

## Formation of Nouns from Verbs

Placed before a verb, certain words make it a genuine noun. The classifier is the same one that the word used to form it, so:

### **(txoj) KEV**

**With action verbs.**

**(the way)**

**In exceptional cases with names. (+)**

**(Note also the phrase “tau kev” = find a way to.)**

Nws nyiam txoj kev ua xib hwb	- He loves the profession of being a teacher.
Nej yuav tseg txoj kev sib ntaus	- They will cease to beat each other.
Lawv tos txoj kev thaj yeeb	- They long for peace.
Txoj kev mus ua si no, lom zem heev	- The outing was fun.
Kev noj kev haus nyuaj heev	- Life is difficult.
Peb tsim kev cog nplej	- We are initiating the planting of rice.
Hais txoj kev tu npua...	- Speaking of the raising of pigs...
Kuv xyeej txoj kev kawm ntawv	- I despise school.
Nej tej kev kawm ntawv zoo li cas?	- How are your studies?
Los tau kev neej kev tsav (+)	- Come find your relatives.
Kev tsov kev rog tu lawm (+)	- The war has subsided.

### **(-) QHOV**

**With abstract verb-adjectives.**

**(the thing)**

Qhov zoo, phem, zoo nkauj	- The good, the bad, and the beautiful.
Qhov ntev, dav, siab	- Length, width, height
Qhov hnyav, pom kev	- Weight, light
Qhov sov, txias, no	- Heat, cool, cold
Qhov ntau, qhov tsawg	- At most, at least
Qhov nrawm, qhov qeeb	- At the earliest, no later than
(Txij lub hauv paus) txog qhov kawg	- (Since the beginning) to the end.
Qhov zoo nkauj yog ib qho tseem ceeb	- Beauty is important.
Nws yog peb qhov pom kev	- It is our light.
Kuv xyeej qhov no	- I hate the cold.
Qhov ntau muaj 20 leej	- There are twenty people at the most.
Kuv nyob hauv qhov tsaus ntuj	- I am in the dark.

Note: Certain verbs may permit either KEV or QHOV depending on how abstract the term is, as follows:

Muaj kev nyuaj	- Have difficulty
Qhov nyuaj	
Raug txoj kev txom nyem	- Falling into poverty
Qhov txom nyem	
Nyam txoj kev ncaj	- Love righteousness.
qhov ncaj	

**(qhov) CHAW To form nouns of place.  
(the place)**

Mus tom qhov chaw thiav dej - Go to the dam.  
Yog ib qhov chaw teev ntuj - It is a chapel.  
Tsis muaj chaw cog zaub - There is no garden.

Or in the sense of: Instead of..., good reason to...

Peb muaj chaw ntxov siab - I have good reason to be concerned.  
Kuv muaj chaw mus - I have good reason to go.  
“ ua li no - “ to do so.  
“ hais li no - “ to speak this way.  
Kev haum xeeb thiab sib fim yog ib qho - Our teamwork and our companions  
chaw ua kom peb vam meej affect our success.

**( lo ) LUS For everything related to speech and writing.  
( speech)**

Thov lus kheev - Ask permission.  
Lawv mloog lus ntuas twj ywm - They listen to the sermon in silence.  
Tsis kam mloog kuv lus qhuab - He does not want to listen to my admonition.  
Hais lus teev Ntuj meej meej - Make your prayers clear.  
(Saib kev teev Ntuj) (= Take care prayers)  
Muaj lus ua tsaug tias... - I must thank you for...  
Muaj lus nco txog nej sawv daws - I want to tell you that I think of you.  
Tau ntev lawm, mas kuv muaj lus xav - A while ago, I wanted to exchange news  
nrog nej sib fi xov kawg with you.

**( - ) ZAJ Four any component of a song, a reading, a prayer  
( piece)**

Nws hu ib zag nkauj - He sings a song.  
Hais ib zag teev Ntuj - Say a prayer.

**(lub) SIAB For everything that affects the heart, feelings, moral qualities, thought... (The Liver)  
The “liver” with its parallel “lungs” -lub siab lub ntsws - is to the Hmong what the heart is to the French.**

Ua tsis tau raws li lub siab nyiam thiab xav - We can not do according to his heart or desire.

Note: We will not discuss here the expression “ua” ( do ) + a verb, although they often translate into French as a noun.

Ua zoo, ua phem - Do good, do bad.  
Ua nrov, ua ncha - Make noise  
Ua noj, ua noj ua haus - Cook, make a living.