obey V mloog lus
  • (obey an elder) mloog tus hlob

object N (thing) khoum
  • V (object, not agree with) tsis pom zoo nrog

observe V (observe, look [at]) saib
  • V (observe a prohibition) caiv

obtain V (obtain, get) yuav, tau

occasion N (an occasion, a time) [lub] zaus, sij hawm

occupation N [txoj] hauj lwm, hom hauj lwm

ocean N (ocean, sea) [lub] (dej) hiai txwv

o’clock (o’clock, N hour, time) teev, (L) moos

October N [lub] kaum hli nuj

offend V (offend ____ ) tu ____ siab
  • V (be offended, worried) tu siab

office N [lub] tsev kab xwm

official N (official, leader) [tus] nom (tsww)

oh INT (exclamation) ab, aub!

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

ointment N tshuai hom plecv

OK (for agreement, consent) los tau

old (V be old for people) laus
  • V (be older in precedence in family, grown up) hlob
  • V (be old for things) qub
  • (How old is she/he?) nws muaj pes tsawg xyoo lawm?

on PREP (on, on top of) saum
  • PREP (on the floor/ground) hauv av
  • PREP (date) tim
  • PREP (be on top of) nyob saum

once ADV (one time) ib zaug
  • ADV (long ago) puag ta

one Q ib
  • Q (one only, single) tib
  • PRO (indefinite PRO for a person, indefinite you) yus
  • (N one-way ticket) daim pib mus

oneself PRO (OBJ oneself, indefinite yourself) yus
  • PRO (emphatic reflexive as in do something by oneself) yus tus kheej

onion N [lub] dos
  • N (green onion) [tus] dos

only ADV (used at end of sentence) xwb

• ADV (pre-verbal) tsuas
• ADV (only if, if) yog hais tias

onto PREP rau saum

open V (for door, things not opening on own and without two equal hinged parts) qub
  • V (for things opening on own or with two equal hinged parts) rua
  • V (open for a book) ntuav
  • (N open field, cleared and flat) tsav

operate V (operate, do surgery) phais mob
  • V (operate, cut open, do surgery) phais

operation N (surgery) [txoj] kev phais (mob)

opium N (opium, opium poppies) yeeb
  • N (opium as drug) yaj yeeb
  • (V smoke opium) haus yeeb

oppose (V be opposed to, disagree with) tsis pom zoo nrog

opposite PREP (be opposite to, across from, over there) tim
  • ADV (be opposite to, across from, over there) tid

or CONJ los
  • CONJ (or that) los tias
  • CONJ (in questions) los sis
  • CONJ (or if) los yog

orange N (fruit) [lub] txiv kab ntxwv
  • (V be orange, N orange color) xim txiv kab ntxwv
  • (N orange juice) kua txiv kab ntxwv

order V (order, command) hais kom
  • N (an order, command) [lo] tus hais kom ua raws
  • (in order to, lit. ___ causes ____ ) kom

organize V sib kho ua ib pab

origin N (origin, source) [lub] hauv paus

original (Q original, first) thawj

originally ADV ib txwm, yeej (los)

orphan N [tus] (me nyuam/tub/ntxhais) ntsuag

other Q (other, another, a second, next) lwm
  • (another day) lwm hnuab
  • PRO (other people, others) luag (tej), lawv tej, luag lwm (lwm tus)
  • (other kinds of things) tej yam
  • (other times, occasions) tej zaug
  • (N, ADV other side, outside, the back of) sab mauad

otter N [tus] ntsuhab

our POSS (for 2) wb + CLF for most nouns
• POSS (for 3 or more) peb + classifier for most nouns
ours PRO (for 2) wb li
• PRO (for 3 or more) peb li
ourselves PRO (OBJ for 2) wb
• PRO (emphatic reflexive for 2 as in do by oneself) wb tus kheej
• PRO (OBJ for 3 or more) peb
• PRO (emphatic reflexive for 3 or more as in do by oneself) peb tus kheej
out (V go out from) tawm
outdoors N sab nraum zooov
• ADV nraum zooov
outside ADV nraud
• N, ADV sab nraud, sab nraum zooov
• PREP nraum
oven N [lub] qhov cub
over PREP (above, on top of, up) saum
• ADV ((fway) up above) (puag) saud
• PREP (over to) tom, (more distant) tim
• ADV (over there) (nar) qhov ntawv, (farther) (qhov) tod, (farthest) (puag) tid
• PREP (over by but close) qhov ntawm
• (V be over here) nyob tom no
• ADV (way over there) tim ub
• ADV (over ____ more than ____ ) ____ tawm
• ADV (all over a place, everywhere) qhov txhia chaw
• (V be over, be finished) tas, tag lawm
overweight (V be overweight, fat) rog
owe V tsuav (nui) nqi/nqe, tshuav luag
owl N [tus] plas
own V (have) muaj
owner N [tus] tsyw

P

PM ADV (__PM) (__ (teev/koos) than muu) ntsaj
Pacific N (Pacific Ocean) [lub] Dej hiav txewv Pa xi fiv
pack V (pack, tie up into a package, bind, wrap up)
pav
• N (pack, small package) pob
package N pob khoom
• N (a small package, pack) pob
paddy N [daim for whole paddy, zeg for section] liaj
page N [daim] phab (ntawv)
pail N [lub] thoob

pain N (abstract sense) [txoj] kev mob
paint N kua kub
• V pleev xim, pleev kua kub
pair CLF nkawm
pajamas N [cev] ris tsjho hnav pw
palpitations (V have palpitations) lub plawv dhia-heev heev
pan N (cooking pan, pot) [lub] lauj kaub
• N (frying pan) [lub] yias
pandau N (a piece of Hmong embroidered cloth) [daim] paj ntaub
pants N [lub] ris
papaya N [lub] txiv taub ntoo, txiv maum kuab
paper N [daim] ntawv
pardon V (pardon me) thov txim
parents N niam txiv
park N (place for playing) [lub] vaj ua si
• V (a car) nres tsheb
parking N (parking place) [lub] chaw nres tsheb
part N (a fraction) feem
• Q (some) ib co
party (V lit. gather together to have fun) sib sau ua kev lom zem
pass V (pass [through/by], cross over, exceed, surpass) dhau
• V (pass by) (mus) dhau
• V (pass on, to go, surpass) dua
• V (pass as a car on the road) mus dua
• V (pass/hand out, distribute) faib
• V (pass gas) tso paus
passport N [daim] ntawv hla ciam teb
past N yav dhau los
• (V be past, finished) tas/tag lawm
• (V walk past) (mus kev) dhau
pastor N (pastor, minister, professor, teacher) [tus] xib fwb/hwb
path N (path, road, street, way) [txoj] kev
patient (V be patient, even-tempered) siab ntev
• N (sick person) [tus] neeg mob
pay V them
• V (pay attention) quav ntsej, mloog zoo zoo
• N (salary) nyiaj hli
pea N (unshelled) [tus] taum mob
• N (shelled) [lub] noob taum mob
print V (print printed matter) huam ntauw
  • V (print, copy, photocopy, press, xerox) huam

prison N (prison, jail) [lub] tsev rau txim, (tsev) loj faj, nkuaj

probably ADV (probably, maybe) tej zuam/d
  • ADV (probably, in my estimation) kwv yees
  • (V be probable, suspect, guess) nyaj

problem N (problem, question) [lub] tceh meem
  • (no problem) tsis ua (li) cas

produce V (produce, act, do, make) ua
  • V (produce, create) tsim

profession N hom hauj lwm

professor N (professor, minister, pastor, teacher)
  [tus] xib fwb/hwb

progress V van mus ntxiv, van meej

prohibition (V observe a prohibition) caiv

promise N [lo] yeem lus, lus cog tseg
  • V cog lus, yeem lus

pronounce V (pronounce, say, speak, tell) hais

protect V (protect, defend, obscure the view, shelter) thav
  • V protect, defend, guard, shelter) poh lwm

proverb N [txoj] paj lug

province N (province, state) [lub] xeev

puberty N (young marriageable woman/man who has reached puberty) [tus] hluas nkauj/nraug

pull V (grasp and pull with the hand) rub
  • V (pull hand over hand) tooj
  • V (pull out, extract as teeth) tho
  • V (pull up/out by the roots, as weeds, hair) dob
  • V (pull out of a bag, pocket, withdraw) thav

pulse N (body) mem tes

pumpkin N [lub] taub dag

pupil N (eye) [lub] ntsiab muag

purple (V be purple, N color purple) xim (xiav)
  tsam xem, xim paj yeeg nsha

purse N (purse, bag, pocket, sack) [lub] lnhab

push V (push, shove) thawb
  • V (push aside with the hand) hauv
  • V (push, put to flight) xyob
  • CLF (a push into flight) xyob

put V (put, place, put on/wear boots, gloves, leg wrappings, shoes, socks) rau
  • V (put, abandon, allow, free, leave, let, permit, place, release, relinquish) too
  • V (put aside) muab cia

• V (put away) ua cia
• V (put into) muab/too rau hauv, ntim.
• V (put out a fire) tua hlauv taws
• V (put together) muab too ua ke
• V (put on, wear clothes [and neck scarves] on main part of body but not head, hands, feet) hnav
• V (put on, wear bracelet, earrings, eyeglasses, necklace, watch) coj
• V (put on, wear, wrap around waist for belt, sash) sia
• V (put on, wear, carry on/over head as for hat, head wrap, umbrella) ntoo
• V (put one’s heart/mind (in) to something) rau siab

question V (ask a question) nug, noog
  • N [lo] lus nug/noog
  • N (question, problem) [lub] tceh meem

quickly ADV (quick, quickly, fast) sai, tsuag, nrawm
  • ADV (quick in motion) ceev
  • ADV (quickly, hurriedly) zoj zeeg
  • (V be quick-tempered) siab ceev

quiet V (be still, perfectly quiet) ntsiag to
  • (V be/stay quiet, still) ua/nyob twj ywm

quietly ADV twj ywm

quilt N [daim] pam rwb

quarrel V sib cav

quarter N (2.5 cents) [lub] npib nees kaum tsib xee

queen N [tus] poj vaj txwv

R

rabbit N [tus] luav

race N (ethnic group, nationality, kind of people) hauv neeg

radio N [lub] xov tooj cua, (L) vib thab nyub

radish N [lub] zaub ntuug haus paus kheej

railroad N [txoj] kev tseh ciav hlau
  • (N railroad station) [lub] chaw nres tseh ciav hlau

rain N nag
  • V los nag
  • (N rain coat) [lub] tsbo tiv nag

rainbow N [tus] zaj sawv
raise V (raise, raise up, set up/upright, erect, establish) tsa
  • V (raise, lift to higher level) cev
  • V (raise as a hand) tsa, cev
  • V (raise up, erect, stand ___ up) tsa hlo, tsa sawv
  • V (raise horizontally) txhabw
  • V (raise, rear, care for and feed, for humans to give birth) yug
  • V (raise, care for, look after) tu

rap V (rap, knock with knuckle) khob

rat N (rat, rodent, mouse) [tus] nas

raw (V be raw, uncooked) nyooos

reach V (reach with arm, reach to, extend to) cuag
  • V (arrive, to the point or limit of) txog
  • V (reach up to, up to the point of) txij
  • V (reach/arrive at a point, reach to, extend to) nto

read V nyecem (ntawv)

ready (V be ready) tiav (lawm), tau lawm
  • (Are you ready? Yes/No) Phias tau tiav? Tiav lawmn/Tsis tau tiav.

real (V be real, true) yog tiag

realize V (lit. can see that) pom tau tias

really ADV (really, truly) tiag (tag) (li)
  • ADV (really, indeed, even) twb
  • ADV (very) heev, kawg (akaus), kawg akaus li
  • ADV (really, to a great degree) ua luaj

reason N (a reason for something) qhov vim li cas

reasonable (V be reasonable as of a law or price)
  yog lawmn

receive V (receive, accept, catch something thrown) txais
  • V (receive, get) tau (txais)

recently ADV sai sai no, nyuam quhav no

recognize V nco tau, pauv tau

recommend V (recommend [to], explain, teach, inform) qhia (rau)

record N (phonograph) [daim] phaj kwv txhiaj
  • N (history recorded) [zaj] xeex twm txheej
  • V (record sound) kaw
  • V (record talking) kaw lus

recover V (from illness) zoo mob, kho zoo lawmn

red • (V be red) liab
  • N (red color) xim liab

reduce V (reduce, take some away) qee twg
  • (reduce/lower price) luv nqi/nqe

refrigerator N [lub] (L) tub yees, txee txias

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

refuse V (lit. not be willing) tis kham

region N (region, area) thaj tsaam

register V (register as at school, enroll) sau npe cia
  • V (register, enroll, sign one’s name) sau npe

regret V (regret, INT what a pity) khov xim

reject V tsis txais/yuav
  • V (reject, erase, eliminate, cross out) thuam
  • V (reject, abandon, cast away, discard, leave behind) tseg

relatives N kwv tij (neej tsa)
  • N (relatives by marriage) ncej tsa
  • N (close blood relatives) txheeb, kwv tij txheeb txheeb

relax V (relax, rest, take a break) so

release V (release, abandon, allow, free, leave, let, permit, place, put, relinquish) tso

religion N (traditional Hmong religion) [txoj] kev teev dab quhas
  • N (can imply Christianity) [txoj] kev teev ntuj
  • N (L) [lub] xam xa nas

rely on V (rely on, count on) vam txog
  • V (rely upon, trust in, hope) vam
  • V (rely on, trust in) vam khom

remain V (remain, stay, live, be alive, be located) nyob

remaining (V be remaining, lacking, excepting)
  • (V be remaining, left over) seem

remember V (remember, recall past) nco qab
  • V (remember, keep in memory, think of) nco txog
  • V (can remember) nco tau

remove V (extract, pull out) rho
  • V (remove, take off, as clothes) hle
  • V (remove, take away) tsheem

rent V (rent from someone, hire something/someone) ntiv
  • V (rent to someone) ntiv rau
  • N (rent for dwelling) [tus] nqi tsev

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

repeat V (say again) hais dua

repeatedly ADV txheej

replace V (replace, change, exchange) hloov, pauv
  • V (replace with, exchange for another) txauv
reply V (reply, answer) teb
  • N [lo] lus teb
request V (request, ask for, beg) thov
respect N saib taus
  • V txhawb nqa
rest V (rest, relax, take a break) so
  • N (the rest of) dua li cov
restaurant N [lub] tsev noj mov
restroom N [lub] tsev dej, chav tawm rooj, (L) hoob náb
return V (return) rov
  • V (come back) rov (qab) los/tuaj
  • V (go back) rov (qab) mus
reverse (N Hmong reverse applique needlework) paj
  • Ntaub txiav
rib N [tus] tav
rice N (cooked rice) mov
  • N (unhulled rice) nplej
  • N (hulled, uncooked rice) txhuv
  • N (finished, ready to eat rice) mov siaj
  • N (glutinous/sticky rice) mov nplaum
  • N (rice bowl) [lub] ntim
  • N (rice cake) [lub] ncuav
  • N (rice noodles, small) peev choj
  • N (rice noodles, large) fawm
  • N (rice pudding) [daim] liaj
  • N (rice plant) tsob nplej
  • N (rice steamer) [lub] tsu
  • N (treadmill for dehusking rice) [lub] cos
rich (V be rich, wealthy) muaj nyiaj
ride V caij
  • V (give a ride to, transport) thanj
ridge N (mountain ridge) [lub] caij roob
rifles N (gun) phom
right (N, ADV direction) sab xis
  • (V be correct) raug, yog, thwíj
ring N (jewelry) [lub, ntiy] nplhaíb
  • V (ring, make a noise) nrov
  • V (for ears to ring, cry) quaj
rinse V yaug
rip V (rip, tear intentionally) dua
  • V (rip, tear, be torn) ntuag
ripe (V be ripe, ripen, not raw, not uncooked, boiled for water) siaj
rise V (go up, climb) nce
  • V (get up, go up, stand up) sawv
river N tus dej
road N (road, path, street, way) [txoj] kev
roast V (roast, bake, barbecue, toast) ci
rock N (rock, stone) [lub] pob zeb
roll V (roll along, roll something along) dov
  • V (roll over and over, roll along) atog
  • V (roll up into a roll, wind around) kauv
  • V (roll up as a sleeve) gaws
roof N [lub] ru/ruv (tsev)
room N (a room) [lub] chav (tsev), kem (tsev)
rooster N [tus] lau qaib
root N [tus] cag
rope N (rope, string) [txoj] blua
rot V (rot, be rotten, destroy) lwíj
rough (V be rough, not smooth, free of extraneous matter) tsis du
round (V be round, circular) kheej
roundtrip (N roundtrip ticket) daim pib mus thiab los
row V (a boat) nquam
rub V (chafe, rub, rub vigorously) tsíhv
  • V (rub, rub off, massage) mós
  • V (rub lightly, brush off, stroke, caress) plhíws
rubber N roj hmáb
rude (V not be polite) tsíß paub cai
rug N [daim] ntaub pua taw rooj
ruin V (ruin, destroy, spoil something) ua kóm puas
  • (V be ruined, destroyed, useless, spoiled) puas lawm
rule V (rule, govern) kav, tswíj
  • N (a rule, law) [txoj] kev cai
ruler N (person governing, official) [tus] nom tswíj
  • N (for measuring) [tus] pas ntsuas
run V khíav
  • (nose running) los ntsíng
s
sack N (sack, bag, pocket, purse) [lub] hmáb
sacrifice V (offer animal sacrifice to spirits) txí dab
sad (V be sad, worried, depressed) tu siab
  • (V be sad, lonely, homesick) kho siab
  • (V be sad, sickly, weak) mlúá
sail V (sail a boat) tsav nkoj
sailboat N [lub] nkoj cua
salary N nyaij hli
sale (V be on sale at lower price) luv nqi/nqe
salt N ntsev
saltless (V be saltless, tasteless) tsuag
salty (V be excessively salty) daw ntsev
 • (V be tastily salty) qab ntsev
same (ADV the same, similar, the same as, like) ib yam (ii), ib yam nkaus li, tit yam, luag ib yam
 • (V be the same as/like/equal to each other) sib luag
 • (V be almost exactly the same) yuav luag ib yam
 • (V be the same, similar, like, ADV like, CONJ like, as) zoo li
 • (V be the same, the same as) zoo isb yam li
sand N suab zeb
sandal N [lub, nkwm for pair] khau khiab
satisfied (V be satisfied) hum siab
 • (V be satisfied, ADV satisfactorily) tas siab
 • (V be satisfied, full) puv siab
 • (V be satisfied according to wish) dhos siab
 • (V be appeased) siab nqi/nqeg
 • (V be happy) qab siab, zoo siab
 • (V be pleased) raug siab, siab kaj, kaj siab
satisfy V ua kom txaus siab, ua kom zoo siab
Saturday N [lub] Hnub ra, Hnub vas xauam
sausage N [txoj] hnyuv ntxwm
save V (save, put aside, be surplus) tsbaj
 • V (save, put aside for use) txawm
 • V (save, preserve, care for, keep in good condition) txuag
 • V (put away, put aside, store) cia
 • V (pick up and store away) khews cia
 • V (save, store up) cev (tau cia)
 • V (save money) tseg tau nyiaj
 • V (save someone, rescue) cawm
saw N (tool) [rab] kaw
 • V (to saw) kaw
say V (say, pronounce, speak, tell) hais
sayings N (a saying) txoj lus
 • (CLF for sayings, speeches, poems, etc.) zaj
 • (a traditional saying, proverb, flowery/elegant speech) [zaj] paj lus/lug
scare V ua kom ntshai
 • (V be scared, afraid, fear) ntshai
 • (V be scared) poob siab
 • (V be scared, afraid of punishment) siab xob
scarf N [txoj] phuum qhwev caj dab, phuum kauv caj dab
school N [lub] tsev kawm ntawv
scissors N [rab] txiab
scold V cam
scratch V (scratch, scratch out, dig, hoe) khawb
scream V qw (quaj)
screw N [tus] ntsia thawv ntswj
screwdriver N [tus] qhib ntsia
scrub V (scrub with friction, brush) txhuam
 • V (scrub, rub, rub with hands in water) zawv
sea N (sea, ocean) [lub] dej hiav txwv
search V (search for, look for, [try to] find) nhiaj
 • V (search out, hunt for) tsbawb
 • V (search for something among other things) fawb
seashore N [lub] ntug hiav txwv
season N (season of the year) [lub] caij ntuj
 • N (season, time, period) [lub] caij
seat N (place to sit) [lub] chaw zaum
 • N (chair) [lub] roo zaum
seatbelt N [txoj] siv pav duav
second V (be second) thiob
 • (second year) xyooob
 • Q (a second, another, other, next) lwom
 • N (a second, moment) ib pliaj
secretary N [tus] kws ntawv
see V (physical perception) pom
 • V (see if/whether) saib puas
 • V (I go see, visit, watch, look at) xyuas (saib)
 • (see you later, good-bye) sib ntsib duav
seed N [lub] noob
seem V (seem, appear, be like, be similar, be the same) zoo li
seizure V (have a seizure, epilepsy) quaq dab peg
seldom ADV tsawg zaus kawg
select V (select, choose, pick) xaiv
selfish V (be selfish) qia dub
sell V muag
send V (send something) xa
  • V (send someone on a trip, errand) xa ___ mus
  • V (send someone on an errand) kom ___ mus
  • V (send someone to do/let someone do something) tso ___ mus
  • V (send on a mission, errand) txib

sentence N (grammar) zaj lus, [txoj] kab lus/lug
  • N (court judgment) lus txiax txim

sense V (sense, feel, smell, hear) hno

separate V (to separate, separate from, divorce, divide) ncaim

September N [tub] cuaj hlih nthuj

serious (V be serious) tsis nyiam tso dag

servant N (servant, slave) [tub] qhev
  • N (female servant) [tub] nkauj qhe
  • N (male servant) [tub] tub qhev, tub mab tub qhe

set V (set, place, set free, release, relinquish, allow, let, permit) tso
  • V (set/put aside, store, put away, save) cia
  • V (set aside/down, lift off and set to one side) tsaws
  • V (set aside, leave, abandon, eliminate, reject, cast away) tseg
  • V (set a fire) hlawv
  • V (set free) daws, tso
  • V (set up, set upright, raise up, establish) tsa

seven Q xya

seventeen Q kaun xya

seventeenth (V be seventeenth) thib kaun xya

seventh (V be seventh) thib xya

seventieth (V be seventieth) thib xya caun

seventy Q xya caun

sew V xaws
  • N (sewing machine) [tub] tshueb xaws khaub ncaws

shade N ntsoov ntsoo, ntsoov duab, duab ntsoov
  • V ntsoov

shadow N [tub] duab (ntsoov), ntsoov duab

shady (V be shady, shaded, cloudy, overcast) ntsoov ntsoov

shake V (shake, sway, shake, move to and fro) co
  • V (shake, swing from side to side, wave, quiver) yoj

shallow (V be shallow as water) ntiav

shaman N [tub] txiv neeb

shape V (shape, mold, form with hands, flatten) puab
  • N (shape, picture) [tub] duab
  • N (shape, body) [tub] cev

shear V sib faib

sharp (V be sharp physically, mentally) ntse

shave V chais, chais plaub

she PRO (she, OBJ her, OBJ herself, he, him, OBJ himself, it, OBJ itself) nws

sheep N [tub] yaj

sheet (CLF for sheets, flat things) daim
  • (sheet of paper) daim ntawv
  • N (bedsheet) [daim] pam pua chaw

shelf N txee [tub]
  • N (small storage shelf over fire in Hmong house) [tub] qob nthab

shin N [tub] roob hlaub

shine V (shine, be bright) ci

ship N (ship, boat) [tub] nkaj

shirt N (any upper body garment with sleeves) [tub] tsho

shiver V tshe, uas tseh tshe
  • V (shiver from cold) no tshe

shoe N [tub for one, nkawm for pair] khaub
  • V (put on, wear shoes, boots, gloves, leg wrappings, socks) rau

shoelace N [txoj] hluu khaub

shoot V (shoot, kill) tua
  • V (shoot with a gun) tua phom
  • N (bamboo shoot) [tub] ntso hang xyooob

shop N (shop, store) [tub] tseu muag khoom
  • V (go shopping) kav khw

shore N [tub] ntuq (dej)

short (V be short horizontally) luv
  • (V be short vertically) qis
  • (V be short in stature) qeg/qig (taub)
  • (N short time) sij hawm tsis nthev
  • (V be short-tempered) siab luv

shorts N [tub] ris luv

should V (must) yuav tsam

shoulder N [tub] xub pwa

shout V (shout, scream) qw
  • V (shout, cry out loudly) ntheth

shovel N [tub] duab hlaub
show V ua (kom) pom
  • V (with hand) ua tes taw
  • V (show, advise, explain, inform, teach, tell) qhua
  • V (put on a show) ua yeeb yam
shower V (bathe) da dej
shrimp N [tas] cws
shut V (shut, close, be closed, be turned off, lock, be locked) kaw
  • V (shut as eyes) qe
shy (V be shy, embarrassed, ashamed) txaj muag
sick (V be sick) mob, tsis xis nyob
side N (side of something, direction) sab
  • N (side in a conflict, side of a place) tog
sign N (sign, mark, seal, stamp) [lub] cim
  • V (sign one’s name) sau npe, kos npe, ntaus cim npe
  • V (use sign language) piav tes
silly (V be crazy) vwm
  • V (be stupid, foolish, dumb, unintelligent) ruam
silver N (silver metal, money) nyiaj
  • N (silver color, V be silver in color) xim nyiaj
similar (V be similar, like, the same, ADV like, CONJ like, as) zoo li, wsi li
  • (ADV similar, the same [as], like) (zoo/xws) ib yam (li), ib yam nkaus (li), tib yam, huag ib yam

simple (V be simple, easy) yooj yim, tsis nyaub
since PREP (time) txiuj puag thauam, txiuj li (thaum)
  • CONJ (because) rau qhow, vim

ing V (sing a song) hu nkauj
  • (V sing a Homong ballad) hais kwv txhiaj
single Q (a single, one) tib
  • Q (a single, lone) twm
  • (only/just one) ib + CLF ___ nkaus xwb
sink N (sink, bathtub, tub) [lub] dab dej,
  • N (sink for washing face) [lub] dab ntxuav muag,
  • N (sink for washing dishes) [lub] dab ntxuav tais diav
  • V (as of a boat) tog
sister
  • N (female’s sister) [tas] viv ncaus
  • N (female’s older sister) [tas] niam laus
  • N (female’s younger sister) [tas] niam huas
  • N (male’s sister) [tas] muam
  • N (male’s youngest sister) [tas] muam ntxawm
  • N (female’s sister-in-law) [tas] tis nyab
  • N (male’s sister-in-law) [tas] muam
sit V zuam
six Q rau
sixteen Q kaum rau
sixteenth (V be sixteenth) thib kaum rau
sixth (V be sixth) thib rau
sixtieth (V be sixtieth) thib rau caum
sixty Q rau caum
size N hom loj me
skillet N (frying pan) [lub] yias
skin N (skin of person/animal, hide, leather) [daim] tawv
  • N (skin of person) [daim] cew/tawv nyaaj
  • N (skin of a fruit) [daim] tawv (txiv) ntoo
  • V (remove skin) laws tawv
skiny (V be skinny, thin) yuag
skirt N [daim] tiab
skull N [lub] pob txha taub hau, khauj khaum taub hau
sky N [lub] ntuj
sleep V pw tsang zog
  • V (lie down, often used to imply sleep) pw
  • N (sleeping bag) [lub] hnaub pw
sleepy (V be sleepy) tsang tsang zog
sleeve N [lub] tsho tes
slice V (slice, cut with slicing motion) hlais, suam
slow ADV (slow, slowly) qeeb, maj mam
small (V be small) me, nyuag, nyuam, tsawg, me nyuam
smart (V be smart, intelligent, sharp) ntsce
  • (V be smart, clever, wise, have a plan) muaj tswj yim
smear V (smear, spread liquid [such as paint/oil] over a surface) pecev
smell V (smell something, sniff at) hnia
  • V (sense, be conscious of odor) hmov (tsw)
  • V (smell bad) tsw tsw, tais tsw qab
  • V (smell good) tsw tsw qab
  • N (a smell) ntxhiab
  • N (a bad smell) tsw ntxhiab
smile V luag ntxhi, luag (nyuv) nyav
smoke V (smoke a cigarette) haus luam yeeb
  • V (produce smoke) ncho pa
  • N pa taws
  • N (smoke, haze) fuj suab
  • (V be smoky) pob pob li
smooth (V be smooth, level, clear of extraneous matter) du

snail N [tus] qwj

snake N [tus] nab

sneeze V txham

snow N (snow, ice, frost) [cov] te
  • N (less common words for snow) npu, daus (xib daus npu)
  • V los te/daus

so CONJ (so) ces
  • CONJ (so, so then, therefore, consequently, thus, thereby) thiaj li
  • CONJ (so, and so, therefore, and then) ho
  • ADV (so that, in order to) kom, yuav kom
  • ADV (so, to such a great extent) ua luaj
  • ADV (so much, as much/many as, really) dian

soap N [lub] (L) xaj npus, xum npum, xu npus, xos npus

soccer (V play soccer, lit. kick a ball in play) ncaws pob (ua si)

sock N [txhais for one, nkawm for pair] thom khwm
  • (V wear, put on socks, boots, gloves, leg wrappings, shoes) rau

sofa N [lub] rooj zaam ntev

soft (V be soft, fine, small, young and tender) mos
  • (V be soft, tender, pliable, weak) muag

soil N (soil, dirt, earth, ground, floor) av

soldier N [tus] tub rog, (L) [tus] thab ham

some Q ib co, ib qho, tej, puav, qee, ib kuag, ib txhia

somehow ADV ua li cas los tsis paub

someone PRO (someone/body) ib tug
  • (N someone, a person) ib tug neeg
  • PRO (used in statements, questions: someone/body, anyone/body [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], no one/body [+ NEG on V], who) leej twg

something PRO ib yam dab tsi
  • PRO (used in statements, questions: something, anything [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], nothing [+ NEG on V], what) dab tsi, ab tsi

sometimes ADV tej zang, zuas puav, qee zuas

somewhere ADV ib quv chaw twg los yoq
  • PRO (used in statements, questions: somewhere, anywhere [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], nowhere [+ NEG on V], where) qhv twg

son N [tus] (me nnuam) tub
  • N (son-in-law) [tus] vauv

song N (aj) nkauj
  • N (Hmong ballad) kww txhiaj

soon ADV (soon, not long from now) sai sai saum no, tsi ntev saum no
  • ADV (in a moment, second, instant) ib pliaj, ib pliaj xwb
  • ADV (in around an hour) ib chim
  • ADV (from an hour to a day) ib tsam
  • ADV (less than an hour) ib me tsam

sore (V be sore, hurt, be sick) mob
  • V (have a sore throat) mob qa
  • N (a sore) [lub] quv txhab

sorry (be sorry, sad, worried, depressed) tu siab
  • (I'm sorry, excuse me) thov txim
  • (I'm sorry to express condolence) kuv nrog/pab koj tu siab

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

soul N (human soul/spirit) [tus] plig, ntsuj (plig)
  • (Hmong ceremony for calling the soul/spirit) hu plig

sound N (sound, noise, tone in tone language, voice) [lub] suab
  • (N sound, noise; V make a sound, ring, be loud) nrov

soup N (vegetable) kua zaub, zaub hau

sour (V be sour) qaub

south (N name of direction) sab gah teb
  • PREP (to/at/in the south, downhill, below) nram
  • ADV (to/at/in the south, downhill, below) nrad

soybean N [lub] taum pauv

spare (N spare time) sij hawm tsis ua dab tsi

speak V (speak, pronounce, say, tell) hais
  • V (speak, speak words) hais lus
  • V (speak of/to, converse, chat) (sib) tham
  • V (speak for/on behalf of, interpret, translate) txiv lus

speech N (a speech) zaj lus

speed N [txojj] kev ceev

spell V (spell out letter by letter) hais ib tug ntawv zuj zus
  • V (be spelled/written, write) sau

spend V (spend, use) siv

spice N (spice, condiment, herb) txuj lom

spicy (V be spicy, not bland) ntsim

spider N [tus] kab laug sab
spill V (spill, pour) achuav
  • (spill something) ua nchuav

spirit N (human spirit/soul) [tus] plig, ntsuj (pig)
  • V (Hmong ceremony for calling the spirit/soul)
    hu plig
  • N (a spirit) [tus] dab
  • N (friendly or familiar spirits) neeb
  • V (do Hmong spirit rites) ua neeb, ua dab

spit N (spit, spittle) [tawb] qaub ncaug

spoon N [rab] diav

spread V (spread, smear liquid [such as paint/oil]
  over a surface) pleev
  • V (spread, increase, prosper) huam

spring N (season) [lub] caij (ntuj) nplooj ntoos hlav

squash N [lub] taub

squaw V zaum khooj ywb

squirrel N [tus] nas ncuav

stable N (stable, pen, enclosure, jail) [lub] nkuaj

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

stamp N (postage) [daim] nqi/ncx xatawv
  • N (stamp, mark, seal, sign) [lub] cim

stand (V stand up, get up, rise) sawv
  • V (stand up/upright) sawv ntaug
  • V (be standing, stand erect, upright, stand
    something erect) nres
  • V (stand still) nres zog

star N [lub] hmub qub

stare V (stare at) ntia ntsoov
  • V (stare at, look at, gaze) ntsia

start V (start, begin) piub
  • V (start, begin, originate) chiv

starlight V (starlight, scary, frightening, intimidate) hem
  • V (be startled) ras dheev
  • V (be startled, surprised) xooj
  • V (be startled, dazed, confused, subdued, subdued)
    yoog zog
  • V (be startled, surprised, frightened, tense) ceeb

state N (as California, province) [lub] xeev

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

steal V (steal, do secretly) nyiag

steam V cub
  • V (place beside the fire to steam and soften) acu
  • N pa dej
  • N (steam from rice, a pot, condensed moisture,
    perspiration, sweat) hws

steamer N (rice steamer) [lub] tsu

steel N kab, kab (ntaus) hlau

step N (a step vertically) qib/qeb
  • N (step, steps, levels of ascent, story of
    building, layer) theem
  • N (a step in walking, in a situation, procedure)
    ruam
  • V (take steps in walking) tsai thais ruam
  • V (step on, trample) tsuiv

stepdaughter N [tus] ntshais tsaiab

stepfather N txiv tsaiab

stepmother N niab tsaiab

stepson N [tus] tub tsaiab

stick N (stick, rod, cane) [lub] pas
  • V (stick on/to, be stuck to) lo

sticky V (be sticky, gluey, glutinous) nplaum
  • N (sticky/glutinous rice) mov nplaum

stiff V (be stiff, hard, tough) tawv

still ADV (time) tseem
  • ADV (still more, more so, comparative degree)
    haj yam
  • V (be still, quiet, silent) ntsia (to)
  • V (be still, quiet) twj ywb

sting V pleev

stir V (stir, mix) do

stomach N (stomach, abdomen) [lub] plab

stomachache (V have a stomachache) mob plab

stone N (stone, rock) [lub] pob zeb
  • V (be of stone) zeb

stool N [lub] tog

stop V (motion, situation) nres
  • V (stop from, prevent from action, rebuke,
    forbid) tsxwv
  • V (stop, cease, end) tsun
  • V (Stop it! Enough!) tsun lawm

store N [lub] tsev muag khoom
  • N (market) [lub] khw, (L) tab laj
  • V (store, put aside, put away) cia

storm N cuaj cuaj daj
  • V los lag los cuaj hlob hlob, los lag thiab
    cuaj cuaj daj hlob hlob

story N (folk tale) [zaj] dab neeg
  • N (story in a building, layer, level, step) theem
  • N (story in a building, layer, level, tier) txheej

stove N (stove, fireplace for cooking) [lub] qhov cub

straight V (be straight, honest) ncj

strange (V lit. be different) txawv
stranger N [us] qhua
strawberry N [lub] txiv pous (liab), txiv plauj
street N (street, road, path, way) [xoj] kev
strength N [lub] zog
string N (string, rope) [xoj] hlua
  • N (string, thread, wire) [xoj] xov
striped (V be striped, multicolored) (xim) txaij
strong (V be strong) muaj zog
student N (female) [us] ntxhais kawn ntawv
  • N (male) [us] tub kawn ntawv
  • N (students) tub ntxhais kawn ntawv
study V kawn
  • V (study using books) kawn ntawv
stump N (tree stump) [lub] pob ntoos, haow paus ntoo
stupid (V be stupid, dumb, foolish, unintelligent) ruam
  • (V be stupid, dazed, confused) hab
subject N (subject matter) [lub] ntsiab (lus)
succeed V ua tau zoo
such (V lit. be like that) yog zoo li ntawd
suddenly ADV dhee
  • ADV (occur suddenly, in an instant) pliaj ntshis
suffer V (suffer pain) sab
  • V (suffer, encounter, incur, be afflicted with) rang
sufficient (be sufficient, enough) txaus
sugar N piam thaj
  • N (sugar cane) kab tsib
suit N (pants and jacket) (cev) ris tsbo loj
suitcase N [lub] hmb tawv rau khaub ncaaws
  • N (suitcase, storage box) [lub] phi j xab
summer N [lub] caij (ntuj) sov
sun N (sun, day) [lub] hmbub
  • (suntanned) ziaj tshav
Sunday N [lub] Hmbub chiv, Hmbub ib, Hmbub vas thiv
sunflower N [lub] paj noob hlis
sunrise N [lub] hmbub tuaj
sunset N [lub] hmbub poob
sunshine N (sunshine, sunlight, daylight) tshav
  • N tus saib
supervisor N tus saib
supper N (pluas) hmo
sure (V to be sure of something) muaj szeeb, paub tseeb
surgery (V do surgery, operate) phais mob
  • V (do surgery, cut open, operate) phais
surname N (surname, last name, clan) [lub] xcem
surpass (V surpass, ADV more than, most, N surplus, profit) tsheaj
  • (V surpass, ADV more than, again) dua
  • V (surpass, exceed, pass [by/through], cross over) dhau
surprise V ua kom cceeb
  • (V be surprised, startled) cceeb, xooj
surround V (surround, be around) nyob acig
swallow V nqos
sweat N (sweat, condensed moisture, perspiration, steam from rice, a pot) hws
  • V tawm hws
sweater N [lub] tsbo tiv no me, tsbo ntaub tiv no
sweep V cheb
sweet (V taste sweet) qab zib
  • N sweet potato) [lub] qos yaj ywm liab
swell V (swell, be swollen, inflamed) o
swim V ua luam dej

T

TB (V have tuberculosis) mob ntsws
  • (have a TB skin test) hno tsuaj sim kev mob ntsws
table N (table, furniture) [lub] rooj
tablecloth N [daim] ntaub pua rooj
tail N [us] tw, ko tw
take V (take, have in hand) muab
  • V (take from) muab ntawm los
  • V (take hold of, make use of) xuaas
  • V (take in the hand, grasp, hold with the hand) tshav
  • V (take off, remove, as clothes) hlc
  • V (take ___ somewhere) coj ___ mus
  • V (take to, give to) muab rau
  • V (take to, carry to) nqa ___ mus
  • V (take an amount of time, use) siv
  • V (take a bath, shower) da dej
  • V (take care of, watch, guard, as children) zov
  • V (take care of) tu
  • V (take care of and feed, raise, for humans to give birth) yug
• V (take/use medicine) siv tshuaj
• V (take solid medicine, eat) noj
• V (take liquid medicine, drink) haus
• V (take pictures) yees duab, (L) thaj duab
tale N (folk tale, story) [zaj] dab neeg
talk V (talk, speak, say) hais (tus)
  • V (talk with, chat, converse) (sib) tham
  • V (talk about) tham txog, hais txog
tall (V be tall) siab
tamarind N [lub] txiv quav	
tape N (cassette) daim kaw lus, kas xev
  • V (record) kaw
  • (N tape recorder/player) [lub] thej		
taste V (take a taste, sample) saj
  • V (taste good) qab
taxes N se
tea N (liquid) dej tshuaj yej, dej ces
  • N (tea leaves) npooj ces
teach V (teach, advise, explain, inform, show, tell) qhia
teacher N [tus] xib fwb/hwb qhia ntawv, (L) nais khus
  • N (teacher, minister, pastor, professor) [tus] xib fwb/hwb
tea pot N [lub] fwj, fwj dej tshuaj yej, lauj kaub rau ces
tear V (tear, be torn) ntug
  • V (tear/rip intentionally, be torn by something) dm
  • V (tear off as of banana leaf off its main rib) ntsbi
  • V (tear down, dismantle) rhuav
tear N (from eye) kua muag
tease V (tease, pester) zes
telegram N tsab xov ntaw, [tsab] ntawv xov tooj
  • V (send a telegram) ntaw xov tooj
telephone N [lub] xov tooj, (E) tes lees foons
  • N (pay telephone) [lub] xov tooj siv nyiag
  • N (telephone book) phau ntawv xov tooj
  • V (call someone on the telephone) lu xov tooj
television N [lub] txais duab ua zog, (E) thi vi
tell V (tell, pronounce, say, speak) hais
  • V (tell, advise, explain, inform, show, teach) qhia
  • V (tell a story, narrate, talk about) piav
  • V (tell someone to do something, cause) kom
temperature (as of air) [txoj] kev kub no
  • N (fever) [txoj] npaws
  • V (have a temperature, fever) ua npaws, lub cev kub, kub ib ce
ten Q kaum
  • Q (ten thousand) (ib) vam
tender (V be tender, fine, small, soft) mos
  • (V be tender, soft, pliable, weak) muag
tendon N [txoj] sawv
tennis (V play tennis) ntaus pob tes niv
ten (V be tenth) thiab kaum
  • Q (fraction a tenth) feem kaum
test N [txoj] kev sim
  • V (put to a test, try) sim
  • V (see how something will work out) saib yuav teb li cas
  • V (take a test) xeej
testicle N (may be offensively explicit) [lub] noob qees
  • N (euphemism for male/female genital area, genitals, groin) qhov chaw mos
Thai (V be Thai) Thiab
  • N (Thai language) tus Thaib
  • N (Thai person) [tus] neeg Thaib
Thailand N [lub] Thaib teb, Thaib chaws Thaib
than (ADV more than, again, V surpass, used to form comparative) dua
thank (thank you) ua tsaug
that DEM (nearby) ntawd
  • PRO (nearby) CLF + ntawd
  • DEM (near hearer) ko
  • PRO (near hearer) CLF + ko
  • (CONJ that, V say that) (hais) tias
  • (CONJ that, relative clause marker that, who, whom, which) uas
their POSS (for 2) nkawd + CLF for most nouns
  • POSS (for 3 or more) lawv + CLF for most nouns
their PRO (for 2) nkawd li
  • PRO (for 3 or more) lawv li
them PRO (they, them for 2) nkawd
  • PRO (they, them, usually for 3 or more) lawv
  • PRO (them, they, others, especially for vague-reference) luag (tej)
theemselves PRO (OBJ for 2) nkawd
  • (emphatic reflexive as in do by oneself) nkawd tus kheej
  • (OBJ for 3 or more) lawv
  • (emphatic reflexive as in do by oneself) lawv tus kheej
then ADV (at that time) thaum ntawd
  • ADV (then, after that, therefore) txawm
  • ADV (and then, therefore, so) ho
  • ADV (so then, therefore, consequently, thereby) thiaj (li)
  • ADV (then, and then, so then) ces
  • ADV ([so] then, in that case, therefore) mam li

there ADV (nearby) (qhow) ntawd
  • ADV (near hearer) (qhow) ko
  • ADV (over there, farther than ntawd) (qhow) tod
  • ADV (over there, farther than tod, across the valley) (qhow) tid
  • ADV (way over there) tom/tim ub
  • ADV (up there as of elevation, direction) ped
  • ADV (up there above, on top of) saud
  • ADV (down there) nrad

thereby ADV (thereby, thus, therefore, so then, consequently) thiaj (li)

therefore ADV (therefore, that being the case, thus)
  yog li ntawd
  • ADV (therefore, so then, consequently, thus, thereby) thiaj (li)
  • ADV (therefore, [so] then, in that case) mam li
  • ADV (therefore, after that, consequently, then, therefore) txawm

thereupon ADV (thereupon, after that, consequently, then, therefore) txawm

the PRO cov no, tej no, CLF + no

they PRO (they, them, OBJ themselves) nkawd
  • PRO (they, them, OBJ themselves usually) lawv
  • PRO (they, them, others, especially for vague reference) luag (tej)

thick (V be thick) tuab
  • (V for liquids to be thick) nyeem

thief N [tus] tub sab

thigh N [txhais] ncej puab

thin (V be thin vs. thick) nyias
  • (V for a person, animal to be thin, skinny, emaciated) yug
  • (V for liquids to be thin) sab

thing N (thing, object) khoom
  • N (thing, kind, sort, variety) yam
  • N (thing, article, point in a speech) qhow
  • N (things in general, articles) qhow txhia chaw

think V (think that) xav tias
  • (V think about) xav txog
  • (V think about someone/place with longing) nco txog

third (V be third) thib peb

thirsty (V be thirsty) nqhis dej

thirteen Q kaum peb

thirteenth (V be thirteenth) thib kaum peb

thirtieth (V be thirtieth) thib peb caug

thirty Q peb caug

this DEM no
  • PRO qhow no, CLF + no
  • (do this and that) ua ub ua no

those PRO cov ntawd, tej ntawd, CLF + ntawd
  • PRO (near hearer) cov ko, tej ko, CLF + ko

thousand Q txhiab
  • Q (ten thousand) (ib) vam
  • Q (twenty thousand) ob vam

thread N (thread, string, wire) (txoj) xov
  • N (hemp thread for weaving) seb

tree Q peb

throat N caj pas, qhow qa
  • N (inside and back of mouth) qa

through (PREP through, across, V pass [through/by] cross over, surpass, exceed) dhau
  • (V pass through a place, cross) hla (dhau)
  • (V come/flow through) los ntawm

throw V (1 hand underhand) pov
  • (Hmong New Year's ball throwing) pov pob
  • V (1 hand underhand) txawb
  • V (throw underhand) cuam
  • V (throw, scatter) nphoo
  • V (2 hand underhand, throw for water) nto
  • V (throw up, vomit) ntuav
  • V (throw away) (pov) tseg

thumb N [tus] ntv tes xoo

thunder V xob quaj

Thursday N [lub] Hnub tsab, Hnub phaj hav

thus ADV (thus, therefore, so then, consequently, thereby) thiaj (li)
  • ADV (thus, that being the case, therefore) yog li ntawd

ticket N daim pob

tie V (tie, bind) khi
  • (ceremonial tying of strings on wrists) khi tes, khi huay

tiger N [tus] tsov

tight (V be tight) ccev
time N (time as an entity) [lub] sij hawm
  • N (time of day, hour, o'clock) teev, (L) moos
  • (What time is it?) Pcs tsawg moos lawm?
  • N (number of times, an occasion) zaus
  • N (next/another time) lwm zaus
  • N (first time) thawj zang
  • (have free/leisure time to do something) muaj khoom
  • N (time of year, season, period, era) [lub] caij
  • N (period of time) yaw
  • N (time, age, a person's age) [lub] hnuh
    nyoog/nyug
  • (waste time) nkim hnuh nyoog

tingle V (feel a tingling) rhiab nkuaav

tire N (vehicle tire, wheel) [lub] log

tired (V be tired, lazy) nkhees

to PREP (to, toward) rau
  • PREP (to [nearby], at) ntawm
  • PREP (over to) tom
  • PREP (over to, esp. laterally [farther than tom], across the valley) tim
  • PREP (up to [geographic elevation], up to the north) pem
  • PREP (down to [geographic elevation], down to the south) nram
  • PREP (to the point of, about, V arrive at) txog

toast V (toast, dry by the fire) txhiaab
  • V (toast, bake, barbecue, roast) ci

today N hnuh no

toe N [tus] ntiv taw

toennai N [tus] rau no

together ADV (together [with]) ua ke

toilet N (toilet, toilet bowl) [lub] dab tawm rooj

tomato N [lub] txiv lws suav, txiv lws liab

tomorrow ADV (tomorrow, morning) tag kis

tone N (tone in tonc language, noise, sound, voice) suab
	
tongue N [tus] nplaig

tonight ADV hmo no

too ADV (too, also, CONJ and) thiab
  • ADV (too, also, as well, moreover) kuj
  • ADV (too, likewise, the same) ib yam
  • ADV (excessively ___) hbw
  • (V be excessively ___) dhau
  • (that's too bad, what a pity) khuv xim

tool N (tool, equipment, utensil, household good) [lub] cuab yeej

tooth N [tus] hniaav

toothache (V have a toothache) mob hniaav

toothbrush N rab txhuan hniaav

toothpaste N tshuaaj txhuan hniaav

top N (top/back side of) qaum
  • N (top, tip, end) lub ntis
  • PREP (on top of, above) (nyob) saum
  • N (Hmong toy spinning top) [lub] tuj lub

touch V (touch, handle, feel with hands) kov
  • V (physically be touching) clawv raug

tough (V be tough, hard, stiff, tough) tawv

toward PREP (toward/s, to) rau

towel N [tsoj] phuam (so cev)
town N (town, small city, village) [lub] zos

toy N khoom ua si, yam ua si
	
trade V (trade, change, exchange) pauv

tradition N hom kev cai thaum ub

train N [lub] tsheb ciav hlau

translate V txhais lus

translator N [tus] neeg txhais lus

transport V nquam, thauj

trap V (trap, snare, make a trap) cuab

tavel V (travel, follow a path) taug kev

tray N (bamboo tray) [lub] vab

treatment N (medical) [tsoj] kev kho mob

tree N (tree, wood) [tus] ntoo
  • N (tree foliage) tsob ntoo
  • N (tree stump) [lub] pob ntoo, hauv paus ntoo
  • (at the base/in the shade of a tree) hauv tsob qab ntoo

trick V (trick, lie, cheat) dag

trip V (trip, fall down) ntag
  • V (trip over something, stumble) dawn
  • N (journey) [tsoj] kev taug kev

trouble N [tsoj] kev nyuab siab, (kev) plaub
  • (V make trouble) thab (plaub)

troublesome (V be troublesome, annoying, obnoxious, pesty) thab plaub

trough N (trough, basin, tub) [lub] dab

truck N [tus] tsheb thauj khoom

true (V be true) tseeb, muaj (tseeb) tiag
  • (V be true, right, ADV really, truly) tiag
  • (V be true, right, be, exist) yog
trunk N (tree) [lub] cev ntoo, [tus] cav ntoo
  • N (car) quv quav isheb rau khoom
  • N (elephant) [tus] cov ntxhw

trust V (trust in, believe) nteeg
  • V (trust in, have confidence in) muab siab rau, tso siab rau

truth N [tsoj] kev tseeb

try V (try, attempt, test) sim

tub N (tub, basin, trough) [lub] dab
  • N (tub, bathtub, sink) [lub] dab dej

tuberculosis (V have tuberculosis, TB) mob ntsweis

Tuesday N [lub] Hmub peb, Hmub vas as qhas

turban N (Hmong woman's head wrap) [tsoj] phuam
  • V put on, wear, carry on/over head for head wrap, hat, umbrella) ntoo

turkey N [tus] qaib cov txwv

turn V (turn in another direction) lem
  • V (turn in another direction, revolution) tig
  • V (turn around, spin, be spinning) kiv
  • V (turn on, as a light, set a fire) taws
  • V (turn on, as a light, open) qhib
  • V (turn off, as of a light, kill, shoot) tua
  • V (turn against, have change of heart) fav xeeb, ntxeex siab
  • V (turn over, roll over, change over) ntxeex
  • N (your turn) koj thib

turnip N [lub] zaab lauj pwm

turtle N [tus] vaub kib

twelfth (V be twelfth) thib kaum ob

twelve Q kaum ob

twentieth (V be twentieth) thib nees nkauam

twenty Q nees nkauam
  • Q (twenty thousand) ob vam

twice ADV (twice, two times) ob zaug
  • (twice as much) ob npaug

twin N (twin children) me nnyaam ntxaib

twist V (twist, be twisted, wring) ntxwij

two Q ob
  • Q (two or three, a few) ob peb

type V (typewrite) ntaus ntxwv
  • N (type, kind, sort) hom
  • N (type, kind, thing) yam

typewriter N [lub] tshuab ntaus ntxwv

ugly (V be ugly, bad) phem, tsis zoo

ulcer N (ulcer, boil, abscess) [lub] rwj

umbilical N (umbilical cord) [tsoj] hlab ntaws

umbrella N [lub] kaus
  • (V carry umbrella, carry on/over head, wear, put on head) ntoo

uncertain (V be uncertain) xyov

uncle N (father's older brother) [tus] txiv hlob
  • N (father's younger brother) [tus] txiv ntxawm
  • N (mother's brother) [tus] dab laug
  • N (father's sister's husband) [tus] yij laug
  • N (mother's sister's husband) [tus] yawn txiv
  • N (term of respect for older man, paternal grandfather, paternal grandfather's brother) [tus] yawg

unconscious (V be unconscious) tsis nco qab lawm

uncooked (V be uncooked, fresh, green, as timber) nyoos

under PREP (under, underneath) hauv qab

underpants N (women's) [lub] tiab me me
  • N (man's) [lub] ris xiv liv

understand V to taub, nkaq siab

underwear N ris tsiao sab hauv

undress V (literally, take off clothes) hle ris tsio

unemployment N [tsoj] kev poob hauv lwm

unhappy (V be unhappy) tsis zoo siab, tsis qab siab

United States N (America) As mes liv kas teb,
  Teb chaws As mes liv kas, A mes lis kas, A me li kas, Mi li kas, Mis kas, Mis kuj

university N [lub] tsev kawm ntxwv them kawg,
  tsev kawm ntxwv qib siab

unlock V (unlock, open, turn on) qhib

unsettled (V be unsettled in mind) siab ntxhov

until PREP txog, mus txog

unusual (V lit. be very different) ntxawv heev

unwilling (V be unwilling) tsis kam

up PREP (up in geographical elevation, in/up to the north, uphill) pem
  • ADV (up there, uphill) ped
  • (V go up, ascend, climb) nce
  • (V be upright) ntsug
  • (V stand upright) sawv ntsug
  • (V stand up, rise, get up) sawv
upset (V be upset) tsis txaus siab, nyuaj siab
  * (V be upset, angry) chim

upstairs N theem saum toj

urinate V tso zis

urine N [tawb] zis

us PRO (us, we, OBJ ourselves for 2) wb
  * PRO (us, we, OBJ ourselves for 3 or more) peb

use V siv
  * N (a use, usefulness, worthwhileness) qab hau

used (V be used to, familiar) swm

useful (V be useful) zoovo siv
  * (V be useful, have a use) muaj qab hau

usual (V be usual, normal) (L) thas mab das
  ADV (as usual, like before) xws li qub

usually ADV (usually, as usual, like before) raws li
  ib txwm, raws li qub, xws li qub


• (N Vietnamese person) [tus] neeg Nyab laj
village N (village, small city, town) [lub] zos
vine N [tsoj] hmab
violent (V be violent, intense, severe) heev
  * (N a violent person) [tus] neeg siab heev heev
virus N kab mob
visit V (visit, look at, watch, [go] see) xyuas (saib)
voice N [lub] (voice, noise, sound, tone in tone
  language) suab
vomit V (vomit, throw up) ntuav
vote V pov ntauw

vulva N (vulva, vagina, may be offensively explicit)
  [lub] pim, paum
  * N (euphemism for female/male genital area,
    genitals, groin) qhov chaw mos


w

wad N (wad, pile of money) phau nyiaj
waist N [lub] duav
wait V (wait [for], [go] meet) tos
wake V (wake up, awaken) tsim
  * V (wake someone up, get someone up, raise,
    set up, erect) tsa
walk V mus kev, mus (ko) taw
  * (walk around) thaw

wallet N [lub] hnaab ntauw me

want V xav
  * V (want, desire) yuav
  * V (want to get) xav tau
  * V (want that, want someone to do something)
    xav kom

war N roq, kev tsow (kev) roq, kev ua tsow ua roq,
  kev sib ntau sib tua,
  * V (fight a war) ua roq, ua tsow ua roq, ntau
    roq, sib ntau sib tua

warm (V be warm) sov

warn V ceeb toom

wash V (wash out/off in water, as dishes, hands)
  ntxuav
  * (V wash, scrub, as clothes) ntxhua
  * (V wash by scrubbing/rubbing with hands in
    water, e.g. rice, clothes) zaw
  * (N washing machine) [lub] tshub ntshua khaub
    ncaaw
wasp N [tus] nkawj

waste V nkim
  * (waste time) nkim hnaub nyooog

watch N (timepiece) [lub] teev, (L) moos
  * (V wear, put on watch, bracelet, earrings, eyeglasses, necklace) coj
  * (V watch, stare, gaze at) ntsia
  * (V watch, as TV, look at, observe, see) saib
  * (V watch, look at, [go] see, visit) xyus (saib)
  * (V watch, as children, guard) zov

water N (water, soda pop) dej
  * (N water buffalo) [tus] twm

watermelon N [lub] dib liab, dib dej

wax N ciab
  * (N beeswax) ciab ntab

way N (way, path, road, street) [txo]j kev

we PRO (we, us, OBJ ourselves for 2 people) wb
  * (PRO (we, us, OBJ ourselves for 3 or more people) peb

weak (V be weak, lack strength) tsis muaj zog
  * (V be weak and unsteady on feet) quag zog
  * (V be/feel weak, feeble, sickly) tsaug
  * (V be weak, sickly, sad) ntaus

wear V (wear, put on clothes [and neck scarves] on main part of body but not head, hands, feet) hnav
  * (V wear, put on boots, gloves, leg wrappings, socks, shoes) rau
  * (V wear, put on, wrap around waist for belt, sash) sia
  * (V wear, put on, carry on/over head for hat, head wrap, umbrella) ntoo
  * (V wear, put on bracelet, earrings, eyeglasses, necklace, watch) coj

weather N huab cua

weave V (baskets) hiab
  * (V cloth) ua ntos (ntaub)

wedding N tshoob

Wednesday N [lub] Hnub plaub, (L) Hnub vas pluv

weed N (vegetation, weeds) nroj
  * (V pull weeds) doj nroj
  * (V hoe out weeds) nthua nroj

week N [lub] lim piam, (L) as thiv
  * (last week) [lub] lim piam tag los, lim piam nram ntc
  * (next week) [lub] lim piam
  * (this week) [lub] lim piam no

weigh V (weight something) hju
  * (V have a certain weight) hnyav

weight N hqov hnyav

* N (of a child) ceeb thawj
* (V lose weight) sem nqaij, yuag zuj zus

welcome V (welcome someone, receive) txais
  * (you're welcome) tais ua (li) cas

well N (water) qhov dej
  * (V be well/good) zoo
  * (V be well, fine, life going well) noj qab nyob zoo
  * (ADV, well, topic/ hesitation/encouraging imperative marker, CONJ particle carrying utterance forward, and) mas

west N (name of direction) sab hnuab poob

wet V (be wet) ntab (dej)

what PRO (what, something, anything [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], nothing [+ NEG on V])
  * (V be tsai, ab tsai
  * (what/which ___ ?) ___ zoo li cas?
  * (what/which kind?) yuam zoo li cas?

wheel N (wheel, tire) [lub] log

when ADV (when in questions, whenever) thauam twg
  * (CONJ in statements) thauam

where ADV (in questions) qhov twg
  * (CONJ in statements, as in I know [a place] where) qhov chaw uas

whether CONJ (whether, if) yog
  * (it makes no difference whether ___ or not ___) tsis dua, tsis ___ tsis dua

which (general word compounded with other words to form question words) twg
  * (relative clause marker which, who, whom, that, CONJ that) uas

while ADV (time when) thauam uas
  * ADV (a little while ago, just now) puag ta

whisper V nxhii

white V (be white) dawb
  * N (the color white) xim dawb
  * (White Hmong) Hmoob Dawb
  * (N egg white) [lub] hli

who PRO (in questions: who, whom) twg twg
  * (PRO (in questions, statements: who, whom, someone/body, anyone/body [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], no one/body [+NEG on V]) leej twg
  * (relative clause marker who, whom, whose, which, that, CONJ that) uas

whole Q (whole, entire, complete, all) tas/g nhlo
  * Q (whole, entire, all, every, each) txhua
  * (in special expressions: whole, entire, as in my whole body) khceej
whom PRO (in questions: whom, who, whom, who) twg twg
  * PRO (in questions, statements: whom, who, someone/body, anyone/body [+ NEG on V for NEG meaning], no one/body [+ NEG on V]) leej twg
  * (relative clause marker whom, who, whose, which, that; CONJ that) uas

whose PRO (used in questions) leej twg li
  * (relative clause marker whose, who, whom, which, that; CONJ that) uas

why ADV (in questions) vim li cas, ua (li) cas
  * ADV (why in statements, because) vim, vim

chij, vim yog li no

wicked (V be wicked, evil, cruel) siab dub siab txia
ntshav
  * (V be wicked, evil, bad, ugly) phem

wide (V be wide) dav

widow N [tus] poj ntsuam

widower N [tus] yawg ntsuag

wife N [tus] poj niam
  * N (older/1st wife) [tus] niam hlob
  * N (younger/2nd wife) [tus] niam yau

wild (V be wild, untamed) qus
  * (wild animals) tsiaq qus

will V (marker of future or unfulfilled, unrealized situations) yuav
  * V (will as in volunteering, agreeing, deciding to do; one thing to happen after another) mam (li)
  * V (be willing) kam

win V yejc
  * (win a war/battle) ntaus rog yejc lawm

wind N [ntshv for gust] cuaj

wind V (windaround, roll up) kauv

window N [lub] qhov rai/rais

windy (V be windy) cuaj hlob

wine N cawv qab zib
  * N (wine, alcohol) cawv

wing N [tus, phob, sab] tis

winnow V tsoov

winter N [lub] caij (ntuj) no

wice V (wipe, wipe away, erase) so
  * (wipe one's nose) so ntswv
  * (wipe away tears) so kua muag

wire N [txoj] hlua hlau
  * N (wire, string, thread) [txoj] xov

wisdom (V to have reached the age of wisdom) siab
ntshav

wise (V be wise, intelligent, sharp) ntse

wish V thov (kom), hawm, thov hawm

with (PREP for accompaniment, V accompany) nrog
  * (instrument sense expressed by a serial verb phrase with a verb such as maub 'take', siv 'use' + the instrument noun; e.g. Muab rab riamb hlais
  * nqaj 'Slice the meat with the knife')

within PREP (within, in) hauv

without (V not to have) tsis muaj
  * (V not to accompany) tsis nrog

wok N (wok, frying pan) [lub] yias

woman N [tus] poj niam

womb N (womb, uterus) [lub] tsev me nyuam

wood N (wood, tree) ntsu
  * N (firewood) [tsuam for bunches] taws
  * N (one log of firewood) ib ya cav taws

woods N (woods, forest/jungle) [lub] hauv
  * zov (me me)

wool N (wool cloth) ntaub plaub tsiaj

word N [lo] lus

work N [txoj] hauj lwm
  * V ua hauj lwm

worker N [tus] neeg uaj hau j lwm

world N [lub] ntsiaj teb

worm N [tus] cuab nab

worry V (worry, be concerned, distressed, anxious) tshaj
  * (V be worried, have cares) nyuaj siab
  * (V be worried, scared, frightened) poob siab

worse (V be worse, more evil/wicked/ugly) phem
  * dua

worst (V be the worst, most evil, wicked, ugly) phem tshaj

worth V (be worth/cost some price) muaj nqj/nqe, raung qi/nqe

worthwhile (V be worthwhile, important) tseem
  * ceeb
  * (V be worthwhile, worthy of, valuable, suitable, appropriate) tsim nyog
wound N (wound, injury) [lub] qhov txhab, qhov raug mob, qhov raug sab
  • V (wound, injure someone) ua sab, ua raug ___ sab
  • (V be wounded, injured, suffer pain, illness) raug mob

wrap V (wrap, wrap up) qhwv

wrench N [tus] ciaj ntswj

wrist N [lub] dab teg
  • N (wrist bone) pob teg

write V sau

writer N tus sau

wrong (V be wrong, incorrect) tsi s yog, tsi s raug
  • (to make a mistake) yuam kem

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

x-ray (V take an x-ray) thaj (yees) daim duab es xam les, thaj pob txha

yam N (yam, sweet potato) [lub] qos liab

Y

Yao (V be Yao [considered less polite], Mien [more polite]) Co
  • N (Yao/Mien language) lus Co
  • N (Yao/Mien person) [tus] neeg Co

yard Q (0.91 meters) ib npab, 0.91 mev
  • N (grassy yard of a house) [lub] tiaj nyom

yawn V rua lo

year N xyoo
  • (one year) ib xyoo
  • (last year) xyoo tag (lom lawm), tsai b no
  • (the year before last) tsai b ub
  • (years ago) puag tsai b ub
  • (next year) lwm xyoo
  • (a new year) xyoo tshiab
  • (Happy New Year) nyob zoo xyoo tshiab
  • (idiom: celebrate Hmong New Year) tsai b peb caug, nej peb caug, noj tshiab

yell V (yell, shout) qw
  • V (yell, cry out loudly, shout at) nt he

yellow (V be yellow) daj
  • N (the color yellow) xim daj

yes ADV (for acknowledgment or agreement with what has been said) aws
  • (for many question contexts repeat V from question and optionally add polite particle mas)
  • (V be correct, exist, be) yog (mas)

yesterday N nag lamo

yet ADV (yet, still) tseem
  • (have not yet ___) tseem tsis tau ___, tseem ___ tsis tau

yolk N [lub] nkaub qe

you PRO (you, OBJ yourself for 1) koj
  • PRO (you, OBJ yourselves for 2) neb
  • PRO (you, OBJ yourselves for 3 or more) nej
  • PRO (indefinite you, one, I) yus

young (V be young, younger in age) hlua s
  • (V be young and tender for babies, vegetables, be soft) mos
  • (V be younger in age, small) yau, yaus
  • (N female’s younger sister) [tus] ni am hlua s
  • (N male’s younger brother) [tus] kwv
  • (N youngest daughter) ntxawm
  • (N youngest son) ntxawg

your POSS (for 1) koj + CLF for most nouns
  • POSS (for 2) neb + CLF for most nouns
  • POSS (for 3 or more) nej + CLF for most nouns

yours PRO (for 1 person) koj li
  • PRO (for 2 people) neb li
  • PRO (for 3 people) nej li

yourself PRO (OBJ yourself) køj
  • PRO (emphatic reflexive for 1 as in do by oneself) køj tus kheej

yourselves PRO (OBJ for 2) neb
  • PRO (emphatic reflexive for 2 as in do by oneself) neb tug kheej
  • PRO (OBJ for 3 or more) nej
  • PRO (emphatic reflexive for 3 or more as in do by oneself) nej tus kheej

Z

zero N [lub] yaj ntshis, (L) [tus] xoom

zip (N zip code) [tus] naj npawb nroog

zipper N [touj] (saw khawn) swb

zoo N [lub] vaj (yug) tsiaj