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BASICS OF LAO LANGUAGE (1/7)

BEING POLITE

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	COMMENT
Hello	Sabaidee	sabai = to feel dee = good
How are you?	Djao sabaidee bo	djao = you bo (at the end of a sentence) = question mark for questions with yes/no answers : „do you feel good?“
I'm fine	Khoi sabaidee	khoi = I, me
And you?	Lae djao de	lae = and (de = final particle inviting to answer)
I'm fine too	Khoi sabaidee kheukan	kheukan = too, also
Thank you	Khob djai	khob = to thank djai = heart
Thank you very much	Khob djai lailai	lai = very lailai = very much
You're welcome / Never mind / No problem	Bo pen niang	bo (not at the end of a sentence) = no, not pen = to be niang = what/ something = „it is nothing“
Please	Seun	
My name is John	Khoi seu John	seu = name (verb and noun)
What is your name?	Djao seu niang	niang = what (?)
Nice to meet you	Gnindi ti dai hudjak djao	gnindi = pleased hudjak = to know s.o. (hu = to know sth.)
Mee too	Khoi kheukan	
Sorry / excuse me	Khaothot	
Goodbye / See you	Popkan mai	popkan = to meet mai = new



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BASICS OF LAO LANGUAGE (2/7)

COMMON VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	COMMENT
To go	Pai	Khoi pai Vang Vieng I go/am going to Vang Vieng
Market	Talad	Djao pai talad You go to the market
Water	Nam	<i>also means river</i>
Toilet	Hong nam	Hong = room
To sleep	Non	Hong non = bedroom
To learn	Hien	Hong hien = school
Rice	Khao	
To eat	Kin khao	Literally : to eat rice
To drink	Kin (or kin nam)	
Want to (do something)	iak	Khoi iak kin khao I want to eat / I am hungry Khoi iak kin (nam) I want to drink (water) / I am thirsty
Want (something)	iak dai	Khoi iak dai nam I want some water
Yes	Men, menlao	Less used : djao, doi
No	Bo, bo men	
Not	<i>Bo (before the verb or adjective)</i>	Khoi bo pai hong hien I don't go/am not going to school Bo dee = bad (literally : not good) <u>Reminder:</u> Bo at the end of the sentence is a question mark for questions with yes/no answers: Djao pai hong hien bo Do you go to (the) school?



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BASICS OF LAO LANGUAGE (3/7)

COMMON VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	COMMENT
Food	ahan	Ahan lao = Lao food
Spicy	phet	<p>Ahan phet = spicy food <i>or</i> the food is spicy (<i>to be</i> is usually not used between a noun and an adjective)</p> <p>Ahan phet bo = Is the food spicy?</p> <p>Ahan bo phet The food is not spicy</p>
To taste good	sepp	<p>Ahan sepp lai lai The food is very good / delicious</p> <p>Sepp bo = is it good? , do you like the food?</p>
To pay	djai	Khoi iak djai I would like to pay / the bill please
To be (location)	iu	Khoi iu hong nam I am in the toilet
Where...?	sai	<p>Djao iu sai = where are you? John iu sai = where is John? Hong hien iu sai = where is the school?</p> <p>Djao pai sai = where are you going? also used as alternative polite form for Djao sabaidee bo (how are you?)</p>
Happy	Dee-djai	<p>(Djai = heart) Bo dee-djai = sad, unhappy</p> <p>Khoi dee-djai = I am happy</p>
Afraid, scared	ian	Djao ian bo = are you scared?
Tired	Meuai	Khoi bo meuai lai I'm not very tired



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BASICS OF LAO LANGUAGE (4/7)

COMMON VOCABULARY

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	COMMENT
Meat	sin	Khoi bo kin sin I don't eat meat / I am vegetarian
Sick, injured	djepp	Khoi djepp = I'm sick Khoi djepp hua = I have a headache Hua = head Khoi djepp thong = my stomach hurts Thong = stomach
To have	Mi	Khoi bo mi nam = I don't have any water Bo mi nam = there is no water Djao mi khao bo = do you have some rice?
English	Angkit	Pasa Angkit = English language Pasa = language Pathed Angkit = England Pathed = Country Khon Angkit = Englishman/-woman Khon = person
French	Flang or Falang or <u>Flangset</u> (Falang <i>also means</i> <i>„foreigner from</i> <i>outside Asia,,</i>	Pasa Flang = French language Pathed Flang = France Khon Flang = Frenchman/-woman
Korean	Kaolee	
Chinese	Djin	
USA	Amelika	
Australian	Ostralee	
German	ielaman	
European	iurop	
Thai	Thai	



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BASICS OF LAO LANGUAGE (5/7)

GRAMMAR

CONCEPT	CONSTRUCTION	COMMENT
Present tense	the verb doesn't change with the subject	<p>Khoi pai = I go Djao pai = you go Lao pai = he/she goes</p> <p>Puak-hao pai = we go (puak = group) Puak-djao pai = you go (<i>plural</i>) Puak-krao pai = they go</p>
Past tense	<p><u>There is only one past tense</u></p> <p>dai is placed <u>before</u> the verb</p>	<p>Khoi dai pai = I went, I have gone</p> <p>Please note: if there is a time indicator in the sentence, the verb stays in the present tense!</p> <p>Meu vanni khoi pai talad (meu vanni = yesterday) Yesterday I went to the market</p>
Future tense	<p><u>There is only one future tense</u></p> <p>sii (or dja) is placed before the verb</p>	<p>Djao sii pai hong hien bo = Will you go to school?</p> <p>Please note: if there is a time indicator in the sentence, the verb stays in the present tense!</p> <p>Meu eun khoi pai talad (meu eun = tomorrow) Tomorrow I will go to the market</p>
Can (<i>permission, ability</i>)	dai is placed <u>at the end of the sentence</u>	<p>Khoi vao pasa Lao dai (vao = speak) I can speak Lao</p> <p>Please remember: Khoi dai vao pasa Lao (past tense) I spoke Lao</p> <p>Khoi dai bo (or simply Dai bo) = can I? , may I? Answers: Dai = you can / Bo dai = you cannot Note: the subjects (khoi, djao) are removed when obvious: djao dai = dai , djao bo dai = bo dai)</p>



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BASICS OF LAO LANGUAGE (6/7)

NUMBERS

NUMBER	LAO	NUMBER	LAO	NUMBER	LAO
1	neung	11	sip-et	30	saam sip
2	song	12	sip song	40	sii sip
3	saam	13	sip saam	50	haa sip
4	sii	14	sip sii	31	saam sip-et
5	haa	15	sip haa	32	saam sip song
6	hok	16	sip hok	43	sii sip saam
7	djet	17	sip djet	54	haa sip sii
8	paet	18	sip paet	21	sao-et
9	kao	19	sip kao	78	djet sip paet
10	sip	20	sao	99	kao sip kao
100	neung loi	267	song loi hok sip djet		
200	song loi	555	haa loi haa sip haa		
300	saam loi	781	djet loi paet sip-et		
150	neung loi haa sip	923	kao loi sao saam		
1 000	neung phan	3 500	saam phan haa loi		
2 000	song phan	1 659	neung phan hok loi haa sip kao		
34 600	saam sip sii phan hok loi	94 765	kao sip sii phan djet loi hok sip haa		
100 000	neung sen	250 000	song sen haa sip phan		
300 000	saam sen	200 050	song sen haa sip		
1 000 000	neung laan	4 000 000	sii laan		
9 234 567	kao laan song sen saam sip sii phan haa loi hok sip djet				



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BASICS OF LAO LANGUAGE (7/7)

BUYING SOMETHING

ENGLISH	PRONUNCIATION	COMMENT
This , this thing	annii	an = thing nii = this
What does this cost? How much is this?	annii taodai	taodai = how much?
Expensive	pheng	
Very expensive	pheng pheng <i>or</i> pheng lai, pheng lailai	
Cheap	bo pheng	

Bargain example

<p>You : how much is it?</p> <p>Vendor : fifty (thousand)</p> <p>You : oh! It's very expensive!</p> <p>Vendor : no, it's not expensive 😊</p> <p>You : it is! 😊 is thirty (thousand) ok?</p> <p>Vendor : oh! I can't! (looking horrified) forty (thousand), ok?</p> <p>You : ok, thank you 😊</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (annii) taodai - haa sip (phan) - oh! pheng lai! - bo (men), bo pheng 😊 - pheng, pheng 😊 saam sip (phan) okey bo - oh! bo dai, bo dai! sii sip okey bo - okey, khob djai 😊
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