WHITÉ HMONG DIALOGUES

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Introduction

Hmong is spoken by several million people in China, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Burma, and by Hmong living in such countries as Australia, France, French Guiana, and the United States. In Thailand, Laos, and the overseas Hmong communities there are two principal varieties of Hmong, White Hmong (Hmoob Dawb) and Green Hmong (Hmoob Ntsuab). They differ from one another in many details of pronunciation and vocabulary, but they are sufficiently similar to one another that speakers of one dialect can understand the other without difficulty. The dialogues in this book are in White Hmong.

These dialogues were originally developed for an intensive beginning Hmong class taught by the authors. They are not a complete course in Hmong. In our class we also used pronunciation drills, conversation drills, exercises and readings. The dialogues, however, were an important part of the course. The students first mastered the dialogues on their own, imitating tape recordings made by Lopao Vang, and then paired off in class to practice the dialogues under the supervision of the teachers, who corrected their pronunciation. Eventually the students found that they had learned certain dialogues by heart and when they were conversing in Hmong they found themselves spontaneously using phrases from the dialogues at appropriate points in the conversation. We have tried, therefore, to provide appropriate natural utterances for a variety of social situations.

We hope that these dialogues will be useful both in the classroom and to people studying Hmong on their own. We recommend that users of these dialogues also obtain a copy of Ernest E. Heimback's White Hmong-English-Dictionary, Data Paper Number 75, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, revised edition, 1979.

We would like to thank Mim Yaj (Mrs. My Xiong), Dao Xiong, and Brenda Johns for their help in writing these dialogues and Robins Burling, Thomas J. Hudak and Yang Dao for advice and suggestions on language learning. The present version of the dialogues has also benefited from the comments and criticisms of our students.

Note: Many of the dialogues in this book are based on dialogues in Baccam Don and James L. Erase, English-Thai Dam Language Lessons, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Huntington Beach, California, 1977. We have also adapted some dialogues and parts of dialogues from the following books: Jean Mottin, Elements de Grammaire Hmong Blanc, Don Bosco, Press, Bangkok, 1978; Lus Akiv-Lus Hmoob, Overseas Missionary Fellowship, 1978; Cheu Thao, English-Hmong Phrasebook with Useful Wordlist (for Hmong speakers), Center for Applied Linguistics, 1981. But we have made changes in arrangement and wording and we have also written some new material.
White Hmong Spelling and Pronunciation

Hmong spelling is phonemic, that is, each letter or combination of letters represents one sound and each sound is represented by one letter or combination of letters. The principal difficulty for English speakers learning Hmong is that many letters have values very different from their English values. In particular, note that:

1. Doubling a vowel means that the vowel is followed by an 'ng' sound.
2. Consonant letters at the end of a syllable represent tones, not consonants.

For example, the name "Hmong" is written Hmoob: oo represents "ong" and b represents high level tone.

Consonants:

C ch d dh f q(see below) h hl hm hml hn hny k kh l m ml n nc nch nk nkh np npf npl npth nq ngh nr nrh nt nth nts ntsh ntx ntshx ny p ph pl plh q qh r rh s t th ts tsh tx txh v x xy y z

Vowels: a ai au aw e ee i ia o oo u ua w

Tones: (no letter) b d g j m s v

Notes:

1. The consonant q occurs only in two or three words. Many Hmong books do not use this letter.
2. In the Protestant spelling, one writes hnl and nl instead of hml and ml. Heimbach's dictionary uses the Protestant spelling.
3. In dictionaries and other materials written for people learning Hmong as a second language the spellings w w and o on are used for nasalized vowels similar to w and o. These nasalized vowels occur only in a couple of grammatical particles and in Hmong books are simply written w and o.

Tones:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Rising</th>
<th>Falling</th>
<th>Whispery falling</th>
<th>Creaky falling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>j</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>(no letter)</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>d</td>
<td></td>
<td>m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Simple vowels: i e a o u w
Diphthongs: ai aw au e (with tones v, d)
   ia    ua

Vowel plus nasal: ee oo

Consonants listed according to the parts of the mouth used to pronounce them:

1.  p ph np nph hm m
2.  pl plh npl nplh hml ml
3.  f v
4.  t th nt nth hl l hn n
5.  d dh
6.  tx txh ntx nttxh x
7.  r rh nr nrh
8.  ts tsh nts ntsh s z
9.  c ch nc nch
10. xy y hny ny
11. k kh nk nk h g
12. q qh ng nqh
13. h
Kuv xav kwom hai Lus Hmoob.
Kaj puas kem ghia huv?

Kamxwb.
White Hmong Dialogues

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM IB

A: Koj tuaj los?
B: Kuv tuaj os.
    Kuv xav kawm hais lus Hmoob.
    Koj puas kam ghia kuv?
A: Kam xwb.
B: Ua tsaug.
    Tag kis kuv mam rov qab tuaj dua puas tau?
A: Tau xwb.

Vocabulary:

dua 'again'
hais 'to speak'
Hmoob 'Hmong'
ib 'one, first'
kawm 'to learn, to study'
kis
    tag kis 'tomorrow'
kam 'to be willing to'
koj 'you'(singular)
Koj tuaj los? 'Hello.'
    spoken to a person entering your house.
kuv 'I, me'
Kuv tuaj os. 'Hello',
    response to Koj tuaj los?
los (here, it is a grammatical particle used at the end of a sentence to form a yes-no question)
lus 'language'
mam 'therefore'
os (grammatical particle used at the end of a sentence)

LESSON ONE

Hi!
Hi!
I would like to learn to speak Hmong.
Will you teach me?
All right (yes).
Thank you.
May I come back tomorrow?

Yes.

puas (grammatical particle used before the verb to form a yes-no question)
qab 'back'
ghia 'to teach'
rov 'to return'
tag kis 'tomorrow'
tau 'to be able'
tuaj 'to come'
tsaug 'thanks'
ua 'to do'
Ua tsaug 'Thank you'
xav 'to want'
xwb 'indeed'
zaum 'time'
Pattern drills:
1. Koj xav ua dab tsi?
   Kuv xav kawm hais lus Hmoob.
   What would you like to do?
   I would like to learn to speak Hmong.
   I would like to read Hmong books.
   I would like to wash my hands.
   I would like to drink some water.
   2. Koj puas kam ghia kuv?
      Koj puas kam pab kuv?
      Koj puas kam coj kuv mus?
      Are you willing to teach me?
      Are you willing to help me?
      Are you willing to take me there?
      Kam xwb.
      Yes.

Answer the following questions in Hmong:
1. Koj xav kawm hais lus dab tsi?
2. Koj hais lus Hmoob puas tau?

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM OB
A: Kuv yuav rov qab mus tsev.
B: Nrog peb nyob mas.
A: Aws, tau lawm os.
   Kuv yuav mus tsev.
B: Yog li ces tsis cheem koj.
   Mus koj nawj.
A: Aws, kuv mam mus os.

LESSON TWO
Well, I guess I have to be getting home now.
Please stay with us.
Thank you, but I have to go home.
Okay, well I won't keep you then. Bye.
Bye.
Vocabulary:

aws 'oh', 'yes'
Aws, kuv mam mus os.

'Good-bye.' (Response to
Mus koj nawj.)

ces 'so'
cheem 'to detain'
koj 'you' (sing.)
kuv 'I'

lawn 'already'
li 'thus'
mam 'will'
mas (grammatical particle
used at the end of a sentence)
mus 'to go'

Mus koj nawj. 'Goodbye.'
(speaking to someone leaving your house. Literally 'go by
yourself.' This is a polite expression meaning in effect
'please forgive for letting you go off by yourself like this
and not accompanying you part way. ')

tsis 'not'
yog 'if'
yuav 'to want'; 'will'

Pattern drills:
1.
Kuv yuav rov qab mus tsev.
(Nawj (grammatical particle
used at the end of a sentence)

Nrog peb nyob mas.
Nrog peb zaum mas.
Nrog peb mus mas.
Nrog peb noj mov mas.

(Please) stay with us.
(Please) sit with us.
(Please) go with us.
(Please) eat with us.

2.
Koj yuav ua dab tsi?

Kuv yuav mus tsev.
Kuv yuav nuyeem ntawv.
Kuv yuav ntxuav tes.
Kuv yuav haus dej.

What are you going to do?

I'm going to go home.
I'm going to read.
I'm going to wash my hands.
I'm going to drink some water.

Answer the following questions in Hmong:

1. Koj yuav ua dab tsi?
2. Koj puas kam nrog peb nyob?
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM PEB

A: Nej puas nyob tsev?
B: Nyob os, los tsev mas!
   Koj tuaj los?
A: Tuaj os.
B: Koj tuaj dab tsi?
   Koj tuaj xyuas peb los?
A: Kuv tsis tuaj dab tsi,
   kuv tuaj xyuas nej xwb.
   Nej puas khoom?
B: Khoom los mas.
   Los tsev os.
A: Nej puas caiv os?
B: Peb tsis caiv os.
   Los tsev mas!

Vocabulary:

cayv 'to observe a prohibition'
dab tsi 'what', 'anything'; see note on grammar.
koj 'you' (singular)
koj tuaj los? 'Hello'
   (spoken to a person entering your house.)
kuv 'I'
khoom 'free, not busy, available'
los (grammatical particle used at the end of a sentence to form a yes-no question)
los mas (interjection expressing encouragement or invitation)
los tsev os. 'come in'
mas (see los mas)

LESSON THREE

Are you home?
Yes, come in!
Hello.
Hello.
What brings you here?
Did you come to visit us?
I didn't come for anything special, just to see you.
Are you free/available?
By all means.
Do come in.
Are you observing any prohibitions?
No, we aren't.
Come in!

nej 'you' (plural, referring to three or more people; if there are only two, use 'neb')
nyob 'to be located'
os (emphatic particle to soften the phrase)
pob 'we, us'; (plural, referring to three or more; if only two use 'wb')
puas (grammatical particle placed before the verb to form yes-no questions)
tuaj 'to come'
tuaj os! 'Hello', response to 'koj tuaj los?'
tsev 'house'; 'home'
tsi
dab tsi 'what, anything'
tsis 'not'
xwb 'only'
xyuas 'to visit'

Note on grammar: In certain sentences using dab tsi, 'what, anything', the word ua 'to do' is understood:

Koj tuaj (ua) dab tsi?
Kuv tsis tuaj (ua)
dab tsi.

What did you come (to do)?
I did not come (to do)
anything.
Pattern Drills:


Koj puas (xav) nyeem ntawv? ('Xav' is understood)
(kuv) Nyeem os.
('Kuv' is optional)

Koj puas (xav) ntxuav tes?
(kuv) Ntxuav os.

Koj puas (xav) noj mov?
(kuv) noj os.

Koj puas (xav) mus tsev?
(kuv) Mus os.

2. Koj puas (xav) nyeem ntawv? (kuv) Tsis nyeem os.

Koj puas (xav) ntxuav tes?
(kuv) Tsis ntxuav os.

Koj puas (xav) noj mov?
(kuv) Tsis noj os.

Koj puas (xav) mus tsev?
(kuv) Tsis mus os.

Are you home? Yes, I am. Would you like to read?

Would you like to wash your hands?
Yes, I would.

Do you want to eat?
Yes, I do. Would you like to go home?
Yes, I would.

Would you like to read?
No, I would not.

Would you like to wash your hands?
No, I would not.

Would you like to eat?
No, I would not.

Would you like to go home?
No, I would not.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM PLAUB

A: Txiv Ntxawm, kuv yuav tsum mus.
   Yuav tsaus ntuj lawm.
B: Txhob mus los mas.
   Nrog peb pw ib hmos.

A: Tsis tau.
B: Yog li ces, mam mus koj os.

A: Sawv daws nyob zoo!
B: Mus ho tuaj os.
A: Aws, Aws.
   Lwm zaug nej ho tuaj xyuas peb thiab os.

LEsson four

Uncle, I must be going.

It's getting dark.
Don't go.
Sleep over at our house one night.
I can't.
If you insist, then, take care.
Everyone stay well!
Please come again.
I will.
And you come visit us sometime!
Vocabulary:

daws
saww daws 'everyone'
ho 'then'
hmo 'night'
hmos (form of hmo occurring after
tone b and tone j)
lwm 'another, the next'
mam 'then, therefore'
Mam mus koj os! (Literally, 'then
you go' but means 'take care.'
ntuj 'sky'
tsaus ntuj 'to be dark, to
be nighttime'
ntxawm (see txiv ntxawm)
nyob zoo 'to be well'
pw 'to lie down, to sleep'
saww daws 'everyone'
thonb 'also'

Pattern drills:
1:
Yuav tsaus ntuj lawm.
Yuav sov lawm.
Yuav no lawm.

2:
(tsis) Txhob mus los mas.
Nrog peb pw ib hmos.

(tsis) Txhob pw los mas.
Nrog peb tham ib pliaq.

(tsis) Txhob rov gab mus los mas.
Nrog peb zaum ib pliaq.

los mas (in this sense, it is acting like 'please')
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM TSIB
A: Kuv tuaj kawn lus Hmoob.
B: Los tsəv os.
    Los zaum.
A: Qhov no hu li cas?
B: Hu ua "ib phau ntawv".
A: Qhov ntawd hu li cas?
B: Hu ua "ib tug cwj mem".
A: Puas yog hu ua "ntawv" no?
B: Yog.
A: Puas yog hu ua
    "lub rooj zaum"?
B: Tsis yog, hu ua "lub rooj" xwb. No, it's called "a table".

Vocabulary:
cas
    li cas? 'how?'
cwj mem 'pen'
hu 'to call'

hu ua 'to call' (in the sense
    of 'to call something by a
    certain name')
ib 'one, a'
li cas?'how?'
lub (grammatical partial used
    with nouns)
lub rooj 'table'
lub rooj zaum 'chair'
m cm (cwj mem) 'pen'
no
(1) 'this'
qhov no (demonstr. pronoun)
(2) particle used at the end
    of a sentence.

Pattern drill:
Koj tuaj dab tsi?
Kuv tuaj kawn lus Hmoob.
Kuv tuaj nyee m ntawv.
Kuv tuaj ntxua v tes.
Kuv tuaj haus dej.

LESSON FIVE
I have come to study Hmong.
Come in.
Sit down.
What's this called?
It's called "a book".
What's that called?
It's called "a pen".
Is this called "paper"?
Yes, that's right.
Is this called "a chair"?

ntawd 'that' (demonstr. adj.)
    qhov ntawd 'that'
    (demonstrative pronoun)
ntawv 'paper'

phau ntawv 'book'
    qhov no 'this' (demonstrative
    pronoun)
    qhov ntawd 'that'
    (demonstrative pronoun)
rooj 'table'
rooj zaum 'chair'
tug (form of tus occurring
    after tone b and tone j)
tus (grammatical particle used
    with nouns)
tus cwj mem 'pen'
uu 'as' (see hu ua)
yog 'to be so', 'to be the case
    that ...'
zaum 'to sit'
lub rooj zaum 'chair'

What have you come to do?
I've come to study Hmong.
I've come to read.
I've come to wash my hands.
I've come to drink some water.
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM RAU

A: Koj ua dab tsi?
B: Kuv tab tom noj hmo.
A: Koj noj dab tsi?
B: Kuv tab tom noj ngaij nyug.

Vocabulary:

hmo 'supper'
noj 'to eat'
ngaij 'meat'
ngaij nyug 'beef'
nyug (form of nyuj occurring after tone b and j)
nyuj 'cow, bull'
tab tom (grammatical particle placed before the verb to denote progressive aspect; similar in meaning to English be...-ing)

Pattern drills:
1.
Koj ua dab tsi?  
Kuv tab tom noj hmo.  
Kuv tab tom haus dej.  
Kuv tab tom cheb tsev.  
Kuv tab tom ntxuav tais diav.  
Kuv tab tom ntxuav tes.  
Kuv tab tom ntxhua khaub ncaws.  
Kuv tab tom nyeem ntawv.  
Kuv tab tom nrhiav tus cwj mem.  
Kuv tab tom so rooj.  

What are you doing?
I'm eating dinner.
I'm having a drink of water.
I'm sweeping the floor(house).
I'm washing dishes.
I'm washing my hands.
I'm washing clothes.
I'm reading.
I'm looking for a pen.
I'm wiping the table.

2.
Koj noj dab tsi?  
Kuv noj ngaij nyug.  
Kuv noj ngaij nteses.  
Kuv noj ngaij npuas.  

What are you eating?
I'm eating beef.
I'm eating fish.
I'm eating pork.
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM XYA

A: Koj ua dab tsi?
B: Kuv ua vaj zaub.
A: Kuv tsis hnow koj hais dab tsi.
B: Kuv hais tias kuv ua vaj zaub.

A: Nws ua dab tsi?
B: Nws ua hmo.
A: Kuv tsis to taub.
   "Ua hmo" yog hais dab tsi?
B: "Ua hmo" yog "npaj zaub
   npaj mov noj".
A: Nws ua dab tsi?
B: Kuv tsis paub.

Vocabulary:

hais 'to say'
yog hais 'to mean'
hnow 'to hear'
mov 'cooked rice'
nws 'he, she'
npaj 'to prepare'
paub 'to know'
taub (see to taub)
tias 'that '(conjunction)
to taub 'to understand'
uv 'to do, to make'
vaj 'garden'
yog 'to be'
yog hais 'to mean'
zaub 'vegetable'

Pattern Drills:
1. Kuv ua vaj zaub.
   Kuv tsis hnow koj hais dab tsi.
   Kuv hais tias kuv ua vaj zaub.
   I'm making a garden.
   I didn't hear what you said.
   I said that I'm making a garden.

   Kuv nysem ntawv.
   Kuv tsis hnow koj hais dab tsi.
   Kuv hais tias kuv nysem ntawv.
   I'm reading.
   I didn't hear what you said.
   I said that I'm reading.

   Kuv ntxuav tes.
   Kuv tsis hnow koj hais dab tsi.
   Kuv hais tias kuv ntxuav tes.
   I'm washing my hands.
   I didn't hear what you said.
   I said that I'm washing my hands.

LESSON SEVEN

What are you doing?
I'm making a garden.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm making a garden.
What is he/she doing?
He/she is making supper.
I don't understand.
What does "making supper" mean?
"Making supper" means "preparing rice and vegetables to eat".
What is he/she doing?
I don't know.
Kuv noj mov.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv noj mov.

I'm eating.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm eating.

Kuv haus dej.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv haus dej.

I'm drinking some water.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm drinking some water.

Kuv mus tsev.
Kuv tsis hnov koj hais dab tsi.
Kuv hais tias kuv mus tsev.

I'm going home.
I didn't hear what you said.
I said that I'm going home.

2.
Kuv ua vaj zaub.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Ua vaj zaub" yog ua dab tsi?

I'm making a garden.
I don't understand.
What does "ua vaj zaub" mean?

Kuv nyeem ntawv.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Nyeem ntawv" yog ua dab tsi?

I'm reading.
I don't understand.
What does "nyeem ntawv" mean?

Kuv noj mov.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Noj mov" yog dab tsi?

I'm eating.
I don't understand.
What does "noj mov" mean?

Kuv haus dej.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Haus dej" yog dab tsi?

I'm drinking some water.
I don't understand.
What does "haus dej" mean?

Kuv mus tsev.
Kuv tsis to taub.
"Mus tsev" yog hais dab tsi?

I'm going home.
I don't understand.
What does "mus tsev" mean?

3.
Nws ua dab tsi?

What is he/she doing?

Nws npaj zaub noj.

He/she's preparing vegetables to eat.

Nws pub kuv txiv noj.

He/she's giving it to my father to eat.

Nws nyeem ntawv rau kuv niam mloog.

He/she's reading to my mother (literally "He/she's reading to my mother to listen.")
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM YIM

A: Koj yuav mus tom khw hnub twg?
B: Mus hnub vas Xuv
   los hnub vas Xaum, kuv tseem
   tsis tau paub.
A: Yog koj mus hnub vas Xaum,
   kuv xav nrog koi mus thiab.
B: Kuv yuav sawv kev mus thaum
   plaub teev peb caug.
A: Pes tsawg teev wb mam
   rov qab los?
B: Yog kuv nrhiav tau tej uas
   kuv xav yuav, wb yuav rov
   los thaum xya teev.
A: Thaum rau teev yog kuv los
   tsis txog ntshai lawv twb
   noj hmo tag lawm.

Vocabulary:

khw 'market'
hnub vas Xuv 'Friday' (Lao van suk)
hnub vas Xaum 'Saturday' (Lao van sao)
teev 'hour', 'o'clock'
nrhiav 'to look for'; nrhiav tau 'found'
tau (placed after the verb; makes the verb past tense)
tej uas 'those which', 'the things which'

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM CUAJ

A: Koj mus qhov twg?
B: Kuv mus kav khw.
A: Koj mus tod li cas?
B: Kuv yuav mus taw.
A: Nyob hov deb ntawm no?
B: Nyob deb ntawm no peb blov
   nknaus xwb.

Vocabulary:

mus kav khw 'to go shopping'
blov (derived from 'block' in English)

LESSON EIGHT

What day are you going shopping?
I don't know yet whether it will be Friday or Saturday.
If you go on Saturday, I would like to go with you.
I'm leaving at four thirty.

What time will we get back?
If I can find the things I need, we'll come back at seven.
If I'm not home by six I'm afraid I'll miss supper.

LESSON NINE

Where are you going?
I'm going shopping.
How are you going there?
I'm going to walk.
How far is it from here?
It's only three blocks from here.
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM

A: Puag ta koj mus dab tsi lawm?
B: Kuv mus yuav khoom tom
    khw lawm.
A: Koj yuav tau dab tsi?
B: Kuv yuav tau ib co ge, ngaij
    qaij qaib, zaub xav lav, zaub paj,
    piam thaj, thiab txhuv.

Vocabulary:

puag ta 'a little while ago'

LESSON ELEVEN

Have you had lunch yet?
No.
Are you hungry?
Yes.
Is there a restaurant near here?
Why don't you eat with us.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM IB

A: Koj puas tau noj sus?
B: Tsis tau.
A: Koj puas tshaib plab?
B: Tshaib.
    Puas muaj tsev noj mov nyob
    ze ntawm no?
A: Nrog peb noj mov xwb los mas.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM OB

A: Nrog peb noj mov os.
    Peb tsis muaj dab tsi noj
    ntxuag mov.
B: Ab! Qhov no ntxim gab kawg.
A: Noj zaub tsuag!
B: Ua tsauag.

Vocabulary:

ntxim 'to look'; 'to appear'
ntxuag 'with'(used after eat, e.g. eat with rice)
tsauag 'not salty'

LESSON TWELVE

Eat with us.
We don't have anything special
to go with the rice.
Oh! this looks delicious.
Have some zaub tsuag!
Thank you.
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM PEB

A: Qhov no qab kawg.
    Rov qab ghia kuv saib hu
    li cas?
B: Hu ua "zaub tsuag."
A: Nej ua li cas?
B: Ua ntej rau dej rau.
    Npau lawm, mam li npaws
    zaub rau.
    Koj puas xav haus ib khob
    dej tshuaj yej?
A: Xav, ua tsuag.
B: Rau piam thaj los tsis rau?
A: Tsis rau.

Vocabulary:

saib 'to look', but here just a sentence connector.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM PLAUB

A: Thaum koj mus tom lub vaj
    tsiaj kuv xav nrog koj mus
    thiab.
    Tej neeg uas nyob ib ncig
    ntawm peb tsev no xav nrog
    koj mus thiab.
    Peb sawv daws mus ua ke.
B: Tau.
    Neeg coob haj yam zoo.
A: Peb tseg cov me nyuam
    nrog kuv niam nyob.
    Nws yuav zov lawv thiab lawv
    yuav ua si ua ke.
B: Tsis txhob cia tod.
    Peb coj cov me nyuam mus;
    lawv yuav zoo siab
    saib tej tsiaj thiab.
A: Yog peb ua li ntawd ntshai
    yuav tsum muaj neeg zov lawv.
B: Kuv mam li zov lawv.

Vocabulary:

li ntawd 'like that'
mam li 'in that case'

LESSON THIRTEEN

This is very delicious.
Please tell me again what it
is called.
It's called "zaub tsuag."
How do you make it?
First you put in the water.
When it is boiling, then you
break vegetables into it.
Would you like a cup of tea?

Yes, thank you.
With or without sugar?
Without.

LESSON FOURTEEN

When you go to the zoo, I
would like to go with you.

Our neighbors want to go with
you too.

Let's go together.
Sure.
The more the merrier.
We'll leave the children with
my mother.
She will watch them and they
can play together.
No, don't leave them there.
We should take our children;
they will enjoy looking
at the animals too.
If we do that, then someone
will have to look after them.
I will watch them.
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM TSIB

A: Koj puas xav kom kuv coj
   koj mus qhov twg?
B: Xav, yog tias nyob tsis
   deb ntawm qhov koj yuav mus.
A: Koj mus qhov twg?
B: Kuv yuav tsum mus tom
   Jacobson lub tsev muag khoom.
   Qhov chaw no nyob rau
   ntawm txoj ceg kaum kev
   Maynard thiab Liberty.

Vocabulary:

ceg kaum 'corner'
qhov twg
   (1) 'where?'
   (2) 'anywhere'
yuav tsum 'must, ought, have to'

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM RAU

A: Kuv tuaj xyuas koj saib koj
   puas muaj paj ntaub muag.
B: Pëb muaj hos.
   Koj puas xav saib?
A: Xav.
   Daim no zoo nkauj kawg.

B: Muaj ib daig loj dua
   nov thiab.
   Koj puas xav saib?
A: Kuv xav saib thiab.
   Kuv xav yuav daim me no.

   Nge li cas?
B: Tsib caug dos las.
A: Pheej yig kawg.

LESSON FIFTEEN

Can I give you a ride somewhere?
Yes, if it's not out of your way.
Where are you going?
I have to get to Jacobson's department store.
It's on the corner of Maynard and Liberty.

LESSON SIXTEEN

I've come to see if you have any paj ntaub to sell.
Yes, we do.
Would you like to see them?
Yes, please.
Oh, this one is very beautiful.
We also have one that is larger.
Would you like to see it?
Yes, I would.
I would like to buy this small one.
How much is it?
Fifty dollars.
That's very inexpensive.
LESSON SEVENTEEN

Hello
Hello.
What can I do for you?
Do you have any Hmong clothing to sell?
We don't have anything that we're selling.
We have some just to look at.
This is txoj phuam.
Women wear it on their heads.
This is a Hmoob Ntsuab skirt.
Hmoob Dawb wear Hmoob Ntsuab skirts because Hmoob Ntsuab skirts are beautiful.
Yes, Hmoob Ntsuab skirts are really beautiful.
Do you have any other Hmong things I can look at?
Right now we don't.
Next week if you come back we may have something.
Thank you.
So next week I'll come back.

Vocabulary:
Lim piem 'week' (Many people, however, use 'as thiv', from Lao.)

LESSON EIGHTEEN

Hello.
Come in.
I came to look at your new car.
Go ahead.
Would you like a ride?
Where should I sit?
Sit up in front.

Look!
That man is driving very fast.
It's raining hard. He should drive slowly.
ZAJ KAWM ZAUM KAUM CUAJ

B: Kuv xav tsav me ntsis.
   Koj puas kam?
A: Kam thiab, tiam sis koj
   ua tib zoo tsav zoo zoo.
B: Koj lub tsheb txawv kuv lub.

A: Txawv li cas?
B: Kuv lub tsheb tsis muaj xov
   tooj cua thiab tsis loj
   npaum li koj lub.

ZAJ KAWM ZAUM NEES NKAUM

A: Koj nyob kem tsev no ntev
   li cas lawm?
B: Ob xyoos.
   Txij puag thaum kuv tuaj
   nyob lub tebcaws no.
A: Koj yuav nyob ntev li cas
   ntxiv thiab?
B: Kuv yuav nyob ghov no
   mus txog thaum kuv yuav
   tau kuv ib lub tsev tso.
A: Koj tab tom nrhiav tsev yuav,
   puas yog?
B: Tsis yog.
   Kuv tsis tau muaj nyiaj
   txaus yuav.

LESSON NINETEEN

I'd like to drive a little.
May I?
Yes, but drive carefully.

Your car is different from mine.

How?

My car doesn't have a radio and is not as large as yours.

LESSON TWENTY

How long have you lived in this apartment?

Two years.

Since I came to this country.

How much longer will you live here?

I will live here until I buy a house of my own.

Are you looking for a house to buy now?

No.

I can't afford to buy a house yet.