

English Times

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Photo by: Sinxay Thavixay



Photo by: Teng Char

Helping Yourself while Helping Others

Interview with Lenou Sypaseut by Bill Kiphavong

What inspired you to start this book and coffee shop? I had experience working at a library and I study law, so these are part of what gave me the idea, but the main inspiration came from my ideas and some money that I saved when I went to study and work in Australia.

When did you start? I moved here in November and started then. (see map on p16)

Why did you decide to make both a library and a coffee shop? The reason that I created the coffee shop and the library at the same time is because I do not have time to make money, so the coffee shop is the part where I can earn some money for my daily life, to run the library, and to support myself through university. If I only ran the library I think it would be impossible.

How is it going? Everything is going quite well; many kids and friends are interested.

What is your goal? The main goal is to support Lao kids or Lao people so they have the opportunity to study to get a good and high level of education like abroad and to read more and more.

Why did you decide to contribute to society? I contribute because I would like to help and support Lao people as much as I can to make it easier for them to get knowledge, especially poor people who come from all over Laos. I left my home-



Photo by: Teng Char

“We are Lao, we should help Lao people to develop our country in a good way, together.”

town in another province and have studied in Luang Prabang for many years, so I understood about dormitory life and that it is difficult to get good opportunities. ►



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Memory Techniques

By Ka Xiong

This article will give you a few techniques to remember lists of words. We will learn how to remember a list of words in just one minute. You can use these techniques to study for your classes at school, too.

The first technique is my favorite method for memorizing words. With this technique, you will be able to remember up to 40-50 words. We call this technique "The Journey System." What you do in this technique is find a few places in your daily life that you go that lie along the same route. Let's just pick a road in Luang Prabang as an example. I hope that you will know this road. Let's start from TTC (Teacher Training College) and end at Dala Market.

Now let's count the places in sequence from TTC to Dala Market. For example:

1. Teacher Training College
2. Old Souphanouvong University
3. Copy Shop on the left

◀ **Why do you think more people don't do things for other people?** I thought many times about this question before I began this job. I think that it is because Lao people haven't seen other Lao people do this; there are no good examples in their environment, or they haven't been successful. Lao people do not have a good level of education. Many people haven't seen that it is important and some people know but don't care or think only of themselves.

Did all the books come from your collection or where did you get them from? Most of these books came from my collection, I bought some and some I got from donations... there are 5 or 6 people, foreign and Lao, who have donated books. I have had some assistance from a foreigner who gave about 2 million kip because she didn't know what kind of books to give.

How do you manage your time with so many activities in your life? School, girlfriend, business...? Time is very important for me; I have to do everything by myself. It is quite difficult for me to run the library, business and go to school at the same time, so now I need someone to help me run the library when I go to school or go out. Law is hard for me so I have to take time to study; now only my niece and some friends help when I am not here.

What have you observed about reading in Laos? In the past, Lao people did not have a place or support so they never

knew the importance of reading. Therefore, we have to explain to them why reading is important and why people read. Now they are beginning to be more and more interested in reading.

What do you think makes you successful in your job? I am a person who really likes reading and studying and has many books in my collection so I don't like to keep them all in my room. Another thing that makes me successful is that I am a person who likes to share ideas with friends and other people and likes to travel to other places.

What do you learn and how do you feel when people use your service? I learn many things from the users that come and we share different ideas and different experiences...and I feel really proud when people are interested in my ideas.

Do you have a plan for the future? After I graduate from Law school or get another job, if it is possible or if there is a way I would like to keep the library going and enlarge it.

What else would you like to say? Libraries are a place to give you knowledge and information. Everybody can use the library, everybody can come; you don't need money. If you decide to help others I wish you support and success. "We are Lao we should help Lao people to develop our country in a good way, together." ■■

4. Crossroad
5. Midtaphab Market
6. Santiphab High School
7. Police station at the corner on the left
8. Old bridge on the right



9. Phousi hill
10. Dala Market

Now that you have all the places in order, let's pick a list of ten words to remember. For example: **fish, moon, ball, buffalo, mountain, laugh, wind, pig, plane and green.**

Now you can match the words in order to the places. You will forget the word easily if you just say to yourself “Teacher Training College = fish.” You will remember the words much better if you put the words in order with the places and imagine seeing things that are very unusual, like this:



1. **Teacher Training College** goes with the word **fish**, so imagine a **fish** as big as the building lying on the yard in front of the **TTC**.

2. **Old Souphanouvong University** goes with the word **moon**. You can imagine that the **moon** fell down from the sky and hit old **Souphanouvong**.

3. **The Copy Shop** goes with the word **ball**. Imagine that the building of the **copy shop** looks like a giant **ball**.

4. **The Crossroad** goes with the word **buffalo**. Imagine that there is a strange **buffalo** rolling around the **crossroad**.

5. **Midtaphab Market** goes with the word **mountain**. Imagine that there is a big **mountain** growing up in the middle of the **market**.

6. **Santiphab High School** goes with the word **laugh**. Imagine that there is a strange sound calling your name and **laughing** very loudly from **Santiphab High School**.

7. **The Police Station** goes with the word **wind**. Imagine that there is a very heavy **wind**, destroying the **police station**.

8. **Old bridge** goes with the word **pig**. Imagine that there is an enormous **pig** blocking the **bridge**.

9. **Phousi Hill** goes with the word **plane**. Imagine a **plane** coming down to land at the airport, but it hits **Phousi Hill** and gets stuck there.

10. **Dala Market** goes with the word **green**. Imagine that when you arrive at **Dala market** everything there is **green** including the floor and all the people.

After you match every word to each of the places as we did above, then you can imagine yourself driving down the road, seeing all these strange sights. You can use any area you are familiar with for this technique. If you wanted to use your home for example, you could start from the fence, the gate, the yard, the door and other places into your house. As you see in all the stories above, they must be something weird, so you can remember them longer.

The second technique involves making a story. Use the words to make a short story or sentences, but they must be strange because it will make you remember the words longer than just a normal story. For Example: If you have the words “light and frog” together, use these two words to make a sentence like: “There is a frog that has a very shiny light on its back”. After making this sentence in your mind, imagine a picture of a frog with a shiny light on its back. A strange picture like that will stay in your mind longer. If you just make a normal sentence like “there is a frog and light” then you will forget it faster.

If you have a list of words to remember in one minute like: **market, apple, sport, tree, water, student and eat**, then you follow these steps:

- Read them through quickly
- See which words you can put together to make a story
- Try to make a weird story
- Visualize all the pictures of the story

You might imagine a story like this:

I went to the **market**; I saw many **apples** were playing **sports** around the store and there were many **trees** coming to cheer, at the same time, I saw a few **students** serving **water** around the market. Then the students started to **eat** the apples.

Sometimes the words don't go along with each other, so you have to make more stories. You can make different stories for this list of words like:

There is a **student** who **eats** all the **trees** in the town and now he is drinking the **water** from Mekong River.

There were many **apples** asking to play **sports** with me so I had to go to the **market** to buy a pair of shoes.

After you make these quick, weird, little stories in your mind then you have all the words from the list, so you don't have to memorize word by word.

I hope that these techniques will help you to remember more words and to get better scores in your classes. ■■

Let's read today.

By Somsouk Chitakeo (Santiphab Library)

It is a short sentence, but it is full of meaning. Most Lao people don't like to read, even hate it, and some don't know much about reading. Why do we have to read? Read for what? The reason we don't read is because of our old traditions. For a long time we haven't liked to read. There has not been much reading promotion. We are just waking up now.

Reading doesn't need a specific time or place... if we want, we can read at any time and in any place. Reading will improve us in many ways. If we read a lot we will gain a lot of new ideas, we will increase our capacity and our imagination, be up to date, and be entertained. We will learn things that we didn't know before because knowledge is not limited. Books are not expensive; we don't have to invest much to get a lot back, or we can borrow books for free at the library. So...let's read today. ■■



How to Make Movies

By Yeng Thor, Youa Lee and Thaivang

First, you have to locate a quality **camera** and accessories such as a tripod. You can borrow them from @ My Library, but if you have your own camera it's a piece of cake because you can take movies everyday and you can go wherever you want.

Before you start the movie ask your friends, families, and the people in your village to be **actors**, because a movie may have many parts such as a **hero**, **heroine**, parents, cousins, gangsters, and **extras**. All actors should be brave, not shy.

You must make a movie from a **story** so you know where to start and how to go step by step. If you don't have a story you can write one or ask somebody to write for you. The story must be very interesting.

You should have many kinds of **costumes** for the actors, and some **props**. For example, if it is a fighting movie you need swords, guns, a staff, a bow and arrow or nimchuks, but if you make a love story you should have smart clothes for the actors. You can use your own clothes or, if you don't have many clothes, you can borrow from friends. You also need the right **location** for the story.

The **photographer** should be good at taking movies. He needs to know how to use different **framing techniques** and how to use **camera movements** to help tell the story.

After you finish shooting your movie put the movie clips on a computer and use a program such as Windows Moviemaker to edit them together. Use a **storyboard** to put the scenes in order. You should try to cut the shots that are not good because you want only the best shots. You can add writing to the scenes for headlines and can add **effects** to make it interesting for the people watching. You can make an introduction to the movie using different scenes and can add **credits** — the actor's and **film crew** names — at the end of the movie. Music is good for listening and can help the people know how to feel when they watch your movie. Add a scene from your next film at the end with the text "Coming Soon!" to invite people to watch your next film.

After the movie is complete, enjoy watching it with your friends. You want to know what your friends think about the movie and if there are any mistakes so you can improve.

Your movie might make other people want to make movies with you and you may have many friends. If the movie is good maybe you can have a sponsor who will support you doing movies.

Each time you make a movie, you gain experience and you know how hard it is to get a complete movie. You need to keep practicing so you learn what is easy and difficult and how to transform your style, then you can continue to improve. ■■

Framing Techniques

Close up (CU): Show only the face or other small part. In this picture you can see details, that he is wearing glasses and has short hair.



Medium Shot (MS): Show only from his waist to his head. You can see what he is doing and that there is a sword behind him.



Long Shot (L S): You invite people to look at something near and then they follow it to the subject at the end.



Full Shot (F S): You would like people to see everything around the actor. Here you can see his full body and clothes and that there is a school behind him

Camera Movements

Still shot: (SS)

Camera does not move

Tracking shot: (TR)

Camera moves sideways left or right

Panning shot: (P)

Camera turns left or right

Zooming shot: (Z)

Camera zooms in or out

Dolly shot: (D)

Camera moves forward or back

Tilt shot: (T)

Camera tilts up or down

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Leaving Love Behind for Education

By Porjoua Yangkangpao

Life never stops changing, so I knew that for the future I would no longer want to live just by farming. People need knowledge and education to live in the modern world. “How I could get an education so I could earn an income for myself,” became my main concern. I decided to leave my hometown, my family, and my girlfriend, Chia, to study in Luang Prabang. My parents sold a big buffalo to get money to send me to school.

When I arrived in Luang Prabang, everything was new — different weather, new friends and new people. I felt homesick and always thought about Chia. After one year at Souphanouvong University, when I finished my examinations for the first year, I immediately went back to visit my hometown, my family, and especially my girlfriend. When I arrived at my village, my parents, my friends, and all my cousins were very happy and proud of me, and I was very pleased to be back at home. My family organized a big ceremony for me to express their happiness to me. However, I was still not very happy... I still missed the person whom I wanted to see most.

That night I could not sleep at all, I tossed and turned all night in bed. It seemed like that night was longer than any other night. I was thinking of someone whom I had left for a long time and I was in a hurry to go see her. I looked at the clock and the minute hand seemed very slow, a second seemed as long as a minute and a minute as long as an hour. In the

morning, I decided to go and see her at her house. I walked there with a big smile and holding a big bouquet of flowers in my arms.

When I arrived at her house, I saw her mother watering flowers in front of the yard near the entrance. I walked up to her and asked, “Is Chia here?” Her mother stood up and looked at me suspiciously for a few seconds, then she answered “Yes, she’s inside the house.” While her mother was speaking, Chia came out of the house with a guy by her side. He looked straight at me, then held Chia’s hand firmly and stopped her. I wondered who he was. Then I figured out why he was there. The big gift that I was holding dropped down to the ground and my breath nearly stopped. It was also strange for her when she saw me. I almost fell down to the ground, my eyes filled with tears. I wanted to ask her how she could do this to me, but it was too hard to speak. I could only say “Chia...” I had a lump in my throat, the words were stuck in my throat. She bit her lip to stop herself from crying; her eyes filled with tears and they streamed down her cheeks. She looked straight into my eyes. Even though she did not say any words, her sigh apologized and apologized to me. Too confused in my brain, I quietly moved my feet away from where I was standing and did not look back again. I never wanted anything like this to happen but there was nothing I could do to change it and I could not run away from it.

The next morning, I was standing on the balcony of my house and I thought to myself, “I don’t want to stay in this village anymore.” I figured that the best way to get out of the village was to continue my education, because when I finish my education I can still get married, but if I stop my education, I might not have an opportunity to study again. Just as the proverb says, “The more you learn the more you earn.” So the next day I prepared myself, packed my clothes and everything I needed, and I left my family to return to Luang Prabang. I plan to continue my education. I think it is better to wait to get married until after I graduate. I think about the future brightly and I try to forget all the bad things in the past. ■■



Finding Meaning in Life

By Long Her

How can we live our life so as to protect the world and not damage it? What do you think and what will you do?

There are many types of things in the world, some you can see and some you cannot. Some things are spiritual and some are physical. Everything has a beginning and an ending. Love is one special thing in the world. All things live only because of love. Take, for example, the flowers in front of your house; if you don't love and take care of them, what will happen? They will die.



Photo by: Bee Vang

Why did Buddha shave his head, sit down next to a tree, close his eyes, ignore all sound and stop himself from wanting anything? Because he found that the world was empty, full of sin and poverty. He realized that everything we have seen today we have seen before. Everything that happens to you has happened before.

King Solomon was the richest king of all time. He had one thousand wives and made 25 tons of gold per year. He had all the material things a person could ever want but he said that he still felt empty. The one thing he wanted was the one thing he couldn't buy, which is eternal life. He knew that he would die the same as a foolish man. Just like a poor man, a rich man always wants more. Neither one is satisfied; they both keep working hard to get more.

Everyone works hard every day to try to make their life fulfilled. They never stop; they're always hungry and will soon die.

Have you ever noticed a flowering plant? It grows up with lots of beautiful flowers,

but for what? Is it so others can envy it? Certainly not! It grows so it can be useful for every life around it. We get enjoyment by seeing the beautiful flowers, bees use the flowers to make honey, and birds drink the sweet water from the flowers.

If we followed the example of the flowers, we would never envy others or fight with others; instead we would live for others and love each other.

What is your purpose in life? Some say, "I will live to get the highest education." Others say, "I will live to get other people to respect and honor me." Some say, "I live for eating," "I live for sex" or, "I live for money." These people don't worry about dying, they only think about now.

When people realize that they will eventually die, there are two different ways they can think about it. The foolish man will think, "I could die anytime!!! I will do whatever I desire, even have as many wives as I want. I will bet and gamble, get drunk." But these things are not useful for himself or anyone else.

The intelligent man will think, "Am I useful to this world? How can I help others with my money? I have a strong body, so how can I help the disabled? I can see, so how can I help the blind?"

"I think we should love the people and environment around us, and not just live for ourselves."

My purpose in life is to always protect and not to destroy. For example, if I want a luxurious, beautiful, wooden house, many people would have to work hard for me to build it. Lots of big trees would be cut, which take a long time to grow back. After all that work, I would have my beautiful house, but not for long, because it would eventually disintegrate. Everyone who sees my house would also want a house like that, causing them to cut down even more trees. So I will choose instead to live in a simple house.

I think we should love the people and environment around us, and not just live for ourselves. If we all did that the world would be a better place. ■■

My Life as a Novice

By Novice Olay (Wat Paphai)

I became a novice at the age of 14. I stayed one-and-a-half years at a local monastery in a rural area that was my hometown in Northern Laos. At the temple there were 15 novice monks and one older monk who was also the abbot of the temple who was about 72 years old. He could not go out to do most of the religious activities. All the novices, old and young, lived together. We helped each other with our work and took care of each other whenever one of us got sick.

During the rainy season, Buddhist monks are not allowed to travel long distances or stay overnight in other places. The rules for monks are stricter during this season. For example, we have to chant and meditate twice a day, whereas in the dry season we only chant once a day. I really liked it because when I did meditation my mind was peaceful and calm. There is nothing in the world that can compare to it. It is the kind of deep happiness that can occur only in your mind.

At that time my daily duties were to boil water for the abbot to drink and to clean around the Wat. When it rained a lot, it was really hard for me to carry the heavy bucket of water from the stream up to the temple. There was a lot of mud on the ground and it was very slippery. The temple did not have a well, running water or electricity, so we could not use any computers or watch TV. I did not even know what a computer looked like.

We often went to bed very late at about 11:00 or 12:00 and got up at 4:00 am. We had to memorize scriptures for chanting that were in Pali. This was difficult not only because Pali is an ancient language, but also because we all spoke different dialects and languages. I learned how to read and write in Pali from other novices who had been at the temple for many years.

If some of the young novices got up late and did not go to chant in the morning, they would be punished. They would have to water the flowers, the trees and cut the grass around the Wat. Then they

would have to collect firewood and carry water back to the Wat. I know it was unfair for the young to work hard like that, but the work had to be done by someone.

Each morning I saw villagers as they brought food to offer the novices and the abbot at the temple. Then on the full moon they would listen to an older novice preaching. I did not understand why the people gave alms to the monks or what they got from giving, so I decided to ask my abbot these questions. At first he



Photo by: Yacheng Ly

give, we never bother them. We eat what they give. Remember that giving does not make you poorer if you know how to do it. When people see that they do not have enough to give, then they will not give anymore. Giving to others will bring you kindness, pride, generosity, and happiness. If you never give to others you will become greedy and worry a lot. For example, if you give something to a child who does not have anything, you will be happy. He may say thank you and he will probably help you one day if

you do not have anything.”

Lao men usually go to the temple to be a monk for a short time. They want to learn about Buddhism, especially what the Lord Buddha taught, and how to practice. The aim of Buddhism is to be free from suffering and become enlightened. A person who becomes enlightened is called Pra Arahatta. He does not have feelings of love and is not attracted to anything. He never has evil intentions on his mind. This is what a Lao man tries to become when he decides to become a monk.

The Lord Buddha said, “We should help each other as we are able. The things that you have are not permanent and are impersonal. When you pass away you cannot take anything with you, not even your body because it’s not really yours.”

By learning Buddhist doctrine one can become a good person and valuable to society. This is who I strive to be. ■■



Photo by: Lee Hue

did not say anything to me. Then, after a few minutes, he started smiling at me and said, “The people give you alms and donate because they believe that you are a good monk and behave well. So you should not break any of the monk’s rules. We should help them as well by teaching Dhamma when they want to be free from suffering. You must be a very good example as a monk before you teach others; otherwise no one will believe what you say. If people want to give alms, it’s okay, but if they don’t want to

Night Life

By Nouching Yang

Everyone knows that Luang Prabang is not only colorful in the day, but also after the sun sets. After the sun goes down, the city changes to a different light and comes to life again to offer amusement around the clock.

Probably the most popular spot for night life is the Night Market, located in front of the National Museum. It is open 7 days a week from 5:00 pm to 9:30 or 10:00 pm. The night market spills over onto Sisavong Road in one of the city’s most commercial districts. This is where you can buy clothing and souvenirs of all kinds.

If you would like to sip a drink while listening to music, there are many places for such activities. If you feel like eating, drinking, dancing, or hanging out, you can visit Dao Fa. Teenagers frequently



Photo by: Sengthanou

visit this night club. Here, you can find non-stop Lao and Thai music. Some people go because they love the beat of the music, others go just to listen and look around. It’s open from 10:00 pm till 2:00 am. ■■



Photo by: Yachengly

Please... don't drink and drive!

On Exhibit

Luang Prabang 2010

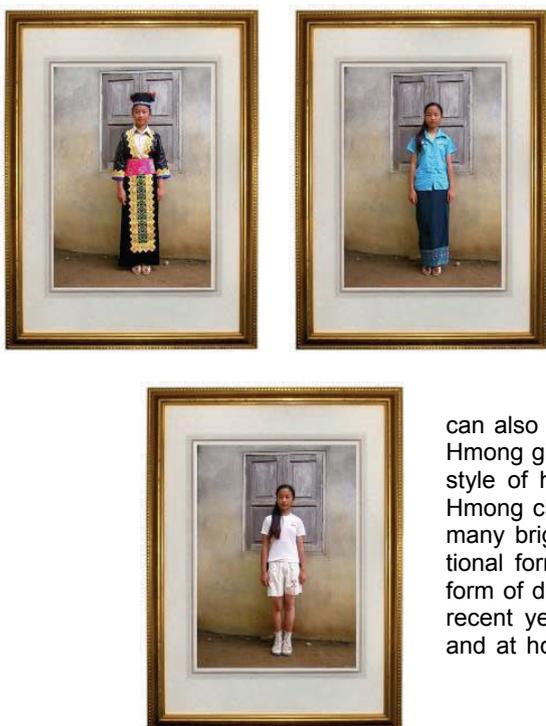
Seng Song: Before and After Us



Seng Song has always taken close-ups of nature so taking close-ups of discarded man-made materials was a natural next step. He took what he saw without re-arranging and found the old things... the paper and plastic, the colors, patterns, and juxtapositions, quite interesting. It was only later, when looking at the photos on the computer that he saw how much rubbish there really was. The more photos he took the more he enjoyed taking them to help others to see.

He grew up high in the mountains, far from the road and even further from a market. Not many people went to town so there was almost no rubbish. Now everything has changed. Now he thinks there is nowhere without rubbish and thinks about what he has heard about global warming.

6 young Lao photographers from @ My Library were



Mor Thor: Frames

Hmong clothes cross the spectrum from ethnic to Lao to modern. Hmong traditional clothes are designed each year by the family and then embroidered, with help from her parents, over many months by the girl who will wear them. They are mostly for the Hmong New Year celebrations but can also be worn for weddings or other special occasions. A Hmong girl first learns to embroider when she is 7 or 8. This style of hat, in the photo on the left, represents the white Hmong clan while the embroidery is of the modern style with many bright colors. A Lao skirt with a blouse is not a traditional form of Hmong clothing but has become their "polite" form of dress, suitable for everyday wear or any occasion. In recent years sports clothes have been introduced in school and at home but young girls who are used to Lao skirts are





Soulisuck: Motorcycles

Motorcycles are still the most common form of transportation in Luang Prabang. They not only carry people to work, market or, school but also carry whole families, and can be used to transport entire "mobile shops" of goods for sale into the countryside. Waiting for many hours along the roadside while trying to capture bikes that were unusual in some way made Soulisuck realize how many bikers are the same. Now Soulisuck is a biker and motorcycles are a part of his everyday life, driving to and from University.



Yachengly: Bedrooms

The bedroom is a very personal space and when you ask people to let you take a photo of their bedroom, many of them are too shy and refuse, even people you know who are happy to have you take their photos elsewhere. But once they let you in, they are not at all shy and have many ideas about how they want to pose. I became very interested in how their bedrooms were different from mine, and how they arranged their things and I even got new ideas and made changes in my own room. I am Hmong and in this series I took only Hmong students but now I am curious and want to take more photos of bedrooms of different ethnic groups, different ages, and also the bedrooms of the rich.





Sinxay Thavixay: Portraits

Even though you think that you have known people well, when you take their portraits they can look very different to you, almost as people you have never known. Although I have been taking portraits for a while, when I started framing with only their head, neck and shoulders I started to notice and compare more, the shapes, expressions and feelings, and the differences between the old and the young. I began to see the seriousness, the tiredness and the worry that comes with aging and in my father's portrait, included here, I saw more seriousness than I had seen in him in past portraits or in life.

Portraits make me feel that I see the original face of mankind and how our face is created from both our ancestral origins and our personal history.

Ka Xiong: Spirit World

I am Hmong and grew up in a culture of ceremonies and stories of the spirit world. I started to hear about this spirit world when I was 3 or 4 when the elders would tell us stories to scare us into behaving and not wandering off where we shouldn't. They were good storytellers and I clearly imagined the ghosts and spirits in my mind.

Recently, coming back from working in the fields I saw shadows in the smoke of a roadside fire that distorted the people caught by my headlights. They didn't look real but rather like what I had imagined as the ghost and spirit world. Since then I have worked with those same conditions, dark nights away from town with smoke and light, to capture the shadows of people in action to create a feeling in the viewer and trigger their imagination, to lead them into the world that they can not see in everyday life, the world that they can only see in their minds.



The Leopard Never Changes its Spots

By Chansy Yangxaypor

There is a new hotel in town with 9 staff members, 2 managers and a couple of owners. Mr. Pet and I were the first two staff members to begin to work at this hotel. We both worked very hard for the hotel, helping move furniture and other supplies to prepare for the opening. We even helped each other to paint the entire inside of the hotel. We got along very well. After the hotel was complete, I worked in reservations at the front desk and he worked in the restaurant as a waiter and bartender. We worked for 7 months together, and everything was going very well. He even worked harder than I did and he got paid very well.

When it came time for the opening of the hotel, the owners and some of their friends came down from Germany to help prepare. One evening, they were out on the terrace having a few drinks and some finger food. They were talking to each other and other guests and seemed to be having a lot of fun. My colleagues and I were busily working inside when suddenly I heard someone scream, "Thief! Thief! Please help, my bag is stolen!" I ran outside to discover that it was my boss shouting. I saw the thief, with my boss's bag in his hand and watched him run past Mr. Pet to a motorbike that was waiting for him. For some reason Mr. Pet did not try to stop the thief, even though he could have easily grabbed him. When my boss later asked why Mr. Pet did not do anything to stop the thief, he responded, "I was afraid of dying and I am not a policeman." I believed his story.

One month later Mr. Pet came and told me, "I will stop working here. I will go to my hometown for a couple of weeks then return to Luang Prabang to continue my education at the Finance School."

"Wow, wow!!!! What a good idea!" I said.

Two days after our conversation, Mr. Pet came into work and said that he really needed to return to his hometown right away. He asked the boss in the morning for permission to leave early and at about 3:00, the boss allowed him to go.

About 2 hours after Mr. Pet left, my boss received a phone call from one of the owner's friends who had come down for the grand opening of the hotel. Apparently there was some confusion over a drink bill during the opening event. The owner's friend called to explain that he had paid the entire drink bill the next day after the opening.

"How much was the drink bill?" my boss asked

"It was \$275."

"Who did you pay?" she asked.

"I paid your staff at the bar counter," he replied

"Ok. I will ask my staff and let you know later," she told him.

After she finished talking to him, she asked me if I knew what happened to the money the German man paid for the bill. I told her I didn't receive any money and asked her why she was asking. "No reason," she replied.

After she called me, she tried called to Mr. Pet. She called a hundred times, but there was no signal.

My boss called back to the man in Germany and asked more details. He explained, "There were 2 staff members at the hotel that night, one was wearing a uniform and kind of thin, he was working behind the bar counter. The other employee was busy working on the computer at the front desk. I paid the money to the man in the uniform, the one behind the bar."

After that, she knew for sure that he had paid the money to Mr. Pet. She tried to phone him all night, but there was still no signal.

The next morning I didn't see my boss all morning. When she finally came in that afternoon, I could see that she was not happy at all.

She said to me, "Your colleague Pet is in jail. "

I was very surprised, "Why?" I asked.

"I will tell you later," she said.

When I finished work that day, she asked me to go to the jail to bring some food and water to Mr. Pet. I went to the jail the next two days to bring him food and water, but I never saw him once. After the third day the boss told me that she released Mr. Pet from jail.

She explained to me that the bag that was stolen from my boss 3 months ago was taken by his friend. They were working together as a team and that's why Mr. Pet didn't try to stop the thief. He confessed to stealing the money the German man paid for the bill and also confessed to stealing a few other things that were missing from the hotel. I couldn't believe that he did that.

I learned from this experience that some people we can trust and some we can't. Sometimes it's not easy to tell who we can trust. The important thing is to be a trustworthy person and always be honest in what you do. ■■





I want to be.....?

By Ouansavad Bouy

When I was a child, I dreamt about becoming a movie actor, because I wanted to be famous. I watched TV at home with my family every day after dinner. We had a very old black and white television. My favorite type of movie was an Action Movie. One night when I was watching TV, I chose the path for my future. I knew what I was going to be. I believe that strong emotion and my hope can help me to be an actor someday.

But how...?

When I started to study at High School, I made a decision to study languages. I am studying English, Japanese, Korean and Hmong. Every day I go to @ My Library to study and borrow books that I like. What I love most about the library is that I can read as many books as I want, use the computer, do research on the internet and borrow the video camera. I think that the library gives me a great opportunity by letting me use a camera to make films. I think it is a good first step in learning to make films.

What Makes a Good Movie in my Opinion?

Action! Action is a word that I love very much; it makes me happy to see action on the screen. I love to express myself. I think that to be a good actor first we must love acting and do it from our hearts.

I think that watching movies is a good way for people to learn about different cultures and understand each other. I also believe that Lao movies could be a very good way to promote Lao culture and identity. We lose more and more of our traditions as time passes by. To help preserve our traditions and culture we can record them in movies to pass on to new generations.

Lao movies in the Lao language are very rare; most are from other countries. I think that Lao is a very nice language but not so many foreigners know and speak it. I think it's important to learn other languages such as English so I can show Lao culture to others who don't speak Lao. I believe that learning never ends and that it makes me younger. To me, using languages is a wonderful way to communicate and understand people in different cultures in the world.

Knowledge is not enough, I must also apply myself. Wishing is not enough, I must also do. This I have learned from my father. Whatever we want to accomplish, we must first love it and do it from our heart. Then we must learn and train hard to reach it.

ຂ້ອຍຢາກຈະເປັນ.....?

ブイ. ウアンサーワツ/ “武意”

부이 우안사왓. ■■

Breaking Routine

By Nouching Yang

Each dawn of the new day, we get up and know we will do the same things we have already done in the past. Getting up early, going to school, those are the things we usually do. Then in the evening after school, we just go back home to have dinner, prepare to do the same thing the next day and then go to sleep. That is the cycle of life we live every day. Have we ever really observed or thought about what we are doing? And what for? Do we spend each day just letting our life pass us by? Do we really want to be like that? I believe no one wants to live like that.

Why don't we try to change and choose the lifestyle we want to live and find the best way to live our lives? One thing that is important is education because we can't know everything in the world. To get knowledge, we have to study and learn from the beginning, starting with the easy and working up to the difficult. For example, start with A, B, C, D, learn to read a word, try to make a sentence, and then write a story.

I'm really sure that it will work if we start to do it. Nothing is impossible if you set your mind to it. ■■



Different Meanings of Time

By Phouvong Yangnyavong



Time...time...time... everybody knows about time, but some people don't care about it — they think it is just a simple thing that happens and passes every day, but they are wrong. Time is very

important in our daily life, everything we do depends on time.

One meaning of time has to do with the time on the clock. There are 24 time zones in the world. Some countries are in different time zones from one another; for example, China is one hour ahead of Laos. Some countries are in the same time zone; for example, Thailand and Laos.

Free time is another kind of time. It is the time that people relax or do easy activities by themselves or with their friends. Some students waste their time doing nothing. It is better if they make a schedule for their free time, so they can

accomplish more with their time.

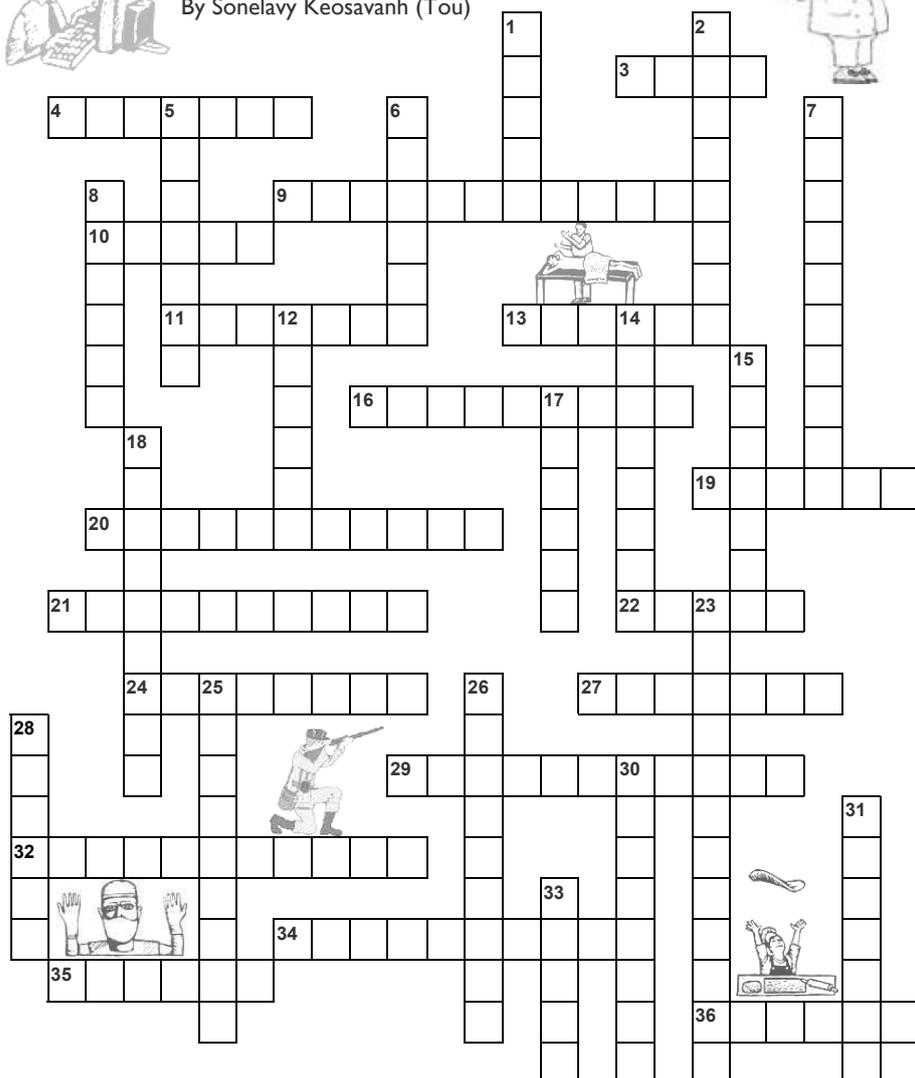
Different cultures have different concepts of time. For example, it is not uncommon for Lao people to come late to work and meetings. This can cause problems at their work and it is also impolite to their colleagues. It is important to be on time for work, no matter if you are working for a foreign boss or a Lao boss. It shows that you are responsible and respectful to your boss.

Time is very valuable. Every minute of every day can be used to increase your knowledge or make money, so don't let your time go to waste. Always try to do something useful with your time. ■■



Crossword | Occupations

By Sonelavy Keosavanh (Tou)



Number Across:

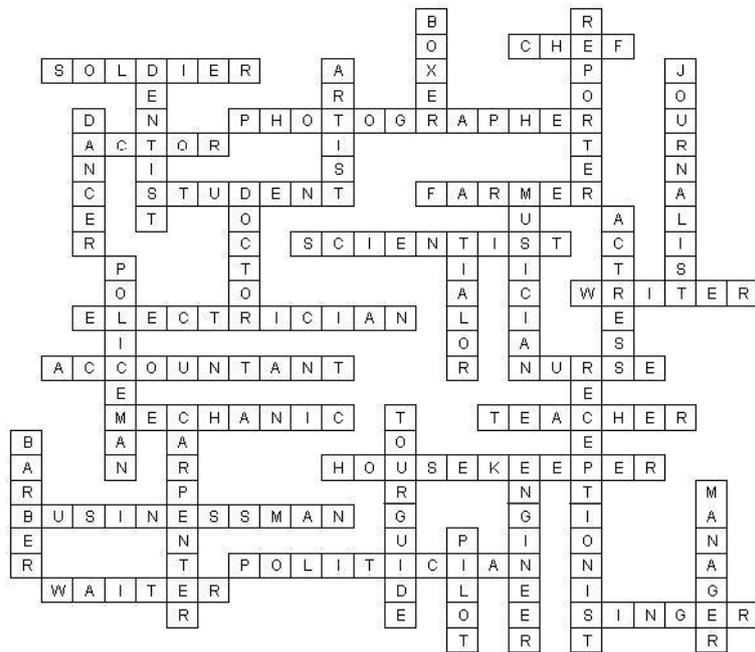
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 3. ພໍ່ຄົວ | 21. ນັກບັນຊີ |
| 4. ທະຫານ | 22. ນາງພະຍາບານ |
| 9. ນັກຖ່າຍຮູບ | 24. ຊ່າງສ້ອມແປງ |
| 10. ນັກສະແດງຊາຍ | 27. ນາຍຄູ |
| 11. ນັກຮຽນ | 29. ແມ່ບ້ານ |
| 13. ຊາວນາ | 32. ນັກທຸລະກິດ |
| 16. ນັກວິທະຍາສາດ | 34. ນັກການເມືອງ |
| 19. ນັກຂຽນ | 35. ຟາງເສີບຊາຍ |
| 20. ຊ່າງໄຟຟ້າ | 36. ນັກຮ້ອງ |

Number Down:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ນັກມວຍ | 17. ຊ່າງຫຍິບເຄື່ອງ |
| 2. ຜູ້ລາຍງານຂ່າວ | 18. ຕໍາຫລວດຊາຍ |
| 5. ພໍ່ແຂ້ວ | 23. ຟາງຕ້ອນຮັບ |
| 6. ນັກແຕ້ມ | 25. ຊ່າງໄມ້ |
| 7. ນັກໜັງສືພິມ | 26. ໄກ້ນໍາທຽວ |
| 8. ນັກເຕັ້ນ | 28. ຊ່າງຕັດຜົມ |
| 12. ທ່ານພົມ | 30. ນັກວິສະວະກອນ |
| 14. ນັກດົນຕີ | 31. ຜູ້ຈັດການ |
| 15. ນັກສະແດງຍິງ | 33. ນັກບິນ |



SOLUTION ■ Crossword | Occupations from page 13.



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Interviews

Suggestions for Studying English

By Nouyatha Phansayphate (Sayfohn)

Sengmany Chittanonh

Age 20

Hometown Luang Prabang

School and Work She studies in the last year in English Business Administration at Manivanh College.

Suggestions for studying English

- ❖ Read magazines and stories
- ❖ Try to speak English with tourists everyday
- ❖ Have English conversations with friends

Her Dream She would like to work in a travel agency or have her own small travel company.



Sy Khai

Age 20

Hometown Nam Bak, Luang Prabang Province

School and Work He is a second year student in Special Course at the Teacher Training College and a part-time adventure tour guide trainee.

Suggestions for studying English

- ❖ Have a competition with your friends and try to be the best in English
- ❖ Be patient because it is difficult and you have to learn step by step
- ❖ Don't be shy
- ❖ Practice all the time

He said, "I would like to stay in Luang Prabang and be a tour guide. That will help me improve my English and it is a very good job."





Lone Vongphailoth

Age 23

Hometown Khop, Sayabuli Province

School and Work She graduated from Pasabandith College in 2008 and now works in a Bookshop

Suggestions for studying English

- ❖ Try to learn at least 3 new words a day
- ❖ Make sentences with new words
- ❖ Use English every day at work

❖ Carry a dictionary with you everywhere you go and look up the words you want to know

She said, "I still want to be an English teacher but I need to improve my English first, especially my grammar."



Kempheth Bouthduangthip

Age 20

Hometown Hong Sa, Sayabuli

School He is a second year student at the Teacher Training College.

Suggestions for Studying English

- ❖ Study little by little, step by step
- ❖ Write new words to remember them
- ❖ Take extra classes with a foreigner
- ❖ Study hard every day
- ❖ Meet tourists and try to pronounce like them

He said, "I am going to teach in my hometown to help students develop their English because we have tourists there, especially during the Elephant Festival."



Bounsou Nengsao

Age 21

Hometown Luang Prabang

School He studies English at the Teacher Training College and at Sayphattana College.

Suggestions for studying English

- ❖ Study by yourself
- ❖ Translate the difficult words
- ❖ Speak to tourists so they can correct your English
- ❖ Try to read and write an hour a day

He said, "I want to help develop my country and teach English in a school far away where they don't get to use English so when they finish High School and go to University in town they will be able to use English with native speakers."



Nouching Yang

Age 18

Hometown Long Lan Village, Luang Prabang

School He is in the 6th year at Santiphab High School

Suggestions for studying English

- ❖ Study by using the computer and internet
- ❖ Play English games
- ❖ Watch English movies
- ❖ Study by yourself and have conversations with friends

His Dream In the future he would like to be a doctor because this is a good way to help people in need.

Working... @ My Library

By Lee Hue

My name is Lee Hue. I'm 20 years old and a student at Souphanouvong University. I am a librarian at My Library. I don't talk too much, but please feel free to talk to me and say "Hello." You can ask me if you have a question about anything at My Library. The first time I ever used a computer was here and I was very proud.



I have been learning computer since I started coming to My Library in 2004. I have been working part-time here for one-and-a-half years. I work Monday to Thursday evenings from 5-9 pm and Saturdays during the day. Everyday I have to be at work before the library opens to prepare. When it opens, I have to set people up on computers. We have two computer rooms: Beginner and Advanced with Internet. Every user's USB or Memory card has to be scanned before they can use it on any of the library computers. We scan because there are many viruses in Laos and we don't want any to get on our computers. I sometimes get stuck when users ask me questions about computers because I don't know some programs very well, but I enjoy helping because it makes me learn how to solve different problems



I also help people check in and check out books and CD's from the library. When new users come to the library, I take them on a little tour and show them what they can do at the library. I show them what kinds of books we have

and I ask them what kinds of books they want. The library also has a DVD player for users to study English, Chinese, and Japanese or to watch programs about History, Culture, and Science in different languages. We sometimes do magic shows at the Library for fun and I do a few magic tricks.



We also have a gallery here of photographs taken by young Lao photographers. We have cameras for them to check out to use for free. I love taking photographs, so I teach a basic photography class on Saturday mornings. If anyone wants to check out a camera, they need to take the photography class before so they can learn how to take care of the camera and use it to take good pictures. I am trying to improve my photography skills by looking at photography books and going out and taking many photographs. Sometimes professional photographers come to the library and they teach us more and have us do projects to practice taking pictures.

There are many things I enjoy doing here like using computers, studying English by myself, and practicing English with foreigners. I also enjoy making new friends and playing thinking games with the users. I really like reading Lao-English folktales that I check out from the library. I am busy almost every day, but I have fun doing my job and I love working with people.

I believe working at the library is very useful and will help me to have a brighter future. I learn a lot working here such as computer skills, English skills, thinking skills, and problem-solving. Even though I have learned many things, it is still not enough, I want to continue to learn more. ■■

Visit a library to learn

