

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE AND ADVERBS THAT ARE DERIVED

PREPOSITIONS IN GENERAL OR VERBS OF PLACE

Preliminary notes

Wealth of certain place prepositions - While French uses a lot of verbs to indicate a position or direction, the hmong prefers to play with prepositions.

Kuv mus pem lub zos - I'm going up to the village..
for; I'm going up to the village.
Kuv mus nram nws - I'm going down to his house.
for: I go down to his house.

On the other hand, in some common expressions, preposition is simply ignored, when it is self-evident.

Kuv los tsev - I'm going home.
Kuv mus Khej Me - I'm going (to) Khek Noy.

- The Hmong being a mountain people, the vertical position is as important to them, if not more, than the horizontal position. They therefore have prepositions: pem, nram, qaum, qab, tim .. which seem to have been created only in relation to the mountain, the valley, the slopes below or above, and which will sometimes be difficult to translate, because we don't have them. So when we say, "I'm going to their house," without more nuance, the Hmong will specify whether these people live higher, lower, at the same level or opposite.

Kuv mus tom lawv - I'm going to their house (there)
Kuv mus pem lawv - " (on the mountain)
Kuv mus nram lawv - " (in the valley)
Kuv mus tim lawv - " (opposite)

The cardinal points are also seen in relation to altitude, at least north and south. The North, corresponding to the mountainous regions of Asia, is referred to as "the upper part of the country" (pem qaum teb); the South, corresponding to the plains of the delta, as "the low part" (nram qab teb). East and West are evidently determined by sunrise or sunset, the East being "the side from which the sun comes out" (sab hnuv tawm), and the west "the side where it sets" (sab hnuv poob).

When we cannot know if one place is higher than another in real altitude, then we will place it according to its north-south position; it will say: "I am going up to them", if their village is more north than mine, or, on the contrary, "I'm going down to their house" if their village is further south. There is no preposition to determine the East-West position, but if the two villages were to be separated by some natural obstacle (a big river or a border, for example), they will also say, "I'm going to their house opposite."

Kuv mus pem lawv - I'm going to their house (north).

Kuv mus nram lawv	-	"	"	(south).
Kuv mus tim lawv	-	"	"	(in Laos).

Poverty for others

If Hmong is very rich in certain place prepositions, it is, on the other hand, very poor to express situations "in front" and "behind"; these situations have no direct translation and it is necessary to resort to various ways of translating them. We will see, in the same way further on, that the corresponding situations "before," and, "after," in regards to time, are also rather difficult to use.

Place prepositions and adverbs

Each preposition of place corresponds to an equivalent adverb. Since most of these prepositions contain the M tone, these changes of function are then concretized, as we already know, by a change of tone, from M to D. Otherwise, the tone simply remains unchanged.

nyob tom tsev	-	he's at the house
lub tsev tod	-	the house there
nyob nraum roob	-	he is behind the mountain
nyob sab nraud	-	he's behind
nyob hauv tsev	-	he's in the house
nyob hauv	-	he's inside
nyob nruab nrab peb	-	he's among us
nyob nruab nrab	-	he's in the middle

Prepositions in general and verbs

The fact that the hmong, so rich in certain prepositions, is so poor in others is also due to the fact that not only does it use verbs that are already loaded with prepositional nuance that it is therefore useless to specify further (so: nyob = be at, ze = be near, nrog = be with . . . but that it prefers to decompose an action and use two verbs rendering the preposition null and void; thus: "mus Khej Me los" - "go to Khek Noy and come back" or "come back from Khek Noy".

This then leads us to two remarks:

- Just as speaking of the adjectives we made it more correct to speak of verbs-adjectives, so it would be more correct here to speak sometimes (but not always) verbs-prepositions, because what we call preposition may not be a verb loaded with a prepositional meaning used as a preposition. The relationship between the two uses of the same word, as a verb or as a preposition, is sometimes so close that, for our part, it sometimes seems impossible to

determine its nature (thus, in the expression: "muab siab rau hauj lwm" - "apply "rau" can be considered as verb as well as a preposition. We consider, however, that this is only a matter of opinion and that the debate is without importance.

- The second point is much more important. Some French prepositions have no direct equivalent, verb or other, in hmong, and result only in the use of combined verbs, which alone can render any idea and of:

+Accompanying (going with or without your friend)

+By means (go by car, do with a knife, send a letter from a friend...)

+Origin (come from the village, receive a letter from him...)

+Passing through (passing through the city)

As is understood, this chapter on prepositions must therefore necessarily refer to the chapter of the combined verbs.

QHOV First of all, it is a noun; it means "place" (or "thing," "hole") But it is used to form many place adverbs.
It also serves as a classifier for "chaw", and means "the place."

Qhov no	- Here (or "this")
Qhov twg?	- Where?
Mus tas qhov txhia chaw	- Go all over the place.
Mus qhov txhia qhov chaw	- Go all over the place.
Muab cia rau ib qho (chaw)	- Take him somewhere.
Mus ntau qhov chaw	- Going to a lot of places.

NYOB Verb, it means "to be," "to live at."
Serves as a support for many prepositions and adverbs of place in the sense of "at." But can be used alone, especially with proper place names.

Nyob ntawm no, nyob qhov no	
Nyob ntawd, tod, tid, puag tid	- Right here.
	- There, over there, opposite here, over there opposite us.
Nyob tom nej nyob	
Puas muaj neeg nyob tsev	- Over there where you live.
Nyob Thaib Teb, nyob teb	- Is there anyone at home?
	- In Thailand, in the fields.

NTAWM Place taken as a point (!= hauv, place taken as an range).

Here Nyob ntawd - There (be there, not far).

(without movement)

Ntawm no, nyob ntawm no	- Here (be here)
Tso ntawm av, tso nyob ntawm kev	- Leave it on the ground, on the road.
Nyob ntawm kev lawv tau sib cav	- On the way, they had a fight.
Nyob ntawm sab xis, sab laug	- Right, left.
Kuv tsis coj nyiaj ntawm kuv	- I have no money on me.
Txoj kev hla ntawm peb zos	- The road runs through the village.

(figurative)

Nyob ntawm koj	- It's up to you.
Tsis dua ntawm koj	- As you wish.

(with movement - for a very short distance)

Los ntawm no	- Come here.
Mus ntawm tsev (hauv tsev)	- Go home.

From (often merely supporting the original idea)

Thov roj ntawm koj rau nws	- I ask you for oil for him.
Nws nug (ntawm) kuv	- He asked me.
Nws qiv ntawm kuv	- He borrowed it from me.
Chua ntia lub ntim ntawm kuv tes	- They ripped the bowl out of my hands.
Yuav poj niam ntawm cov Lis	- Take clan wife Lis.
Ntawm no mus txog Vees Cas	- From here to Vientiane.
Ntawm qhov no mus tom tsev	- Go from here to home.
Txais ib tsab ntawv ntawm nws tuaj	- Receive a letter from him.
Peb tuaj ntawm Moos Xaj tuaj	- We're from Sam Neua.
Ntiab nws tawm ntawm lub zos mus	- Drive him out of the village.
Nteg txog ntawm 2 los 3 lub qe	- Lay 2 to 3 eggs a day.
Nqe nce ntawm 5 bas mus rau 7 bas	- Prices go up from 5 to 7 baths.
Nqe poob ntawm 7 bas los rau 5 bas	- The prices fall from 7 to 5 baths.

RAU

Verb, it means "put," "place." Preposition, without always being easy to distinguish from the verb.

at (without movement)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Koj nyob rau qhov twg? | - Where do you live? |
| Kuv nyob rau tom nws | - I live with him. |
| Nyob rau qhov ub qhov no | - Living here or there. |
| Kawm ntawv nyob rau Vees Cas | - I'm studying in Vientiane. |

(with movement)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Peb khiav los rau Moos Loob | - We fled to Luang Prabang. |
| Xa ib fij nra mus rau lb zos | - Send the luggage to the village. |
| Los Moos Loob los rau Vees Cas | - Coming back from L.P. to Vientiane. |
| Mus lub zos twg rau lub zos twg? | - What, and what village have you been to? |
| Koj mus qhov twg rau qhov twg? | - Where and where have you been? |
| Tuaj kawm ntawv rau Vees Cas | - Come to Vientiane to study. |
| Rov qab mus nyob rau ped | - Return to live on the mountains. |
| Mus tos nws rau nram lub zos | - Go and get him from the village. |
| Muaj deb li qhov no mus rau X | - There is the distance from here to X. |

(sometimes difficult to distinguish from the verb)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Nqa nws los rau ntawm av | - Bring (a drowned man) back to the shore. |
| Muab rau lub rooj | - Put on the table. |
| Txawb pob zeb rau saum lub tsev | - Throw stones up on the house. |
| Ntaus thwj rau saum tsab ntawv | - Stamp a letter. |
| Muab rau hauv hnab | - Put it in the bag. |
| Thawb mus rau hauv hluav taws | - Push him into the fire. |
| Pov rau hauv hiav txwv | - Throw it into the sea. |
| Muab rau hauv qab rooj | - Put it under the table. |

At (dative - is often used without a noun, if it has already been expressed)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Nws hais rau kuv tias... | - He told me that ... |
| Nws nroo rau tus nom tias... | - He shouted to the chief that ... |
| Kuv pub rau koj | - I'll give it to you. |
| Kuv muab phau ntawv no rau koj | - I'll give you this book. |
| Ua phem rau lawv | - To harm others. |
| Tso siab rau lawv | - Trust others. |
| Yuj lias rau hluas nkauj | - Dreaming about girls. |
| Siab dai dhuam rau hluas nkauj | - Having the heart, attached to the girls |
| Tis npe rau me nyuam | - Give the child a name. |
| Muab siab rau kawm ntawv | - Apply to study. |

(in the sense of "for," "for the benefit of," "towards")

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Ua rau kuv | - Do it for me. |
| Thov ntuj rau lawv | - Praying to God for them. |
| Ua nruj rau lawv | - Be strict to others. |

(with a noun + a verb, in the sense of "for it to" in English)

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Hais rau lawv mloog | - Tell them about it, which they listen to. |
| Hais rau lawv mus | - Tell them to go. |
| Qhia rau lawv paub | - Inform them, let them know. |
| Ua nas rau lawv saib | - Show them a movie. |
| Pub rau lawv noj | - Give them food. |

TOM A certain distance.

There	Nyob tod, nyob sab tod	- There (+ far as "ntawd").
	Nyob tom lawv	- At home there.
	Lub tsev tod, lub tsev tom no	- The (this) house over there.
	Mus tom teb, tom khw	- Go to the fields, to the market.
	Mus tom lawv, tom tej	- Go to their homes, to people's homes.

TIM Distance doesn't matter; means "in front," "on the other side." Compared to mountain, river, road, border, obstacle

Opposite, on the other side

Nyob tid, nyob tim tej	- Opposite, at your house opposite us.
Kuv mus tim lawv	- I'm going to their house opposite us.
Kuv mus tim lub roob	- I'm going to the mountain opposite us.
Kuv mus tim lub tsev tid	- I'm going to the house opposite us.
Nws mus tim ntug dej	- It goes to the other bank.
Mus sab ntug tim no	- Dock on this side of the river.
Mus sab ntug tim ub	- Dock on the other side of the river.
Hla txoj kev mus sab tid	- Cross the road.
Nres lub tsheb sab tim no	- Park on this side of the road.
Nres lub tsheb sab tim ub	- Park on the other side of the road.
Nws nyob tim Thaib Teb	- He lives in Thailand (seen in Laos).
Tim qab ntug	- On the horizon.

**LAWM Verb, means "leave."
Preposition ahead of others and meaning a certain distance.**

Cia peb mus lawm tom lawv	- Let us go to their house.
Nws khiav lawm pem Tsheej Maim	- He fled to Chiang Mai.

PUAG Precedes the prepositions to insist on the distance, "in the distance". Same use regarding time.

Nyob puag tod, nrad, ped	- There in the distance, opposite ...
Mob puag hauv lub siab	- Having pain in the bowels
Nyob puag saum ntsis ntoo	- Way at the top of the tree.
Puag hnoob hnub	- Four days ago.
Puag nag nraus	- In four days.
Puag thaud	- A long time ago ...

UB In contrast to "no" (this side), it means "that side over there".

Nyob sab ntug dej tim no	- On the bank where we are.
Nyob sab ntug dej tim ub	- On the opposite bank.

At the end of the sentence, also to insist on the distance. With "puag" it even acts as an "absolute superlative". Same use with time issues.

Compare:

Nyob saud	- On top.
Nyob saum ub	- Way up on it.
Nyob puag saum ub	- All the way up there.
Puag tim ub	- On the hill on the horizon.
Puag pem ub	- All the way to the top of the mountain.
Puag thaum ub	- A long, long time ago.

HAUV

- In** (**!=nraum**) Nyob hauv, nyob hauv phij xab
Mus hauv tsev
Mus hauv nroog (tom nroog)
Nws nyob hauv txaj
Kuv nyob hauv lawv
Nas nyob hauv av
Faus hauv av
Hauv ntuj ntsa ntsa
(Nyob hauv plawv = in the center)
Nyob hauv plawv zos
- Among** Nyob hauv lawv leej twg loj dua?
Xaiv 1 tug neeg nyob hauv 3 tug
- Below** (**!=saum**) Nyob hauv, ua si hauv
Nyob txheej hauv (saud)
Sab hauv (saud)
Nqe mus hauv (nce mus saud)
Poob hauv av
Nyob hauv av
Hmoob nyob hauv av
Ntog rau hauv av
100 bas rov hav hauv (saud)
- Top** lub hauv toj, pem hauv toj
lub hauv sab, pem hauv sab
lub hauv dej, pem hauv dej
lub hauv zos, pem hauv zos
lub hauv plaj, tom hauv plaj
lub hauv mis, lub hauv paus
- Inside, in the crate.
- Go back in the house.
- Going into town (in the city)
- He's in bed.
- I'm staying with them.
- Mice live underground.
- Bury underground.
- At sunrise.

- In the center of the village.

- What is the biggest of them?
- Choose one of the three people.

- Down below, have fun down there.
- On the lower floor (top).
- Side below (above).
- Go down (go up).
- Falling to the ground (from a height).
- Being on the floor.
- The Hmong live on the ground.
- Falling to the ground (stumbling).
- One hundred baths and below (above).

- the summit, at the top.
- heights, on heights.
- upstream, upstream.
- the top of the village
- the top of the center piece.
- the nipple of the breast, the origin.

NRUAB

Inside, in the middle of

- Nyob nruab, nyob nruab zog
Pw nruab zog
Nyob nruab liaj nruab teb
Muaj mob nruab ce
Nyob nruab thiab
Xav nyob nruab siab
Tsim dheev nruab dab ntub
Poj niam nyob nruab hli
Nruab hnub
- Inside, inside the village
- He sleeps in the village, but not at home.
- Living in the middle of the fields.
- Have an internal illness.
- In the womb.
- Reflect internally.
- Waking up in the middle of sleep.
- Woman in the month of delivery.
- During the day.

NRUAB NRAB (hauv)

In the middle

- Nyob nruab nrab (hauv) daim teb
Nyob nruab nrab pab neeg
Coj nws los nyob nruab nrab lawv
Nyob nruab nrab, ua neeg nruab nrab
- In the middle of the fields.
- In the middle of the crowd.
- Bring him into the middle of them.
- Keep neutral.

Between

- Ob tug sawv, mus kis nruab nrab
Txoj kev mus ntawm ob lub tsev kis
nruab nrab
- Passing between two people standing
- The path passes between the two houses.

NRAUM

Outside, on the outside

(!=nruab) Nyob nraud, sab nraud
Nws mus nraud lawm
Nws nyob nraum zoov
Nyob nraum tsev
Nyob tsev sab nraud
Nyob sab tsev nraud
Ntseeg sab nraud xwb
Neeg zoo sab nraud xwb

- Outside, the outside side.
- He went outside.
- It is outside (not necessarily the forest)
- Outside the house.
- Outside the house.
- Outside the house.
- Believe in appearance only.
- Only good on the outside.

Behind, upside down from

(!=ntej) Nyob nraud, sab nraud
Lub roob nraud
Lub zos nyob nraum lub roob
Mus nraum lawv
Nyob nraum nraub qaum
Nyob sab phau ntawv nraud
Nyob sab nraum phau ntawv

- Behind, the back side.
- The mountain behind this one.
- The village is behind the mountain.
- Go to their house, behind the mountain.
- Behind my back, behind me.
- It's behind the book.
- It's behind the book.

SAUM On, at the top (except for the mountain)

On Nyob saud, nyob saum no
(!=hauv) Sab saud (sab hauv)
Nqa mus tso saum av
Muab rau saum lub rooj
Nyob txheej saud (hauv)
100 bas rov yav saud (hauv)

- At the top, up here.
- Side above (side below).
- Drop it on the ground.
- Put it on the table.
- The upper floor (lower).
- One hundred baths and above (below).

Above (quote), to come (time)

(!=nram) Cov neeg hais saum no...
Cov neeg nyob hauv hais los no
Hnub puav saum no, kuv yuav mus

- These people mentioned above...
- These people mentioned above...
- I'll go one of these days.

PEM On, up (but only for the mountain)

On Nyob ped, nyob pem no
(!=nram) Nyob pem roob, pem teb
Coj nws mus rau pem nws tsev

- At the top, here on the mountain.
- On the mountain, up in the fields.
- Accompany him to his home on the mountain.

QAUM

The upper part

(!=qab) Lub qaum tes, taw, nplooj, tsev
Sab qaum tes, taw, nplooj, tsev
Lub qaum ntuj, saum qaum ntuj
Nyob pem qaum kev, zos
Nyob pem qaum tsev

- The back of the hand, the top of the foot, the leaf, the ceiling.
- The sky, to the sky.
- Down the road, down the village.
- Behind the house (whose front is always facing the valley)

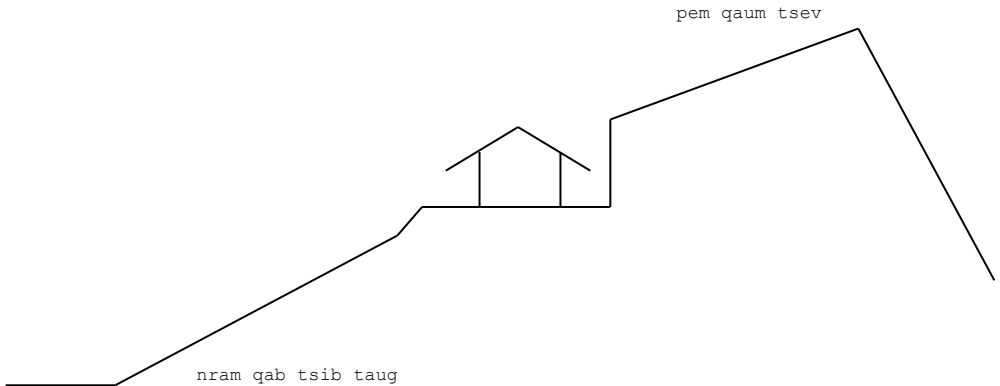
North Nyob pem qaum Teb

- In the north of the country (mountainous).

Back, behind, for people only

Nraum nws lub nraub qaum
Nws tuaj txog nws sab nraub qaum
Lub nraub qaum
Tig nraub qaum los kuv saib

- Behind his back, behind him.
- Come from behind him.
- The back.
- Turn your back, as I look.



NRAM

downhill, (for the valley only)

(!=pem) Nyob nrad, nyob nram no
 Nyob nram hav (!= pem toj)
 Nyob nram teb, Khoos Thev
 Nyob nram lawv
 Nej mus txoj kev nrad
 Nram qab kev, dej, Teb

- Downhill, down here.
- In the valley (!= on the mountain).
- Down in the fields in Bangkok.
- At their home (lower than me)
- Take the path below
- Down the road, downstream, to the south.

Below

(!=saum) Kuv tej hauj lwm yog li nram no
 Tej hauj lwm mus zoo li kuv yuav hais
 nram no
 Tau tsis ntsev nram no...
 Ob lub hli nram ntej no...
 Kuv twb ua tas nram ntej nram ntxov

- My activities are as follows:
- My activities are as follows:
- Not long ago ...
- In the last two months ...
- A long time ago, I already did it.

QAB Following the classifier, it is taken as a preposition. Preceded by the classifier, it is taken as its noun.

Under Lub qab nthab, lub qab ru(v) tsev - The underside of the attic, the ceiling.
(!=saum) Nyob hauv qab - Underneath.
Nyob hauv qab lawj - Under the house (on stilts).
Nyob hauv qab lub hnab - Under the bag.

At the bottom Lub qab hnab - The bottom of the bag.
Nyob hauv lub qab hnab - At the bottom of the bag.
Nyob hauv qab thu dej - At the bottom of the water.
Nqe mus hauv qab - Go to the bottom.
Poob qab tsuas - Falling to the bottom of the cliff.

At the lower part of, at the foot of, below

(!=qaum) Hauv qab ntoo - At the foot of the tree.
Nyob nram qab ke(v) - Down the road.
Nyob nram qab tsib taug - Down at the house. (Preferred to "nram qab tse(v)")
Tom qab no... - Finally (this letter), ..
Lub qab hlis no (= lub hli no tas) - At the end of this month.
(!=lub hli no xiab) - (At the beginning of this month).

South Nyob nram qab Teb - In the south of the country (towards the plains).

Do it again, re ... (rov (qab) + verb).

Rov (qab) mus, ... ua, ... xa Start again, re-do, re-send.

Go back

Mus rov qab, xa... - Go backwards, send back..
Muab rov qab, thim rov qab - Return it.
Tig rov tom qab - Turn back.
Ua neej rov qab - Falling into misery.

Backwards

Ua tej yam rov qab - Doing things backwards.
Hais lus rov qab - Speak backwards.
Hnav lub tsho rov qab - Put your shirt backwards.

Has the back of, past (for time).

(!=ua ntej) Nco qab (1)
Nyob tom qab - Remember.
Zaum tom qab tsheb (=tom tw nkoj) - Being in the back.
(!=tom taub hau) - Sit in the back.
Nws lawv kuv qab - (Sit at the front).
Xav tom ntej tom qab - He's following me.
Tom qab no, lub hli tom qab - Think carefully about the consequences.
Yav tom qab - Recently, last month.
- In the past.

(The) next, after, later (in time) (1)

Yav tom qab - In the future, later.
Hnub tom qab, 3 hnub tom qab los - The next day, three days after.
Tau 6 hnub tom qab nws tuaj - Six days after he came.
Peb noj mov tom qab - We'll eat later.
Nws ua hauj lwm lawv kuv qab - He did his job after me.

(1) See the notes given for "ua ntej," next page.

NTEJ

Forward of (1)

(!=qab) Nyob ntawm kuv <u>hauv ntej</u>	- In front of me.
Nyob tom kuv hauv ntej	- In front of me.
Nab nyob tom tus dev hauv ntej	- The snake is in front of the dog.
Tom hauv ntej muaj ib lub tsev	- Up ahead, there's a house.
Cua tuaj tom lawv hauv ntej tuaj	- The wind was coming facing them.
Kuv huas lawv <u>ntej</u>	- I'm overtaking them.
Lawv sis huas <u>ntej</u>	- They compete for the front.
Wb sis twv ntej os!	- Let's race!
Koj mus <u>ua ntej</u>	- Go ahead, go ahead.
Koj ua kuv <u>ntej</u>	- Get in front of me, go before me.
Nws nce hauv nkoj ua kuv ntej	- He got on the boat before me.

In advance

(!=lig) Tuaj, ua hauj lwm ua ntej	- Come, do your job early.
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Before (in time) (2)

(!=qab) Zaum ua ntej, thawj hnuab ua ntej	- The previous time, the day before.
Ob xyoo ua ntej	- Two years ago.
Tau tsis ntev <u>nram ntej</u> no	- Not long ago.
Ob xyoo nram ntej no	- Those past two years.
Yav tom ntej, lub caij tom ntej	- In the future.
Tshuav 6 hnuab tom ntej no	- In the next six days.
Tom ntej no	- Very soon.

(1) "In front of," "behind" can therefore be translated in many ways:

- For people, we will say:	
Nyob ntawm kuv xub ntiag	- In front of me (nearby)
Nyob ntawm kuv hauv ntej	- " (wider)
Nyob tom kuv hauv ntej	- " (even wider)
Nyob nraum kuv sab nraub qaum	- Behind me (nearby)
Nyob tom kuv qab	- " (wider)
- For mountainside houses:	
Nyob nram qab tsib taug	- Down below the house.
Nyob pem qaum tsev	- At the top of the house.
- For the mountains:	
Nyob lub roob sab no	- On this side of the mountain.
Nyob lub roob sab nraud	- On the back side of the mountain.
- Or for many other things:	
Nyob ntoo sab no	- On this side of the tree.
Nyob ntoo sab tod	- On the other side of the tree.

(2) The terms "tom qab" and "tom ntej" are therefore very ambiguous. "Tom qab", indeed, can just as well mean "a step back", so the past, or "after", and therefore a future. Similarly, "tom ntej" can mean "before," thus the past, or "forward," and thus a future. People are themselves confused. It is therefore preferable to use clearer expressions: "yav tas los lawm" rather than "yav tom qab", for example, to talk about the past; but "yav tom ntej" is generally understood to designate the future.

ZE Verb, it means "to be close to."

Preposition, it means "near."

- Near to** Nyob ze ze, nyob ze ntawm no - Nearby, near here.
Nyob ze kev, tsev - Near the road, the house.
Muaj ze ze ntawm 20 leej - There are nearly twenty people.

DEB Verb, it means "to be far from."

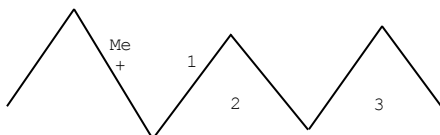
Preposition, it means "far from."

- Far from** Nyob deb deb, nyob deb ntawm no - Far away, far from here.
Nyob tsis deb tsis ze - Living not far away.
Nyob deb peb lub zos - Away from our village.

SAB It's a noun; it means "side." But we find it in so many expressions that it deserves mention.

We will notice that it does not have a classifier and that it can either precede, or follow the noun without changing the meaning. If it precedes the noun, the noun then loses its classifier by becoming an epithet, while, if it follows it, the noun regains its rights and retains its classifier.

Side



- Nws nyob
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| tid | - It is opposite | 1 |
| sab tid | - on the side in front | 1 |
| tim lub roob | - on the mountain in front | 2 |
| lub roob tid | - on the mountain in front | 2 |
| sab roob tid | - on the mount side. opposite | 1 |
| sab tim roob tid | - on the mount side. opposite | 1 |
| lub roob sab tid | - on the mountain in front | 2 |
| lub roob sab puag tim ub | - on the mountain. there in front | 3 |



- Nws nyob
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
| nraud | - It is behind | 1 |
| sab nraud | - on the back side | 1 |
| nraum lub roob | - behind the Mountain | 1 |
| lub roob nraud | - on the mountain behind | 3 |
| sab roob nraud | - on the back side of the mount. | 1,2 |
| sab nraum roob | - on the back side of the mount. | 1,2 |
| lub roob sab nraud | - on the back side of the mount. | 1,2 |
| lub roob no sab nraud | - on the backside of this mountain. | 1 |
| lub roob tid sab nraud | - back side of this mount. opposite | 2 |
| lub roob tid lub sab nraud | - Mountain behind the one in front | 3 |
| lub roob sab puag nraum ub | - Mount. behind in the distance | 3 |
| lub roob puag tim ub sab nraud | - behind the mount. in the distance | 4 |

- next to** Zaum ntawm kuv ib sab - Sit next to me.
Nyob ntawm kuv ib sab tsev - On one side of the house.

NCIG Verb, it means "go around," "circle."

Preposition, it means "around."

But it may as well be a noun or adverb.

Around

Mus ncig mus xyuas teb chaws	- Go around the country.
Mus ncig zej zos	- Go around the villages.
Nej los ncig kuv	- Come around me.
Xov laj kab ncig tsev	- Put palisade around house.
Ncig lawv lub qhov nyob	- All around where they are.
Nyob ncig	- All around.
Xam ncig lees	- Look all around.
Mus ua ib ncig, ntsia ib ncig	- Circulate, look around.
Ua ib ncig	- Take a walk.
Saib tas cov zos nyob ib ncig	- Look at the villages all around.
Peb mus tej zog ib ncig ntawm no	- Let's go to the surrounding villages.
Nyob ib ncig tsis muaj zos	- There is no village in the vicinity
Xov ncha tas qhov txhia chaw ib ncig ntawm lub zos.	- The news spread everywhere, all around the village.

TXOG Verb, it means "to arrive at."

Preposition, it means "up to," "about."

Until

Nws tuaj txog lawm	- He arrived.
Nws mus tsis txog lub zos	- He did not reach the village.
Kuv mus txog nws lub tsev	- I'm going all the way to his house.
Cov npua, peb muaj txog 30 tus	- We have up to 30 pigs.
Ib tug, tus nqe yog txog 500 bas	- A pig is worth up to 500 baths.
Ib hnuv, nteg txog ntawm 80 los 90 lub qe	- They lay 80 to 90 eggs.
Los txog qhov no	- Up to here (place or time).
Txog qhov kawg	- Until the end, until the end.
Kuv ua txog txij no xwb	- I'm only doing it so far.
Kuv xa koj txog txij no xwb	- I'll walk you there.
Cov pab, muaj txog ntawm 9 leej	- At least nine people helped.
Lawv pab txog ntawm 3, 4 hnuv	- They helped for at least 3, 4 days.

About

Kuv nco txog koj	- I remember you.
Xav txog luag tej	- Think of the others.
Kuv hais txog qhov ntawd	- I am talking about it.
Hu txog nws lub npe	- Call someone.
Tuav txog nws lub npe ua...	- Use his name to ...
<u>Hais txog</u> qhov ntawd	- As for that ...
Hais txog Ntawm Pab Lis Thawj	- As for the Council ...
Hais txog txoj kev tuaj tsham no	- As for these visits.

(Compare with "ntawm" = "as for": "Ntawm kuv mas = As for me")

TXIJ

Since	Ntxuav tes txij luj tshib	- Washing your arms from the elbows.
from	Txij Vees Cas mus...	- Since Vientiane ...
	Txij thaum yug los txog tas no	- Since my birth ...
	Txij hnuv kuv tuaj los lawm...	- Since I came ...
	Txij lub 4 hlis no los, mas...	- Since last April ...
	Txij hnuv no mus...	- From now on...
	Txij lub hauv paus txog qhov kawg	- From the beginning to the end.

NROG Verb, it means "to accompany," "to be with," "to follow."
 It can be translated as a preposition in the sense of "with", but it must then be remembered that it puts itself before the main verb and that it can only be used to mark accompaniment with beings.

With Nej nrog peb nyob - Stay with us.
 Koj puas nrog kuv mus yos? - Are you going for a walk with me?
 Tsis muaj leej twg nrog kuv mus - No one comes with me.
 Kuv nrog lawv tham - I talked with them.
 Nws nrog kuv tuaj - He came with me.
 Kuv nrog nej sawv daws zoo siab - I'm happy for you.

(But note the difference with "nrog" placed second)
 Nws tuaj nrog kuv (nyob) - He came (living) with me.
 Tus twm mus nrog kab - The cow goes following the furrow.
 Phua ntoo tawg nrog lis - Slice the wood in the direction of the grain.
 Tsis yog ib tug neeg nrog peb - He is not one of us.
 Hu nkauj nrog pab nruag - Sing along with the tam-tam.
 Caw mus nrog noj tshoob - Invite you to join the wedding.

(For food, the accompaniment results in the use of "ntxuag" - "seasoned with")
 Koj noj mov ntxuag dab tsi? - What do you eat your rice with?
 Ntxuag nqaij los qe? - With meat or eggs?

VIM (yog vim, yib vim)
Because Vim koj, kuv thiaj tuaj - Because of you, I came.
of Peb pluag yog vim koj - We're poor because of you.
 Yib vim koj, peb thiaj li yuam kev - It's because of you that we we are deceived.