

**English – Lao**  
**Small travel dictionary of about 150 useful words**

**How was this dictionary born?**

It's a young Swiss-German guy, Amando, met in a 9-hour bus between Luang Prabang and Luang Nam Tha on my fourth day in Lao, who taught me most of the words presented here. I added to these some other words I happened to need during the rest of my 5-week trip there in January/February 2012. It's in June 2012 that I finally found the time to put all this under an electronic format and as an article on my blog.

**READ THIS TO UNDERSTAND THE WRITTEN PRONOUNCIATION**

As I am not a native English-speaker, I could not have written myself the English way of pronouncing Lao words as accurately as possible as a native speaker. This English-Lao dictionary has been reviewed with Peta from Melbourne, Australia met on my trip. Big thanks to Peta for her help!

1. The sound "l" pronounced like in "I am" is often found in Lao words.

It is written here «ai» (example: lai lai).

2. Bow is pronounced like in "bow tie" or "beau". Bow at the end of a sentence indicates a question while it means a negation when found at the beginning or middle of a sentence.

3. When a vowel is insisted upon in a word, I wrote it several times to insist on it. For example, you don't say "Sab-ba-dee", you say "Sab-ba-deeeeeee » and make the eeee last.

4. The words indicated in brackets in the left column indicate the literal meaning in Lao.

**Note about the numbers (listed at the end)**

The figures 3 to 9 are used with "sip" to form 30 to 90.

Example : 3 = Sam 30 = Sam Sip 7=Djet 70= Djet Sip etc...

20 is an exception and is « sao sip » instead of « song sip ».

Numbers 22 to 29 as well as 32 to 39 etc are built by adding the figure after.

Example : 22 = Sao Sip Song 37= Sam Sip Djet 64 = Hok Sip Siiii

Numbers 11, 21, 31, etc are exceptions. Lao say « et » (like in the word "pet") instead of «noug».

Example : 11= Sip et 21 = Sao et 31= Sam et etc....

**When can you use this dictionary?**

You are walking around and meet children. Ask them "What is your name? How old are you?". If they don't answer you, ask them "Are you afraid of me? Are you shy?".

You are at the market. Try the Asian fruits, they are really different and often really good. Ask "How much?" in the Lao language. Learn the numbers to understand the answer. If something seems too expensive to you, scratch your head and say "Peng Lai! Peng Lai!" Coming from a tourist, it often surprises them and makes them laugh. Up to you now to negotiate in the Lao language the price that seems fair to you.

The other words can be useful to comment on the weather. To ask if someone is tired. To ask someone if they have children and how many. Other words when you take the bus. To ask how long left it is, or where the toilets are, or if you call an hotel and would like to ask if they have a room or if the room has hot water. When you go for food, or want to ask for a drink, or cheer with the Lao people, or else when you play pétanque with them, which is one of the beautiful way of experiencing Lao.

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Don't hesitate to send me an email to [littlepetitepom@gmail.com](mailto:littlepetitepom@gmail.com) to give me some feedback about it or how to improve it. In particular, if during your trip, there is a word that you need many times and wasn't in that dictionary, please send it to me so I can add it there! Thank you.

Have fun!

English	Lao (English pronunciation)
Hello	Sab bai dee
Good-bye	Lagorn
Thank you	Kop chai
very much, a lot	Lai lai
Thank you very much	Kop chai lai lai
No problem!	Bow pe nyong
Of course!	Me lay oh
See you later!	Pop guy mai
Good	Deeeeee
Not good, problem	Bow-dai
Sorry!	Koh tot
Yes	Doi (urh urh)
No	Boh
The weather is cold! (Cold!)	Now lai
The weather is warm! (Warm!)	Hown Lai
Today	Mooh-oo-nih
tomorrow	Mooh-oo-unh
Good night!	Noon lap fan di dooh
Me, I	Koi
You	Jaw
He, him / She, her	Law
We	Pooh-wak ow
you (plural)	Pooh-wak cow
I don't understand.	Coi boh koh jai
I speak lao little.	Coi vow lau dai noi noon
Can you speak slowly?	Jaw vow sas-sa dai boh
How are you?	Sab-ba-deeee bow?
I am fine	Sab-ba-deeee
and you?	Jaw dai?
Where are you from? (people/coming/where)	Con pa-tei day?
What is your name?	Jaw su nyong?
My name is xxxx	Koi su xxxx
How old are you? (You how many years?)	Jaw chack peeee?
xxx years old.	Xxx peeee.
Are you afraid of me?	Jaw ya-an koi bow?
Are you shy?	Jaw I bow? (like I in "I am")
You are clever!	Jaw sa-laaat!
You are fun!	Jaw moo-un
Girl	Poo-sau
Boy	Poo-bau

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beautiful	Nyam lai
You are a beautiful boy!	Jaw poo-bau nyam lai!
Do you live here? (you live place here question?)	Jaw a-sai you bonne bow?
Are you tired?	Jaw mou-urh-eh lai bow?
Are you sad ?	Jaw sock sau bow?
to have	Me-ee
not have	Bow me-ee
You have children ?	Jaw me-ee lou-oo?
You have children how many?	Jaw me-ee lou-oo chack toe?
What is this ?	Nee meh nyong?
What is that ?	Nan mah-an nyong?
Cat	Me-ow
Pig	Moo-oo
Dog	Ma-aaaaah
Small	noi
Big	Nyee-eh
<b>Room</b>	<b>Ung-none</b>
Do you have room?	Me-ee ung-none bow?
water	nam
hot water	nam hown
Do you have hot water?	Me-ee nam hown?
<b>to go</b>	<b>pie</b>
I go to xxxx.	Koi pie xxxx.
I want to go with you.	Koi yak pie nam jaw.
Car	lot
Bus	lot meh
Where is the bus?	Lot meh you say?
toilets	hongk nam
Where?	You say?
Where are the toilets?	Hongk nam you say?
overthere	A-nee (often repeated twice in a row)
I want to go to xxx	Koi yak pie xxx
How long to go to xxxx?	Pie xxxx kai tau die?
How many hours?	Chack sue-ah mongk?
1 more hour (more 1 hour)	Ick noong soh-mongk
3 more hours (more 3 hours)	Ick sam soh-mongk
Bicycle	lot tip
to want	Yak
I want to rent bicycle	Koi yak sau lot tip.
slowly	Sa-sa
Fast	vai
Stop!	Yoot!
<b>to drink</b>	<b>kin mott</b>
water	nam
Do you have water?	Me-ee nam bow?
Tea	Nam sa
Milk	nam nom

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sugar cane drink	nam oi
Ice	nam kon
Do you have ice?	Me-ee nam kon bow?
Cheers! (just before to drink)	Cap-ey!
One more	Ick noongk
<b>to eat</b>	<b>kin cow</b>
I like xxxx!	Koi mack xxxx!
Very good!	Sep lai!
Rice	cow
sticky rice	cow nee-ow
fried rice	cow pat
Bread	cow geeee
Meat	sin
vegetables	pak
banana	Coo-eh
Spicy	mak pet
I don't want spicy.	Koi yak bow mak pet.
Don't put chili.	Bow sigh mak pet
Noodle soup	Cow soi
Other noodle soup	fuu
<b>Numbers / Shopping</b>	
1 2 3 4 5	Noongk Song Sam Seeee Haaaa
6 7 8 9 10	Hock Jet Pet Cow Sip
11	Sip - et
12 13 14 etc...	Sip song Sig sam Sip seeee etc...
20	Sau sip
21	Sau sip-et
30	Sam sip
100	Oi
1000	Pan
market	talat
Where is the market? (Market where?)	Talat you-sey?
How much?	Tao dai?
Too much	Peng lai! (scratch your head) (often repeated twice in a row)
I don't have money	Bow me-ee goon
I don't need	Bow our
<b>Other words sometimes useful</b>	
Here	uni
Forest in Lao very beautiful!	Pam-ai mway Lau nyam-lai!
How do you say in lao?	Passah lau vau nyee-ow dai?
I am sick	Koi boh sabai
woman	Mai nyingk
Help	suai
Why?	Pang nyong?
Who?	Pudai ?
Happy New Year!	Sab-ba-deeee Pee mai!

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elephant	sa-ann
male (animal)	Do-oh-pooh
female (animal)	Do-oh mai
to win	San-nah
to loose	See ah
to play	lin
difficult	Noo nee yaaaa
Easy	kikan
hick-up	Sah ewk
sometimes	bangk-villa
I want to send photo to you	Koi yak songk oop thai jaw
Your address?	Jaw tee yoh?