

Mien Language Learning - hoqc mienh waac

Pronunciation Guide

TONES & TONES SANDHI

MIEN SYM.	tone	MIEN	ENGLISH
unmarked	mid-high	lai	vegetable
v	high rise-fall	hlauv	bamboo
x	mid-low rise	gux	grandma
h	mid fall	biangh	flower
z	low rise-fall	dungz	pig
c	low level	dopc zeic	stinky beans

tone change example

MIEN SYM.	tone	MIEN	ENGLISH
unmarked	mid-high	zei	abstain
v	high rise-fall	zeiv	paper
x	mid-low rise	zeix	coop
h	mid fall	zeih	paddle
z	low rise-fall	zeiz	correct
c	low level	zeic	self

Comments on Tones:

- tone change occurs frequently and affects pronunciation and meaning significantly
- tone changes occur most often with noun phrases
- -z tone and -x tone are very similar and often used as variants depending on location, zaux = zauz (foot)
- hyphenated words indicate tone change (cie-ndaaix = airplane, dorn-diex = father and son, eix-leiz = way of doing things)