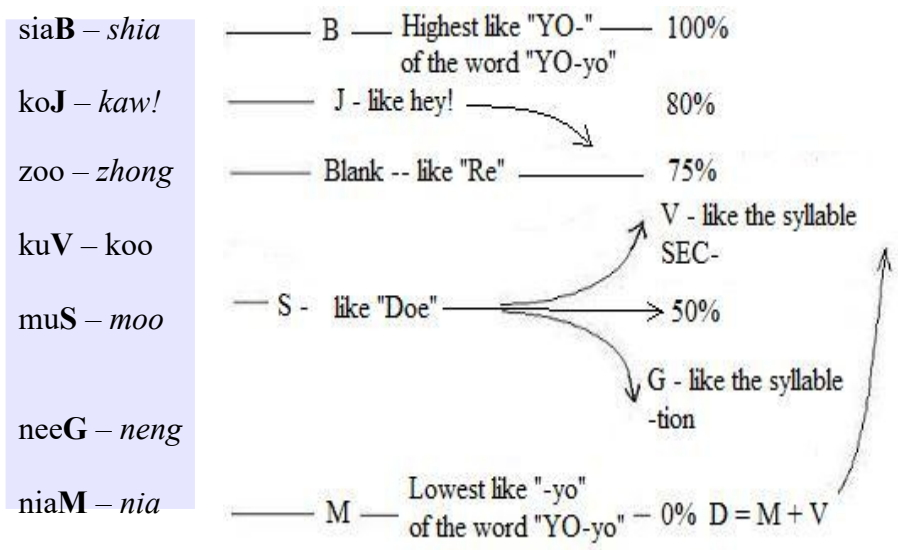


Phrase to remember: **Koj Mus Kuv Niam Neeg Siab Zoo Tod**
 Equivalent English phonics: *-kaw! moo -koo nia neng shia zhong -tau*



The problem I noticed with some English speakers is that they start the Hmong word with the **mid tone** and then they try to change to the proper tone afterward. Therefore, train yourself to start with the right tone, i.e., **B** is a high tone so you start high right away. This is like saying "YO-" initially and not "yo-" and try to rise. For example, the Hmong word "nej" is like English "nay!" and not "nay-AY!"

Looking at the graph of tones above you see that the *highest* tone is the **B** which is equivalent to the syllable "YO-" of the word **YO-yo**. And the *lowest* possible pitch you can make is the **M** tone which is equivalent to the second syllable "**-yo**". And the **mid** tone is the **S** which I put it at 50% pitch between tones **B** and **M**. So the **S** tone has the equivalent pitch of the musical note "**Doe**." Branching from this **S** mid tone are the **G** and **V** tones that we have learned earlier, and that the **V** tone is equivalent to the syllable "**SEC-**" and the **G** tone is equivalent to the syllable "**-tion**" of the word "sec-tion." The **G** tone starts roughly from the **S** tone, but it falls *downward* similar to the syllable "**-tion**." The **V** tone starts from the **S** tone but it *rises upward* like the syllable "**SEC-**" The next tone is the "**blank**" tone which has **no markers after the vowels**. This tone is very close to the pitch of the musical note "**Re**." The last tone is the **J** and its pitch is very close to the word "**hey!**" – interjection words that is. Now let's put these tone markers or pitches into an English phrase to see if we can compare them to the Hmong tones. Try to read the following words by column and then by row.

English Pitch:	<u>Hey!</u>	<u>Doe</u>	<u>SEC-</u>	<u>-yo</u>	<u>-tion</u>	<u>YO-</u>	<u>Re</u>
Hmong Tone:	Koj	Mus	Kuv	Niam	Neeg	Siab	Zoo
Hmong na (<i>nah</i>):	naj	nas	nav	nam	nag	nab	na
Hmong ne (<i>day</i>):	dej	des	dev	dem	deg	deb	de

I hope these examples help you learn the Hmong tones. Just think of the Hmong tone markers, *the last non-vowel letters*, like the ending letters in the English words. For example: Let, led etc... The Hmong tone markers, for example: Leb, lem etc... The **D** tone is nothing more than starting with the **M** tone and then rise or end quickly with the **V** tone, i.e., tod = tom + ov (*tom-ov*). **I see you** (*ais xis yus – Hmong spelling and phonics*). **You see me** (*yus xis mis*). **I see many** (*ais xis meb-nis*). **How many** (*haus meb-nis*). **Kuv zoo siab** (*-koo zhong shia*) = I am happy.