

Lesson 1 - Tone Markers (Tsiaj Ntawv Cim)

Tsiaj Ntawv Cim Muaj 8 Tug

There are 8 Tone Markers

- 1) B cim siab (liver, heart)
- 2) M cim niam (mom, mother)
- 3) D cim tod (there, over there)
- 4) J cim ntuj (sky, world)
- 5) V cim kuv (me, I)
- 6) UA cim ua (do, to do)
- 7) S cim mus (go, to go, went)
- 8) G cim neeg (human, person, people)

Tone Description

- 1) b high tone
- 2) m low tone
- 3) d fall rising tone
- 4) j falling tone
- 5) v rising tone
- 6) ua mid tone
- 7) s mid falling tone
- 8) g low falling tone

Examples:

- 1) ab am ad aj av a as ag
- 2) ib im id ij iv i is ig
- 3) ub um ud uj uv u us ug
- 4) mab mam mad maj mav ma mas mag
- 5) tib tim tid tij tiv ti tis tig
- 6) ntub ntum ntud ntuj ntuv ntu ntus ntug

Tone changes the meaning of a word. For examples:

- 1) ti(b) - classifier for people (tib neeg) the people
- 2) ti(m) - there (tim ntawv) over there
- 3) ti(d) - there (emphasizing more)
- 4) ti(j) - older brother
- 5) ti(v) - to endure , to owe
- 6) ti - close
- 7) ti(s) - wings
- 8) ti(g) - turn , to turn

More Examples:

B w(b) suab ntaub txhawb nplhaib

M aw(m) daim ntsim ntxuam nom

D to(d) nkawd ntawd nrad niad

J fw(j) noj nruj daj nplooj

V ke(v) tsov dleev nchuav ntshauv

Ua tau khau nphoo tsho ntxhw

S hau(s) nres txhaws ntshuas ntaus

G ta(g) zog ntxaug nruag nplig

Progress Checklist

After finishing this lesson, you should be able to

- Understand and distinguish the differences between the eight tones.
- Be able to tell the tone from words.
- Know the name of all the tone.

* When you are able to do the above, move on to lesson 2! If you are still having troubles, review the lesson until you fully understand all the tones and the letters that represent each tone.

Next Lesson : Simple Vowels (Tsiaj Ntawv Niam Tab)