

Pronunciation and Tones

Vowels		Consonants		Tones	
a	ah, as in 'father'	ch	as in 'church'	Level Tone	No mark. Pronounced at a neutral pitch. (má)
ă	shorter 'ah' sound	đ	similar to 'th' in 'this'	Rising Tone	Acute accent ('). Rises in pitch. (mạ)
â	as in 'but'	gi	similar to 'y' in 'yes' (Northern accent)	Falling Tone	Grave accent ('). Falls in pitch. (mã)
e	eh, as in 'bed'	kh	guttural 'h' sound, like in 'Bach'	Hook Above Tone	Hook above (̣̈́). Starts mid-level, then rises slightly. (mắ)
ê	ay, as in 'day'	ng	as in 'sing'	Tilde Tone	Tilde (~). Starts low, falls, then rises. (mã)
i/y	ee, as in 'see'	nh	similar to 'ny' in 'canyon'	Heavy Tone	Dot below (̣). Short and low. (mạ)
o	oh, as in 'go'	ph	as in 'phone'		
ô	longer 'oh' sound	th	as in 'thin'		
ơ	uh, as in 'heard'	tr	combination of 't' and 'r' sounds		
u	oo, as in 'moon'				
ư	similar to 'uh', but more closed				

Basic Grammar

Word Order	Tenses	Yes/No Questions
<p>Vietnamese follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) word order.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Tôi ăn cơm. (I eat rice.)</p>	<p>Vietnamese does not have verb conjugations for tenses. Tense is indicated by adverbs of time or context.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Tôi ăn cơm <i>hôm qua</i>. (I ate rice <i>yesterday</i>.) Tôi sẽ ăn cơm. (I <i>will</i> eat rice.) Tôi <i>đang</i> ăn cơm. (I <i>am</i> eating rice.)</p>	<p>Add <b>không</b> at the end of a statement to form a yes/no question.</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Bạn ăn cơm không? (Do you eat rice?)</p>

Pronouns

Tôi	I
Bạn	You
Anh/Chị	He/She (formal)
Ông/Bà	Grandfather/Grandmother (formal)
Chúng tôi	We
Các bạn	You (plural)
Họ	They

Classifiers

Classifiers are used before nouns when counting or specifying quantity.
<b>Example:</b> một cái bàn (one classifier table)

Common Phrases

Greetings and Introductions

Xin chào	Hello
Chào bạn	Hello (to a friend/peer)
Chào anh/chị	Hello (to someone older)
Tôi là...	I am...
Rất vui được gặp bạn	Nice to meet you

Basic Interactions

Cảm ơn	Thank you
Không có gì	You're welcome
Xin lỗi	Sorry/Excuse me
Vâng	Yes
Không	No
Không biết	I don't know

Asking for Help

Bạn có thể giúp tôi không?	Can you help me?
Tôi cần giúp đỡ	I need help
Ở đâu...?	Where is...?
Cái này là cái gì?	What is this?

Eating Out

Tôi muốn...	I want...
Cho tôi thực đơn	Menu, please
Bao nhiêu tiền?	How much?
Ngon quá!	Delicious!
Tính tiền	Check, please

Essential Vocabulary

Numbers

Một	One
Hai	Two
Ba	Three
Bốn	Four
Năm	Five
Sáu	Six
Bảy	Seven
Tám	Eight
Chín	Nine
Mười	Ten

Food and Drink

Cơm	Rice
Thịt	Meat
Cá	Fish
Rau	Vegetables
Nước	Water
Bia	Beer
Cà phê	Coffee
Trà	Tea

Time

Ngày	Day
Đêm	Night
Tuần	Week
Tháng	Month
Năm	Year
Hôm nay	Today
Hôm qua	Yesterday
Ngày mai	Tomorrow

Places

Nhà	House
Đường	Street
Chợ	Market
Trường học	School
Bệnh viện	Hospital
Sân bay	Airport