

Please fill in the correct tones for the Hmong words on the right column for each English pitch on the left, *syllable*, column using our new word “a-YO-yo” – a- = **s** tone, YO- = **b**, -yo = **m** tone.

Pitch	Word	Pitch	Word	Pitch	Word	Pitch	Word	Pitch	Word
a-	mus	YO-	na <b>b</b>	-yo	de <b>m</b>	a-	me <b>s</b>	-yo	no <b>m</b>
YO-	sia <sup>b</sup>	a-	na <b>s</b>	YO-	de <b>b</b>	YO-	me <b>b</b>	a-	no <b>s</b>
-yo	nia <sup>m</sup>	-yo	na <b>m</b>	a-	de <b>s</b>	-yo	me <b>m</b>	YO-	no <b>b</b>

See if you can pronounce this Hmong writing, “**dis laim**” – English phonics: **dee lai**. Well, these two words are Lao words and it means “**very good.**” See now you even learn another language, too. And another Lao word some Hmong people use a lot is “**pais**” – *soft p*, and it means to “**go.**”

Now let's use just the three tone markers and see if you are still able to read the following words.

1	<b>as</b>	mus	dab	nam	yeb	dem	nas	meb	lom	hib	mus	nom
2	<b>yau<sup>b</sup></b>	sia <sup>b</sup>	dam	nas	yem	des	yam	mes	los	his	mub	nob
3	<b>yau<sub>m</sub></b>	nia <sup>m</sup>	das	nab	yes	deb	yab	mem	lob	him	mum	nos

Now let's learn some simple words that have these three tones.  
Some of these words do have multiple meanings, however.

	Hmong (English phonics)	English		Hmong	English
4	<b>mus</b> ( <i>moo</i> )	to go	19	<b>tob</b> ( <i>-taw</i> )	deep
5	<b>hais</b> ( <i>hai</i> )	to say or speak	20	<b>mem</b> ( <i>may</i> )	pen or pencil
6	<b>pau<sup>b</sup></b> ( <i>-pao</i> )	to know	21	<b>nom</b> ( <i>naw</i> )	official
7	<b>pom</b> ( <i>-paw</i> )	to see	22	<b>pib</b> ( <i>-pee</i> )	begin, start
8	<b>los</b> ( <i>law</i> )	to come, to return	23	<b>kim</b> ( <i>-kee</i> )	expensive
9	<b>deb</b> ( <i>day</i> )	far	24	<b>kib</b> ( <i>-kee</i> )	to fry
10	<b>dib</b> ( <i>dee</i> )	cucumber	25	<b>kis</b> ( <i>-kee</i> )	gap
11	<b>dam</b> ( <i>dah</i> )	to break	26	<b>lis</b> ( <i>lee</i> )	to take care or work on
12	<b>lem</b> ( <i>lay</i> )	to turn	27	<b>lim</b> ( <i>lee</i> )	to filter
13	<b>teb</b> ( <i>-tay</i> )	to answer, respond	28	<b>nab</b> ( <i>nah</i> )	snake, here
14	<b>cem</b>	to yell, scold	29	<b>tam</b> ( <i>-tah</i> )	to reserve (without pay)
15	<b>ces</b>	then	30	<b>tas</b> ( <i>-tah</i> )	done, finished
16	<b>peb</b> ( <i>-pay</i> )	we, three	31	<b>lom</b> ( <i>law</i> )	to poison
17	<b>tos</b> ( <i>-taw</i> )	to wait for	32	<b>lob</b> ( <i>law</i> )	to grab or take
18	<b>tom</b> ( <i>-taw</i> )	to bite, allege, accuse	33	<b>zes</b> ( <i>zhay</i> )	a nest