) tau \_\_\_
- every** Q (every, each) niaj  
 • Q (every, all, each) txhua, txhia  
 • (every/each day) niaj hnub  
 • (every/each time) txhia zaus  
 • (every/each year) txhua ib xyoo
- everybody** PRO (everyone) sawv daws, txhua leej txhua tus
- everything** PRO ib puas tsav yam, txhua tsav txhua yam
- everywhere** ADV txhua (txhua) qhov, txhua chaw, qhov txhia qhov chaw
- evil** N [txoj] kev phem  
 • (V be evil) siab phem, phem
- exact** (V be exact) haum nkaus, txaus nkaus
- exactly** ADV zoo tib yam nkaus, (zoo) nkaus li
- examine** V xam
- example** N (example) [tus] piv txwv  
 • (for example) piv txwv
- exceed** V (exceed, surpass, pass through/by, cross over) dhau  
 • V (surpass, be more/surplus, add to) tshaj
- excellent** (V be excellent) zoo tas zog
- except** (CONJ but) tiam sis, tab sis  
 • (ADV except for, excepting) tsuas yog  
 • (V excepting, be lacking) tshuav
- exchange** V sib pauv, sib hloov  
 • V (exchange, change, trade) pauv
- excuse** N [txoj] kev tso siab  
 • (V 'excuse me') thov txim
- exist** V (exist, be) yog  
 • (V there is/are) muaj
- exit** N [lub] qhov rooj tawm  
 • V tawm mus/los/tuaj
- expect** V (want that) xav kom
- expensive** (V be expensive) kim
- expert** N (expert, craftsperson) [tus] kws
- explain** V (explain, translate) txhais  
 • V (explain, advise, inform, show, teach, tell) qhia  
 • V (explain, describe, tell a story, narrate) piav
- explanation** N [zaj] lus piav
- explode** V (explode, shatter, break) tawg
- explore** V (explore, look for, try to find) nrhiav  
 • V (explore, hunt for, search out) tshawb
- extend** V (extend to, reach to) cuag
- extinguish** V (a fire) tua hluav taws
- extra** (V be extra, more, add to, make up what is lacking) ntxiv  
 • (V be remaining, left over) seem
- extract** V (extract, pull out, as teeth) rho
- eye** N (body) [lub] qhov muaj
- eyebrow** N (eyebrow, eyelash) [cov] plaub muag

**eyeglasses** N [lub] tsom qhov muag  
 • (V put on, wear eyeglasses, bracelet, earrings, necklace, watch) coj

**eyelashes** N (eyelash, eyebrow) [cov] plaub muag

**eyelid** N [daim] tawv muag

## F

**face** N (person) [lub] ntsej muag  
 • N (mountain) phab toj  
 • (V lose face) poob phlus, poob ntsej muag  
 • (V have face, respect, honor) muaj phlus, poob ntsej muag

**factory** N [lub] tsev ua khoom

**fail** V (fail, fall) poob  
 • (not able to compete, guess) twv tsis tau

**fair** N (market) tsev khw teem caij  
 • (V be fair, just) ua ncaj

**fake** (V be fake, false, counterfeit) cuav

**fall** V (fall, fail) poob  
 • V (be shed, shaken off, leaves falling) zeeg  
 • V (fall down, stumble) ntog  
 • (V rain falling, rain) los nag  
 • N (autumn) [lub] caij (ntuj) nplooj (ntoos) zeeg

**false** (V be false, fake, counterfeit) cuav  
 • (V be untrue) tsis yog  
 • (V be false, be a lie) dag

**family** N (family, household) tsev neeg

**famous** (V be famous) muaj koob npe

**fan** N (electric) [lub] (tshuab) kiv cua  
 • N (non-mechanical hand fan) [rab] ntxuam

**far** (V be far) deb  
 • (ADV far down) puag nrad  
 • (ADV far over) puag saud  
 • (ADV far over there) tom ub  
 • (ADV way far over there) puag tom ub

**farm** N liaj teb  
 • V ua liaj ua teb

**farmer** N [tus] neeg ua liaj teb

**farther** ADV deb dua

**fast** ADV ceev

**fat** N (fat, gas, gasoline, grease, oil) roj  
 • (V be obese [impolite]) rog

**fate** N (destiny, luck) [txoj] hmoov

**father** N [usually used without CLF or with leej] txiv

• N (father-in-law) txiv, yawm txiv  
 • N (priest) [tus] txiv plig

**fault** N qhov yuam kev

**favor** N [lub] txiaj ntsim, txiaj ntsha txiaj ntsim

**fear** V (be afraid, be fearful of something) ntshai

**fearful** (V be fearful, timid) siab nyias

**feather** N [tus] plaub noog

**February** N [lub] ob hlis ntuj

**feed** V pub (rau)

**feel** V (feel with hands, handle, touch) kov  
 • V (feel, grope, take hold of, use) xuas  
 • V (feel, sense, hear) hnov  
 • V (think) xav tias

**feeling** N [txoj] kev xav

**female** N (human) [tus] poj niam  
 • N (for humans, birds) poj  
 • N (for animals) maum

**fence** N (txoj) laj kab

**fever** N [tus] npaws  
 • (V have a fever) ua npaws, lub cev kub, kub ib ce

**few** Q (a few, some) ib co  
 • Q (a few, a couple) ob peb  
 • Q (few, a little, not much/many) tsawg  
 • Q (very few/little) tsawg tsawg li

**field** N (flat) [lub] tiaj  
 • N (rolling, hilly) [daim] teb  
 • N (field of rice paddies) [daim] liaj  
 • N (fields, farm) liaj teb  
 • N (broad level area as for playing field, airfield) [lub] tshav

**fifteen** Q kaum tsib

**fifteenth** (V be fifteenth) thib kaum tsib

**fifth** (V be fifth) thib tsib

**fiftieth** (V be fiftieth) thib tsib caug

**fifty** Q tsib caug

**fight** V (for animals do) sib tog  
 • V (for people, physically) sib ntaus  
 • V (fight in resistance, resist) tiv  
 • V (fight in war) sib ntaus sib tua  
 • V (make war) ua rog  
 • (argue) sib ceg

**fill** V (add until full) ntxiv rau kom puv  
 • (fill in a hole) txhub  
 • (fill up a vehicle with gas) sam roj  
 • (fill, plug up, strangle, as smoke filling the sky) laum



**film** N (camera) duab ua zog

**final** (V be final, ended, finish, N end of, extremity) kawg

- ADV (finally, at/in the end) thaum kawg

**find** V ([try to] find, look for) nrhiav

- V (succeed in finding) nrhiav tau
- V (find out) nrhiav, saib

**fine** (V be soft and delicate) mos

- (V be thin) nyias
- V (impose a fine) nplua

**finger** N [tus] ntiv tes

- N (fingernail) [tus] rau tes
- N (fingertip) [lub] taub teg

**finish** V (finish off, deal with completely) khees

- V (finish, be final, ended, N end of, extremity) kawg
- (V be finished, completed, done) tas (lawm), tag
- (V be finished, completed, ready) tiav

**fire** N [cub] hluav taws

- V (set fire to) hlawv
- V (fire a gun, shoot a gun, bow and arrow, kill) tua
- V (fire from a job, release, relinquish) txo

**fireplace** N [lub] qhov cub

**firewood** N taws

- N (bundle of firewood) tsuam taws

**first** (V be first) thib/qhov ib

- (Q first, original) thawj
- (ADV first of all) thawj qhov
- (ADV first time) thawj zaug
- (ADV do something first, before) uas ntej

**fish** N (animal) [tus] ntse

- N (meat) nqaj ntse
- (V) nuv ntse
- (N fish sauce) (L) nab(m) pas, txuj lom ntse

**fit** V (fit, be suitable) haum

- V (fit, fit together) dhos

**five** Q tsib

**fix** V (fix, repair, cure, heal someone) kho

- (V be fixed in place, steady; ADV fixedly, intently) ntsoov

**flag** N [tus for flag + pole, daim for flag itself] chij

**flashlight** N [lub] teeb nyem

**flat** (V be flat, even, level, peaceful, still) tus

- (V be flat, even, level, smooth) tiaj (tus)

**flatten** V (flatten, shape with hands, form, mold) puab

**flea** N [tus] dev mub

**flee** V (run away, escape) khiav tawm

- V (flee from war) khiav tsov khiav rog

**float** V ntab (saum dej)

**floor** N (floor surface in a house) npoo tsev

- N (floor, dirt, earth, ground, soil) av
- (PREP on the floor, ground) hauv av
- (N story of a building, layer, level, part) them

**flour** N hmoov nplej

**flow** V ntw

**flower** N [lub] paj

**flu** (V have the flu) ua daus no

**flute** N [lub] raj

**fly** V (bird, airplane) ya

- V (fly around, hover) ya mus ya los
- V (passenger in an airplane) caij dav hlau
- V (to pilot a plane, drive) tsav
- N (insect) [tus] yoov
- N (housefly) [tus] yoov mos ntsuab

**fog** N huab

- N (cloud, fog) pos huab
- (V be foggy) pos pos huab

**fold** V tais

**folk** (N folk tale) [zaj] dab neeg

**follow** V (follow somebody) lawv \_\_\_ qab

- V (follow after) raws, raws \_\_\_ qab
- V (follow a path, follow along a stream) taug
- V (follow a path, follow rules, practice) xyaum

**food** N mov noj, zaub mov, khoom noj

**foot** N [txhais] (ko) tau

**for** PREP (for someone, to) rau

- (V be for a period of time, get) tau —

**forbid** V txwv (txiv)

**force** N (force, energy, strength) [lub] zog

- V (force someone to do) yuam

**forehead** N [lub] hauv pliaj

**foreign** (V be foreign) pej kum, txawv teb chaws

**forest** N (forest, jungle) [lub] hav zoov

- N (forest, emphasis on trees) [lub] hav ntsoo

**forever** ADV ib sim neej, ib txhis tsis kawg, tag ib sim

**forget** V (not remember) tsis nco (qab)

**forgive** V zam txim

**fork** N [rab] (diav) rawg

**form** V (form, shape with hands, mold, flatten) puab  
 • V (create) tsim

**former** (V be former, old [things], original) qub

**formerly** ADV li qub

**fortunate** (V be fortunate, happy, glad) zoo siab  
 • (V have luck) muaj hmoo

**fortune** N (fortune, luck, fate, destiny) [txoj] hmoov

**fortieth** (V be fortieth) thib plaub caug

**forty** Q plaub caug

**forward** ADV (forward, ahead, before) tom ntej

**four** Q plaub

**fourteen** Q kaum plaub

**fourteenth** (V be fourteenth) thib kaum plaub

**fourth** (V be fourth) thib plaub

**fox** N [tus] hma

**France** N (lub) Fab kis teb, Teb chaws Fab kis

**free** (V be free from capture) dim  
 • (V be free of charge) dawb  
 • (V be free, not busy, at leisure) khoom  
 • (V to free, let go) daws  
 • (V to free, abandon, allow, leave, let, permit, place, put, release, relinquish) tso

**freeze** (freeze something) ua kom khov

**French** (V be French) Fab kis  
 • (N French language) lus Fab kis  
 • (N French person) [tus] neeg Fab kis

**fresh** (V be fresh, as fish, new) tshiab  
 • (V be fresh, clear, as water) ntshiab

**Friday** N [lub] Hnub rau, Hnub vas xuv

**friend** N [tus] phooj ywg

**friendly** (V be friendly) raug (sib) zoo

**frighten** V ua kom poob siab ntshai  
 • V (frighten purposely, scare, intimidate) hem

**frightened** (V be frightened, scared, worried) poob siab

**frog** N [tus] qav

**from** PREP los ntawm  
 • PREP (from, at) ntawm  
 • (V be/come from a place) tuaj \_\_\_ tuaj  
 • (V come from a place as on a trip) los \_\_\_ los  
 • (ADV from the beginning) txwm, thaum pib los  
 • (ADV from now on) txij no mus  
 • (ADV \_\_\_ from now) \_\_\_ saum no

**front** N (front surface) [lub] ntiag

• (ADV in/to/at the front) pem hauv ntej, tom ntej

**frost** N (frost, ice, snow) te

**frown** V hnua

**fruit** N [lub] txiv (ntoo)

**fry** V (fry with or without fat, stir fry) kib  
 • V (toss and fry, scramble with fat) nthee

**fuel** N roj (ej xas)

**full** (V be full, filled) puv  
 • (V be full, satisfied when eating) tsau (plab)

**fun** N [txoj] kev lom zem  
 • (V be/have fun) lom zem

**funeral** N [txoj] kev pam tuag  
 • (N funeral songs) [zaj] txiv xaiv

**funny** (V be funny) txaus luag, zoo luag

**fur** N (fur, hair, feather) plaub

**furniture** N (a piece of furniture) [lub] rooj  
 • (N household furniture) [lub] rooj tog txaj chaws

**further** (ADV more, extra, V add to) ntxiv

**furthermore** ADV tsis tas li ntawd

**future** N [lub] neej yav tom ntej

## G

**gain** V (get, attain) tau  
 • V (win) yeej

**game** N (abstract sense) [txoj] kev ua si

**garage** N (place to keep cars) [lub] chaw rau tsheb

**garbage** N (something to be thrown away) yam pov tseg  
 • (food-type garbage) qub zaub qub mov

**garden** N [lub] vaj

**garlic** N [lub] qij  
 • (one clove) ib nplais qij

**gas** N (gas, fat, gasoline, grease, oil) roj  
 • N (natural gas) roj zeb ntsum  
 • N (gas station) [lub] chaw muag roj tsheb  
 • V (pass gas) tso paus  
 • V (have gas) nchi

**gasoline** N roj av, roj tsheb  
 • N (gasoline, fat, gas, grease, oil) roj

**gather** V (gather, bring together) puav  
 • (V gather together/up, collect, harvest) sau  
 • (V gather, pick up) khaws

**generous** (V be generous) siab dawb, (siab loj) siab dav

**genital** (N euphemism for male/female genital area, genitals, groin) qhov chaw mos

**gentle** (V be gentle) muag nteev

**get** V (get, attain) tau

- V (get, receive) txais
- V (get, obtain, buy, marry) yuav
- V (get off/down, descend) nqis/nqes
- V (get on, board, ascend, go up, climb) nce
- V (get out, go out, go away, leave) tawm mus
- V (get up, stand up, arise) sawv

**ghost** N (ghost, spirit of a dead person who returns to trouble the living) xyw

**gift** N [lub] khoom pub cia saib dab muag, khoom pub dawb, (txiaj ntsha) txiaj ntsim

**ginger** N qhiav

**girl** N [tus] ntxhais

- (N girlfriend of a male, young unmarried woman) hluas nkauj

**give** V (take in hand, give, give with the hand, hand over) muab

- V (give to) muab rau
- V (give expecting nothing in return, feed) pub
- V (give a ride to, transport) thauj
- V (give birth) yug (tau/me nyuam), tau me nyuam

**glad** (V be glad, happy, fortunate) zoo siab

**glass** N (drinking glass) [lub] khob

- N (glass substance, mirror) iav

**glasses** N (eyeglasses) [lub] tsom iav (qhov muag), tsom qhov muag

- (V wear, put on eyeglasses, earrings, bracelet, watch, necklace) coj

**glove** N [lub] hnab looj tes

- (N a pair of) nkawm
- (V wear, put on gloves, boots, leg wrappings, shoes, socks) rau

**glutinous** (N glutinous/sticky rice) mov nplaum

**gnat** N [tus] yoov qaib

**go** V mus, (L) pais

- V (go around, encircle) ncig
- V (go away, go out, get out, leave) tawm mus
- V (go back) rov qab mus
- V (go down, get down/off, descend) nqis/nqes
- V (go up, ascend, climb, get on, board) nce

**goal** N (work) luag hauj lwm

**goat** N [tus] tshis

**god** N [tus] huab tais ntuj

- N (Christian God) Vaj tswv

**gold** N (substance) (thooj) kub

- (N color gold, V be gold in color) xim kub

**gong** N (gong, drum) [lub] nruas

- N (gong used in spirit rites) nruas neeb
- N (gong beaten at death) nruas tuag

**good** (V be good, ADV well) zoo

- (V be good-hearted, generous) siab zoo
- (good buy, good deal) zoo nqi, zoo yuav
- (good luck) hmoov zoo
- (good news) xov zoo
- (good-bye/see you again) sib ntsib dua
- (good-bye to one leaving one's home and come again) mus ho tuaj os
- (good-bye and take care) mus zoo
- (good-bye to one leaving one's home [and take care]) mus (zoo) koj nawj

**goose** N [tus] os gus

**gourd** N [lub] (plhuaj) taub

**govern** V (govern, rule [a country]) kav (teb chaws)

- V (govern, control, restrain, subdue) tswj

**government** N [tus] tseem fwv, (L) [lub] lav thab npas

**governor** N [tus] tswv xeev

**grade** N (school grade, level) [lub] nqe

- (L) (school grade, room) [lub] hoob

**gradually** ADV zuj zus

**graduate** V kawm (ntawv) tiav

**grain** N (a grain, kernal) ntsiav

- N (grain, seed) [lub] noob
- N (grain as crop) noob qoob/loo, noob qoob (noob) loo

**grammar** N txuj ci xeev lus, kev cai ntawv

**grandchild** N [tus] xeeb ntxwv

**granddaughter** N [tus] ntxhais xeeb ntxwv

**grandfather** N (father's father) [tus] yawg

- N (mother's father) [tus] yawm txiv

**grandmother** N (father's mother) [tus] pog

- N (mother's mother) [tus] niam tais

**grandson** N [tus] tub xeeb ntxwv

**grape** N [lub] txiv cawv

- (CLF for bunch, cluster of fruit) tauv

**grapefruit** N [lub] txiv lws zoov

**grasp** V (grasp, hold in hand) tuav  
 • V (take hold of, grasp, grope, feel) xuas  
 • V (hold in the arms, embrace) puag

**grass** N [tsob] nyom

**grasshopper** N [tus] kooj

**grateful** (V for \_\_\_ to be grateful to \_\_\_) \_\_\_ ris  
 \_\_\_ txiaj

**grave** N [lub] (qhov) ntxa

**gray** (N gray color; V be gray in color) xim txho,  
 xim dub dawb muag lias

**grease** N (grease, fat, gas, gasoline, oil) roj

**great** (V be good, ADV well) zoo  
 • (V be important) tseem ceeb heev  
 • (V be big) loj

**green** • (V be green, also used for sky) ntsuab  
 • N xim ntsuab  
 • (Green/Blue Hmong) Hmoob Nstuab, Hmoob  
 Leeg  
 • N (vegetable greens) zaub ntsuab

**grind** (V) zom

**grocery** N (grocery store) [lub] tsev muag zaub mov

**groin** N (euphemism for male/female genital area,  
 genitals, groin) qhov chaw mos

**ground** N (ground, dirt, earth, floor, soil) [daim for  
 surface sense] av  
 • (on the ground/floor) hauv av

**group** (CLF group, herd, flock) pab  
 • (CLF group, stack, pile) pawg  
 • (CLF group, class, kind, bunch) cov  
 • N (group, bunch, lots) yam cov  
 • (Q a group, some) ib co  
 • (Q a group, class, some) tej

**grow** V (for one to grow, grow up, be grown up, be  
 the elder/eldest) hlob  
 • V (grow as to put forth leaves or shoots) hlav  
 • V (grow as to cultivate on a farm) ua teb  
 • V (grow by planting, plant) cog

**guard** V (guard, watch over) zov, saib xyuas  
 • N [tus] neeg zov qhov rooj

**guava** N [lub] (txiv) cuab thoj

**guess** V kwv yeas  
 • V (guess, compete, defy, taunt) twv  
 • N [txoj] kev kwv yeas

**guest** N [tus] qhua

**guide** V coj kev

**guilty** (V be guilty) muaj txim (txhaum)

**gun** N [rab] phom

**Guyana** N Nkws yas teb

## H

**hail** N (hailstone) [lub] lawg  
 • V los lawg

**hair** N [txawj for a single hair, cov for mass of hair]  
 plaub hau

**half** Q (one) (ib) nrab  
 • Q (half of a piece of food, fruit) ib sab  
 • Q ([one] half of a vertical measurement) ntav, (ib  
 nta)  
 • ADV (halfway) ib nta to

**ham** N nqaij ncej qab, nqaij las ntsev

**hammer** N [rab] rauj

**hand** N [txhais] tes  
 • V (hand, lift, raise) cev  
 • V (hand out, distribute, divide) faib

**handful** N ib teg, ib (tau) tes

**handkerchief** N [daim] phuam so ntswg

**handle** N [tus] ko  
 • V (handle with care) puag qe  
 • V (handle, feel with hands, touch) kov

**handsome** (V be handsome) zoo nraug

**hang** V (hang, hang up, carry baby hanging at chest)  
 dai  
 • V (die by hanging) dai tuag  
 • V (hang, hang up, be caught/hung up on  
 something) khuam  
 • V (hang up the telephone) khwb xov tooj, khwb  
 tes les foos

**happen** V (appear) tshwm tuaj

**happy** (V be happy) zoo siab

**hard** (V be hard, tough, stiff, not soft, ADV do hard,  
 with force) tawv  
 • (V be difficult) nyuab  
 • (V be hard-hearted, firm) nplooj siab tawv qhawv

**harvest** V sau qoob

**hat** N [lub] kaus mom  
 • (put on, wear, carry on/over head for hat, head  
 wrap, umbrella) ntow

**hate** V ntxub

**have** V (have, possess, there is/are) muaj  
 • V (have to, must) yuav tsum, yuav tau

- he** PRO (he, him, OBJ himself, she, OBJ her, OBJ herself, it, OBJ itself) nws
- head** N (body) [lub] taub hau  
 • N (head of village) [tus] hau zos  
 • (N Hmong women's head wrap) [daim] phuam
- headache** (V have a headache) mob taub hau
- heal** V (heal somebody, cure, fix, repair) kho (kom)  
 • V (for something to heal) nqawm  
 • V (be healed, have recovered) kho zoo lawm
- healer** N (traditional Hmong) [tus] txiv neeb
- health** N [txoj] kev noj qab nyob huv
- healthy** (V be healthy) tsis muaj mob
- hear** V (hear, sense, feel, smell) hnov
- heart** N [lub] plawv
- heavy** (V be heavy) hnyav
- heel** N (foot) [lub] luj taws, pob taw
- helicopter** N [lub] dav hlau kiv tshuab
- hello** (general greeting) nyob zoo  
 • (to someone coming to where one is) (koj) tuaj los  
 • (reply to above) (kuv) tuaj os  
 • (to someone on way to someplace) koj mus dab tsi/ab tsi?
- help** V pab  
 • N [txoj] kev pab
- hen** N [tus] poj qai
- her** PRO (OBJ her, OBJ herself, she, him, OBJ himself, he, it, OBJ itself) nws  
 • POSS (for all 3rd person singulars) nws + CLF for most nouns
- herb** N (herb, condiment, spice) txuj lom
- herbal** (N herbal medicine) tshuaj nroj
- herd** N (herd, flock, group) pab
- here** N (this place) qhov no  
 • ADV ntawm no, nod
- hers** PRO (hers, his, its) nws li
- herself** PRO (OBJ herself, OBJ her, she, OBJ himself, him, OBJ itself, it) nws  
 • PRO (emphatic reflexive as in do by oneself for all 3rd person singulars) nws tus kheej
- hiccough** V ua ntsos
- hide** V (hide something) zais  
 • V (hide, be hidden) nraim  
 • V (hide oneself) tsiv nraim
- V (hide oneself, recede into, withdraw something) nkaum
- high** (V be tall) siab  
 • (V be high in tone or pitch) soob  
 • (N high school) [lub] tsev kawm ntawv them nrab
- highway** N [txoj] kev loj
- hill** N [lub] me nyuam roob  
 • N (hills, mountains) toj roob
- him** PRO (him, OBJ himself, he, OBJ her, OBJ herself, she, it, OBJ itself) nws
- himself** PRO (OBJ himself, him, he, OBJ herself, OBJ her, she, OBJ itself, it) nws  
 • PRO (emphatic reflexive as in do by oneself for all 3rd person singulars) nws tus kheej
- hip** N [lub] ntsag
- hire** V (give a job to) txais ua hauj lwm
- his** POSS (his \_\_\_\_, her \_\_\_\_, its \_\_\_\_) nws + CLF for most nouns  
 • PRO (his, hers, its) nws li
- history** N (zaj) liv xwm, hais lub neej dhau los
- hit** V (hit, attack, beat, fight, play piano, strike, type) ntaus  
 • V (hit a target) raug  
 • V (for (a) car(s) to hit (each other), collide, crash) (sib) tsoo
- Hmong** (V be Hmong) Hmoob  
 • N (Hmong person) [tus] neeg Hmoob  
 • N (Hmong language) lus Hmoob
- hoe** N [rab] hlau  
 • V (hoe, scratch out, dig) khawb
- hold** V (hold in hand, grasp) tuav  
 • V (hold hands) sib tuav tes  
 • V (hold, grasp, grope) xuas  
 • V (hold one's breath) npo pa  
 • V (hold within, contain) ntim tau
- hole** N [lub] qhov (taub)  
 • V (make a hole, pierce) tho qhov
- holiday** N hnub so hauj lwm
- hollow** V (be hollow) khoob
- home** N [lub] vaj tse, chaw nyob  
 • N [lub] (house) tsev  
 • V (go home) mus tsev
- homesick** (V be homesick for one's own country) nco teb chaws  
 • V (be homesick, lonely) kho siab
- homework** N [txoj] hauj lwm xib fwb muab los ua tom tsev

**honest** (V be honest, straight) ncaj, siab ncaj, ncaj ncees

- (V be honest, not cheat/trick) tsis dag

**honey** N [cov] zib mu

**hook** N [tus] nqe lauj

**hope** V (L) vam (hais tias), vam thiab cia siab

- V (have hope) cia cia siab, muaj siab
- N [txoj] kev vam, kev xav

**hopeless** (V be hopeless) tsis muaj vam

**horn** N (animal) [tus] kub

- N (musical horn, flute, pipe, tube) [lub] raj

**horse** N [tus] nees

**hospital** N [lub] tsev kho mob

**hot** (V be hot to the touch) kub

- (V be hot weather, person feeling hot) sov sov
- (V be spicy) ntsim

**hotel** N [lub] tsev ntiav pw

**hour** N (hour, o'clock) teev, (L) xuab moos

**house** N [lub] tsev

**household** N (household, family) tsev neeg, yim (neeg)

- N (household goods) [lub] cuab yeej (cuab tam)

**housewife** N [tus] niam tsev

**housework** N [txoj] hauj lwm hauv tsev

**how** ADV (manner, amount) li cas

- ADV (amount, how much?) hov, npaum li cas
- (how far?) deb npaum li cas
- (how long?) hov ntev
- ADV (how many/much?) pes tsawg
- (V know how to do something) txawj.
- (how about \_\_\_?) \_\_\_ ne?
- (how do you feel?) Koj puas xis nyob?

**however** CONJ txawm li cas los

- (CONJ however, but) tiam sis, tab sis
- (ADV however, still) tseem

**hug** V (embrace someone, hold in the arms) puag

- V (hug each other) sib puag

**hull** V (hull rice) tuav txhuv

**human** N (human, person, people) [tus] tib neeg

- N (human, person, man) [tus] neeg

**humid** (V be hot and humid) vaum

**hundred** Q ([one] hundred) (ib) puas

**hungry** (V be hungry) tshaib plab

**hunt** V (hunt for game) plob

- V (hunt, pursue, chase after) raws

- V (hunt animals/for meat) raws tsiaj/nqaij
- V (hunt, kill [wild] animals) tua (qus) tsiaj
- V (hunt to get meat in forest) caum nqaij
- V (look for, search, [try to] find) nrhiav

**hurry** V nraum nroos, tsuag tsuag

- V (be in a hurry to do something) rawm
- (V be in a hurry, busy) maj
- (V be in a hurry/rush, anxious to rush off) siab maj

**hurt** V (hurt oneself/someone physically) ua sab, ua raug

- V (hurt \_\_\_'s feelings) ua rau \_\_\_ tu siab
- V (have one's feelings hurt, be offended) tu siab
- V (be hurting, be sick, hurt in feelings) mob
- V (be hurt at heart, grieved, sorry, distressed) mob siab
- V (body hurts, be hurt/injured seriously) sab
- V (be hurt, injured) raug sab

**husband** N [tus] txiv

## I

**I PRO** (I, me, OBJ myself) kuv

**ice** N (ice, frost, snow) te

- (frozen water) dej khov

**ice cream** N mis nyuj khov

**idea** N [lub] tswv yim

**identification** N [txoj] kev ua kom paub pom

- N (piece of identification) [daim] ntawv cob zeem npe

**idle** (V be idle) nyob xwb xwb

- (V be idle, unoccupied, free of charge) dawb

**if** (CONJ if, V be) yog

- (CONJ if only) tsuas tab yog, tab yog

**ignore** V (not take an interest in) tsis muab siab rau

- V (ignore a person) ua ib tug tsis pom

**ill** (V be ill/sick) mob

**illegal** (V be illegal) tsis raug raws cai

**illiterate** (V lit. not to know how to read) tsis paub ntawv

**illness** N [txoj] kev mob (kev) nkeeg, [tus] kab mob

**imagine** V xav saib

**imitate** V (imitate, follow, resemble) yoog

**immediately** ADV (now) tam sim (no/kiag)

**immigrant** N (immigrant, refugee) [tus] neeg thoj nam

- impatient** (V be impatient) siab luv  
• (V be impatient, in a hurry) rawm
- impolite** (V be impolite) tsis paub cai
- important** (V be important) tseem ceeb
- impossible** (V be impossible to do) yeej yuav ua tsis tau
- improve** V (make something better) kho kom zoo
- in** PREP (in, inside) hauv  
• PREP (down/south in/at) nram  
• PREP (up/north in/at) pem  
• PREP (over in/at) tim, tom  
• (in addition) tsis tas li ntawd  
• (in a couple of days [from now]) ob pep hnub saum no  
• (in order that/for) yuav ua kom  
• (in place of, V take the place of) theej  
• (in that case/way) ua li ntawd
- inappropriate** (V be inappropriate) tsis raug raws
- inch** Q ib nti
- incorrect** (V be incorrect) tsis raug, tsis yog
- increase** V huam
- indecisive** (V be indecisive) siab ntau, ob siab
- indeed** ADV (indeed, even, really, pre-verbal intensifier) twb  
• ADV (indeed, post-verbal intensifier) ntag  
• ADV (indeed, just, only) xwb
- individually** ADV (separately) ib lub ib lub
- inexpensive** (V be inexpensive, cheap) pheej yig
- infection** N (serious infection) npuag
- inform** V (inform, advise, explain, show, teach, tell) qhia
- information** N [txoj] kev qhia ub no
- injure** V raug mob
- ink** N kua (cwj) mem
- in-laws** N txheeb tsav  
• N (in-laws and all other relatives related to a man through any female) neej tsa
- insect** N (insect, bug) [tus] kab  
• N (fly) [tus] yoov
- inside** ADV sab hauv  
• ADV (inside a building) hauv tsev
- instant** N (instant, moment, second) pliag
- instead** of PREP hos (ho) (ua cas), pauv chaw, txauv chaw
- instruction(s)** N lus qhia txog
- intelligent** (V be intelligent, sharp) ntse
- intend** V (intentionally) txhob txwm
- interest** N (bank) nyiaj tsam ntxiv
- interested** (V be interested in \_\_\_ ) \_\_\_ ntxim kuv siab
- interesting** (V be interesting) ntxim siab, txaus siab, raug siab
- interpreter** N (translator) [tus] neeg txhais lus
- interrupt** V txiav lus
- intersection** N [txoj] kev tshuam
- intestine** N (txoj) hnyuv  
• N (large intestine) hnyuv dub  
• N (small intestine) hnyuv dawb
- into** PREP hauv, rau hauv
- introduce** V ua kom paub
- investigate** V nug xyuas
- invite** V caw
- iron** N (metal) hlau  
• N (for pressing clothes) [lub] luam ris tsho, luam khaub ncaws  
• V (press, flatten, print) luam  
• N (ironing board) [lub] rooj luam khaub ncaws
- irritate** V (irritate/be irritated, offended, resentful, jealous) khib  
• (V for skin to be irritated, itchy) khaus
- irritating** (V be irritating, provoking) meem txom
- island** N [lub] pov txwv dej
- it** PRO (it, OBJ itself, he, him, OBJ himself, she, OBJ her, OBJ herself) nws
- itch** V (itch, be itchy) khaus
- its** POSS (its, his, her) nws + CLF for most nouns  
• PRO (its, his, hers) nws li
- itself** PRO (OBJ itself, himself, herself) nws  
• (emphatic reflexive as in do by oneself for all 3rd person singulars) nws tus kheej

## J

**jacket** N (any upper body garment with sleeves) [lub] tsho

**jackfruit** N [lub] txiv plab nyug

**jail** N [lub] (tsev) loj faj, tsev rau txim, nkuaj  
• V (jail \_\_\_ ) kaw hauv nkuaj, coj \_\_\_ mus kaw rau hauv lub tsev rau txim

**January** N [lub] ib hlis ntuj

**Japan** N Ziv poom teb, Teb chaws Nyij pooj, Teb chaws Zij peem

**Japanese** (V be Japanese) Ziv poom, Nyij pooj, Zij peem

- N (Japanese language) lus Ziv poom/Nyij pooj/ Zij peem

- N (Japanese person) [tus] neeg Ziv poom/ Nyij pooj/ Zij peem

**jar** N (jar, large storage jar, clay pot) [lub] fub/hub

**jaundice** N daj ntseg

**jaw** N [lub] puab tsaig

**jealous** (V be jealous) khib (siab)

**jewelry** N lias, nyiaj-kub

**job** N (txoj) hauj lwim

**join** V (join/knot together, connect) txuas

- V (be joined, connected) sib txuas
- V (join/fit together) dhos
- V (be joined/fit together) sib dhos ua ke
- V (join in, as a discussion) koom
- V (join, bear, carry, bring) coj

**joke** V tso dag, lam

- V (joke, kid, fib) lam
- (response to compliment: you're kidding, flattering me) koj lam hais
- N [lo] lus tso dag

**judge** V (judge, decide) txiav txim

- N tus txiav txim

**juice** N (juice, liquid, sauce) kua

- N (fruit juice) kua txiv ntoo

**July** N [lub] xya hli ntuj

**jump** V dhia

- CLF phlawv

**June** N [lub] rau hli ntuj

**jungle** N [lub] hav zoov

**just** ADV (just now, just a moment ago) nyuam qhuav

- ADV (just, only) xwb, tsuas
- ADV (just starting to do, be in the process of doing) tab tom
- ADV (just so, just then) txawm sis
- ADV (just then) nim
- (V be just, fair, equal) koob pheej, ncaj ncees

## K

**keep** V (keep, put away) (khaws) cia

- V (keep in mind) nco ntsoov

- V (keep for oneself) ceev

- V (politely keep/detain a visitor) cheem

**kettle** N [lub] hwj rhaub dej, lauj kaub rhaub dej

**key** N [tus] yuam sij, yawm sij

**kick** V ncaws

- V (kick backward, baby kicking in womb) tuam

**kid** N (child) [tus] me nyuam

- V (kid, joke, fib) lam, lam hais

**kidney** N [lub] raum

**kill** V (kill, shoot) tua

**kilogram** N (kilogram, kilo) [lub] ki laus

- (two kilograms) ob kis laus

**kilometer** N kis laus mev

**kind** N (kind, sort, type) hom, yam

- (V be kind, nice) siab zoo
- (V be kind, nice, generous) siab dawb
- ADV (kind of, sort of, a little, somewhat) tsem tsawv, hauj sim

**king** N (king, emperor, prince) [tus] huab tais

- N (king of the heavens) huab tais qaum ntuj

**kiss** V nwj

- N [pas] nwj

**kitchen** N [lub] tsev ua mov, tsev mov, chav ua noj

**knee** N [lub] hauv caug

**knife** N [rab] riam

**knock** V (knock at door, rap with knuckles) khob

**knot** V (knot/join together, connect) txuas

- N (knot in rope, string, wood) [lub] pob caus

**know** V paub

- V (know how to do something) txawj
- V (don't know, be uncertain) xyov

## L

**lacking** (V be lacking, remaining, excepting) tshuav

**ladder** N (ladder, stair, staircase) [tus] ntaiv

**lady** N (woman, wife) [tus] poj niam

**lake** N [lub] pas dej

**lamb** N [tus] me nyuam yaj

**lamp** N [lub] teeb

- N (glass lamp) [lub] tsom teeb

**land** N thooj av

- N (country, nation) [lub] teb chaws



**landlord** N [tus] tswv tsev

**language** N (a language) lus, lus hais

**Lao** (V be Lao) Los tsuas, Nplog (considered pejorative by some)

- N (Lao language) lus Los tsuas/Nplog
- N (Lao person) [tus] neeg Los tsuas/Nplog

**Laos** N Los tsuas teb, Teb chaws Los Tsuas, Nplog teb, Teb chaws Nplog (considered pejorative by some)

**large** (V be large, big) loj

- (V be large, great, major) niag
- (V be large, great, chief) tuam

**last** (last year) xyoo tag (los lawm), tsaib no

- (last night) nag hmo tsaus ntuj
- (last time) zaum tag no
- (last day) hhub kawg
- N (last name, clan/surname) [lub] xeem

**late** (V be late, tardy) lig

**later** ADV (in a while) ib tsam

- ADV (afterward) tom qab

**laugh** V luag

**laundry** (V lit. wash clothes) ntxhua khaub ncaws

**law** N (law, custom) [txoj] (kev) cai

- N [txoj] kev cai lij choj
- N (law, court case, litigation) [txoj] kev plaub kev ntug

**lawn** N (lawn, grass) nyom

**lawyer** N [tus] neeg hais plaub ntug, kws lij choj

**lay** V (lay eggs) nteg

- V (lay/place something, release) tso
- V (for person to lay/lie down, recline) pw

**lazy** (V be lazy, tired) nkees

- (V be lazy, listless) tub nkeeg

**lead** V (lead for animals, take along forcibly) cab

- (lead for people, guide, bring along) coj

**leader** N [tus] tub coj, tus thawj coj, tus tswj hwm

- N (leader, official) [tus] nom

**leaf** N [daim] nplooj

- N (leaf of a tree) [daim] nplooj ntoos

**leak** V (\_\_\_ leak through/filter through) xau \_\_\_

- V (leak \_\_\_ in drops, drip) nrog \_\_\_
- V (leak \_\_\_ in a continuous stream, flow) los \_\_\_

**lean** V (lean, lean against) ib

- V (lean \_\_\_ against) nres
- V (lean against, lean over) pheb
- V (lean, be inclined to one side, slanted) qaij

**learn** V (learn, study) kawm

**leather** N (leather, hide, skin of person/animal) tawv

- N (leather, animal skin, hide) tawv tsiaj

**leave** V (leave, go out) tawm mus

- V (leave, depart, go) lawm
- V (leave behind, release, relinquish) tso (tseg)
- V (leave behind, abandon, cast away, discard, reject) tseg
- V (leave something for somebody) tseg cia

**left** (V be left vs. right) lau

- (N left side, ADV on /to the left) sab laug
- (V be left, remaining, lacking, excepting) tshuav
- (V be left over) seem

**leg** N [txhais] ceg

- N (lower leg, shin) [tus] kav, caj hlaub
- N (upper leg, thigh) [tus] ncej puab
- (N traditional Hmong leg wrappings) [txhais] nrhoob
- (V put on, wear leg wrappings, boots, gloves, shoes, socks) rau

**legal** (V be legal) raug raws cai

**leisure** (V be at leisure, free, not busy) khoom

**lemon** N [lub] txiv qaub

- N (lemon grass) tauj qaib, tauj dub

**lend** V (lend, loan, borrow) qiv/qev, txais

**less** (ADV less than) tsawg dua, tsawg zog

**lesson** N zaj lus (qhia)

**let** V (let, permit, allow) cia

- V (let, abandon, allow, free, leave, let, permit, place, put, release, relinquish) tso
- (let's) (for two) cia wb, (for three or more) cia peb

**letter** N (mail) [daim] ntawv, [tsab] ntawv

- N (of the alphabet) [tus] (tsiaj) ntawv

**lettuce** N [lub] zaub xav lav

**level** N (floor, story) theem

- N (level, layer, story in a building, tier) txheej
- (V be level, even, smooth) tiaj, tiaj tus
- (V be level, smooth, clear of extraneous matter) du
- (V be level/even with) du lug

**library** N [lub] tsev khaws ntawv, tsev rau ntawv

**lick** V yaim

**lid** N [lub] hau

**lie** V (tell untruth) dag, hais lus dag

- V (lie down, recline) pw

**life** N (as one's daily life) [lub] necj

- N (state of being alive) [txoj] sia

**lifetime** N [lub] sim neej

**lift** V (lift, carry in hand) nqa

- V (lift up, set up/upright, erect, raise up, establish) tsa
- V (lift, raise to a higher level) cev

**light** N (lamp) [lub] teeb

- N (light from a light source) qhov pom kev, qhov ci ci
- (V be light from a light source) pom kev
- (V be light in weight) sib
- (V be light in color, be white) dawb
- (V light something) zes
- (V light a fire) rauv taws

**lightning** (V for there to be lightning) xob laim

**like** V nyiam

- (V be like, similar, the same, ADV like, as, CONJ like, as) zoo li, xws li
- (V be like/similar to/the same as/equal to each other) sib luag
- ADV (like, the same, similar) ib yam (li), ib yam nkaus li, tib yam, luag ib yam

**lime** N [lub] txiv qaub ntsuab

**line** N [txoj] kab

**lion** N [tus] tsov ntxhuav

**lip** N [daim] di ncauj

- N (Hmong lip/mouth harp/organ) [rab] ncas

**liquid** N (liquid, juice, sauce) kua

**liquor** N (liquor, alcohol) cawv (ntsim), dej cawv

**listen** V mloog

**little** (V be little, small) me

- (little animals) mi tsiaj txhu
- (ADV a little bit) tsawg tsawg, me ntsi
- (Q a little) me ntsi
- ADV (a little while, a little longer) ib chim, ib pliag, ib me ntsis, ib tsam

**live** V (live at, be alive, be located at, stay) nyob

- V (live, lead/make a life) ua neej
- (V be alive, living) cija

**livelihood** N (txoj) kev noj kev haus

**liver** N (body part) [nplooj for physical organ, lub for metaphorical senses] siab

**living** (N living room) [lub] kem tsev nyob, chav txais qhua

**lizard** N [tus] nab qa

- N (a type of small lizard) [tus] nab qa tsiaj

**loan** V (loan, lend, borrow) qiv/qev, txais

**lobster** N (lobster) [tus] cws (hom) loj

- N (lobster, prawn, shrimp) [tus] cws

**locate** V (succeed in finding) nrhiav tau

- (V be located at a place, live at, be alive, stay) nyob

**lock** V xauv

- V (lock up, close, jail, imprison) kaw
- V (lock/close with a bar, bolt) liaj
- N [lub] xaus, ntsuas phoo

**loft** N (loft, attic, overhead storage platform in Hmong house) [lub] nthab

**log** N [tus] cav

**lonely** V (be lonely, homesick) kho siab

**long** (V be long) ntev

- (ADV a long time ago) (puag) thaum ub

**look** V (look [at], gaze, stare) ntsia

- V (look [at], watch, observe) saib
- V (look at, watch, [go] see, visit) xyuas (saib)
- V (look for, [try to] find) nrhiav
- V (look around) ntsia ib ncig
- V (look after, take care of) tu
- V (look alike) zoo tib yam
- V (look like, be like, be the same) zoo li
- V (look like, appear, seem) ntxim

**loose** (V be loose, loose-fitting) xooob

- (V be loose, come untied) plam

**lose** V ua poob, ua ploj

- V (become lost, lost to sight, disappear) ploj
- V (be lost in the jungle) poob zoo
- V (lose face) poob phlus, poob ntsej muag

**lot** ADV (a lot, much, many) ntaw

- ADV ( \_\_\_ a lot, of an action or state) \_\_\_ ua luaj
- ADV kawg

**loud** ADV (loud, loudly) nrov

**love** V hlub

- N [lub] siab hlub

**low** (V be low in height) qis/qes

- (V be low in sound, pitch) laus

**luck** N (fate, fortune) [txoj] hmoov, koob hmoo

- (good luck) hmoov zoo
- (bad luck) hmoov phem

**lucky** (V be lucky) muaj hmoo

**lunch** N pluas su

- V (eat lunch) noj su

**lung** N [nplooj, lub] ntsws

## M

- machine** N [lub] tshuab
- mad** (V be angry) chim (siab), npau (siab)  
• (V be crazy, insane) vwm
- magazine** N [tsab] ntawv xov xwm
- mail** V (send a letter) xa (ib tsab) ntawv  
• N (mail, letter) [tsab] ntawv
- make** V (make, act, do, produce) ua  
• V (make someone do something, cause) (ua) kom  
• V (make/cause to happen) ua rau
- malaria** (V have malaria) ua npaws
- male** N (a human male, man) [tus] txiv neej  
• (V be male for certain large animals) phaw  
• (be male for birds) lau
- man** N (human male) [tus] txiv neej
- mango** N [lub] txiv txhais
- many** ADV (many, much) ntau  
• ADV (many, of animals, people) coob
- map** N [daim] ntawv qhia kev roob hav, daim duab ntiaj teb, (L) [daim] phab nthib
- March** N [lub] peb hlis ntuj
- mark** N (mark, seal, sign, stamp) [lub] cim  
• V (mark something) cim  
• V (make a mark, imprint) ntaus
- market** N (store) [lub] (tsev) khw, (L) tab laj
- marry** V (marry \_\_\_ ) yuav \_\_\_  
• V (get married) sib yuav, ua tshoob,
- match** V (well-suited, match, as in color) phim, sib phim  
• N (for lighting fire) [tus] hauv txhuam
- mathematics** N [txoj] kev xam phaj
- mattress** N [lub] pam pua saum toj
- May** N [lub] tsib hlis ntuj
- may** (V may \_\_\_, can \_\_\_, for permission, possibility) \_\_\_ tau  
• (ADV maybe for 'might' sense of may) tej zaum/d
- maybe** ADV (maybe, probably) tej zaum/d
- me** PRO (me, I, OBJ myself) kuv
- meal** N (as lunch, dinner) puas mov
- mean** (V be mean, cruel) siab phem  
• V (have a meaning, explanation) yog hais tias
- V (have a meaning, explanation, translation) txhais hais tias
- meaning** N (meaning of a word, translation) txhais lus  
• N (meaning of a word, essence, kernel) [lub] ntsiab
- measure** V ntsuas
- meat** N nqaij
- mechanic** N (auto) [tus] kws kho tsheb
- medicine** N (medicine, drug) tshuaj
- meet** V ntsib  
• V (meet each other) sib ntsib  
• V (meet with) cuag  
• V (lit. meet again for 'goodbye') sib ntsib dua
- meeting** N [txoj] kev sib ntsib, (kev) sab laj
- Mekong** N Naj Khoos
- melon** N (melon, cucumber) [lub] dib
- memorize** V cim
- memory** N [lub] cim xeeb, [txoj] kev nco txog
- mention** V hais txog, hais tawm
- merchant** N [tus] neeg muag khoom
- message** N (written) tsab xov
- messy** (V be messy, disorderly) sw (sw), sw raww
- metal** N (iron) hlau
- middle** (V be the middle) nruab nrab  
• ADV ((be) in the middle) (nyob) (hauv) nruab nrab  
• N (middle, center) (qhov) nruab nrab
- midnight** N ib tag hmo
- mile** N mais
- milk** N (cow) mis (nyuj)  
• N (mother's milk) niam mis
- million** Q lab
- mine** PRO kuv li
- minute** N [lub] feeb, (L) nas this
- mirror** N [daim] (tsom) iav
- miss** V (long to see, remember) nco (txog)  
• N (term of direct address/vocative to young woman) leej muad
- mistake** N qhov yuam kev  
• V (make a mistake) yuam kev
- misunderstand** V tsis nkag siab

**mix** V (mix together) xyaw  
 • (V be mixed together) sib xyaws  
 • V (mix water into something, add water) tov

**modern** (V be modern) hom tshiab

**mold** V (mold, form with hands, shape, flatten) puab

**moment** N (moment, instant, second) pliag  
 • (one moment) ib pliag, ib vog

**Monday** N [lub] Hnub ob, (L) Hnub vas cas

**money** N (money, silver) nyiaj  
 • N (money, wealth) nyiaj txiag

**monkey** N [tus] liab

**month** N (month) [lub] hli ntuj  
 • N (month, moon) [lub] hli

**moon** N [lub] hli

**more** (V be more, add to) ntxiv  
 • ADV (amount more than) ntau dua  
 • ADV (comparative more \_\_\_ than) \_\_\_ dua  
 • ADV (comparative more \_\_\_ than, most) \_\_\_ tshaj  
 • ADV (more than/over a certain number) \_\_\_ tawm  
 • ADV (the more \_\_\_ the more \_\_\_ ) yim \_\_\_ yim \_\_\_

**moreover** ADV (moreover, also, consequently) kuj  
 • ADV (moreover, and, also) thiab

**morning** N (morning, daylight) kaj ntug  
 • N (morning, early morning) [lub] (caij) sawv ntxov  
 • ADV (in the morning) thaum sawv ntxov  
 • ADV (this morning) tag kis no

**mortar** N (for pounding in) [lub] tshuaj khib  
 • N (for pounding rice cakes in) [lub] dab ncuav

**mosquito** N [tus] yoov tshaj cum

**most** ADV (the most, more) tshaj, tshaj plaws

**motel** N [lub] tsev ntiav pw

**mother** N [usually used without CLF or with leej] niam

**mother-in-law** N (wife's mother) [tus] niam tais  
 • N (husband's mother) [tus] niam pog

**motorcycle** N [lub] tsheb maus taus

**mountain** N [lub] roob  
 • N (mountains, hills) toj roob

**mourn** V (mourn a death) nyiaj

**mouse** N (mouse, house rat) [tus] nas tsuag  
 • N (mouse, rat, rodent) [tus] nas

**mouth** N [lub] qhov ncauj

• N (Hmong mouth/lip organ/harp) [rab] ncas

**mouthful** (CLF for mouthfuls, words) lo

**move** V (shift, change place within a small area) txav  
 • V (change residence) tsiv  
 • V (move one's body, writhe, wriggle) nti  
 • V (move something, bring along, lead, guide) coj

**movie** N yeeb yam  
 • N (movie theater) [lub] tsev ntsia yeeb yam

**much** ADV (much, many) ntau  
 • ADV (much, very) heev

**mud** N av nkos

**muddy** (V be muddy) nkos (nkos li)

**murder** V tua neeg

**muscle** N thooj nqaij leeg, [tus] leeg

**mushroom** N [lub] nceb

**music** N (voice) suab kwv txhiaj  
 • N (instrument) paj nruas

**must** V yuav tsum  
 • V (must, need to) yuav tau

**mustache** N (plaub) hwj/fwj txwv

**mustard** N (mustard greens, leafy cabbage) zaub ntsuab

**my** POSS kuv + CLF for most nouns

**myself** PRO (OBJ myself, me, I) kuv  
 • PRO (emphatic reflexive as in do by oneself) kuv tus kheej

## N

**nail** N (metal) [tus] ntsia hlau  
 • N (fingernail) rau tes  
 • V (nail) ntsia

**name** N [lub] npe  
 • N (honorary name given by in-laws to man after marriage) npe laus  
 • N (surname, last name, clan) xcem  
 • V (give a name to \_\_\_ ) tis \_\_\_ (lub) npe hu ua  
 • V (be named) lub npe hu ua

**napkin** N [daim] ntawv so qhov ncauj

**narrow** (V be narrow) nqaim  
 • (V be close together) ti

**nation** N (people) tsoom (haiv) neeg  
 • N (nation, country) [lub] teb chaws

**nationality** N haiv neeg

- nausea** (V have nausea, be nauseous) xeev siab
- navel** N (body) [lub] ntaws
- near** (V be near, close, ADV nearby) ze
- nearly** ADV (nearly, almost) yuav luag
- necessary** (V be necessary to have/do) yam yuav tsum  
 • (V be necessary, important) tseem ceeb
- neck** N [lub] caj dab  
 • N (back of neck) xub qwb
- necklace** N [txoj] (hlua)(saw) caj dab, (solid) [lub] xauv, kauj toog dab  
 • (V wear, put on necklace, bracelet, earrings, eyeglasses, watch) coj
- need** V (need to, must) yuav tsum, yuav tau  
 • V (need to get) yuav tsum tau
- needle** N [rab] koob
- neighbor** N [tus] neeg zej zos
- neighborhood** N (neighborhood, environs) cheeb tsam
- nephew** N [tus] tub xeeb ntxwv
- nerve** N (body) [txoj] leeg
- nervous** (V be nervous, fearful, afraid) poob siab
- nest** N [lub] zes
- never** ADV tsis muaj ib zaug  
 • ADV (have never) yeej tsis tau ib zaug
- new** (V be new) tshiab  
 • (idiom: Hmong New Year) tsiab peb caug  
 • (idiom: Hmong New Year's feast, celebrate Hmong New Year) noj (tsiab) peb caug  
 • (Happy New Year) nyob zoo xyoo tshiab
- news** N [txoj] xov xwm, xov, [lub, txoj] moo
- newspaper** N [daim] ntawv xov xwm
- next** (Q next, another, other, a second) lwm  
 • (next time) lwm lub caij, lwm zaus  
 • (next year) lwm xyoo  
 • PREP (next to) ntawm ib sa  
 • PREP (next to, close to) ze
- nice** (V for a person to be nice, good-hearted) siab zoo
- nickel** N (five cents) [lub] npib tsib xee/xees
- nickname** N [lub] npe me nyuam yaus
- niece** N [tus] ntxhais xeeb ntxwv  
 • N (nieces and nephews as a group) xeeb ntxhwv
- night** N hmo, hmo ntuj, tsaus ntuj  
 • (one night) ib hmos  
 • (last night) nag hmo
- nine** Q cuaj
- nineteen** Q kaum cuaj
- nineteenth** (V be nineteenth) thib kaum cuaj
- ninetieth** (V be ninetieth) thib cuaj caum
- ninety** Q cuaj caum
- ninth** (V be ninth) thib cuaj
- no** ADV (no, not) tsis + V  
 • (no, not be true) tsis yog  
 • (no matter what) tsis kav
- nobody** (nobody/one [+ NEG on V], somebody/one, anybody/one [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], who) leej twg
- noise** (N noise, ADV noisily, loudly) nrov  
 • N (noise, sound, tone in tone language, voice) [lub] suab
- noodle** N (egg noodles) mij  
 • N (large rice noodles) fawm  
 • N (small rice noodles) peev choj
- noon** N hnuv ntseg, caij tav su, tav su
- normal** (ADV do/ behave normally) xws li qub, (L) thas mas das
- north** PREP (up to/at/in the north, uphill) pem  
 • ADV (up to/at/in the north, uphill) ped  
 • N (name of direction) peb/sab/phab qaum teb
- nose** N [lub] qhov ntswg
- not** ADV tsis  
 • ADV (in imperatives, expressions of uncertainty) (tsis) txhob
- notebook** N phau ntawv sau
- nothing** PRO (nothing [+ NEG on V], anything [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], something, what) dab tsi
- November** N [lub] kaum ib hlis ntuj
- now** ADV tam sis/sim no, nim no/nyiam no/niam no/nyem no  
 • ADV (at this time) [lub] sij hawm no  
 • ADV (now, nowadays, this time period) [lub] caij no
- nowadays** ADV niaj hnuv no, [lub] caij no
- numb** (V be numb) loog
- number** N [tus] naj npawb, (L) lej
- nurse** N [tus] neeg xyas neeg mob  
 • V (breastfeed a baby) ntxais mis
- nut** N [lub] txiv ntseej