



Lao Basics: An Introduction to the Lao Language (Audio CD Included) (Tuttle Basics)

By Sam Brier, Phouphanomlack (Tee) Sangkhampone

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This is a concise, do-it-yourself guide to the Lao language

Lao Basics teaches conversational Lao from the very beginning with an emphasis on reading and writing and is the easiest way to learn Lao. Students of Thai will find Lao quite simple, as much of these two languages are the same or very similar. These languages derive from Sanskrit and share many of the same consonants, vowels, vocabulary and grammar. *Lao Basics* is organized so that you first learn to read Lao, write Lao, speak Lao and comprehend the 26 consonants in their tonal classes. Once you have mastered these you will study the 28 vowels in subsets. Within each vowel grouping, you will learn vocabulary, conversational phrases, alphabetical order and sentence structure through exercises that grow more challenging as your vocabulary increases.

As you progress through *Lao Basics*, vocabulary from previous lessons will be repeated regularly and your command of the written and spoken language will steadily improve. And you can do all this on your own. Each chapter's Lao words and exercises have been recorded on the accompanying **MP3 audio-CD**, and all of the exercises answers are in the back of the book.

Highlights of this book are:

- Throughout, review exercises with answer keys help you polish your skills.
- The vocabulary and phrases are written in Lao script, and are accompanied by pronunciations that help English speakers to say them accurately.
- The MP3 audio CD includes every vocabulary item, sample phrases, and exercises, so that you can learn from native voices.

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Editorial Review

From the Author

Lao Basics comes after living in Laos for nearly two years, working for the Vientiane International School, the US embassy, the Lao-American College and the Mekong Fisheries. I loved living in Laos, but I found at the time that there were no good Lao learning books. While visiting Thailand one time, though, I came upon Easy Thai, by Gordon Allision. It really helped me pick up Thai in an efficient manner and used practical vocabulary. After that, I started working on Lao Basics, which was always in my mind: Easy Lao.

My co-author, Tee, was a tremendous help. It took much longer than it should have for me to finish this book, because sometimes, to be honest, it's very easy to pass the days in Laos by doing not a whole lot. Tee pushed me to finish it though, and I am very happy with the result.

Lao Basics is a very thin book with a lot of punch. There is a CD that has all of the Lao spoken by a native speaker to help you with pronunciation; and the format, like Easy Thai is super easy, dare I say, fun, to use. The first chapter for example, teaches the first 4 consonants. You have to practice writing them, and memorizing the sounds, but after you do it, you'll know them backwards and forwards with our practice pages. Then you move on to the next set. Before you know it, you have learned all of the 26 consonants and are moving on to the vowels, the most unique part of the language. With each vowel set, you learn new and useful words that you can use right away. And you'll be translating sentences from Lao to English and vice-versa starting with this first vowel set.

I hope you enjoy learning Lao as much as I have. Once you start, you'll be able to use a Lao dictionary, and a Thai one for that matter. So much of the languages are similar, that you'll find you can get by in both countries with one language, and then you'll learn the other that much easier.

Lao is by far much easier than Thai, and a great place to start.

Check out my other language books: Chinese & Japanese Phrase-Day, and out in 2011, Instant Vietnamese.

About the Author

Sam Brier is the owner of Academic Experiences Abroad, which creates customized study abroad programs to Asian countries.

Phouphanomlack (Tee) Sangkhampone is from Vientiane, Laos, and lives in London. exercises, so that you can learn from native voices. **This is a concise, do-it-yourself guide to the Lao language**

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Curtis Wilson:

Precisely why? Because this Lao Basics: An Introduction to the Lao Language (Audio CD Included) (Tuttle Basics) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book possess such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking means. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I were being you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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