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VOLUME

1



Vietnamese

Survival Phrases



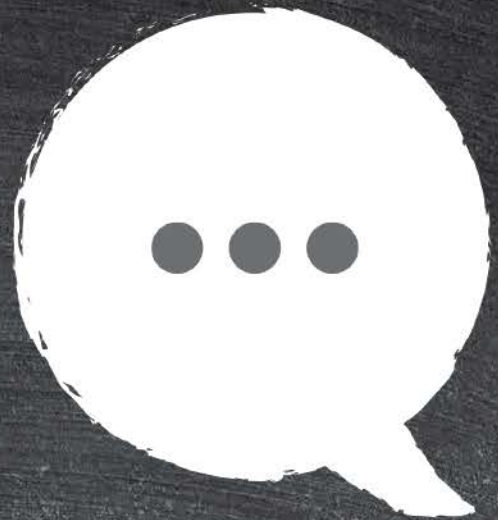
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LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #1

How to Say Thank You in Vietnamese

CONTENTS

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

#1

VIETNAMESE

1. Cảm ơn.
2. Cảm ơn nhiều lắm.
3. Xin cảm ơn.

ENGLISH

1. Thank you.
2. Thank you very much.
3. Thank you. (formal)

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
nhiều	much, many	adjective
cảm ơn	thank you	verb
ơn	obligation	
cảm (cảm)	feel	verb
lắm	much, many, very	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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

GRAMMAR

Wherever your destination may be, manners are a must! Vietnam is no different. So in our very first lesson, we'll be teaching you a simple phrase that is bound to come in handy throughout your trip to Vietnam. I can't stress this enough: A little a bit of language can go a long way!

In Vietnamese, "Thank you" is **Cám ơn**.

The first word, *cảm*, means "to feel."

After this comes *ơn*, meaning "favor"

As Vietnamese is a tonal language, it is important to correctly pronounce the tones, as an incorrect pronunciation of a tone can change the meaning of a word and in turn, the meaning of the phrase. In the case of *Cám ơn*, which means "Thank you", the first tone is the broken falling tone. The second tone is the flat tone.

All together, that's *Cám ơn*.

You can emphasize *Cám ơn* by adding *nhiều lắm*, which means literally "a lot" or "so much."

That makes ***Cám ơn nhiều lắm***, which would be equivalent to "Thank you very much," a

politer expression than just *Cảm ơn*.

If you want to emphasize the degree of politeness you can follow *Cảm ơn* with the corresponding personal pronoun of the person you are addressing:

ông: Sir or Mr. - this is used for males 50 years and older

bà: Madam or Mrs. - this is used for females 50 years and older

anh: he or young man

chị: Mrs., Miss or young woman

cô: Miss or young girl

There will be occasions when you will really want to show your appreciation and politeness. On these occasions, one can further increase the politeness level by inserting the word *xin* that means "to ask" or "to beg" before the phrase *Cảm ơn*.

So "Thank you" in formal Vietnamese is ***Xin cảm ơn***.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

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

1. When the receptionist welcomes you to the hotel
2. When the waiter brings your food or drinks
3. When an old friend says how well you look
4. When someone gives you directions
5. When someone compliments you on your Vietnamese

Quick tip

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

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #2

How to Say "You're Welcome" in Vietnamese

CONTENTS

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

2

VIETNAMESE

1. Không có gì.
2. Không có gì đâu ạ.

ENGLISH

1. You're welcome.
2. You're welcome. (addressed to an older person)

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
gì	what	
có	to have	noun
không	no, not, nothing, without (flat tone)	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Đây là cái gì? "What is this?"	Bạn đang nấu món gì vậy? "What are you cooking?"
Không có gì. "You're welcome."	Tôi có một món quà cho bạn. "I have a present for you."

Tôi không hút thuốc.

"I don't smoke."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll continue to learn more phrases that will help you with basic etiquette. Vietnamese people are very hospitable. They use phrases of gratitude quite often. Even though you may not get the chance to use *Không có gì*. (the phrase for "You're welcome") during your trip to Vietnam, there's a very good chance you'll hear it. So let's have a closer look at it!

In Vietnamese, "You're welcome" is ***Không có gì***. Literally this means "Not have anything," but we translate it as "No problem."

The words *không* is the flat tone. the word *có* is the rising tone and the word *gì* falls gradually.

The first word, *không*, means "no."

After this comes *có*, meaning "have."

After this comes *gì*, meaning "anything."

All together, we have *Không có gì*.

In very formal situations or to address elders and superiors you can use the phrase ***Không có gì đâu ạ***.

The word *đâu* means "at all" and the last word *ạ* doesn't have a definite meaning. It is added to show more respect to the other person, especially when that person is older.

Notice that *đâu* is the flat tone and *ạ* is the heavy falling tone.

Again, the whole phrase is *Không có gì đâu ạ*.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip

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

1. Northern Vietnamese
2. Hanoi dialect, Other Northern dialects: Haiphong, and various provincial forms
3. Central Vietnamese
4. Huế dialect, Nghệ An dialect, Quảng Nam dialect
5. Southern Vietnamese
6. 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 S1 #3

Getting What You Want Using Vietnamese

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

3

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin.
2. Làm ơn.
3. Xin cho tôi cái này.
4. Xin cho tôi cái đó.

ENGLISH

1. Please.
2. Please. (more formal)
3. This, please.
4. That, please.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
xin	ask, please	verb
cái đó	that	pronoun
cái này	this	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Xin mở cái cửa này ra. "Please open this door."	Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó. "Please give me that book."
Kỉ niệm đó thật khó quên. "That memory is unforgettable."	Làm ơn đưa cho tôi cái bút đó. "Please give me that pen."
Đừng chạm vào cái này. "Don't touch this."	Cái bánh này ngon. "This cake is delicious."
Cái bút này là của Lan. "This is Lan's pen."	

GRAMMAR

This lesson's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! In this lesson we'll take a look at the word "please," which will be very important when you need to ask for something.

In Vietnamese, "please" is ***xin***

Xin is the flat tone

But please note that the word *xin* is not usually used alone with the thing you want. As *xin* has another meaning, it can be mistaken that you want that thing for free. You need to add *cho tôi* after *xin* (meaning "give me") then add the thing you want at the end.

For example:

You point at something and you want to say "this, please." In Vietnamese, it is:

Xin cho tôi cái này.

(Literally, please give me this)

cái này means "this." *cái* is the rising tone and *này* falls gradually

When you want to refer to something a little farther, you say: *cái đó*, which means "that." *Cái* and *đó* are said in the rising tone

Let's hear them in their phrases again:

xin cho tôi cái này.

xin cho tôi cái đó.

Please remember that in Vietnam it is a little rude to point at people. But pointing at things, especially when you are trying to buy something at the market, or when it helps to illustrate your point, is perfectly okay. Just make sure you say *Cảm ơn*. ("Thank you") when the object is handed to you.

A more formal phrase for "please" is ***làm ơn***. The word *làm* falls gradually and the word *ơn* is the flat tone.

It can be used exactly the same as *xin*. Just put it at the beginning of the sentence instead of *xin*, keeping the rest unchanged.

Although using the alternative *xin* may be easier to pronounce, it is just as effective.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip

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 *cảm ơn* can be said as *xin cảm ơn*. The meaning of the phrase does not change but adding *xin* suggests added respect.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #4

Basic Vietnamese Greetings

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

4

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin chào.
2. Xin chào Ông.

ENGLISH

1. Hello.
2. Hello Sir.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
chào	hello	phrase
anh	Mister, elder man	noun
bà	madam	noun
bạn	friend	noun
chị	Miss, elder woman	noun
ông	sir, Mister	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Xin chào, bạn có khỏe không? "Hello, how are you?"	Xin mời anh ngồi xuống. "Please sit down, Mister."
--	--

Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng. "She is a famous actress."	Hoa là bạn của tôi. "Hoa is my friend."
Chị ấy thật xinh đẹp. "She is so beautiful."	Ông ấy là một doanh nhân. "He is a businessman."

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 ***xin chào***. The phrase *xin chào* is suitable for use at any time of the day and is appropriate for almost all situations. *Xin* is the flat tone and *chào* is the gradual falling tone.

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

Vietnamese pronouns may be the most challenging part of the language, because they vary depending on age, sex, social position and level of intimacy between the two people in conversation.

If you are uncertain which pronoun to use, it is better not to use any in order to avoid offending someone.

Let's take a look at those pronouns

Ông means "grandfather" and is a term of respect for a senior male

Bà means "grandmother" and is a term of respect for a female, usually married and aged around 55 and above.

Cô is "father's sister," and is used to refer to a younger woman, or a woman as old as your father

Cậu is the "mother's younger brother"

Dì means "mother's younger sister"

Chú is the "father's younger brother," or a man younger than your father

Anh means older brother and it can be used for men who are several years older than you.
Chị is the "older sister"; refers to a slightly older woman
and finally *Em* means "younger sibling" and is used to refer to a slightly younger person, or a woman you are in a romantic relationship with.

For example, to address a male who is much older, such as your grandfather, you say ***Xin chào Ông***.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

Xin 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 *Xin 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"

However, Vietnamese people do not distinguish which time of day they are meeting when they say hello to each other, so the equivalents of good morning, good afternoon, and good evening are usually not in use among Vietnamese themselves.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #5

How to Say Goodbye in Vietnamese

CONTENTS

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

5

VIETNAMESE

1. Chào.
2. Tạm biệt.
3. Hẹn gặp lại.

ENGLISH

1. Hello/Good bye.
2. Good bye.
3. See you again.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
chào	goodbye	verb
gặp	to meet	verb
hẹn	to appoint; appointment	verb; noun
lại	again	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Chào tạm biệt và hẹn gặp lại. "Goodbye and see you again."	Chúng ta gặp nhau vào tuần sau được không? "Can we meet next week-end."
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Rất vui được gặp bạn! "Nice to meet you!"	Tôi có một cuộc hẹn lúc 5 giờ. "I have an appointment at 5 o'clock."
Hãy đọc lại bài báo này đi. "Read this article again."	Hi vọng sớm gặp lại bạn! "Hope to see you again soon!"

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we'll introduce parting greetings.

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.

You can also say **tạm biệt**, which means "Good bye." Both words are the falling tone with a heavy stop.

The first word *tạm* means "temporary."

This is followed by *biệt*, which means "farewell"

The literal translation of this phrase is "temporary farewell" but is used as the English equivalent for "good bye."

Another parting phrase is *hẹn gặp lại*, which is "See you again" in English. Every word in this phrase is the sharp falling tone with a heavy stop.

The first word *hẹn* means "appointment"

Next is *gặp* which means "meet"

And finally *lại* which means "again."

Altogether we have: *hẹn gặp lại*.

All three of the phrases can be used as greetings. However, if you want to be more formal, you can add the appropriate pronoun in each phrase that we learned in Lesson 3.

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. Women 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 men.

Quick tip 2

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

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #6

How to Say "Where is the Bathroom?" in Vietnamese

CONTENTS

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

6

VIETNAMESE

1. Nhà vệ sinh ở đâu?
2. Nhà vệ sinh nữ ở đâu?
3. Nhà vệ sinh nam ở đâu?
4. nữ
5. nam

ENGLISH

1. Where is the bathroom?
2. Where is the ladies' room?
3. Where is the mens' room?
4. women
5. men

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
nhà vệ sinh	bathroom	noun
nữ	female	
ở đâu	where	phrase

nam	male	noun
nhà	house	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Đây là nhà vệ sinh nữ. "This is the ladies' bathroom."	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."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll cover an extremely important phrase: "Where is the bathroom?"

In Vietnamese, "Where is the bathroom?" is **Nhà vệ sinh ở đâu?**

Let's look at the components. The first word, *nhà vệ sinh*, means "bathroom." The first syllable, *nhà* has a gradually falling tone. This is followed by *vệ*, in the sharp falling tone with a heavy stop, and then *sinh* which has no tone.

And last is *ở đâu*, which means "where." The first part *ở* is said in the broken falling tone and *đâu* has no tone.

All together, that's *Nhà vệ sinh ở đâu?*

If you are looking for the ladies' room, the phrase is **Nhà vệ sinh nữ ở đâu?**

Nhà vệ sinh means "bathroom."

Next is *nữ*, means "ladies"

Then we have *ở đâu*, which means "where is."

All together, that's: *Nhà vệ sinh nữ ở đâu?*

If you are looking for the men's room, the question for that is ***Nhà vệ sinh nam ở đâu?***

Nam means "mens" Just replace the word *nữ* ("ladies") with *nam* ("mens").

Let's hear both of the sentences one more time:

Nhà vệ sinh nữ ở đâu?

Nhà vệ sinh nam ở đâu?

When you finally get to the bathroom, there may be one last hurdle. At some bathrooms, only Vietnamese words are written on the doors!

What to do, what to do?

As we've seen above, the word for "men" is *nam*, and for "women" you'll see *nữ*.

There may not be many public bathrooms for tourists to use. This means your best option is to stop at either a café or a restaurant and use the bathroom there. Understandably, café owners sometimes aren't too keen on having people stop in just to use their bathroom. Since you'll be a tourist, they will welcome you, and let you use the bathroom. So to be polite, you might want to buy a bottle of water or order a coffee before asking *Nhà vệ sinh 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 *nữ* or for males *nam* 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 S1 #7

Letting Them Know You Don't Understand Their Vietnamese

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- 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
không	no, not, nothing, without (flat tone)	noun
tôi	I; me	noun
hiểu	understand (dip-falling tone)	verb
biết	to know	verb
rõ	clear	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."	Tôi là Lan. "I am Lan."
Tôi không hiểu cô ấy đang nói gì. "I don't understand what she is saying."	Tôi không biết tên cô ấy. "I don't know her name."

Anh ấy nói rất to nên tôi nghe rất rõ.

"He speaks very loudly so I can hear very clearly."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we will see a very useful phrase meaning, "I don't understand." It is useful, of course, because many times you won't immediately pick up on what people are saying.

In Vietnamese, "I don't understand" is **Tôi không hiểu.**

The first word, *Tôi*, means "I" and is the flat tone

Next you have *không* that, as you remember, means "no" or "don't" and is also the flat tone

Finally is *hiểu*, "to understand" and is said in broken falling tone

Another thing you can say when you're confused is "I don't know," which in Vietnamese is **Tôi không biết.**

You simply have to replace *biết* ("understand") for *hiểu* ("know")

Another option is to tell someone, "It's not clear." This phrase in Vietnamese is **Tôi không rõ.**

Again, the first two parts of this phrase, *tôi* ("I") and *không* ("not"), remain the same. The new word here is *rõ*, that literally means "clear," but in this case it means "understand clearly."

Here's the whole sentence: *Tôi không rõ.*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

Không is the same word found in the expression *Không có gì*. ("You're welcome.") It is the English equivalent of "No problem" 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 S1 #8

Using English to Your Advantage in Vietnamese

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

8

VIETNAMESE

1. Bạn có biết nói tiếng Anh không?
2. Bạn có biết nói tiếng Nhật không?
3. Có, tôi biết tiếng Anh.
4. Không, tôi không biết tiếng Anh.

ENGLISH

1. Can you speak English?
2. Can you speak Japanese?
3. Yes, I know English.
4. No, I don't know English.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
được	able, possible	adjective
bạn	friend	noun
không	no, not, nothing, without (flat tone)	noun
có	to have	noun
tiếng Anh	English	noun

tiếng Nhật	Japanese	noun
nói	to speak	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Anh ấy nói được tiếng Anh. "He can speak English."	Quả táo này có thể ăn được. "This apple is edible."
Hoa là bạn của tôi. "Hoa is my friend."	Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."
Tôi có một món quà cho bạn. "I have a present for you."	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."	Tôi nghe không được rõ, làm ơn nói chậm lại. "I cannot hear clearly, please speak again slowly."

Anh ấy nói được tiếng Anh. "He can speak English."
--

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we'll cover 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're speaking to doesn't understand English, at least they'll be able to understand what you're asking. Furthermore, it shows a lot of respect on your part, because you've made an effort to learn even a little bit of the language. For these reasons and many more, we're going to cover this very important phrase.

In Vietnamese, "Can you speak English?" is ***Bạn có nói được tiếng Anh không?***

The first word, *bạn*, means "you."

The three words *có nói được* mean "can you speak." *Có* and *nói* are both the rising tone and *được* is the sharp falling tone.

After this comes *tiếng Anh*, the Vietnamese for "English language." *Tiếng* is the rising tone and *Anh* has no tone.

The last word, *không*, means "not."

All together, that's: *Bạn có nói được tiếng Anh không?*

Another question which can also be used in this case is: ***Bạn có biết nói tiếng Anh không?***

("Literally, do you know English?")

Có biết nói is literally translated as "know how to speak." The other words of the question remain the same as the previous one.

Bạn có biết nói tiếng Anh không?

Now for a change, let's try a different language: Japanese.

"Can you speak Japanese?" is ***Bạn có biết nói tiếng Nhật không?***

The word for "Japanese" is *tiếng Nhật*. Here, just the word for the language changes; the rest is the same.

Bạn có biết nói tiếng Nhật không?

When you ask whether someone speaks another language besides Vietnamese, you might get the answer in Vietnamese. Here are few ways they might answer this question.

"Yes, I know English" would be ***Có, tôi biết tiếng Anh.***

The first word, *có*, means "yes."

The second word, *tôi*, means "I."

After this comes the word for "to know," *biết*.

Finally, we have the word for "English," *tiếng Anh*, which we've seen before.

All together, that's: *Có, tôi biết Tiếng Anh*.

This phrase could be made shorter, just by saying "Yes": **Có**.

Or by taking out the word for English and just saying "Yes, I know.": **Có, tôi biết**.

If the answer is negative, Vietnamese people could say "No, I don't know English": **Không, tôi không biết tiếng Anh**.

The first word, *không*, means "no."

Next, we have the word for "to know," *biết*.

Finally, again we have the word for "English," *tiếng Anh*.

All together, that's *Không, tôi không biết tiếng Anh*.

Sometimes, people will leave out the word for "English" and just say "I don't know": **Tôi không biết**.

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.

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 matter.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #9

Learn Vietnamese Using Vietnamese With This Unbelievably Simple Phrase

CONTENTS

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

9

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin nói lại lần nữa.
2. Xin nói chậm lại.
3. Bạn có thể nói lại được không?

ENGLISH

1. Say it again, please.
2. Please say it slowly.
3. Can you repeat, please?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
lại	again	
nói	to speak	noun
xin	ask, please	verb
chậm	slowly	noun
làm ơn	"please"	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hãy đọc lại bài báo này đi. "Read this article again."	Hi vọng sớm gặp lại bạn! "Hope to see you again soon!"
Tôi nghe không được rõ, làm ơn nói chậm lại. "I cannot hear clearly, please speak again slowly."	Anh ấy nói được tiếng Anh. "He can speak English."
Xin mở cái cửa này ra. "Please open this door."	Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó. "Please give me that book."
Tôi nghe không được rõ, làm ơn nói chậm lại. "I cannot hear clearly, please speak again slowly."	Làm ơn dạy tôi phát âm từ này. "Please teach me how to pronounce this word."
Làm ơn giải thích giúp tôi. "Please explain it to me."	Tôi nghe không được rõ, làm ơn nói chậm lại. "I cannot hear clearly, please speak again slowly."
Làm ơn đưa cho tôi cái bút đó. "Please give me that pen."	

GRAMMAR

There will be many times when the Vietnamese is coming at you fast and furious and you may not catch all or any of it. When this happens, asking the speaker to say it again can make the difference between understanding a crucial piece of information and spending the rest of the day trying to figure out what it was. The following phrase will not only give you a better sense of the language, but will also help you tune your ear!

In Vietnamese, "Say it again, please." is ***Xin nói lại lần nữa.***

The first word we've studied before: *Xin* means "please" and it is the flat tone.

After this comes *nói* meaning "to say" and it is the rising tone.

The next word *lại* means again and the last two words *lần nữa* means "one more time."

All together, that's *Xin nói lại lần nữa.*

You can also ask "Please say it again slowly." In Vietnamese this is ***Xin nói chậm lại.***

The first two words stay the same as in the previous one.

The last two words, *chậm lại* literally means "more slowly" and are said in the sharp falling tone.

All together, that's: *Xin nói chậm lại*

You can also ask casually "Can you repeat, please?": ***Bạn có thể nói lại được không?***

The first word, *bạn*, means "you."

Then we have the phrase *có thể... được không?* which means "Can you... please" in English.

In between this phrase comes the word *nói lại*, meaning "repeat."

The whole question is *Bạn có thể nói lại được không?*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

Dạ? is an interjection expressing the fact that speaker did not catch what was said. Roughly equivalent to "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 nói lại một lần nữa. which translates to "Please say it again once more." is another extremely useful phrase.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #10

How to Say "I'm Sorry" in Vietnamese

CONTENTS

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

10

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin lỗi.
2. Không sao.

ENGLISH

1. I'm sorry./Excuse me.
2. Don't worry./Never mind.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
sao	how	noun
không	no, not, nothing, without (flat tone)	noun
xin	ask, please	verb
lỗi	mistake	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Bạn nghĩ sao về vở kịch? "How do you think about the play?"	Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."
Xin mở cái cửa này ra. "Please open this door."	Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó. "Please give me that book."

Đây là lỗi của tôi.

"This is my mistake."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson, we'll cover phrases used for apologizing. Since you haven't quite mastered Vietnamese, it's probably a good idea to go over the phrases for apologizing, as they'll likely come in handy.

We'll start with "I am sorry" which in Vietnamese is ***Xin lỗi***.

Literally, this phrase means it's my mistake.

The first word *xin* has no tone. The second word, *lỗi*, has a broken rising tone.

All together, we have *Xin lỗi*.

You can use this phrase in any type of situation where you feel the need to express regret.

If someone says one of these to you, you'll want to respond with "Don't worry" or "Never mind."
The proper response for this is ***Không sao***.

This phrase can be translated as "It's ok" or "No problem." Both words in this phrase have no tone.

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's 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 S1 #11

Vietnamese Restaurant—How Many People?

CONTENTS

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

11

VIETNAMESE

1. Anh đi mấy người? or Chị đi mấy người?
2. Hai người.
3. Một người.

ENGLISH

1. How many people are in your party?
2. Two people.
3. One person.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
mấy	how many, how much	adjective
tất cả	all, entire, whole	adverb
bốn	four (4)	noun
người	person, people	
là	to be	noun
hai	two (2)	noun
một	one (1), a	noun
năm	five (5)	
ba	three (3)	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mỗi ngày bạn ăn cơm mấy bữa? "How many meals do you have in a day?"	Tất cả mọi người đều vui vẻ. "Everybody is happy."
Ở Hà Nội, một năm có bốn mùa. "In Hanoi, there are four seasons in a year."	Nhiều người đang xếp hàng mua vé. "Many people are queuing for tickets."
Chúng tôi là khách du lịch. "We are tourists."	Hai năm trước tôi đã đến Việt Nam. "I went to Vietnam two years ago."
Tôi có một món quà cho bạn. "I have a present for you."	Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng. "She is a famous actress."
Một bàn tay có năm ngón tay. "There are five fingers on a hand."	Tôi đã đến Việt Nam 3 lần. "I have been to Vietnam three times."

GRAMMAR

There is a wide variety of Vietnamese dishes, and your job as a visitor is to try as many different foods as possible! However, before you start eating, you have to get to the table! In this lesson, we'll cover getting to the table in a restaurant.

When you enter a restaurant, you'll usually be seated by a waiter or waitress. Often you will be asked the question "How many people in your party?" so practicing it will come in handy at some point. "How many people are you?" in Vietnamese is ***Anh đi mấy người?***

This question can be literally translated as "How many of you guys are going together?"

It should be noted that the first word *anh* means "you" and it refers to a man only. So if the first person of your group that comes in the restaurant is a man, this question will be asked. If the first person is a woman, the question will be ***Chị đi mấy người?***

The second word *đi* means "go," and the last two words *mấy người* mean "how many people?"

The most important words you need to remember in this question are *mấy người* ("how many people") as the rest of the question can be said in a different way depending on the waiter/waitress. However, you can hear people say *bao nhiêu người* which also means "how many people." This phrase is often used when your group is big.

Now let's go over how to answer.

You might tell the waiter or waitress ***Hai người***, which in English means "Two people."

The first word, *hai* means "two" and it has a flat tone. After this comes *người*, which is how you say "people" here.

Let's take a look at some of the numbers you might need here, from one to five:

1 *một*

2 *hai*

3 *ba*

4 *bốn*

5 *năm*

If you are just one person, you can say "One person" which in Vietnamese is *Một 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 S1 #12

Vietnamese Restaurant: Choosing a Seat in Vietnam

CONTENTS

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

12

VIETNAMESE

1. không hút thuốc
2. hút thuốc

ENGLISH

1. non-smoking
2. smoking

VOCABULARY

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

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Anh ấy đang mua thuốc lá. "He is buying cigarettes."	Anh ấy đang uống thuốc. "He is taking his medicine."
Ở đây không được hút thuốc. "No smoking allowed here."	Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."

Hút thuốc lá có hại cho sức khỏe.

"Smoking is not good for your health."

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned how to say how many people are in your party in a restaurant. Now that you know how to get a table, you have another big issue to tackle. If you want to enjoy your meal, the smoking issue is very important. If you are a smoker in a non-smoking establishment or a non-smoker in a smoking establishment, this could ruin your meal.

In this lesson, we'll cover how to ask for a smoking or non-smoking table.

Remember when you enter a restaurant you'll hear *Anh đi mấy người*. After answering, you can also include one of the following phrases: **không hút thuốc**, which means "non-smoking"

không, as we have seen, means "no." We follow this with *hút thuốc*, which means "to smoke a cigarette." Both words are in the rising tone

Literally this phrase means "not to smoke a cigarette" and we use it as the English equivalent for "non-smoking."

You can also say "Smoking" which is **hút thuốc**

You just need to 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.

Quick tip

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.

Quick tip 3

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.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #13

Vietnamese Restaurant: Asking About the Menu

CONTENTS

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

13

VIETNAMESE

1. Anh ơi./ Chị ơi.
2. Cho tôi món này.
3. Món gì ngon?

ENGLISH

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

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
chị ơi	call for the waitress's attention; Waitress!	expression
ngon	good, delicious	adjective
gì	what	
anh ơi	to call for the waiters' attraction; Waiter!	expression
Xin lỗi	"Excuse me." or "I'm sorry."	phrase
món	dish	noun
cho	to give, to grant, to bring	verb

tôi	I; me	noun
này	this	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Chị ơi! Tôi muốn thanh toán! Waitress! I want to pay the bill!	Món này rất ngon. "This dish is very delicious."
Cái bánh này ngon. "This cake is delicious."	Đây là cái gì? "What is this?"
Bạn đang nấu món gì vậy? "What are you cooking?"	Không có gì. "You're welcome."
Anh ơi! Mang cho tôi một cốc nước! Waiter! Please bring me a cup of water.	Xin lỗi, tôi đến muộn. "I'm sorry, I'm late."
Xin hỏi, mấy giờ rồi? "Excuse me, what time is it now?"	Món này rất ngon. "This dish is very delicious."
Anh ta cho tôi chiếc cặp. "He gave me a bag."	Tôi là Lan. "I am Lan."
Món này rất ngon. "This dish is very delicious."	Lần này tôi gặp may. "I am lucky this time."
Cậu bé này 7 (bảy) tuổi. "This boy is seven years old."	

GRAMMAR

Finally, you've got a seat at a table. Now it's time to order!

In this lesson, we'll cover how to ask for a menu and then order your food and drinks.

Normally you have to catch the waiter's attention. You can raise your right hand and say: ***Xin lỗi***, which means "Excuse me."

The first word *xin*, has no tone. The second word *lỗi* has the broken rising tone.

Another way to call out "Waiter!" or "Waitress!" is: ***Anh oi!*** ("waiter") or ***Chị oi!*** ("waitress")

Oi is the term for "Hey" in English and it is used to catch the attention of another person in Vietnamese.

Anh is used for a man and *chị* is used for a woman.

When you order in Vietnamese, you can just say "this, please" which is: ***Cho tôi món này.***

Cho tôi means "Give me." And *món này* means "this dish." *mon* is the rising tone and *này* falls gradually.

You can ask a recommendation from the waiter by asking "What is good?" which in Vietnamese is: ***Món gì ngon?***

Món is the rising tone and means "dish." *Gì* means "what" and is said in the falling tone. *Ngon* means "good"

Again, "What is good?" is *Món gì ngon?*

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 restaurant 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 S1 #14

Vietnamese Restaurant: Asking for the Check in Vietnamese

CONTENTS

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

14

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin tính tiền.
2. Cho tôi xin hóa đơn?
3. Ngon quá!

ENGLISH

1. Check please.
2. May I have the bill, please?
3. Very delicious!

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
tính	to count, to calculate	verb
tiền	money	noun
ngon	delicious	adjective
quá	very	noun
xin	ask, please	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Chúng tôi đang tính chi phí cho chuyến đi. "We are calculating the fee for the trip."	Người đàn ông nhận tiền. "The man receives money."
Tôi không có nhiều tiền. "I don't have much money."	Người phụ nữ đang thưởng thức món pizza ngon. "The woman is enjoying delicious pizza."
Cái bánh này ngon. "This cake is delicious."	Em bé dễ thương quá! "The baby is so cute!"
Xin mở cái cửa này ra. "Please open this door."	Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó. "Please give me that book."

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned how to get a waiter's attention and order food and drinks at a restaurant. Once you have the beverages and entrées you ordered, you can enjoy the mouthwatering meal.

When you're ready to leave, you'll want to ask for the check. In Vietnamese this is ***Xin tính tiền.***

The first word, *xin*, as you might remember means "please." The second word, *tính*, is the rising tone and means "to calculate." Next is *tiền*, the Vietnamese word for "money," said in the rising tone.

Here's the whole sentence: *Xin tính tiền.*

Another phrase you can use to ask for the check is "May I have the bill, please?" which is: ***Cho tôi xin hóa đơn?***

The first three words of this phrase, *Cho tôi xin* are said in the flat tone. *Cho* means "give." The second word, *tôi*, means "I." Next is *Xin*, meaning "please."

Last is *hóa đơn*, which means "invoice" or "bill."

All together, the sentence is *Cho tôi xin hóa đơn?*

To express your delight for the meal, you can say "Very delicious!" In Vietnamese it is: ***Ngon quá!***

The first word, *Ngon*, is the flat tone and means "good." Next is *quá*, meaning "very."

If a dish is good, but not quite fantastic, you can drop *quá* and just say *Ngon*.

Upon leaving, don't forget to say "Thank you." which is *Cảm ơn*.

And now you're ready to go!

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 S1 #15

Vietnamese Dining Etiquette

CONTENTS

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

15

VIETNAMESE

1. Lần sau để tôi trả.
2. Xin mời.

ENGLISH

1. Next time I will pay.
2. Please enjoy your meal.

VOCABULARY

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

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tôi được mời dự tiệc của Hoa. "I am invited to Hoa's party."	Lần này tôi gặp may. "I am lucky this time."
Sau buổi tiệc chúng tôi đi thẳng về nhà. "After the party, we went straight back home."	Tôi đến từ Mỹ. "I'm from the U.S."
Bây giờ đến lượt tôi. "Now it's my turn."	Tôi trả lại tiền cho cô ấy. "I give her back the money."
Chúng tôi phải trả bao nhiêu? "How much do we have to pay?"	Món này rất ngon. "This dish is very delicious."
Cái bánh này ngon. "This cake is delicious."	Em bé dễ thương quá! "The baby is so cute!"
Xin mở cái cửa này ra. "Please open this door."	Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó. "Please give me that book."

GRAMMAR

In the last lesson, we learned how to ask for the check at a restaurant. In this lesson you are going to learn a little about Vietnamese culture.

In Vietnam, when you go out to eat in a group, the person who invited 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 you want to pay next time, you can say **Lần sau để tôi trả**, which loosely means "Next time I will pay."

First we have *Lần sau* meaning "next time." Then the last phrase *để tôi trả* means "let me pay."

Altogether, it is *Lần sau để tôi trả*.

Usually before a meal with family or with guests, the younger people of the group, especially children must say ***Xin mời***, addressing each person at the table appropriately. The entire phrase can be understood as "Please enjoy your meal."

Friends dining with one another will say *Xin mời* partly to show courtesy and also as a way to say let's start eating. Adults will say *Xin mời* especially if there are elders present.

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.

1. ***Ông*** means "grandfather," and is a term of respect for a man older than the speaker and who is late middle age or older.
2. ***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.

3. *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.
4. *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.
5. *Cậu* means "mother's younger brother," and is used to address a younger man or a man as old as one's mother
6. *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
7. *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.
8. *Thím* means "wife of father's younger brother."
9. *Mợ* means "wife of mother's younger brother."
10. *Dượng* means "husband of mother's sister"; a term to address one's step-father
11. *Bố/Ba/Cha* is father
12. *Mẹ/Má/Mợ* is mother
13. *Con* means "child"; used in some regions to address a person as old as one's child
14. *Cháu* means "nephew/niece, grandson/granddaughter"; used to address a young person of around such relative age

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #16

Counting in Vietnamese - 1 to 10

CONTENTS

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

16

VIETNAMESE

1. một người
2. ba người
3. Cho tôi hai hộp bánh đậu xanh.
4. Cho tôi một gói kẹo dừa.

ENGLISH

1. one person
2. Three people
3. Two boxes of green bean cakes, please.
4. A pack of coconut candies, please.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
mười	ten (10)	noun
chín	nine (9)	noun
tám	eight (8)	noun
bảy	seven (7)	noun
sáu	six (6)	
một	one (1), a	noun

ba	three (3)	noun
hai	two (2)	noun
bốn	four (4)	noun
năm	five (5)	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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

GRAMMAR

This lesson is very straightforward—we're going to cover counting "one" through "ten." Let's jump right in.

- 1 *một*
- 2 *hai*
- 3 *ba*
- 4 *bốn*
- 5 *năm*

- 6 *sáu*
- 7 *bảy*
- 8 *tám*

- 9 *chín*
- 10 *mười*

When you count things, the number comes first, followed by the thing. For example, "one person" is ***một người***

Người means "people."

"Three people" would be ***ba người***

As you may have noticed, the noun doesn't change when there's more than one of it, as it would in English.

"Five people" is ***năm người***

Numbers can be very useful, especially when shopping in Vietnam.

Imagine you are buying some presents to bring back to your country. You've chosen two boxes of green bean cakes in a local store.

"Two boxes of green bean cakes, please." is ***Cho tôi hai hộp bánh đậu xanh.***

Cho tôi means "give me."

hai, as you already learned, means "two"

hộp means "a box"

And ***bánh đậu xanh*** means "green bean cakes," one of the specialties in Northern Vietnam.

The whole request, then, is *Cho tôi hai hộp bánh đậu xanh*

Now imagine you want to buy some coconut candies, a specialty in Southern Vietnam.
"A pack of coconut candies, please" is ***Cho tôi một gói kẹo dừa.***

Again *Cho tôi* means "give me"

một, as we've seen plenty of times by now, means "one."

gói means "pack"

And *kẹo dừa* means "coconut candies"

All together, it's *Cho tôi một gói kẹo dừa.*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

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

Quick tip 2

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

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #17

"How Much is it?" in 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 đó	that	pronoun
bao nhiêu	how many, how much, how	phrase
cái này	this	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Kỉ niệm đó thật khó quên. "That memory is unforgettable."	Làm ơn đưa cho tôi cái bút đó. "Please give me that pen."
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Chúng tôi phải trả bao nhiêu? "How much do we have to pay?"	Đừng chạm vào cái này. "Don't touch this."
Cái bánh này ngon. "This cake is delicious."	Cái bút này là của Lan. "This is Lan's pen."

GRAMMAR

Now it's time for some useful Survival Phrases for when you have time to shop in Vietnamese stores.

In Vietnam, there are many shops, stores, street vendors and merchants. 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 an important step in shopping in Vietnam.

"How much?" In Vietnamese, that's **Bao nhiêu?**

If you want to be more specific, you can say "How much is this?," which is: **Cái này bao nhiêu?**

First comes *cái này* ("this"). After this, comes *bao nhiêu* meaning "how much."

Another common way to ask the price in Vietnam is "How much is that?": **Cái đó bao nhiêu?**

Cái đó means "that." And *bao nhiêu* as we saw before means "how much."

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. So do I.

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.

It's up to you pals. Have fun shopping in Vietnam.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #18

Bargaining in Vietnam

CONTENTS

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

18

VIETNAMESE

1. Xin hạ giá xuống được không?
2. Đắt quá.
3. Bạn muốn trả bao nhiêu.

ENGLISH

1. Could you lower the price, please?
2. Too expensive.
3. How much do you want to pay?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
hạ	to lower	verb
đắt	expensive	adjective
giá	the price	adjective
xuống	down	noun
xin	ask, please	verb
quá	very	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Mấy hôm nay giá vàng đang hạ xuống. "The price of gold is going down these days."	Những người đàn ông đang hạ chiếc cờ xuống. "The men are lowering down the flag."
Cô ấy có một chiếc ô tô rất mắc (đắt). "She has a very expensive car."	Mấy hôm nay giá vàng đang hạ xuống. "The price of gold is going down these days."
Những người đàn ông đang hạ chiếc cờ xuống. "The men are lowering down the flag."	Mấy hôm nay giá vàng đang hạ xuống. "The price of gold is going down these days."
Xin mở cái cửa này ra. "Please open this door."	Xin (hãy) đưa cho tôi quyển sách đó. "Please give me that book."
Em bé dễ thương quá! "The baby is so cute!"	

GRAMMAR

In Vietnam, bargaining is a very common thing. Especially since you are a tourist, you'll get things much cheaper if you can bargain for them. The only places you can't haggle are big shopping centers, and stores that sell items with tags. However, small clothing stores and open markets are up for bargaining.

Normally, if you are interested in buying something, you say, "How much is this?"

Cái này bao nhiêu?

As soon as they tell you the price, you can start bargaining to lower it. Don't be shy: ask "Could you lower the price, please.": ***Xin hạ giá xuống được không?***

The first word, *xin*, means "please."

The second word, *hạ giá*, means "lower the price."

The third word, *xuống*, means "down."

And as you're probably used to by now, the phrase *được không* at the end makes it a question.

Put it all together and we have *Xin hạ giá xuống được không?*

Another way to express the feeling that something is too expensive and you want to start haggling is with ***Đắt quá!***

"Too expensive!"

Đắt means "expensive."

And *quá* means "too."

From this point the vendor will begin to haggle, and the result is in your hands! The first thing the vendor might say now is: ***Bạn muốn trả bao nhiêu?*** which means "How much do you want to pay?"

Bạn means "you."

muốn means "want."

trả means "pay"

bao nhiêu means "how much"

Bargaining is very common in Vietnam, so it's normal to ask the price over and over again until the vendor drops the price to the one you want.

When haggling, this is all you need to get your point across. If the merchant refuses you, slowly walk away, and in 90% of cases they will give in.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

To what extent should you 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.

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #19

Vietnamese Money - An Introduction

CONTENTS

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

19

VIETNAMESE

1. một ngàn đồng
2. hai ngàn ba trăm bốn mươi lăm
3. năm ngàn năm trăm
4. năm ngàn rưỡi

ENGLISH

1. 1000 dong
2. 2345
3. 5500
4. 5500

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
hai	two (2)	noun
năm	five (5)	
bốn	four (4)	noun
triệu	a million (1,000,000)	
một	one (1), a	noun
sáu	six (6)	

ba	three (3)	noun
bảy	seven (7)	noun
tám	eight (8)	noun
chín	nine (9)	noun
mười ngàn	ten thousand (10,000)	
đồng	Vietnamese currency/copper	adjective
ngàn (nghìn)	a thousand (1,000)	
mười	ten (10)	noun
một trăm nghìn (ngàn)	a hundred thousand (100,000)	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Hai năm trước tôi đã đến Việt Nam. "I went to Vietnam two years ago."	Một bàn tay có năm ngón tay. "There are five fingers on a hand."
Ở Hà Nội, một năm có bốn mùa. "In Hanoi, there are four seasons in a year."	Anh ta là một triệu phú. "He is a millionaire."
Tôi có một món quà cho bạn. "I have a present for you."	Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng. "She is a famous actress."
Đó là một khóa học kéo dài 6 (sáu) tháng. "That is a six-month course."	Tôi đã đến Việt Nam 3 lần. "I have been to Vietnam three times."

Cậu bé này 7 (bảy) tuổi. "This boy is seven years old."	Tám (8) người trong số họ là sinh viên. "Eight of them were students."
Vở kịch bắt đầu lúc chín (9) giờ. "The play starts at nine."	Mười ngàn đồng một cái bánh mì. "One bread costs 10,000 dong."
Mười ngàn đồng một cái bánh mì. "One bread costs 10,000 dong."	Mười ngàn đồng một cái bánh mì. "One bread costs 10,000 dong."
Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh. "One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."	Cô gái thường về nhà lúc 10 (mười) giờ tối. "The girl often comes home at 10 P.M."
Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh. "One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."	

GRAMMAR

Vietnam's currency is the đồng. At the time of writing, the exchange rate is roughly 20,000 đồng to 1 USD.

Let's say some prices in Vietnamese—it won't be too difficult. Let's start with 1,000 đồng: **một ngàn đồng**

In Vietnam, maybe the cheapest thing now starts at around a thousand. For example to park a motorcycle you have to pay 5 thousand or 10.

We've already learned that a thousand in Vietnamese is *ngàn*. So 2345 is **hai ngàn ba trăm bốn mươi lăm**

Let's try another number:

5500 would be **năm ngàn năm trăm**.

For 5500 you can also say ***năm ngàn rưỡi***.

Rưỡi means "a half."

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's picture on one side. I know it's tricky at first but everything has some rules and as long as you know them, it's gets less tricky. I bet you will be great at shopping in Vietnam if you master this lesson.

Quick tip 2

In Vietnamese 10,000 is *mười ngàn*, 100,000 is *một trăm ngàn*. To pay for 1 bowl of *phở*, which normally costs 15,000, *mười lăm ngàn*, you could pay for that with a 10,000 dong bill, and a 5,000 dong bill.

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

LESSON NOTES

Survival Phrases S1 #20

Using the Internet in Vietnam

CONTENTS

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

20

VIETNAMESE

1. Tôi muốn dùng in-tơ-nét.
2. Ở đây có WiFi không?
3. Cho tôi password và username.

ENGLISH

1. I want to use the internet.
2. Does this store have Wi-Fi?
3. Password and username please.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
tôi	I; me	noun
ở đây	here, this place	phrase
muốn	to want	adjective
In-tơ-nét	Internet	noun
WiFi	WiFi	noun
có	to have	noun
dùng	to use	verb
không	no, not, nothing, without (flat tone)	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we'll learn about a place crucial to your travels in this modern age: the Internet café! Normally, you find Internet cafés in the big main cities. These days it is very hard to find areas without internet in Vietnam; the minimum level of service is a common computer near the front desk. In hotels and cafés, wifi is usually part of the service.

Imagine you're at the reception counter and want to tell them what you're there for: ***Tôi muốn dùng in-tơ-nét.***

This means "I want to browse the Internet."

Tôi is "I"; *muốn* is "want"; *dùng* means "to use"; and *In-tơ-nét* is "Internet."

"I want to browse the Internet" is *Tôi muốn dùng in-tơ-nét.*

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 4,000 dong to 10,000 dong per hour.

Another common question for all you laptop-packing world trekkers is "Does this store have WIFI?": **Ở đây có WIFI không?**

Ở đây is "here"; có - không, which in Vietnamese is a way of asking a yes or no question; And Wi-Fi of course is "Wi-Fi"

And finally here is one more phrase that might prove useful: "Password and username please."

Cho tôi password và username.

cho means "give." So Cho tôi means "give me." Và is "and."

So all together we have *Cho tôi password và username.*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

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.

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 S1 #21

Riding the Bus in Vietnam

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
có	to have	noun
không	no, not, nothing, without (flat tone)	noun
này	this	preposition
ga	station	noun
Hà Nội	Hanoi, capital of Vietnam	noun
xe	vehicle (car, bus, motorbike, bicycle)	noun
dừng	to stop	verb
ở	at, in	preposition
đi	to go, to come	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Tôi có một món quà cho bạn. "I have a present for you."	Tôi không hút thuốc. "I don't smoke."
Món này rất ngon. "This dish is very delicious."	Lần này tôi gặp may. "I am lucky this time."
Cậu bé này 7 (bảy) tuổi. "This boy is seven years old."	Khách sạn này ở gần Ga Hà Nội. "This hotel is near Ha Noi Station."
Hà Nội đẹp nhờ có nhiều hồ trong thành phố. "Ha Noi is beautiful with many ponds inside the city."	Ở Hà Nội, một năm có bốn mùa. "In Hanoi, there are four seasons in a year."
Xe buýt số 32 thường rất đông. "The number 32 bus is often very crowded."	Tôi có một chiếc xe ô tô Toyota. "I have a Toyota."
Đường phố Hà Nội có rất nhiều xe máy. "There are many motorbikes in Hanoi's streets."	Viên cảnh sát dừng chiếc xe lại. "The policeman stopped the car."
Tem có thể mua ở bưu điện. "Stamps can be bought at the post office."	Tôi sống ở Hà Nội. "I live in Hanoi."
Hôm nay tôi không đi học. "I didn't go to school today."	

GRAMMAR

The bus is an important means of transportation. In many Vietnamese cities, even big ones, we use buses almost as often as the train, to cover both long and short distances. When you get on the bus, the conductor will come to you and collect the fare. For local commuting in Vietnam, the fare is around 3,000 *dong*.

However, before starting your trip, you probably need to ask if the bus goes to your destination.

Let's imagine you are in Hanoi and want to go to Hanoi Station. The sentence "Will this bus go to Hanoi station?" will be ***Xe này có đi ga Hà Nội không?***

First we have *xe* which means "vehicle" in general. In this case it refers to a bus.

Next comes *này*, meaning "this" or "these"

Then we have *Có—không*, which together make a yes or no question

Next comes *đi*, meaning "go."

And finally comes *ga Hà Nội*, meaning "Hanoi Station."

So the whole question ("Will this bus go to Hanoi station?") is ***Xe này có đi ga Hà Nội không?***

Another way is to ask "Will this bus stop at Hanoi Station?," which in Vietnamese is: ***Xe này có dừng ở ga Hà Nội không?***

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip 1

When you get on the bus, you should prepare some small change. In Vietnam paper money can be in big numbers like 100,000 *dong* or even more but the fare is often at about 2,000 *dong*. Bus conductors don't carry much money with them so sometimes if you give them a 100,000 *dong* bill to pay the 2,000 fare and they don't have small change to return you, they might not let you board the bus. This is the brutal truth about buses in Hanoi.

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 S1 #22

Traveling by Bus in Vietnam

CONTENTS

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

22

VIETNAMESE

1. Bến tới là bến gì?
2. Bến tới có phải chợ Bến Thành không?

ENGLISH

1. What is the next stop?
2. Is Ben Thanh market the next stop?

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
gì	what	
chợ	market	noun
có phải... không?	is it (something) or not?	expression
là	to be	noun
Bến Thành	Ben Thanh	noun
trạm	stop	noun
ga	station	noun
tới	the next; the following	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Đây là cái gì? "What is this?"	Bạn đang nấu món gì vậy? "What are you cooking?"
Không có gì. "You're welcome."	Ở Việt Nam người ta thường mua rau ở chợ. "In Vietnam, people often buy vegetable at the market."
Đây có phải là bức vẽ của anh không? "Is this your painting?"	Chúng tôi là khách du lịch. "We are tourists."
Chợ Bến Thành là một trung tâm thương mại lớn ở Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh. "Ben Thanh market is a big commercial center in Ho Chi Minh City."	Trạm này là điểm dừng cuối của chuyến buýt. "This stop is the bus terminal."
Khách sạn này ở gần Ga Hà Nội. "This hotel is near Ha Noi Station."	Bến tới là Ga Hà Nội. "The next stop is Ha Noi Station."

GRAMMAR

In the previous lesson, we covered how to ask the bus destination. Once on the bus, you'll hear announcements telling the passengers where the bus will stop next. If there is no English announcement, then knowing the phrase "What is the next stop?" will be useful.

The phrase you use for that will be: **Bến tới là bến gì?**

First we have *Bến* meaning "stop."

Then comes *tới*, meaning "next"

The next word is *là* which means "is"

The last word is *gì* which means "what." So *bến gì*, means "what stop"

So altogether we have *Bến tới là bến gì?*

Let's imagine now that you want to go to Ben Thanh Market. Here is how to ask if your desired destination is the next stop.

Bến tới có phải chợ Bến Thành không?

"Is Ben Thanh market the next stop?"

Bến tới is followed by *có phải—không*, which means "is it (something) or not?"

Then we have *chợ* meaning "market"

The whole sentence again is: *Bến tới có phải chợ Bến Thành không?*

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. For example, You can say *Cho tôi dừng ở ga hanoi*, which means "Let me out at Hanoi station." 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 S1 #23

Getting Around Vietnam

CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 2 Sample Sentences
- 3 Grammar
- 4 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	Hue, former capital of Vietnam	noun
tôi	I; me	noun
tiền	money	noun
vé	ticket	noun
cho	to give, to grant, to bring	verb
đi	to go, to come	verb
hai	two (2)	noun
bao nhiêu	how many, how much, how	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

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

GRAMMAR

The bus is an important means of transportation. In the last lesson we learned how to ask the next stop. You may also want to move between cities in Vietnam. However, before starting your trip, you probably need to buy a ticket.

Let's imagine you want to go to Hue. In Vietnamese "A ticket to Hue please." is ***Cho tôi vé đi Huế.***

First we have *cho* ("give").

Next comes *tôi*, meaning "I or me."

The next word *vé* means "ticket"

And the last word *đi*, means "go."

So the whole request ("A ticket to Hue please.") is *Cho tôi vé đi Huế.*

If you want to buy more than one ticket, for example, two tickets to Hue, you say ***Cho tôi hai vé đi Huế.***

We simply add *hai* ("two") before *vé*.

Before buying your ticket, you may want to ask how much the ticket costs. In Vietnamese "How much is it to Hue?" is ***Đi Huế bao nhiêu tiền?***

Bao nhiêu means "how much."

And *tiền* is "money."

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.

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 S1 #24

Riding the Rails in Vietnam

CONTENTS

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

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VIETNAMESE

1. Một vé đi Sapa.
2. Hai vé đi Sapa.
3. Hai vé giường mềm đi Sapa.

ENGLISH

1. One ticket to Sapa.
2. Two tickets to Sapa.
3. Two soft bed tickets to Sapa.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
ghế	chair	noun
cứng	hard	adjective
mềm	soft	adjective
giường	bed	noun
vé	ticket	noun
đi	to go, to come	verb
một	one (1), a	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Trong phòng có một chiếc bàn và một chiếc ghế. "There's a table and a chair in the room."	Chiếc kẹo này rất cứng. "This sweet is very hard."
Chiếc gối này rất mềm. "This pillow is very soft."	Trong nhà có một chiếc giường. "There's a bed in the room."
Nhiều người đang xếp hàng mua vé. "Many people are queuing for tickets."	Hôm nay tôi không đi học. "I didn't go to school today."
Tôi có một món quà cho bạn. "I have a present for you."	Bà ấy là một diễn viên nổi tiếng. "She is a famous actress."

GRAMMAR

In Vietnam, riding the rails is one of the best ways to reach the most important parts of the country. In this lesson we will cover how to get on the train.

In Vietnam, one can buy train tickets at ticket gate windows, on the train, and at E-ticket agents. Just in case you get too confused and have to ask the station attendant, we have prepared this lesson for you!

Now let's get ourselves a train ticket. Let's say that our destination is Sapa. This mountainous town is located in the northern part of Vietnam and is well known for its misty water-colored mountain scenery.

To ask for one ticket to Sapa in Vietnamese is ***Một vé đi Sapa.***

một means "one."

vé means "ticket."

And *đi* means "to" or "to go."

If you want to buy more than one ticket, let's say two tickets to Sapa, you can do it by saying:

Hai vé đi Sapa.

You just need to change *một* to *hai*, which means "two"

In Vietnam there are several types of seats on the trains. 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."

Next is *cứng* meaning "hard"

Once again, *Ghế cứng* or "hard seat."

This is the cheapest but least comfortable option.

The other type of seat is "soft seat." These seats are more expensive but are more comfortable than hard seats. In Vietnamese it is: ***ghế mềm***

mềm is "soft"

If you're not in the mood to sit, you can also choose a bed when riding on a train. There are normally two types of beds: ***giường cứng*** and ***giường mềm***.

giường cứng is the hard bed.

giường means "bed."

And *cứng* means "hard"

The other type is the *giường mềm*

Similarly, *mềm* means "soft" so *giường mềm* means "soft bed."

So if you want two 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 S1 #25

Counting in Vietnamese - 11 to 100

CONTENTS

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

25

VIETNAMESE

1. Mười một giờ.
2. Mười một giờ rưỡi.
3. Mười ba là số không may mắn.
4. Một tháng có ba mươi ngày.
5. Ông tôi chín mươi tuổi.

ENGLISH

1. It's 11 o'clock.
2. It's half past eleven.
3. Thirteen is an unlucky number.
4. In one month there are thirty days.
5. My grandfather is 90 years old.

VOCABULARY

Vietnamese	English	Class
mười lăm	fifteen (15)	noun
mười	ten (10)	noun
hai mươi lăm	twenty five (25)	

mười	denoting the tens, about ten	
ba mươi	thirty (30)	
bảy mươi	seventy (70)	
trăm	hundred	noun
một trăm	"100, one hundred"	noun
ngàn (nghìn)	a thousand (1,000)	
mười một	eleven	noun
chín mươi	ninety (90)	
bốn mươi	forty (40)	
hai mươi	twenty (20)	noun
năm mươi	fifty (50)	
sáu mươi	sixty (60)	
tám mươi	eighty (80)	

SAMPLE SENTENCES

Cô gái thường về nhà lúc 10 (mười) giờ tối. "The girl often comes home at 10 P.M."	Tôi hai mươi lăm tuổi. "I'm 25 years old."
Cô ấy đi Sài Gòn mười ngày. "She goes to Sai Gon for about ten days."	Ông ấy đã 70 (bảy mươi) tuổi. "He is 70 years old now."
Tháng 11 (mười một) có 30 (ba mươi) ngày. "There are 30 (thirty) days in November."	Ông ấy đã 70 (bảy mươi) tuổi. "He is 70 years old now."

Hàng trăm người đang xếp hàng mua vé. "Hundreds of people are queuing for tickets."	Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh. "One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."
Ông ấy đã sống một trăm năm. "He has lived one hundred years."	Mười ngàn đồng một cái bánh mì. "One bread costs 10,000 dong."
Một trăm ngàn (nghìn) người đã có mặt trong buổi mít tinh. "One hundred thousand people attended the meeting."	Cô ấy thường về nhà lúc 11 giờ. "She often comes home at 11 o'clock."

GRAMMAR

In this lesson we're going to continue with counting as we cover numbers 11-100.

Let's just quickly review 1-10.

1 *một*

2 *hai*

3 *ba*

4 *bốn*

5 *năm*

6 *sáu*

7 *bảy*

8 *tám*

9 *chín*

10 *mười*

In Vietnamese, counting from 11-20 is also quite straightforward, so let's jump right in.

11 *mười một*

12 *mười hai*

13 *mười ba*

14 *mười bốn*

15 *mười lăm*

16 *mười sáu*

17 *mười bảy*

18 *mười tám*

19 *mười chín*

20 *hai mươi*

You probably noticed that to make numbers 11-19, you just put the word *mười*, which means "ten," before the number you want to say. The numbers 21-29 start with *hai mươi*, which means "twenty." However, from 21 to 91, any number ending with one is irregular, in that instead of saying *hai mươi một* (twenty and one), we say *hai mươi mốt*. *Mốt* also means one but it is pronounced with a rising tone.

10 *mười*

20 *hai mươi*

Let's make some sample sentences with these numbers. We can use them to talk about time.

"It's eleven o'clock" in Vietnamese is ***Mười một giờ***.

giờ means "hour"

And we just learned that *mười một* is "eleven."

Together, it's *Mười một giờ*, "It's eleven o'clock."

We can use the same type of sentence to express any time, so let's try some more sentences.

Mười một giờ rưỡi.

"It's half past eleven."

rưỡi means half.

And the rest of the sentence we have already learned.

Here's another sentence:

"Thirteen is an unlucky number."

Mười ba là số không may mắn.

Mười ba is "thirteen."

The second word, *là*, means "is"

The next word, *số*, means "number"

The last word, *không may mắn* means "unlucky"

All together, we have *Mười ba là số không may mắn*.

Let's try a bigger number

Một tháng có ba mươi ngày.

"In one month, there are thirty days."

tháng means "month," so *một tháng* means "one month."

có means "to have"

ngày means "day." As you can guess, *ba mươi ngày* means "thirty days."

The whole sentence is *Một tháng có ba mươi ngày*.

So now that you've just learned 30, let's go through some other Vietnamese word for the rest of the tens:

30 *ba mươi*

40 *bốn mươi*

50 *năm mươi*

60 *sáu mươi*

70 *bảy mươi*

80 *tám mươi*

90 *chín mươi*

Let's make one more sentence with a big number: ***ông tôi chín mươi tuổi***

"My grandfather is 90 years old."

ông tôi means "my grandfather."

The next word, *chín mươi*, means 90.

Finally, *tuổi* means "years old."

All together, it's *ông tôi chín mươi tuổi*

Let's try making the Vietnamese word for "fifty-three." "Fifty" is *năm mươi* and "three" is *ba*. Putting them together, we have *năm mươi ba* or "fifty-three."

Finally, we have *một trăm*, which is "hundred."

100 *một trăm*

To count up from *một trăm*, we just need to add the units and the tens we have already learned.

110 *một trăm mười*

198 *một trăm chín mươi tám*

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Quick tip

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.



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