



VietnamesePod101.com

VOLUME

1



Southern

Vietnamese

Survival Phrases



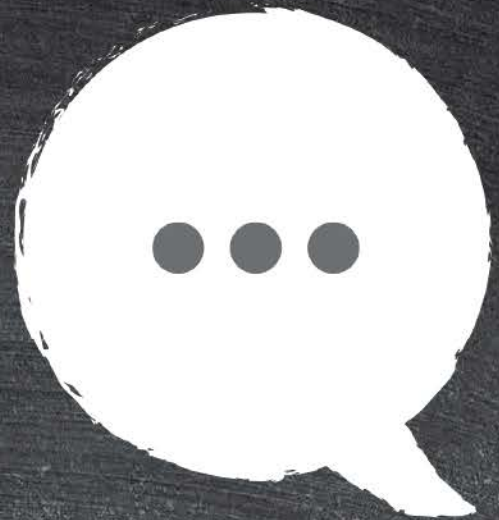
Unabridged Edition

innovative LANGUAGE

If you love the **Vietnamese** language,
then you'll love this!

Get our Complete **Vietnamese** Learning Program
at **VietnamesePod101.com**.

- Speak **Vietnamese** From Your First Lesson
- Access hundreds of Audio & Video Courses
by Real Teachers
- Get **FREE** New Lessons Every Week
- Learn Anywhere, Anytime on Any Android
Device or Computer



Go to
VietnamesePod101.com
and sign up for your

FREE

Lifetime Account!



VietnamesePod101.com

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #1

Thank You in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

1

VIETNAMESE

1. Cảm ơn.
2. Cảm ơn nhiều lắm.

ENGLISH

1. Thank you.
2. Thank you so much.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
cảm ơn (Southern)	thank you	phrase
cảm (cảm) (Southern)	to feel	verb
nhiều (Southern)	much, many	adjective
lắm (Southern)	much, many, very	adjective/ adverb
ơn (Southern)	obligation	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Cảm ơn vì món quà của bạn. "Thank you for your gift."	Tôi cảm thấy mệt. "I feel tired."
Có nhiều sữa ở trong chai. "There is lots of milk in the bottle."	Tôi thích nhà hàng này lắm. "I like this restaurant very much."

Cám ơn vì món quà của bạn.

"Thank you for your gift."

GRAMMAR

The people of Vietnam are extremely hospitable, and there will likely be situations in which you will want to express your gratitude for something done for you. So in our first lesson, we'll look at phrases for expressing appreciation. In Vietnamese the most generic way to say thank you is *Cám ơn*. The components of this word are *cảm* ("to feel") and *ơn* ("obligation"), so literally the phrase means to feel obliged.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

During your trip, there will be a multitude of situations in which you will be likely to use *Cám ơn*. The following are some of these situations:

- When the receptionist welcomes you to the hotel
- When the waiter brings your food or drinks
- When an old friend says how well you look
- When someone gives you directions
- When someone compliments you on your Vietnamese

Quick Tip 2

If you are unsure how old someone is, it is best to just stick with *Cám ơn nhiều*. ("Thank you very much.")

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #2

You're Welcome in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

2

VIETNAMESE

1. Không có gì.
2. Không có gì đâu.

ENGLISH

1. You're welcome.
2. (Very polite) You're welcome.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
không (Southern)	no, not, nothing, without	adverb
có (Southern)	to have	verb
gì (Southern)	what	question word, pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."	Tôi có một món quà cho bạn. "I have a present for you."
Đây là cái gì? "What is this?"	

GRAMMAR

In Vietnam, the concept of society as an extension of the family is evident in the social usage of language. The principal attitude of social groups is respect. Respect is expressed in the form of courtesy. The Vietnamese are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in Vietnam, it is more probable you will hear, rather than use, the phrase "You're welcome."

The most common way to express "You're welcome" is *Không có gì*. The words *không* and *có* is the flat tone and the word *gì* falls gradually. The literal translation of *Không có gì* is "Not have at all" but we translate it as "No problem." In most social situations "*Không có gì*" is an appropriate phrase to use.

In very formal situations or to address elders and superiors the phrase

"*Không có gì đâu*" is used. Please take note, the first three words are the same as the previous phrase, except the word *đâu* is added at the end. Notice that *đâu* is the flat tone.

A more casual expression of "You're welcome" is "*Không sao đâu*." It is the English equivalent of "Do not worry" and is most appropriate in situations among good friends.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

There are various mutually spoken dialects. The three mainly dialects are:

Northern Vietnamese

Hanoi dialect, Other Northern dialects: Haiphong, and various provincial forms

Central Vietnamese

Huế dialect, Nghệ An dialect, Quảng Nam dialect

Southern Vietnamese

Saigon dialect, Mekong (Far West) dialect

Dialects differ slightly in tone, pronunciation, and sometimes vocabulary. In the north you will usually hear *Không có gì* While traveling in central and south Vietnam you will hear *Không có*

chi. Both phrases have the same meanings and connotations.

Quick Tip 2

Most people are able to understand different dialects, so you don't have to worry about learning how to say one phrase in all the various dialects. However, I do suggest familiarizing yourself so that you are not caught off guard.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #3

Please in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

3

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin.
2. (Xin) Cái này.
3. Xin Cái đó.
4. Xin Cái này.

ENGLISH

1. Please.
2. This please.
3. That please.
4. This please.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
xin (Southern)	to ask (for), please	verb
cái đó (Southern)	that	pronoun
cái này (Southern)	this	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Xin mở cái cửa này ra.

"Please open this door."

Kỉ niệm đó thật khó quên.

"That memory is unforgettable."

Đừng chạm vào cái này.

"Don't touch this."

GRAMMAR

Vietnamese society places heavy emphasis on respect and it is heavily reflected in the language. The word *xin* in Vietnamese is the English equivalent of "please." However, the literal meaning of the word *xin* is "to beg." Considering this, it is a very useful phrase to help convey respect. The most rudimentary way of using this phrase is pointing at something while saying this phrase, but the following will build upon this.

To say "this please" in Vietnamese is *xin cái này*. The word *xin* is the flat tone, *cái* is the rising tone and *này* falls gradually. A closer look at this expression shows the word order. In English, "this," comes before "please" but in Vietnamese it is the opposite. The word "this" follows "please" yielding *xin cái này*.

The word for "that" in Vietnamese is *cái đó*. Notice the similarity between the words for "this" and "that." Both words have the phrase *cái*. The word *đó* is said in the rising tone and is spelled with the *Đ* consonant. The *Đ* sound is similar to the "D" sound in the English for "down."

Hence, if you're at the market and there is something you want that is near you, use "xin cái này." For something further away use "xin cái đó."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

The word *xin* can be used as a function-word at the beginning of most phrases to further express respect. For example, the phrase for "thank you" is *cám ơn* can be said as *xin cám ơn*. The meaning of the phrase does not change but adding *xin* suggests added respect.

Quick Tip 2

A more formal way to say "please" is *làm ơn*. The word *làm* falls gradually and the word *ơn* is the flat tone. The vowel *ơ* sound may be difficult for those new to the language. Although using the alternative *xin* maybe easier to pronounce, it is just as effective.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #4

Basic Southern Vietnamese Greetings

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

4

VIETNAMESE

1. Chào Bạn.
2. Chào Anh.
3. Chào Chị.
4. Chào Ông.
5. Chào Bà.

ENGLISH

1. Hello friend.
2. Hello Mister.
3. Hello Misses.
4. Hello Sir.
5. Hello Ma'am.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
chào (Southern)	hello	expression
bà (Southern)	madam, Mrs.	noun
bạn (Southern)	friend	noun

ông (Southern)	sir, Mister	noun
anh (Southern)	Mister; you (to an elder man or in formal situation)	noun; pronoun
chị (Southern)	Miss; you (to an elder woman or in formal situation)	noun; pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Xin chào, bạn có khỏe không?</p> <p>"Hello, how are you?"</p>	<p>Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng.</p> <p>"She is a famous actress."</p>
<p>Hoa là bạn của tôi.</p> <p>"Hoa is my friend."</p>	<p>Ông ấy là một doanh nhân.</p> <p>"He is a businessman."</p>
<p>Xin mời anh ngồi xuống.</p> <p>"Please sit down, Mister."</p>	<p>Chị ấy thật xinh đẹp.</p> <p>"She is so beautiful."</p>

GRAMMAR

Greetings are usually audible and or physical expressions or signs of welcome or recognition. In some languages different greetings are used depending on the time of day.

In Vietnamese the phrase for "hello" is *chào*. The phrase *chào* is suitable for use at any time of the day and is appropriate for almost all situations. *Chào* is said in the rising-falling tone.

In Vietnam greeting habits are highly cultural and situation specific. Greetings change depending on social status and relationships. To show respect requires the use of appropriate pronouns at the end of each phrase.

For example, to address a male who is much older, such as your grandfather, the phrase *Chào Ông* should be used.

Vietnamese pronouns may be the most challenging part of the language, because Vietnamese pronouns vary depending on age, sex, social position and level of intimacy between the two people in conversation. The table below lists some common pronouns and relationships to oneself. If you are uncertain which pronoun to use, it is best to not use one in order to avoid unintentionally offending someone.

Pronoun Relationship

Ông - grandfather term of respect for senior male

Bà - grandmother; term of respect for a female, usually married

Cô - father's sister; younger woman; woman as old as your father

Cậu - mother's younger brother

Dì - mother's sister

Chú - father's younger brother;

younger men or man younger than your father

Anh - younger men or man younger than your father;

older brother

Chị - older sister; slightly older woman

Em - younger sibling, slightly younger person, woman you are in romantic relationship with

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Chào is usually said with a slight bow of the head. When addressing adults, many children will cross their arms across their chest, bow deeply and say *Chào* followed by the appropriate pronoun. Adults do not bow to children but may nod their heads.

Quick Tip 2

Vietnam is an increasingly popular destination for Westerners so it is natural that English phrases have been adapted to equivalents. Some common expressions heard in hotels are:

Chào buổi sáng - "good morning"

Chào buổi chiều - "good afternoon"

Chào buổi tối - "good evening"

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #5

Parting Greetings in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

5

VIETNAMESE

1. Chào.

ENGLISH

1. Bye.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
lại (Southern)	again	adverb
gặp (Southern)	to meet	verb
chào tạm biệt (Southern)	goodbye	expression
hẹn (Southern)	to appoint, appointment	verb, noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hi vọng sớm gặp lại bạn! "Hope to see you again soon!"	Rất vui được gặp bạn! "Nice to meet you!"
Chào tạm biệt và hẹn gặp lại. "Goodbye and see you again."	Tôi có một cuộc hẹn lúc 5 giờ. "I have an appointment at 5 o'clock."

GRAMMAR

Parting phrases and gestures are usually contingent upon the situation and may change within a culture depending on social status and personal relationship. This is especially true

in Vietnamese culture.

In Vietnamese, "hello" and "goodbye" share the same phrase *chào*. The tone falls gradually and is an expression that can be used for most occasions at anytime of the day.

Another common parting greeting is "farewell" which in Vietnamese is *Tạm biệt*. Both phrases are the falling tone with a heavy stop. The first word *tạm* means "temporary." This is followed *biệt* which means "farewell," hence the literal translation of this phrase is "temporary farewell" but is used as the English equivalent for "good bye."

In English "see you again" is a commonly used parting phrase. In Vietnamese, the phrase translates to *hẹn gặp lại*. Every word in this phrase is the sharp falling tone with a heavy stop. The first word *hẹn* means "appointment," followed with *gặp* which means "meet" and finally *lại* which means "again." Literally the phrase means "appointment meet again" but we translate it as "see you again."

All three of the aforementioned phrases can be used as is. However, as stated in Lesson 3 "Hello," to show additional respect entails the use of the appropriate pronoun in each phrase.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Touching between the opposite sex is rare. Most Vietnamese do not shake hands with the opposite sex or older people. It is common to see two men or women on the street holding hands. Typically, men will shake hands with one another or slightly bow their heads. Woman usually will slightly bow their heads or put their hands in front of the chest to show respect. However, it has become acceptable for a Vietnamese woman to shake hands with non-Vietnamese man.

Quick Tip 2

Upon departure, it is best to greet the older persons first, then the younger ones.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #6

Where is the Bathroom? in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

6

VIETNAMESE

1. Nhà vệ sinh ở đâu?

ENGLISH

1. Where is the bathroom?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
nhà vệ sinh (Southern)	bathroom	noun
ở đâu (Southern)	where	phrase, interrogative
nhà (Southern)	house	noun
nữ (Southern)	female	adjective, noun
nam (Southern)	male	adjective, noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Đây là nhà vệ sinh nữ. "This is the ladies' bathroom."	Bưu điện ở đâu? "Where is the post-office?"
Nhà tôi cách đây 1 km. "My house is 1 km from here."	Đây là nhà vệ sinh nữ. "This is the ladies' bathroom."
Tên của tôi là Nam. "My name is Nam."	

GRAMMAR

Although Vietnam is a rapidly developing country, public toilets are difficult to find. The phrase for "Where is the bathroom" in Vietnamese is *Nhà vệ sinh ở đâu*.

The first word *nhà* literally means house. *Nhà* is the gradually falling tone. The word *nhà* is followed by the phrase *vệ sinh* which means "bathroom." The word *vệ* is said in the sharp falling tone with a heavy stop and *sinh* has no tone. This entire phrase ends with *ở đâu* which literally means "at where." The first part *ở* is said in the falling rising tone and *đâu* has no tone. Literally the phrase translates to "House bathroom where?" but we use it as the English equivalent of "Where is the bathroom?"

The phrase *ở đâu* is very useful as it can be used to ask for "where" something is. In English the word "where" comes before the location, whereas in Vietnamese it is the reverse. Some useful examples are listed below:

"Where is the hotel?" - *Khách sạn ở đâu?*

"Where can I get something to eat?" - *Chỗ ăn ở đâu?*

"Where is the market?" - *Chợ ở đâu?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Western toilet facilities usually have distinct signs designating bathrooms for males and females. This may not be the case in Vietnam, especially in rural areas, as villagers can sometimes be seen using the great outdoors. However, in bigger cities you may see the Vietnamese word for females *đàn bà* or for males *đàn ông* on the doors.

Quick Tip 2

Most toilets in Vietnam are the squat style and usually do not provide toilet paper, hence it is recommended to carry some at all times.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #7

I Don't Understand in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

7

VIETNAMESE

1. Tôi không hiểu.
2. Tôi không biết.
3. Tôi không rõ.

ENGLISH

1. I don't understand.
2. I don't know.
3. It's not clear.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
biết (Southern)	to know	verb
rõ (Southern)	clear, clearly	adjective, adverb
không (Southern)	no, not, nothing, without	adverb
tôi (Southern)	I, me	pronoun
hiểu (Southern)	to understand	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Tôi không biết tên cô ấy.</p> <p>"I don't know her name."</p>	<p>Anh ấy nói rất to nên tôi nghe rất rõ.</p> <p>"He speaks very loudly so I can hear very clearly."</p>
<p>Tôi không hút thuốc.</p> <p>"I don't smoke."</p>	<p>Tôi là Lan.</p> <p>"I am Lan."</p>

Tôi không hiểu cô ấy đang nói gì.

"I don't understand what she is saying."

GRAMMAR

"I don't understand." is going to be a very useful phrase because most of the time, maybe even almost 100% of the time, you won't understand. The Vietnamese language sounds very different from English and in the beginning it will be very difficult to get your ear used to it. One can spend a good month or two in Vietnam before he/she could really understand what the locals were saying. But don't worry. If you keep it up, you'll get it. Until then, practice the phrase *Tôi không hiểu*. ("I don't understand.")

The first two parts of this phrase, *tôi* ("I") and *không* ("not"), form the basis of this phrase, and can be used to create other phrases with the same meaning. Both *tôi* ("I") and *không* (not) are said in the flat tone. The final word in this phrase is *hiểu* ("to understand"), and is said in falling-rising tone. The phrase is literally "I not understand." ("I don't understand.")

In the lesson, we also covered another phrase, "I don't know." The first two parts of this phrase, *tôi* ("I") and *không* ("not"), remain the same, and only the verb changes. *Hiểu* ("to understand") is replaced with *biết* ("to know"), forming the phrase *Tôi không biết*. ("I don't know.") This phrase will come in handy once you are able to understand the question, but don't have the answer. *Biết* is said in the rising tone.

Finally, there is the phrase *Tôi không rõ*. ("It's not clear.") which literally means "I not clear." but is translated as "It's not clear." Again, the first two parts of this phrase, *tôi* ("I") and *không* ("not"), remain the same, and only the third component changes.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Không is the same word found in the expression *Không sao đâu*. (No problem. or Don't worry.) It is the English equivalent of "Do not worry" and is most appropriate in situations among good friends.

Quick Tip 2

You can use these phrases to "escape" from some sticky situations by pretending you "don't understand" what is being asked.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #8

Can You Speak English? in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

8

VIETNAMESE

1. Có nói được tiếng Anh không?

ENGLISH

1. Can you speak English?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
bạn (Southern)	you - person with the same age with the 1st speaker	pronoun
được (Southern)	to be able, possible	adverb
tiếng Anh (Southern)	English - language	noun
tiếng Nhật (Southern)	Japanese - language	noun
nói (Southern)	to speak	verb
có (Southern)	to have	verb
không (Southern)	no, not, nothing, without	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hoa là bạn của tôi. "Hoa is my friend."	Anh ấy nói được tiếng Anh. "He can speak English."
Tiếng Anh rất thông dụng trên thế giới. "English is very popular in the world."	Tiếng Nhật rất khó học. "Japanese is very difficult to learn."

Anh ấy nói được tiếng Anh.

"He can speak English."

Tôi có một món quà cho bạn.

"I have a present for you."

Tôi không hút thuốc.

"I don't smoke."

GRAMMAR

In today's lesson covered another extremely important phrase, "Can you speak English?" Using this phrase as opposed to speaking English at someone is important for many reasons. For one if the party you are speaking to does not understand English, at least they will be able to understand what you are asking. Furthermore, it will show that you made the effort to learn even a little bit of the language.

In Vietnamese "Can you Speak English" is *Có nói được tiếng Anh không*. The first three words, *có nói được*, is the start of the question and translates to "can you speak." *Có* and *nói* are both the rising tone. This phrase is followed by *được*, which is the falling tone. The words *tiếng Anh* follows *được*. *Tiếng* is the rising tone and *Anh* has no tone. These two words literally translate to, "Language English." This entire phrase is finished off with *không*, which means "no."

To ask if the person speaks another language such as Japanese, simply replace the word after *tiếng* with the specific language. For example, the Vietnamese word for Japanese is *Nhật* so would replace *Anh* in the phrase to yield *Có nói được tiếng Nhật không?* Only the word for the specific language changes, but the phrase remains the same.

To simplify the phrase, either the word *được* or the word *không* can be omitted, to yield the following phrases:

A) *Có nói được tiếng Anh?* – "Can you speak English?"

B) *Có nói tiếng Anh không?* – "Can you speak English, no?"

The meaning remains the same, although *Có nói được tiếng Anh không* is the most correct and polite.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

English is studied in high schools, so the number of English speakers is increasing; however, there are still many people who do not speak English in rural areas.

Quick Tip 2

Modern Vietnamese is written in Roman letters, so it is quite easy to look up words in a dictionary as well as reading signs and menus. Speaking on the other hand is whole other animal.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #9

Please Say It Again Slowly in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

9

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin nói lại.
2. Xin nói chậm lại.
3. Làm ơn.

ENGLISH

1. Please say it again.
2. Please say it again slowly.
3. Please. (formal)

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
nói (Southern)	to speak	verb
chậm (Southern)	slow, slowly	adjective, adverb
lại (Southern)	again	adverb
làm ơn (Southern)	please	phrase
xin (Southern)	to ask (for), please	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Anh ấy nói được tiếng Anh.</p> <p>"He can speak English."</p>	<p>Tôi nghe không được rõ, làm ơn nói chậm lại.</p> <p>"I cannot hear clearly, please speak again slowly."</p>
<p>Hi vọng sớm gặp lại bạn!</p> <p>"Hope to see you again soon!"</p>	<p>Tôi nghe không được rõ, làm ơn nói chậm lại.</p> <p>"I cannot hear clearly, please speak again slowly."</p>
<p>Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó.</p> <p>"Please give me that book."</p>	

GRAMMAR

We believe that there is a tremendous amount of Vietnamese you can learn from speakers of the language regardless of your geographical location. Therefore, we do our best to provide you with the tools to allow you to turn everyday and every encounters into a learning opportunity. Today's lesson is one of the first steps in that process.

In Vietnamese "Please say it again" is *Xin nói lại*. *Xin* means please and is said in the flat tone. *Nói* means "to speak" and is said in the rising tone. The third word in this phrase *lại*, which means again and is said in the sharp falling tone. Literally this means "Please say again," but it is used as the English equivalent for "Please say it again."

To ask someone to "Please say it again slowly," simply add *chậm* to the phrase *Xin nói chậm lại*. to get *Xin nói lại*. *Chậm* means slowly and is said in the sharp falling tone. Literally this means "Please say again slowly," but it is used as the English equivalent for "Please say it again."

A more formal way to say "please" is *làm ơn*. The word "làm" falls gradually and the word "ơn" is the flat tone. So for those looking to impress, you replace *Xin* with *Làm ơn* to get the phrase *Làm ơn nói chậm lại*.

However, as stated in an earlier lesson, the vowel "o" sound may be difficult for those new to the language. Therefore, using the alternative *xin* maybe easier to pronounce, and it is just as effective.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Đạ? is an interjection expressing the fact that speaker did not catch what was said. Roughly equivalent *Huh?* in English it can be used before one of the phrases asking a person to repeat what was just said.

Quick Tip 2

Xin chị nói lại một lần nữa. which translates to "Please say it again once more." is another extremely useful phrase.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #10

Apologies in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

10

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin lỗi.
2. Không sao.

ENGLISH

1. Sorry.
2. Don't worry.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
lỗi (Southern)	mistake	noun
Không sao. (Southern)	Don't worry./ Never mind.	expression
không (Southern)	no, not, nothing, without	adverb
xin (Southern)	to ask (for), please	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Đây là lỗi của tôi. "This is my mistake."	Xin lỗi, tôi làm vỡ cái cốc của bạn rồi. / Không sao. "I'm sorry, I broke your cup already." / "Never Mind."
Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."	Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó. "Please give me that book."

GRAMMAR

Experiencing and learning about another culture are reasons many people enjoy traveling. Like all cultures, Vietnamese culture entails many nuances that travelers may overlook. In most cases, the Vietnamese will not take offense, however apologizing for a mistake can make a huge difference.

The phrase "Sorry" in Vietnamese is *Xin lỗi*. The word, *xin* has no tone and means "please." The following word *lỗi* is the broken rising tone and means "mistake." The literal translation of this phrase is "please mistake" but we use it as the English equivalent for "sorry." You can use this phrase in any type of situation you feel the need to express regret.

In the case that someone uses this expression towards you, you can respond with *Không sao* which is the English equivalent of "Do not worry." We have introduced the word *không* in our previous lesson—"You're welcome" (*Không có gì*). As a reminder, *không* has no tone and means "no." The following word *sao* literally means "how." Therefore, this entire phrase literally is "no how" but is used as the English equivalent for "Do not worry."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Xin lỗi can be used when you need to say "excuse me." This is very useful phrase in crowded areas. It is also considered very respectful if used before you wish to ask a stranger a question or for information.

Quick Tip 2

Another phrase used to express regret is *Rất tiếc*. Both words are the rising tone. The word *rất* means very and *tiếc* means "sorry." This phrase *rất tiếc* is used to express condolences, for example in cases if someone has experienced a death in the family.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #11

Restaurant 1 - How Many People? (And Numbers) in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

11

VIETNAMESE

1. Tất cả là mấy người?
2. Một
3. Hai
4. Ba
5. Bốn
6. Năm

ENGLISH

1. How many people are in your party?
2. One
3. Two
4. Three
5. Four
6. Five

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
-------------------	----------------	--------------

đi (Southern)	to go, to come	verb
anh (Southern)	Mister; you (to an elder man or in formal situation)	noun; pronoun
năm (Southern)	five (5)	numeral
là (Southern)	to be	verb
người (Southern)	person, people	noun
hai (Southern)	two (2)	numeral
một (Southern)	one (1), a	numeral
chị (Southern)	Miss; you (to an elder woman or in formal situation)	noun; pronoun
ba (Southern)	three (3)	numeral
bốn (Southern)	four (4)	numeral
mấy (Southern)	how many, how much - (an alternative to bao nhiêu)	interrogative

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Hôm nay tôi không đến trường.</p> <p>"I don't go to school today."</p>	<p>Xin mời anh ngồi xuống.</p> <p>"Please sit down, Mister."</p>
<p>Một bàn tay có năm ngón tay.</p> <p>"There are five fingers on a hand."</p>	<p>Chúng tôi là khách du lịch.</p> <p>"We are tourists."</p>
<p>Nhiều người đang xếp hàng mua vé.</p> <p>"Many people are queuing for tickets."</p>	<p>Hai năm trước tôi đã đến Việt Nam.</p> <p>"I went to Vietnam two years ago."</p>
<p>Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng.</p> <p>"She is a famous actress."</p>	<p>Chị ấy thật xinh đẹp.</p> <p>"She is so beautiful."</p>

<p>Tôi đã đến Việt Nam 3 lần.</p> <p>"I have been to Vietnam three times."</p>	<p>Ở Hà Nội, một năm có bốn mùa.</p> <p>"In Hanoi, there are four seasons in a year."</p>
---	--

<p>Mỗi ngày bạn ăn cơm mấy bữa?</p> <p>"How many meals do you have in a day?"</p>
--

GRAMMAR

Vietnam is full of street vendors and restaurants where you will usually seat yourself and the staff will come to take your order. However, if you are dining at a restaurant, usually the first question you will be asked is "How many people are in your party?" which in Vietnamese, this is *Tất cả là mấy người?*

This phrase has two main parts. The first part, *Tất cả* means entire. *Tất* is said in the rising tone and *cả* is the falling rising tone.

The second part, *là mấy người* means "How many people?" *Là* falls gradually and "mấy" is the rising tone. The word *người* falls gradually and means person or people. Combining these parts yields *Tất cả là mấy người?* Literally this phrase means, "Entire how many people?" but we translate this as "How many people are in your party?"

Answering by pointing or showing the number of people with our hands will usually suffice. In some languages there are different counters for different things, units, animals people. However, Vietnamese is just like English. We only have to learn one set of numbers.

Review of the numbers one to five below:

One - *một*, sharp falling tone

Two - *hai*, flat tone.

Three - *ba*, flat tone.

Four - *bốn*, rising tone.

Five - *năm*, flat tone.

To reply with how many people are in your party, the number of people comes first, just like in English. So for example, for one person, you would say *một người* for two people you would

say hai người.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Houses in Vietnam are usually a few stories high. It is very common for families to operate business on the first floor and use the floors above for living. Family restaurants usually serve authentic home cooked meals. Free standing restaurants are more common in bigger cities than smaller cities. Restaurants are usually more expensive, so many locals dine at street vendors.

Quick Tip 2

Street vendors are best enjoyed alone or in small groups. They are usually only furnished with the very basic restaurant necessities such as small tables, plastic chairs and utensils. Most street vendors do not have bathrooms, sinks or even plumbing. Dishes are usually done in large plastic buckets filled with water. Before choosing a vendor, take notice of the restaurants hygiene.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #12

Restaurant 2 - Non-smoking or Smoking in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 2 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

12

VIETNAMESE

1. không hút thuốc
2. hút thuốc

ENGLISH

1. non-smoking
2. smoking

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
hút thuốc (Southern)	smoking, to smoke cigarette	noun, verb
hút (Southern)	to smoke	verb
thuốc (Southern)	medicine, tobacco	noun
không (Southern)	no, not, nothing, without	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Ở đây không được hút thuốc. "No smoking allowed here."	Hút thuốc lá có hại cho sức khỏe. "Smoking is not good for your health."
Anh ấy đang uống thuốc. "He is taking his medicine."	Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."

GRAMMAR

Tobacco companies market their products through sponsorship of sports and cultural events and point of purchase advertising. The minimum age to purchase tobacco products in Vietnam is 16 and smoking is very popular amongst men. It is a common sight to see smokers enjoying a cigarette while drinking coffee or after a meal. In most restaurants and cafés there are no designated areas for non-smoking. However, there are occasions when you can ask for a non-smoking seat or perhaps you would like a smoking seat.

Now remember when you enter a restaurant you'll hear *Tất cả là mấy người*. After answering, you can also include one of the following phrases; however, it is likely that the dining establishment you patronize may not have a non-smoking section:

In Vietnamese "non-smoking" is *không hút thuốc*. The first word, *không* should be very familiar by now. We heard in previous phrases such as *Không có gì* for "You're welcome" and *Tôi không hiểu* for "I do not understand." As a reminder, *không* is the flat tone and means "no." This is followed by *hút thuốc*. Both words are the rising tone and means "to smoke medicine." Literally this phrase translates to "no smoke medicine" but we use it as the English equivalent for "non-smoking." This phrase can be used when buying a train ticket. To say "smoking" it is *hút thuốc*. As you can see, we simply drop the word *không* from the previous phrase.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Foreign cigarettes are viewed as a luxury item in Vietnam as they are expensive for locals. Cigarettes can be purchased from street vendors and some stores.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #13

Restaurant 3 - Waiter! in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

13

VIETNAMESE

1. Người hầu bàn!
2. Cái này
3. Món gì hưởnɡ?

ENGLISH

1. Waiter!/Waitress!
2. This please.
3. What's good?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
tôi (Southern)	I, me	pronoun
ơi (Southern)	hey (to attract the attention of other people)	interjection
ngon (Southern)	good, delicious	adjective
gì (Southern)	what	question word, pronoun
món (Southern)	dish	noun
Xin lỗi. (Southern)	Excuse me	expression
anh (Southern)	Mister; you (to an elder man or in formal situation)	noun; pronoun

chị (Southern)	Miss; you (to an elder woman or in formal situation)	noun; pronoun
cho (Southern)	to give	verb
này (Southern)	this	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tôi là Lan. "I am Lan."	Cái bánh này ngon. "This cake is delicious."
Không có gì. "You're welcome." (lit."It's not at all.")	Món này rất ngon. "This dish is very delicious."
Xin hỏi, mấy giờ rồi? "Excuse me, what time is it now?"	Xin mời anh ngồi xuống. "Please sit down, Mister."
Chị ấy thật xinh đẹp. "She is so beautiful."	Anh ta cho tôi chiếc cặp. "He gave me a bag."
Món này rất ngon. "This dish is very delicious."	

GRAMMAR

Service in Vietnam, especially in restaurants is usually very good. The staff are usually attentive and will tend to your needs even before being asked. However, if you need to get a hold of the staff, you can use a variety of phrases and body language. The simplest phrase is one we covered before! You simply can say, *Xin lỗi*. (Excuse me.)" raising your hand. The word, *xin* has no tone and means "please." The following word *lỗi* is the broken rising tone

and means "mistake." You can also get a hold of the wait staff by saying *người hầu bàn* which is loosely translated as the equivalent for waiter or waitress. Every word in this phrase is said in the falling tone. The first word *người* was introduced in the previous lesson and means person. This is followed by *hầu* which means to wait or tend to. The last word *bàn* means table. Literally this entire phrase translates to "person wait upon table," but we use it as the English equivalent for waiter or waitress.

Once the waiter or waitress comes to your table, you can go with the standard point and "This please." which in Vietnamese is *xin cái này*. The word *xin* is the flat tone, *cái* is the rising tone and *này* falls gradually.

If you're feeling ambitious, you can ask for "What is good?" which in Vietnamese is *Móm gì hưởng?* The first word *móm* is the rising tone and means meal or dish. *Gì* roughly translates as what and is said in the falling tone. The phrase ends with *hưởng*, which loosely translates as good.

Another way to get the attention of the staff is with the phrase *Anh anh! Làm ơn*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Most street vendors in Vietnam serve only one or two main dishes, so you will most likely use these phrases in restaurants settings.

Quick Tip 2

Vietnamese restaurants and vendors usually cook their dishes upon order, so you can rest assured meals are fresh.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #14

Restaurant 4 - Getting the Bill in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

14

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin tính tiền.
2. Ngon quá!

ENGLISH

1. Check please.
2. Very delicious!

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
cho (Southern)	to give, to grant, to bring	verb
tôi (Southern)	I, me	pronoun
tính (Southern)	to count, to calculate	verb
tiền (Southern)	money	noun
ngon (Southern)	good, delicious	adjective
quá (Southern)	very, too, so	particle
xin	to ask (for), please	verb
hóa đơn (Southern)	bill	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Anh ta cho tôi chiếc cặp. "He gave me a bag."	Tôi là Lan. "I am Lan."
---	-----------------------------------

<p>Chúng tôi đang tính chi phí cho chuyến đi.</p> <p>"We are calculating the fee for the trip."</p>	<p>Tôi không có nhiều tiền.</p> <p>"I don't have much money."</p>
<p>Cái bánh này ngon.</p> <p>"This cake is delicious."</p>	<p>Em bé dễ thương quá!</p> <p>"The baby is so cute!"</p>
<p>Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó.</p> <p>"Please give me that book."</p>	<p>Người đàn bà đã lo lắng về cái hóa đơn.</p> <p>"The woman worried about the bill. "</p>

GRAMMAR

In most Vietnamese restaurants, you usually will pay the bill at the register since it is considered rude to display money at the table. However, if you ask for the bill, the staff will oblige and bring it to the table.

To say "Check please." is *Xin tính tiền*. The first word *xin* has been covered in a few lessons before. As a reminder *xin* is the word for "please" and is said with no tone. *xin* is followed by *tính*.

Tính is the rising tone and means calculate. The phrase ends with the word for money, *tiền*. *Tiền* is said in the rising tone.

An alternative phrase is "May I have the bill, please?" which is *Cho tôi xin hóa đơn*. The first word three words of this phrase, *Cho tôi xin* are said in the flat tone. *Cho* means "give" and is followed by *tôi* which means "I." *Xin* as we know means "please." This entire phrase ends with *hóa đơn* which means "invoice" or "bill." Literally, this phrase translates as "Give I please bill" but we use it as the English equivalent for "May I have the bill, please?"

To express your delight for the meal, you can say "Delicious!" which in Vietnamese is *Ngon quá!* *Ngon* is the flat tone and means good." *Ngon* is followed by *quá!* which means "great." So the entire phrase literally means "good very" but we use it as the English equivalent for "Delicious!" If a dish is good, but not quite fantastic, you can drop *quá* and just say *Ngon*.

Upon leaving, and also as a quick review, don't forget to say "Thank you." which is *Cảm ơn ông*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

It is not customary to tip, so the total on the receipt is what you pay. However, leaving a small tip would not be considered rude and is appreciated.

Quick Tip 2

Many Vietnamese, especially men, drink alcohol daily with their meals. However, drinking excessively is not a national trait. Alcohol is usually served in small glasses and taken in small sips.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #15

Restaurant 5 - Vietnamese Dining Etiquette

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

15

VIETNAMESE

1. Lần sau đến anh trả.
2. Xin mời.
3. Ngon quá!

ENGLISH

1. Next time you pay.
2. I invite you too.
3. Delicious!

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
xin (Southern)	to ask (for), please	verb
ngon (Southern)	good, delicious	adjective
đến (Southern)	to come	verb
quá (Southern)	very, too, so	particle
sau (Southern)	after, following	adverb, adjective
trả (Southern)	to pay, to return	verb
lần (Southern)	time	noun
mời (Southern)	to invite	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó.</p> <p>"Please give me that book."</p>	<p>Cái bánh này ngon.</p> <p>"This cake is delicious."</p>
<p>Bây giờ đến lượt tôi.</p> <p>"Now it's my turn."</p>	<p>Em bé dễ thương quá!</p> <p>"The baby is so cute!"</p>
<p>Sau buổi tiệc chúng tôi đi thẳng về nhà.</p> <p>"After the party, we went straight back home."</p>	<p>Chúng tôi phải trả bao nhiêu?</p> <p>"How much do we have to pay?"</p>
<p>Lần này tôi gặp may.</p> <p>"I am lucky this time."</p>	<p>Tôi được mời dự tiệc của Hoa.</p> <p>"I am invited to Hoa's party."</p>

GRAMMAR

In Vietnamese culture, when you go out to eat in a group, the person who extended the invitation typically pays for the meal. Usually among friends, when it is time to pay the bill there usually is a small but friendly fuss made as to who will cover the tab. If your friend insists on paying, or if you really want to pay, you can say *Lần sau đến anh trả*, which loosely means "Next time you can pay."

Usually before a meal with family or with guests, the younger people of the group, especially children must say, *Xin moi*, addressing each person at the table appropriately. *Xin moi*, literally means "I beg to invite you to."

Friends dining with one another will say *Xin moi*, partly to show courtesy and also as a way to say let's start eating. Adults will say *Xin moi*, especially if there are elders present. Personal pronouns are used to convey respect. By observing the use of personal pronouns, Vietnamese people can guess to a certain extent the relationship between speaker and listener.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Vietnamese table etiquette is very important. A typical meal usually includes many dishes and a small bowl of rice for each person. When picking food from communal dish with chopsticks, you should not eat it directly. Food must be placed in your own bowl first.

Quick Tip 2

During or after the meal if you would like to pay compliments, you can say *Ngon quá!* which means "Delicious!"

Quick Tip 3

Personal pronouns are used to convey respect. By observing the use of personal pronouns, Vietnamese people can guess to a certain extent the relationship between speaker and listener.

- *Ông* means "grandfather," and is a term of respect for a man older than the speaker and who is late middle age or older.
- *Bà* means "grandmother," and is a term of respect for a woman, usually married, who is older than the speaker and who is late middle age or older.
- *Bác* means "parent's older brother or sister," and is a term for a man or woman a little older than your parents. It's also used for or the husband of the father's older sister or the husband of the mother's older sister.
- *Cô* means "father's younger sister," and is a term for a younger woman, or a woman as old as your father, or a female teacher regardless of her age.
- *Cậu* means "mother's younger brother," and is used to address a younger man or a man as old as one's mother
- *Dì* means "mother's sister," and is used to address a younger woman or a woman as old as your mother; also a term for your step-mother

- *Chú* means "father's younger brother," and is used to address a younger man, or a man slightly younger than one's father, or the husband of the father's younger sister.
- *Thím* means "wife of father's younger brother."
- *Mợ* means "wife of mother's younger brother."
- *Dượng* means "husband of mother's sister"; a term to address one's step-father
- *Bố/Ba/Cha* is father
- *Mẹ/Má/Mợ* is mother
- *Con* means "child"; used in some regions to address a person as old as one's child
- *Cháu* means "nephew/niece, grandson/granddaughter"; used to address a young person of around such relative age

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #16

Counting 1-10 in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

16

VIETNAMESE

1. mười
2. chín
3. tám
4. bảy
5. sáu
6. năm
7. bốn
8. ba
9. hai
10. một

ENGLISH

1. ten
2. nine
3. eight
4. seven

CONT'D OVER

5. six
6. five
7. four
8. three
9. two
10. one

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
một (Southern)	one (1), a	numeral
ba (Southern)	three(3)	numeral
mười (Southern)	ten (10)	numeral
tám (Southern)	eight (8)	numeral
năm (Southern)	five (5)	numeral
bảy (Southern)	seven (7)	numeral
hai (Southern)	two(2)	numeral
sáu (Southern)	six (6)	numeral
bốn (Southern)	four (4)	numeral
chín (Southern)	nine (9)	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng.</p> <p>"She is a famous actress."</p>	<p>Tôi đã đến Việt Nam 3 lần.</p> <p>"I have been to Vietnam three times."</p>
<p>Cô gái thường về nhà lúc 10 (mười) giờ tối.</p> <p>"The girl often comes home at 10 P.M."</p>	<p>Tám (8) người trong số họ là sinh viên.</p> <p>"Eight of them were students."</p>
<p>Một bàn tay có năm ngón tay.</p> <p>"There are five fingers on a hand."</p>	<p>Cậu bé này 7 (bảy) tuổi.</p> <p>"This boy is seven years old."</p>
<p>Hai năm trước tôi đã đến Việt Nam.</p> <p>"I went to Vietnam two years ago."</p>	<p>Đó là một khóa học kéo dài 6 (sáu) tháng.</p> <p>"That is a six-month course."</p>
<p>Ở Hà Nội, một năm có bốn mùa.</p> <p>"In Hanoi, there are four seasons in a year."</p>	<p>Vở kịch bắt đầu lúc chín (9) giờ.</p> <p>"The play starts at nine."</p>

GRAMMAR

All right, let's learn how to count in Vietnamese. I know it's tricky at first but everything has some rules and as long as you find them out, it's not difficult anymore. I bet you will be great at shopping in Vietnam if you master this lesson.

First of all, let's look at numbers from 1 to 10.

1 is *một*. (mote)

2 is *hai*.(hi)

3 is *ba*.(bah)

4 is *bốn*.(bone)

5 is *năm*. (nam)

6 is *sáu*.(sow)

7 is *bảy*.(bye)

8 is *tám*.(tam)

9 is *chín*.(chin)

10 is *mười*.(moo-ee)

Please note that previously Chinese characters were used to represent numbers in Vietnamese, but this is no longer the practice. However, there are Chinese characters that were used to represent numbers in Vietnamese.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Prices written by a machine will probably be in Roman numerals, and the prices in the grocery store will certainly be in Roman numerals.

Quick Tip 2

Không or *dê-rô* are the Vietnamese word for zero.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #17

How Much? in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

17

VIETNAMESE

1. Bao nhiêu?
2. Cái này bao nhiêu?
3. Cái đó bao nhiêu?

ENGLISH

1. How much?
2. How much is this?
3. How much is that?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
cái này (Southern)	this	pronoun
bao nhiêu (Southern)	how many, how much	phrase
cái đó (Southern)	that	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Cái bút này là của Lan. "This is Lan's pen."	Chúng tôi phải trả bao nhiêu? "How much do we have to pay?"
--	---

Làm ơn đưa cho tôi cái bút đó.

"Please give me that pen."

GRAMMAR

We have something for all learners who plan on buying things in Vietnam! We assume that is all of you. "How much?"

Vietnam has been experiencing tremendous growth in recent years, and the country is abound with all types of goods and products. It is not a question of whether you will find something you like, but rather a question of how long will it take. When you finally find something that you like, the next step will be to find out how much it costs. In Vietnam, there are many shops, stores, street vendors and merchants, and while the number of department stores is increasing, a tremendous amount of business is done by these small dealers, who rarely tag the items they are selling with the price. Therefore, asking the price is a crucial step in shopping in Vietnam.

In Vietnamese "How much?" is *Bao nhiêu?*. *Bao -nhiêu?*. Shopping, at the market, at an eatery, depending on your spending habits this may be an extremely high frequency phrase!

The most rudimentary way of using "How much?" is pointing at something while saying *Bao nhiêu?*, but let's try and build this up a bit. Let's start with the expression, "How much is this?" which in Vietnamese is *Cái này bao nhiêu?*. The first word *cái này* means "this". This is followed by "bao nhiêu" which in Vietnamese is "how much?". So all together we have *Cái này bao nhiêu?*. Literally this means "How much is this?."

Looking at the word for "this," warrants a look at the word for "that" which is *cái đó*, *cái -đó* and *cái đó*. The phrase "How much is that?" is *Cái đó bao nhiêu?*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

In Vietnam you should haggle when shopping, except at supermarkets where prices are fixed. In the next lesson you will learn Survival Phrases for haggling, but if you aren't so

adventurous, try writing down numbers on paper.

Quick Tip 2

Here I teach you how to haggle so you can enjoy your shopping, but actually I feel guilty about this. I know there are some souvenir shops out there who always want to rip off foreign/domestic tourists to fill their abysmal greed, but the thing is most street/market vendors only earn several dollars per day. Is it worth it if we try to take away some pennies from them?

In fact, I have a friend in NY and she always pays more than the price she is asked for in Vietnam, since it's already too cheap. It's some kind of tip towards hard working people. I do the same.

So my friends, after you haggle and know the real price, if you think it's too cheap, please tip the seller for being honest.

Well this is real hard math since if we pay too much dishonest people will try to rip off other tourists.

Now it's up to you! Have fun shopping in Vietnam.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #18

Please Lower the Price in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

18

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin hạ giá không?
2. Đắt quá!

ENGLISH

1. Could you lower the price, please?
2. Too expensive.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
hạ (Southern)	to lower	verb
giá (Southern)	price	noun
bạn (Southern)	you - person with the same age with the 1st speaker	pronoun
xuống (Southern)	down; to get down	preposition; verb
muốn (Southern)	to want	verb
được không? (Southern)	could you?	phrase
quá (Southern)	very, too, so	particle
đắt (Southern)	expensive	adjective
xin (Southern)	to ask (for), please	verb
trả (Southern)	to pay, to return	verb
bao nhiêu (Southern)	how many, how much	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Những người đàn ông đang hạ chiếc cờ xuống.</p> <p>"The men are lowering down the flag."</p>	<p>Mấy hôm nay giá vàng đang hạ xuống.</p> <p>"The price of gold is going down these days."</p>
<p>Hoa là bạn của tôi.</p> <p>"Hoa is my friend."</p>	<p>Những người đàn ông đang hạ chiếc cờ xuống.</p> <p>"The men are lowering down the flag."</p>
<p>Tôi muốn gặp mẹ tôi.</p> <p>"I want to see my mother."</p>	<p>Em bé dễ thương quá!</p> <p>"The baby is so cute!"</p>
<p>Cô ấy có một chiếc ô tô rất mắc (đắt).</p> <p>"She has a very expensive car."</p>	<p>Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó.</p> <p>"Please give me that book."</p>
<p>Chúng tôi phải trả bao nhiêu?</p> <p>"How much do we have to pay?"</p>	<p>Chúng tôi phải trả bao nhiêu?</p> <p>"How much do we have to pay?"</p>

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned the Survival Phrase *Bao nhiêu?*, which means "How much?." How much is this?" which in Vietnamese is *Cái này bao nhiêu?*. The phrase "How much is that?" is *Cái đó bao nhiêu?*. This lesson's phrase is used when you're at one of the most exciting places in the any country around the world, the market!

When at the market and talking about prices, the phrase *Xin hạ giá không* (Could you lower the price please?) is indispensable! In Vietnam haggling is common practice. When you come to Vietnam one of the most interesting and fun things to do is haggle at the market! So be sure to use this phrase!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip

To what extent you should haggle?

It depends on the commodity. For vegetables, fruit or souvenirs you should say a price lower than half of what the original offer. And then the seller will lower their price little by little while you raise your price until you reach an agreement. For example:

You are offered a bag at 200K dong. You offer 80K. They reply with 180K. You both agree on a compromise at 100K.

Quick Tip 2

Market Research, Or How To Become A Vietnamese Shopping Expert: If you have time, want to know more about how locals shop, or are just wary of being ripped off, you need to do some research.

Before shopping at a street market, visit supermarkets, where prices are always fixed. They are more expensive than street markets, but will give you an idea of how much you should pay at a street market.

You could also research prices without leaving a street market by visiting several shops before making your purchase at the cheapest one.

But the easiest way to research prices is to ask your friends or hotel staff members, about real prices.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #19

Currency in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

19

VIETNAMESE

1. đồng
2. mười ngàn (nghìn)
3. năm ngàn (nghìn)
4. bảy ngàn (nghìn)

ENGLISH

1. Dong, the Vietnamese currency
2. 10,000
3. 5,000
4. 7,000

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
đồng (Southern)	dong (Vietnamese currency)	noun
bảy (Southern)	seven (7)	numeral
ngàn (nghìn) (Southern)	thousand	numeral
chín (Southern)	nine (9)	numeral
một trăm nghìn (ngàn) (Southern)	a hundred thousand (100,000)	numeral

mười ngàn (Southern)	ten thousand (10,000)	numeral
tám (Southern)	eight (8)	numeral
triệu (Southern)	million (number with 6 zero)	numeral
một (Southern)	one (1), a	numeral
sáu (Southern)	six (6)	numeral
năm (Southern)	five (5)	numeral
bốn (Southern)	four (4)	numeral
ba (Southern)	three (3)	numeral
hai (Southern)	two (2)	numeral
mười (Southern)	ten (10)	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mười ngàn đồng một cái bánh mì.</p> <p>"One bread costs 10,000 dong."</p>	<p>Cậu bé này 7 (bảy) tuổi.</p> <p>"This boy is seven years old."</p>
<p>Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh.</p> <p>"One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."</p>	<p>Vở kịch bắt đầu lúc chín (9) giờ.</p> <p>"The play starts at nine."</p>
<p>Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh.</p> <p>"One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."</p>	<p>Mười ngàn đồng một cái bánh mì.</p> <p>"One bread costs 10,000 dong."</p>
<p>Tám (8) người trong số họ là sinh viên.</p> <p>"Eight of them were students."</p>	<p>Anh ta là một triệu phú.</p> <p>"He is a millionaire."</p>

<p>Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng.</p> <p>"She is a famous actress."</p>	<p>Đó là một khóa học kéo dài 6 (sáu) tháng.</p> <p>"That is a six-month course."</p>
<p>Một bàn tay có năm ngón tay.</p> <p>"There are five fingers on a hand."</p>	<p>Ở Hà Nội, một năm có bốn mùa.</p> <p>"In Hanoi, there are four seasons in a year."</p>
<p>Tôi đã đến Việt Nam 3 lần.</p> <p>"I have been to Vietnam three times."</p>	<p>Hai năm trước tôi đã đến Việt Nam.</p> <p>"I went to Vietnam two years ago."</p>
<p>Cô gái thường về nhà lúc 10 (mười) giờ tối.</p> <p>"The girl often comes home at 10 P.M."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In Vietnam the currency is called *đồng*. *Đồng* means copper in Vietnamese. Centuries ago, coin money, which was the major type of money in Vietnam back then, used to be made of copper and that is why *đồng* has become the name of Vietnam's currency today.

The foreign exchange rate goes up and down every day, but in 2007 the following is a rough equation: 1 US dollar equals 16000 *đồng*. So, for example, if you change 100 USD into Vietnam *đồng*, you will have around 1.6 million *đồng*. Now, you might be thinking to yourself, "Wow! Not bad! 1.6 million! Well not so fast! Actually the prices are realitive, so even with this huge sum of money you can only buy a bicycle or something like that there. However, the good thing is you can buy around 100 bowls of *phở* – the popular Vietnamese rice noodles; food here is very cheap and delicious!

In Vietnam, maybe the cheapest thing now starts at around a thousand. For example to park a motorcycle you have to pay 1 thousand or 2. Thousand is *ngìn*, and by simply combining a number from 1 to 10 and thousand you can say from 1000 to 9000. For example: 1000 is *một nghìn*, 7000 is *bảy nghìn*. With this lesson and the lesson on numbers you can now count from 1001 to 9999. For example, 2345 is *hai nghìn ba trăm bốn mươi lăm*. But probably when

shopping you the numbers you will use are as follows: 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000, or something in between those like 5500 (*năm nghìn năm trăm*, or *năm nghìn rưỡi*. *Rưỡi* means a half). The reason is 1 *đồng* or 10 *đồng* or 100 *đồng* buys you almost nothing.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Now, the funny thing about Vietnamese bills is: they have different colors and designs but all of them have Ho Chi Minh on one side. I know it's tricky at first but everything has some rules and as long as you find know them, it's no longer anymore. I bet you will be great at shopping in Vietnam if you master this lesson.

Quick Tip 2

In Vietnamese 10,000 is *mười nghìn*, 100,000 is *một trăm nghìn*. To pay for 1 bowl of *phở*, which normally costs 15000, *mười lăm nghìn*, you could pay for that with a 10,000 dong bill, and a 5000 dong bill.

A million is 1 *triệu*, so 9 million will be *chín triệu*—you need at least this much to buy a Honda.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #20

Internet café in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

20

VIETNAMESE

1. Tôi muốn dùng in-tơ-nét.
2. Ở đây có WiFi không?

ENGLISH

1. I want to browse the Internet.
2. Does this store have Wi-Fi?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
ở đây (Southern)	here, this place	phrase
Internet cà phê (Southern)	Internet café	noun phrase
tôi (Southern)	I, me	pronoun
dùng (Southern)	to use	verb
WiFi (Southern)	WiFi	noun
không (Southern)	no, not, nothing, without	adverb
In-tơ-nét (Southern)	Internet	noun
muốn (Southern)	to want	verb
có (Southern)	to have	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Mời bạn ngồi xuống đây.</p> <p>"Please sit here."</p>	<p>Tôi là Lan.</p> <p>"I am Lan."</p>
<p>Cô ấy dùng chìa khóa để mở cửa.</p> <p>"She used the key to open the door."</p>	<p>Anh có thể dùng In-tơ-nét qua mạng WiFi.</p> <p>"You can use Internet through WiFi."</p>
<p>Tôi không hút thuốc.</p> <p>"I don't smoke."</p>	<p>In-tơ-nét đã trở nên phổ biến ở Việt Nam.</p> <p>"Internet has become popular in Vietnam."</p>
<p>Tôi muốn gặp mẹ tôi.</p> <p>"I want to see my mother."</p>	<p>Tôi có một món quà cho bạn.</p> <p>"I have a present for you."</p>

GRAMMAR

This lesson is about a place crucial to your travels in this modern age: the Internet café. In Vietnamese, "Internet café" is either *Internet cà phê*. There are many of the located throughout Vietnam, so finding one should be no problem! Today's Survival Phrases will ensure that things go smoothly once inside.

When you enter the store, approach the reception desk and tell them what you're there for: . *Tôi -muốn -dùng -In-tơ-nét.* or "I want to browse the Internet." The first word *tôi* is "I." It is followed by *muốn* which is "want." The first 2 words *tôi muốn* simply mean "I want" or "I want to." They are followed by *dùng*, which in Vietnamese is "use." The phrase is finished with *In-tơ-net*, which is the Internet. You don't have to say it in the Vietnamese way because it's an international word. As long as you don't speak too fast with the American accent (in-ernet), people will understand.

So all together we have *Tôi muốn dùng in-tơ-nét.* Literally this means "I want to browse the Internet."

They'll print out a tab that states the time you signed in. When you leave, simply bring that tab to the counter and they'll charge you for hours you stayed. The price is usually about 4000 dong to 10000 dong per hour. The price is all inclusive for the time you stayed there. Some

places have a discount for longer stays, like 3000 dong for half an hour but only 5000 dong for one hour, so be sure to look over the entire price list before making a decision.

Many Internet stands don't offer coffee or drinks, just the Internet. These can be found in every town, sometimes even the most remote areas in Vietnam now.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Another system critical question for all you laptop-packing world trekkers is "Does this store have Wi-Fi?" In Vietnamese "Does this store have Wi-Fi?" is *Ở đây có WIFI không?* The first word *ở đây* means "here." It is followed by *có - không*, which in Vietnamese is a way of asking a yes or no question.

So all together we have *Ở đây có WIFI không?* Literally this means "is there Wi-Fi here?" or in a more natural way: "Does this store have Wi-Fi?."

And finally here is one more phrase that might prove useful:

"Password and username please."

In Vietnamese "Password and username please." is *Cho tôi password và username*. The first word *cho* means "give." *Cho tôi* means "give me." The next Vietnamese word in the phrase is *và*, which means "and" in Vietnamese.

So all together we have *Cho tôi password và username*. Literally this means "Give me the password and username," or "Password and username please."

Quick Tip 2

A Vietnamese version of Windows OS hasn't been available until recently, so many computers will be entirely in English. Many people in an Internet café will know English terms. If you have a problem and aren't sure what to do, just speak slowly in English or write them down. Someone in the store will be able to help you.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #21

Riding the Bus in Southern Vietnam

1

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

21

VIETNAMESE

1. Xe này có đi ga Hà Nội không?
2. Xe này có dừng ở ga Hà Nội không?

ENGLISH

1. Will this bus go to Hanoi station?
2. Will this bus stop at Hanoi Station?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
này (Southern)	this	pronoun
Hà Nội (Southern)	Hanoi - capital of Vietnam	noun
dừng (Southern)	to stop	verb
ở (Southern)	at, in	preposition
đi (Southern)	to go, to come	verb
xe (Southern)	(vehicle: car, bus, motorbike, bicycle)	noun
ga (Southern)	station	noun
có (Southern)	to have	verb
không (Southern)	no, not, nothing, without	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Món này rất ngon.</p> <p>"This dish is very delicious."</p>	<p>Ở Hà Nội, một năm có bốn mùa.</p> <p>"In Hanoi, there are four seasons in a year."</p>
<p>Viên cảnh sát dừng chiếc xe lại.</p> <p>"The policeman stopped the car."</p>	<p>Tôi sống ở Hà Nội.</p> <p>"I live in Hanoi."</p>
<p>Hôm nay tôi không đến trường.</p> <p>"I don't go to school today."</p>	<p>Đường phố Hà Nội có rất nhiều xe máy.</p> <p>"There are many motorbikes in Hanoi's streets."</p>
<p>Khách sạn này ở gần Ga Hà Nội.</p> <p>"This hotel is near Ha Noi Station."</p>	<p>Tôi có một món quà cho bạn.</p> <p>"I have a present for you."</p>

Tôi không hút thuốc.

"I don't smoke."

GRAMMAR

The bus is an important means of transportation. However, before you get on the bus you probably want to confirm if the bus is going to your destination. We can accomplish this by asking "Will this bus go to" and then add in a destination. In today's lesson we'll learn how to ask in Vietnamese if the bus goes to our destination or not, and some tips related to riding the bus.

In Vietnamese "Will this bus go to Hanoi station" is *Xe này có đi ga Hà Nội không?* The first word *xe* means "vehicle" and can mean anything from bus, car, truck, motorcycle, bicycle and so on. It is followed by *này*, which in Vietnamese is "this" or "these". So to recap here, we have *xe này*. Literally this means "this bus". The next word *có* which means "yes" or affirmative, and the last word *không* means "no" or negative. *Có* and *không* together make a yes or no question. The 4th word *đi* means "go". So *có - đi - không* makes a yes or no question "does it go to?". We can see the grammar of a yes or no question in Vietnamese is like this: "subject + có + verb + không?".

So all together we have *xe này có đi ga Hà Nội không?* Literally this means "will this bus go to Hanoi station?".

Once you have the right bus there are a few things you need to know about riding the bus:

1. In Vietnam, when you get on the bus the conductor will come to you and collect the fare.
2. The fare in Vietnam is a flat fee. You pay the same amount regardless of how far you go.
3. In Vietnam, you can pay with coins or bills. Do not give a bus conductor a 100,000 dong bill; he will not have change and this may have consequences (see Quicktip 1).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

When you get on the bus, you should prepare some small change. If you give a bus conductor 100,000 dong for a 2,000 dong fare, he won't be able to give you change. If this is the case, you might be asked (told) to leave the bus. This is the brutal truth about buses in Hanoi.

But if you're lucky enough, there will be someone on the bus to save you. I had exactly this kind of experience in Kunming, in China. I got on a bus and had to pay the 1 yuan fare but I didn't have a 1 yuan bill, and a young Chinese boy gave me one. Later I found some 1 yuan bills in my pocket and wanted to pay him back but he'd vanished. I guess that was my Chinese angel. I hope that if you have a problem in Vietnam you can find a Vietnamese angel. Who knows?

Quick Tip 2

Buses in big cities in Vietnam can be very crowded and full. If you don't know exactly where your destination is, or when to get off, try to stay near the exit of the bus so it won't take time to

get off.

In addition, make sure to keep an eye on your valuables, because in a crowded bus it is easy to get pick-pocketed.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #22

Riding the Bus in Southern Vietnam 2

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

22

VIETNAMESE

1. Bến tới là bến gì?
2. Trạm tới là trạm gì?

ENGLISH

1. What is the next stop? (Northern dialect)
2. What is the next stop? (Southern dialect)

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
có phải... không? (Southern)	is it... or not?	expression
là (Southern)	to be	verb
Bến Thành (Southern)	Ben Thanh	noun
bến (Southern)	stop	noun
trạm (Southern)	stop	noun
tới (Southern)	next, following	adjective
chợ (Southern)	market	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Đây có phải là bức vẽ của anh không? "Is this your painting?"	Chúng tôi là khách du lịch. "We are tourists."
---	--

<p>Chợ Bến Thành là một trung tâm thương mại lớn ở Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh.</p> <p>"Ben Thanh market is a big commercial center in Ho Chi Minh City."</p>	<p>Bến tới là Ga Hà Nội.</p> <p>"The next stop is Ha Noi Station."</p>
<p>Trạm này là điểm dừng cuối của chuyến buýt.</p> <p>"This stop is the bus terminal."</p>	<p>Bến tới là Ga Hà Nội.</p> <p>"The next stop is Ha Noi Station."</p>
<p>Ở Việt Nam người ta thường mua rau ở chợ.</p> <p>"In Vietnam, people often buy vegetable at the market."</p>	

GRAMMAR

Once on the bus, you'll hear announcements informing the passengers of where the bus will stop next. If there is no English announcement the phrase "What is the next stop?" will be useful. In this lesson we will learn how to ask what the next stop is and some more tips related to riding the bus in Vietnam.

In Vietnamese "What is the next stop?" is *Bến tới là bến gì?*. *Bến* means "stop," and is followed by *tới*, which in Vietnamese is "next." Literally this means "next stop." The next word is *là* which means "is." The last word is *gì* which means "what." So *bến gì, bến - gì*, means "what stop" or "what bus station."

So all together we have *Bến tới là bến gì?*. Literally this means "What is the next stop?"

Another way of inquiring could be asking if your desired destination is the next stop. For this phrase we'll use Ben Thanh Market as the destination. So the phrase "Is Ben Thanh market the next stop?" is *Bến tới có phải chợ Bến Thành không?*

Bến - tới is followed by *có phải*, which together with *không*, the last word in the sentence, is "is it (something) or not?" (In other words, yes or no question with "to be" as the verb). The other word *chợ* is "market" in Vietnamese.

So all together we have *Bến tới có phải chợ Bến Thành không?*. Literally this means "Is Ben Thanh market the next stop?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Some people on the bus might not know what next stop is, so in that case try asking the conductor or even the driver. They are sure to know the answer.

Quick Tip 2

If you have an important appointment and cannot afford to get lost or late, ask the conductor to tell you when the bus reaches your destination. You can say *Cho tôi dừng ở {your stop}*, which means "Let me out at {your stop}." That way you can be sure that you get to your destination without going past it. You can try these phrases another time.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #23

Riding the Bus in Southern Vietnam 3

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 3 Cultural Insight

23

VIETNAMESE

1. Cho tôi vé đi Huế.
2. Cho tôi hai vé đi Huế.
3. Đi Huế bao nhiêu tiền?

ENGLISH

1. Ticket to Hue, please.
2. Two tickets to Hue, please.
3. How much is it to Hue?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
Huế (Southern)	Hue (former capital of Vietnam)	noun
vé (Southern)	ticket	noun
cho (Southern)	to give, to grant, to bring	verb
tôi (Southern)	I, me	pronoun
bao nhiêu (Southern)	how many, how much	phrase
đi (Southern)	to go, to come	verb
hai (Southern)	two(2)	numeral
tiền (Southern)	money	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Huế là một di sản văn hóa thế giới.</p> <p>"Hue is a world heritage site."</p>	<p>Nhiều người đang xếp hàng mua vé.</p> <p>"Many people are queuing for tickets."</p>
<p>Anh ta cho tôi chiếc cặp.</p> <p>"He gave me a bag."</p>	<p>Tôi là Lan.</p> <p>"I am Lan."</p>
<p>Chúng tôi phải trả bao nhiêu?</p> <p>"How much do we have to pay?"</p>	<p>Hôm nay tôi không đến trường.</p> <p>"I don't go to school today."</p>
<p>Hai năm trước tôi đã đến Việt Nam.</p> <p>"I went to Vietnam two years ago."</p>	<p>Tôi không có nhiều tiền.</p> <p>"I don't have much money."</p>

GRAMMAR

In Vietnamese "Ticket to Hue please" is *Cho tôi vé đi Huế*. The first word *cho* means "give," "grant" or "bring" It is followed by *tôi*, which in Vietnamese is I, me, or myself. So to recap here, we have *cho tôi*. Literally this means "give me," or "can I have...?". The next word *vé* means "ticket." The next word is *đi*, which means "to".

So all together we have *Cho tôi vé đi Huế*. Literally this means "Ticket to Hue please".

If you want to buy more than two tickets, you can accomplish this by saying *Cho tôi hai vé đi Huế*. We simply add *hai* before *vé* to create *hai vé*. *Hai* means 2. *Hai vé* is simply 2 tickets.

Bus tickets in Vietnam can be both first come first serve or not. So you may sit anywhere or have to sit in your specified seat depending on the bus company.

Now you might also need to ask "How much is it to your desired destination." For this example, we'll use the same destination as above. In Vietnamese "How much is it to Hue?" is *Đi Huế bao nhiêu tiền?*. *To Huế* follows "How much is?." *Bao nhiêu* means how much, and *tiền* is "money" in Vietnamese.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

There are 2 private bus companies that offer the same service: buses through major spots in Vietnam in open tour formats. You can buy a whole set of tickets and travel from the North to the South, staying 1 night or 2 at every stop and before you leave the city for the next, all you have to do is simply call their office or go there to make a reservation for a seat. As you already have the ticket needed for the seat, you just need to inform them when you will be riding.

Using this system costs around US\$4 to go from Hanoi to Saigon.

Here is some useful information:

Sinh Café: http://www.sinhcafevn.com/Open_Tour.asp

Hanh Café: no website but you can find their addresses and phone numbers on the Internet.

Hanh Café is a little bit cheaper.

Both also organize reasonable and fun tours to various places around major cities. Go check them out!

Quick Tip 2

Backpackers always tend to choose back seats when on long distance night buses like Sinh Café and Hang Café in Vietnam. The reason is perhaps because Vietnamese bus riders always choose back seats so they won't get car sick, and foreigners don't want to get mixed with locals. No one knows what will happen while you're sleeping so it may be better you keep a distance from locals on night buses. There are good and bad people everywhere. If you still want to socialize, you can talk to them at daytime. Just be careful at night.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #24

Riding the Rails in Southern Vietnam

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

24

VIETNAMESE

1. Một vé đi Sài Gòn.
2. ghế cứng
3. ghế mềm
4. giường cứng
5. giường mềm

ENGLISH

1. One ticket to Saigon please.
2. hard seat
3. soft seat
4. hard bed
5. soft bed

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
Sài Gòn (Southern)	Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)	noun
cứng (Southern)	hard	adjective
mềm (Southern)	soft	adjective

ghế (Southern)	chair	noun
giường (Southern)	bed	noun
đi (Southern)	to go, to come	verb
một (Southern)	one (1), a	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Sài Gòn là thành phố lớn nhất ở miền Nam của Việt Nam.</p> <p>"Saigon is the biggest city in the southern part of Vietnam."</p>	<p>Chiếc kẹo này rất cứng.</p> <p>"This sweet is very hard."</p>
<p>Chiếc gối này rất mềm.</p> <p>"This pillow is very soft."</p>	<p>Trong phòng có một chiếc bàn và một chiếc ghế.</p> <p>"There's a table and a chair in the room."</p>
<p>Trong nhà có một chiếc giường.</p> <p>"There's a bed in the room."</p>	<p>Hôm nay tôi không đến trường.</p> <p>"I don't go to school today."</p>
<p>Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng.</p> <p>"She is a famous actress."</p>	

GRAMMAR

In Vietnam riding the rails is one of the best ways to get around. Not only locally, but also for long distance destinations! In fact, traveling by train is one of the best ways to see everything Vietnam has to offer! In today's lesson we'll learn how to buy a train ticket in Vietnamese. Now let's get started.

In Vietnam one can buy train tickets at ticket gate windows, on the train, and at E-ticket

agents. Local people can even book tickets on the Internet. Let's work on getting the ticket. We can accomplish this by asking "Ticket to destination please." Let's say that our destination is Sapa. This mountainous town is located in the north part of Vietnam and is well known for its misty water-colored mountain scenery. It was first used as a resort for French people during the colonial time.

To ask for one ticket to Sapa in Vietnamese is *Một vé đi Sapa*, or "one ticket to Sapa please." The first word *một* means one. It is followed by *vé*, which in Vietnamese is "ticket." The next word is *đi* which means "to" or "to go." So to recap here, we have *Một vé đi*. Literally this means "A ticket to...." The next word is simply the name of the highland town Sapa.

So all together we have *Một vé đi Sapa*. Literally this means "One ticket to Sapa please."

If you wanted to buy 2 tickets, you could accomplish this by saying *hai* in stead of *một*. *Hai* means 2. *Hai vé đi Sapa*.

However, just the destination may not be enough, as there are several types of seats on trains in Vietnam. There are hard seats, soft seats, hard beds and soft beds. In Vietnamese "hard seat" is *ghế cứng*. The first word *ghế* means "seat" or "chair." This is followed by *cứng*, which in Vietnamese is "hard." *Ghế cứng* literally means "hard seat." This is the cheapest but least comfortable option.

The other type of seat is "soft seat," in Vietnamese *ghế mềm*. We already know *ghế* is seat and *mềm* is "soft." These seats are more expensive but more comfortable than hard seats. If you're not in the mood to sit, you can also choose a bed when riding on a train.

There are normally 2 types of beds *giường cứng* and *giường mềm*. *Giường* means "bed." *Cứng* means "hard," and they go together (*giường cứng*) to mean hard bed. Similarly, *mềm* means "soft" so *giường mềm* means "soft bed."

So if you want 2 soft bed tickets to Sapa you simply say: *Hai vé giường mềm đi Sapa*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Toilets on most trains are quite dirty. Only high quality trains from Hanoi to Sapa or Nha Trang to Saigon, will have a separate toilet in every room. Remember bring toilet paper with you. It may be one of the most important things for you to have with you.

Quick Tip 2

When choosing a bed you usually have a choice between three bunks. If you want your privacy and safety try the highest one. It's the cheapest but safest because it has a space for luggage under your feet which you can watch. When people are awake they tend to sit on the lowest bed so if you value your privacy don't choose this one.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S2 #25 Counting 11-100 in Southern Vietnamese

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 4 Cultural Insight

25

VIETNAMESE

1. một trăm linh sáu
2. một trăm mười một
3. một trăm ba mươi
4. bốn trăm ba mươi
5. bảy trăm bảy mươi bảy
6. một ngàn

ENGLISH

1. 106
2. 111
3. 130
4. 430
5. 770
6. 1,000

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
-------------------	----------------	--------------

chín mươi (Southern)	ninety (90)	numeral
mười lăm (Southern)	fifteen (15)	numeral
tám mươi (Southern)	eighty (80)	numeral
bảy mươi (Southern)	seventy (70)	numeral
sáu mươi (Southern)	sixty (60)	numeral
năm mươi (Southern)	fifty (50)	numeral
bốn mươi (Southern)	forty (40)	numeral
mười (Southern)	ten (10)	numeral
mười một (Southern)	eleven (11)	numeral
ba mươi (Southern)	thirty (30)	numeral
mười (Southern)	(denoting the tens; about ten)	numeral
hai mươi lăm (Southern)	twenty five (25)	numeral
hai mươi (Southern)	twenty (20)	numeral
một trăm (Southern)	100, one hundred	numeral
trăm (Southern)	hundred	numeral
ngàn (nghìn) (Southern)	thousand	numeral

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Ông ấy đã 70 (bảy mươi) tuổi.</p> <p>"He is 70 years old now."</p>	<p>Cô gái thường về nhà lúc 10 (mười) giờ tối.</p> <p>"The girl often comes home at 10 P.M."</p>
<p>Cô ấy thường về nhà lúc 11 giờ.</p> <p>"She often comes home at 11 o'clock."</p>	<p>Tháng 11 (mười một) có 30 (ba mươi) ngày.</p> <p>"There are 30 (thirty) days in November."</p>

<p>Ông ấy đã 70 (bảy mươi) tuổi.</p> <p>"He is 70 years old now."</p>	<p>Tôi hai mươi lăm tuổi.</p> <p>"I'm 25 years old."</p>
<p>Ông ấy đã sống một trăm năm.</p> <p>"He has lived one hundred years."</p>	<p>Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh.</p> <p>"One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."</p>

Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh.

"One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."

GRAMMAR

The Vietnamese word for "eleven" is simply the word "ten" followed by "one" (It's *mười một*). "Twelve" is "ten two" or *mười hai*. This pattern (*mười* followed by another single digit number) continues until 19, with the exception of fifteen, which is *mười lăm*.

To say "twenty," we say the word for "two" followed by *mười* (don't be tempted to pronounce *mười* the same as the word for "ten" though, *mười* has no tone.) "Twenty" is pronounced *hai mươi*. This pattern (a single digit followed by *mười*) continues until ninety, *chín mươi*.

To say any other number, just add a single digit to the end of one of these numbers. For example, to say any number between twenty and thirty, just say "twenty" (*hai mươi*) followed by another digit. "Twenty-one" would be *hai mươi một*, "twenty-two" would be *hai mươi hai*. The only exception is (again) the number five. Instead of adding the word for 'five' to the end of *hai mươi* we add "*lăm*." 'Fifty-five' is pronounced *năm mươi lăm*.

Well, how about a hundred? It's *một trăm*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick Tip 1

Learners often make mistakes with two digit numbers that end in a '5'. To summarize:

5 is *năm*.

15 is *mười lăm*.

25 is *hai mươi lăm*.

Another mistake is to put a tone on *mười*, used for numbers above 19.

10 is *mười*.

12 *mười hai*.

20 is *hai mươi*. Notice there is no symbol above the o in *mười*, which shows there is no tone to that word.

Quick Tip 2

If you're having trouble remembering the numbers 1 - 10 here they are:

1 is *một*.

2 is *hai*.

3 is *ba*.

4 is *bốn*.

5 is *năm*.

6 is *sáu*.

7 is *bảy*.

8 is *tám*.

9 is *chín*.

10 is *mười*.

These were covered in Vietnamese Survival Phrases lesson 16.



- | | |
|---|---|
| Intro | 12 Restaurant 2 - Non-smoking or Smoking in Southern Vietnamese |
| 1 Thank You in Southern Vietnamese | 13 Restaurant 3 - Waiter! in Southern Vietnamese |
| 2 You're Welcome in Southern Vietnamese | 14 Restaurant 4 - Getting the Bill in Southern Vietnamese |
| 3 Please in Southern Vietnamese | 15 Restaurant 5 - Vietnamese Dining Etiquette |
| 4 Basic Southern Vietnamese Greetings | 16 Counting 1-10 in Southern Vietnamese |
| 5 Parting Greetings in Southern Vietnamese | 17 How Much? in Southern Vietnamese |
| 6 Where is the Bathroom? in Southern Vietnamese | 18 Please Lower the Price in Southern Vietnamese |
| 7 I Don't Understand in Southern Vietnamese | 19 Currency in Southern Vietnamese |
| 8 Can You Speak English? in Southern Vietnamese | 20 Internet café in Southern Vietnamese |
| 9 Please Say It Again Slowly in Southern Vietnamese | 21 Riding the Bus in Southern Vietnam 1 |
| 10 Apologies in Southern Vietnamese | 22 Riding the Bus in Southern Vietnam 2 |
| 11 Restaurant 1 - How Many People? (And Numbers) in Southern Vietnamese | 23 Riding the Bus in Southern Vietnam 3 |
| | 24 Riding the Rails in Southern Vietnam |
| | 25 Counting 11-100 in Southern Vietnamese |

©2020 Innovative Language Learning, LLC (P)2020

Innovative Language Learning, LLC presented by VietnamesePod101.com