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The Complete Course for Beginners

Bac Hoai Tran, Ha Minh Nguyen,
Tuan Duc Vuong and Que Vuong

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Colloquial Vietnamese

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Introduction

Vietnam

Vietnam is shaped like an elongated S and stretches the length of the Indochinese Peninsula, bordering the China Sea in the east. It shares borders with China in the north, Laos and Cambodia in the west. It also encompasses a vast sea area including a string of thousands of archipelagoes stretching from the Tonkin Gulf to the Gulf of Thailand. Its coastline is dotted with beautiful beaches and unspoiled resorts. Vietnam has three principal regions, with the central region flanked by two rice-producing areas supplied by the rich alluvial deltas of the Red River in the north and the Mekong in the south. Mountains and forests make up more than three-quarters of Vietnam's total area and there is a multitude of wildlife in the mountains, tropical forests, plains and plateaus.

The population

The present-day population of Vietnam is about 80 million. The origins of the Vietnamese people are mainly in China, the high plateau of central Asia, and islands in the South Pacific. The first natives of Vietnam originated from several ethnic groups. The most important of these were the Lac, specialists in wet rice cultivation and inventors of the bronze drums, who inhabited the Red River Delta and the central regions and the Muong. The ethnic groups which followed in the fifth century BC were the Viet, who came mainly from the coastal and southern provinces of China. The Viet or Kinh form the majority (90 percent) of the population but in all more than 54 ethnic minorities inhabit the mountainous regions which cover almost two-thirds of Vietnam. In the course of its long history Vietnam has been known by many different names; it received its present name in 1945.

The economy

Vietnam is basically an agricultural country and over 80 percent of the population live in rural areas supported by agriculture, forestry and fishing. The principal crops are rice, sugar cane, fruit and vegetables, sweet potatoes and cassava, while the principal livestock are pigs, poultry, buffalo and cattle. Most of the country's resources are found in the north, the most important of which are coal, tin, copper, chromium ore and phosphate. Industry is also mainly concentrated in the north. The main industries are oil, machinery, chemicals, construction materials, paper, food processing and textiles. Vietnam became a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2007, and it is believed that the country as a whole will benefit economically.

The culture and the people

Vietnam is known as a land of culture and refinement and its people have the reputation of being industrious, graceful, orderly, skillful, adaptable and well educated. One of the most striking characteristics of the Vietnamese is their sense of tradition. The Confucian tradition left the Vietnamese with an acute sense of social relationships and high standards of politeness, and they are willing to help each other. Also originating from Confucianism is the ancestor cult, which is the chief form of religious observance. Most Vietnamese houses have a place set aside in the main living room where the ancestors are venerated. Traditionalism also accounts for the great variety of customs and observances in Vietnam, and is one of the most prominent features of Vietnamese life. Traditionally, there are many anniversaries or festivals which occur at various times during the year. One of the most colorful is the Autumn Festival, when mooncakes are made and the children carry colored lanterns and dragon dances are performed. Then there is the Feast of the Wandering Souls, restless spirits of the dead who have to be hospitably received during their brief return to the world. But the most important celebration in the Vietnamese calendar is the Lunar New Year, which now generally lasts for four days, although in former times it is said to have continued for a month. This is essentially a family celebration, the main feature of which is or should be a gathering of the whole clan at the house of the particular relative whose responsibility and prerogative it is to keep and preserve

all ancestral relics. There are numerous other traditional Vietnamese feasts and customs, to which the Vietnamese are greatly attached and which do much to enliven Vietnamese life. Perhaps it is they more than anything which give the poetic quality which is part of the charm of Vietnam.

The Vietnamese language

Vietnamese is a mixture of Austro-Asiatic languages, sharing many similarities with the Mon-Khmer, Thai and Muong languages. Because of the Chinese influence during many centuries of Vietnam's history, the Vietnamese used the Chinese Han language as their official written language. In the spoken language too, there are a lot of words and phrases originating from the Chinese and coexisting with pure Vietnamese words. From the beginning of the twentieth century Vietnam has also incorporated words from some Western languages such as French and English. In addition, Vietnamese is the main language for the whole Vietnamese nation but draws on the other dialects of the minorities in Vietnam. In this way present-day Vietnamese is a blend of several languages, ancient and modern, which has evolved through contact with other races. Although there are some regional forms of Vietnamese (and the accent of the North is different from that of the South) you can use the Vietnamese you learn with anyone from that country and with any of the overseas Vietnamese scattered around the world.

The Vietnamese written language has a different background. Because of thousands of years of Chinese domination and influence, the Vietnamese used Chinese characters known as **chu nho** as their official written language for many centuries. However **chu nho** was not easy to learn and only the Vietnamese scholars could use it, while nearly 99 per cent of the population were illiterate. The Vietnamese scholars realized the need for developing a separate written Vietnamese language. Several tentative attempts were made to modify the original Chinese characters, but only under the rule of King Quang Trung (1776–92) was the classic Chinese Han replaced by **chu nom**, a kind of native adaptation of the Chinese writing system. (**Chu** means word and **nom** means prose which is easy to understand.) But in fact that kind of writing system was very complicated, it never received official

recognition and the Vietnamese intellectuals continued to use the Chinese calligraphic script.

The Vietnamese had to wait until 1548 when the new Vietnamese writing system was introduced by the French Jesuit missionary Alexandre de Rhodes. He introduced the first Vietnamese alphabet which was phonetically romanized using the Roman alphabet and was recognized by the Vietnamese as **Quốc ngữ**, the national language. Since then **Quốc ngữ** has replaced the Chinese calligraphic script officially and has become a compulsory subject in schools. The written form of the language, **Quốc ngữ**, is much easier for the Vietnamese themselves to learn. The alphabet does not present too many problems for the foreign learner, either. You will learn the alphabet, as well as the basic vowel and consonant sounds, in the following section.

Syllables

Vietnamese is a monosyllabic language. Each word in Vietnamese consists of only one syllable. There are some polysyllabic words, known as **tu ghép** (compound words), such as **sơ-mi** (“shirt”), **thí dụ** (“for example”), **mục đích** (“objective”), **phương pháp** (“method”).

The sounds of Vietnamese

Although all the consonants except one are written the same as in English, their distribution (their occurrence, either at the beginning or at the end in syllables) often differs from English, and their pronunciation differs in subtle but noticeable ways from the pronunciation of their English counterparts. Although some combinations of consonants can be difficult, the fact that a Vietnamese word is always based on only one syllable will help learners say the word easily. For example, in English the word “welcome” consists of two syllables. The Vietnamese equivalent, **hoan nghênh**, is separated into two words, each consisting of one syllable. This makes the task of saying and writing the five consonants in **nghênh** a little easier. The combination of consonants **ng** often comes at the beginning of a word, as in the surname **Nguyễn**, and it is one of the other difficulties (fortunately there are not many) that Vietnamese consonants pose.

The tone system

Vietnamese is a tonal language. The tones are probably the most difficult part of learning Vietnamese. In English we use intonation to signal a question or attitude, for example. But in Vietnamese the tones change the meanings of individual words. You need to allow yourself a generous amount of time for practicing this.

Acronyms and abbreviations

The Vietnamese enjoy using consonants as abbreviations. Abbreviations are often used for company names or for some expressions which are very familiar to people. Some abbreviations are recognized by the Vietnamese officially, for example VN is often used to refer to Vietnam, TQ for China and LHQ for the United Nations.

Learning Vietnamese

We have pointed out in this introduction some of the difficulties in learning Vietnamese. However, as long as you keep up your interest in learning the language these should not prove an obstacle. Interest is in fact the key – the more you can enjoy your study and make it an enjoyable and interesting experience for yourself, the easier you will find it. Set yourself regular targets and challenges and check your progress regularly to keep yourself up to the mark.

You will find plenty of novelties and features of the language to interest you. Many people say, for example, that Vietnamese is a musical language. You will hear this yourself in the use of the tones and rhythm. Vietnamese grammar is very straightforward: there are no declensions or cases or even tenses as are found in European languages. Moreover, the words themselves are simpler than in many other languages. Among the most important features of Vietnamese are the ways of expressing politeness. You will encounter a number of terms to express politeness and show respect. These polite expressions are very difficult to translate into English but you will gradually get a feel for their use. The forms of addressing people in Vietnamese are also an important feature of the language and express the culture of the country. The use of pronouns in Vietnamese is

different from many other languages. In a language like English you can use the pronouns “you,” “I” and “me” to talk to anyone, but in Vietnamese you have to choose the right pronouns that are suitable for the situation, according to such things as age, social status and how well you know someone. For example: “I” in English can be **tôi, ông, bà, bác, chú, cô, anh, chị**, etc. in Vietnamese depending on who you are talking to.

As mentioned above, Vietnamese is a “blended” language which incorporates many words from other languages, especially Chinese, French and English. There are innumerable loan-words from Chinese such as **độc lập** (“independence”), **tự do** (“freedom”), **hạnh phúc** (“happiness”). There are also quite a lot of words which have been borrowed from French such as **ga** (“railway station”), **sơ-mi** (“shirt”), **xà-phòng** (“soap”). More recently a large number of words have arrived from English such as TV, bar and visa. You can say these words with an English pronunciation and the Vietnamese will understand what you are saying.

Students of Vietnamese

This book is designed to be used by people who are studying for the purposes of tourism or business, or out of cultural or linguistic interest. The course book could take the learner from complete beginner to limited proficiency, enough to converse in a range of common situations.

The situations introduced cover:

- Meeting people socially
- Travel and tourism.

Our aim is to help learners to be exposed to up-to-date language used realistically in common situations, to be able to command the basic structures and everyday vocabulary of the language, and to pick up the most useful colloquial expressions in the shortest possible time. We have selected the most useful colloquial language combined with a systematic presentation of grammar and presented them in 14 lesson units which are accompanied by English translations. The pronunciation and the grammar systems should be learned practically by way of everyday vocabulary and dialogues.

This book

The book consists of 14 units, each containing dialogues to present everyday colloquial Vietnamese. Vietnamese grammar is explained step by step and the learner is shown how to use the language in real situations. We have also prepared a number of very practical exercises to give ample practice in writing and speaking. Audio material to accompany the course is available to download free in MP3 format from www.routledge.com/cw/colloquials. Recorded by native speakers, the audio material features the dialogues and texts from the book and will help develop your listening and pronunciation skills.

The authors and acknowledgments

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and Que Vuong Crouzier
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Alphabet, tones and sounds



The Vietnamese alphabet (Audio 1; 2)

a ă â b c d đ e ê g h i
k l m n o ô ơ p q r s t
u ư v x y

The tones

Vietnamese has a total of six tones. Each of these tones is represented by a tone mark, save for the mid tone, which goes unmarked. Tone marks should be distinguished from vowel marks, as seen in the following vowels: **ă, â, ê, ơ, ô,** and **ư**.

Take **ư** as an example of how the six tones are presented:

- ư (mid tone, unmarked)
- ứ (highest tone)
- ừ (lower tone)
- ự (low-rising tone)
- ữ (broken, low-rising tone)
- ự̀ (lowest tone)

Below is a brief description of these tones:

- 1 Mid tone (unmarked): voice is steady and stays pretty high.

tên name

- 2 Highest tone (the acute accent): voice goes up sharply.

nắng sunny

3 Lower tone (the grave accent): voice is low and stays low.

mùa season

4 Low-rising tone (the question mark without the dot): voice begins low then goes up.

nhỏ small

5 Broken, low-rising tone (the tilde): voice starts low and abruptly goes all the way up, resulting in a glottal stop.

cũng also

NB In the Southern dialects, this tone sounds the same as the low-rising tone, thus **cũng** sounds like **củng**.

6 Lowest tone (the dot): voice starts low and immediately drops to the lowest pitch.

đợi wait

NB In the Southern dialects, this tone is slightly higher and the vowel is shortened less, as compared to the Northern dialects.

It will be extremely helpful for learners to listen to the audio material, which is available to download free from www.routledge.com/cw/colloquials, in order to master the basics of this key aspect of speaking Vietnamese.

The Vietnamese sound system



1 Vowels (Audio 1; 3–9)

Vowel or combination	Pronunciation	Example
a	as in <i>rather</i>	xa far
ă	a short /a/	mắt eye
â	as in <i>run</i>	cần need
e	as in <i>bed</i>	khen praise
ê	similar to <i>fate</i>	mến fond of
i	as in <i>seat</i>	đi go
o	as in <i>floor</i>	có have
ô	similar to <i>no</i>	không no
ơ	as in <i>term</i>	cờ flag
u	as in <i>shoot</i>	cũ old
ư	similar to <i>uh huh</i>	rừng forest
ai	as in <i>tie</i>	sai wrong
ao	as in <i>how</i>	cháo porridge
au	a combination of /a/ and /u/	sáu six
ay	a combination of /ă/ and /i/	chạy run
âu	similar to <i>show</i>	đâu where
ây	similar to <i>ray</i>	đẩy push
eo	similar to <i>sell</i>	mèo cat
êu	similar to <i>fail</i>	nếu if
ia	as in <i>dear</i>	kia there
iê	close to <i>heal</i>	tiếc regret
iu	as in <i>phew</i>	níu tug at
oa	as in <i>schwa</i>	hoa flower
oi	as in <i>toy</i>	nói speak
oo	as in <i>throng</i>	soong pan

<i>Vowel or combination</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Example</i>
ôi	a combination of /ô/ and /i/	đôi pair
ơ	a combination of /ơ/ and /i/	đợi wait
ua	as in <i>boor</i>	lụa silk
ui	as in <i>buoy</i>	núi mountain
uô	as in <i>spoor</i>	uống drink
ươ	as in <i>tour</i>	thời time period
uy	as in <i>tweet</i>	tủy marrow
ư	a combination of /ư/ and /a/	trưa noon
ưi	a combination of /ư/ and /i/	ngửi sniff
iêu	similar to <i>heal</i>	nhều a lot
oai	as in <i>white</i>	xoài mango
oay	a combination of /o/, /ă/ and /i/	loay hoay fiddle with
uôi	a combination of /u/, /ô/ and /i/	suối brook
ươi	a combination of /ư/, /ơ/ and /i/	tươi fresh
ươu	a combination of /ư/, /ơ/ and /u/	hươu deer

2 Consonants (Audio 1; 10–13)



<i>Consonant or combination</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Example</i>
b	softer than /b/ in <i>beat</i>	biết know
c	voiced, softer than /k/ in <i>call</i>	cờ flag
ch	similar to <i>ch</i> in <i>chain</i>	chia divide
d	identical to /z/ in <i>zeal</i> (in South, identical to /y/)	dày thick
đ	softer than /d/ in <i>dean</i>	đu đủ papaya
g*	softer than /g/ in <i>get</i>	gà chicken

<i>Consonant or combination</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Example</i>
gh	softer than /g/ in <i>get</i>	ghen <i>jealous</i>
h	identical to /h/ in <i>how</i>	ho <i>cough</i>
k	voiced, softer than /k/ in <i>call</i>	kin <i>needle</i>
kh	close to <i>ch</i> in <i>Bach</i>	khó <i>difficult</i>
l	identical to /l/ in <i>lend</i>	lo <i>worry</i>
m	identical to /m/ in <i>may</i>	máu <i>blood</i>
n	identical to /n/ in <i>name</i>	này <i>this</i>
ng/ngh	close to <i>ng</i> in <i>longing</i>	ngọt <i>sweet</i>
nh	close to <i>n</i> in <i>lasagna</i>	nhanh <i>fast</i>
p	as in <i>hop</i> but unreleased	pin <i>battery</i>
ph	identical to /f/ in <i>fame</i>	phòng <i>room</i>
q	voiced, very close to /kw/ in <i>qualm</i>	quét <i>sweep</i>
r	very close to /r/ in <i>red</i>	rồi <i>already</i>
s	identical to /s/ in <i>send</i>	sông <i>river</i>
t	voiced, softer than /t/ in <i>team</i>	toán <i>math</i>
th	close to /t/ in <i>tart</i>	thường <i>usually</i>
tr	close to <i>dge</i> in <i>grudge</i>	trống <i>vacant</i>
v	very close to /v/ in <i>voice</i>	vội <i>hurry</i>
x	identical to /s/ in <i>soul</i>	xuống <i>down</i>
y	identical to /i/ in <i>see</i>	ý chí <i>willpower</i>

* In the Northern dialects **gi** is pronounced *zi* in the question word **gi** and should sound like *z* in any other word that begins with **gi**, such as **giờ**, **giếng** and **giống**. In the Southern dialects, **gi** should sound like *y*.

Unit One

Xin chào

Hello

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Use “chào” to greet someone
- Use the question word “gì” to ask someone’s name
- Ask yes–no questions, using “có ... không”
- Recognize and use some common terms of address
- Use “ai” as a question word
- Use “của” to indicate “of” or ownership
- Use “quá” to emphasize a feeling or quality of something





Dialogue 1



(Audio 1; 14)

Hùng gặp Angela trên chuyến bay từ Mỹ đến Việt Nam

Hùng meets Angela on a flight from America to Vietnam

HÙNG: Chào chị.

ANGELA: Chào anh. Anh tên là gì?

HÙNG: Tôi tên là Hùng. Rất vui được gặp chị.

ANGELA: Tôi tên là Angela. Rất vui được gặp anh.

HÙNG: *Hello.*ANGELA: *Hello. What's your name?*HÙNG: *My name's Hung. Very pleased to meet you.*ANGELA: *My name's Angela. Very pleased to meet you.*

Vocabulary

gặp	meet	anh	you (male peer)
trên	on	tên	name
chuyến bay	flight	là	be
từ	from	gì	what
Mỹ	America	tôi	I
đến	to	rất	very
Việt Nam	Vietnam	vui	happy, pleased
chào	hello	được	have the opportunity
chị	you (female peer)		



Language points

Using “chào” to greet someone

For example:

- **Chào chị.** Hello (to a female peer).
- **Chào chị Anna.** Hello (to a female peer named Anna).
- **Chào anh Andrew.** Hello (to a male peer named Andrew).

NB Chào means both hello and goodbye. It is followed by a name or a term of address or both.

Using the question word “gì” to ask someone’s name

For example:

- **Anh tên là gì?** What is your name? (*to a male peer*)
- **Tên chị là gì?** What is your name? (*to a female peer*)

NB The question word “gì” is always placed at the end of the sentence. Also, “anh tên” and “tên anh” can be used interchangeably, with “anh tên” sounding a little more formal.



Exercise 1

You meet some Vietnamese people on the streets of Hanoi. Tell them that you are:

- 1 Anna → **Tôi tên là Anna.**
- 2 Peter
- 3 Mary
- 4 Nicole
- 5 Tim

Dialogue 2



(Audio 1; 15)

Hùng giới thiệu Angela với Lan

Hùng introduces Angela to Lan



- HÙNG: Xin giới thiệu với chị Angela, đây là Lan.
 LAN: Chào chị Angela. Rất vui được gặp chị.
 ANGELA: Rất vui được gặp chị. Chị có khỏe không?
 LAN: Tôi khỏe. Cám ơn chị. Còn chị?
 ANGELA: Tôi cũng khỏe. Cám ơn chị.
 LAN: Chào chị. Hẹn gặp lại.
 ANGELA: Chào anh chị. Hẹn gặp lại.

HÙNG: *I would like to introduce (someone) to you, Angela. This is Lan.*

LAN: *Hello. Very pleased to meet you.*

- ANGELA: *Very pleased to meet you. How are you?*
 LAN: *I'm fine, thank you. And you?*
 ANGELA: *I'm fine too. Thank you.*
 LAN: *Goodbye. See you again.*
 ANGELA: *Bye to you both. See you again.*



Vocabulary

xin	ask, would like	khỏe	fine, well, healthy
giới thiệu	introduce	cám ơn	thank
với	to, with	còn	as for, and
đây	this, here	cũng	also, too
có	yes, have	hẹn	make an appointment
không	no	lại	again
có ... không?	yes–no question		



Language points

Using “xin” to make polite requests

For example:

- **Xin** chị ngồi đây. Please sit here.
- **Xin** anh chị đứng đây. Please stand here.

New vocabulary

ngồi	sit
đứng	stand

Using “có ... không” to ask yes–no questions

For example:

- **Anh có khỏe không?** How are you? (Are you well no?)
- **Chị có vui không?** Are you happy?

NB **Có** is placed before the verb and **không** at the end of the sentence. In an informal register, **có** is optional.

Using the structure “subject + adjective”

For example:

- **Tôi khoẻ.** I'm fine.
- **Tôi vui.** I'm happy.

NB In Vietnamese, the verb “to be” is omitted in this sentence pattern. “Tôi là khoẻ” sounds very awkward. Vietnamese adjectives simply function differently from English adjectives. Also, the response to the question **có ... không** can be **có/vâng** (in the positive) or **không** (in the negative).

- **Anh có khoẻ không?** How are you? (Are you well no?)
Vâng, tôi khoẻ. (Yes), I'm fine.
- **Chị có vui không?** Are you happy? (Are you happy no?)
Không, tôi không vui. No, I'm not happy.

Exercise 2



You are at a party. Please go around and meet with three people and

- 1 greet them.
- 2 tell them that it's a pleasure to meet them.
- 3 ask their names.
- 4 ask them how they are doing.
- 5 say goodbye to them.

Dialogue 3



(Audio 1; 16)

Angela gặp ông Hoan

Angela meets Mr. Hoan



- ANGELA: Chào bác.
 HOAN: Chào cháu. Xin lỗi cháu, cháu tên là gì?
 ANGELA: Cháu tên là Angela. Cháu rất hân hạnh được gặp bác.
 HOAN: Bác tên là Hoan. Bác cũng rất hân hạnh được biết cháu.

ANGELA: *Hello, sir.*

HOAN: *Hello. Excuse me, what's your name?*

ANGELA: *My name is Angela. I'm very honored to meet you.*

HOAN: *My name is Hoan. I'm also very honored to know you.*



Vocabulary

ông	Mr., term of address for an older man (literally, grandfather or man of high social status)	cháu	term of address for a younger person (literally, niece or nephew)
bác	term of address for an older man (literally, senior uncle or aunt)	xin lỗi	excuse (me)
		hân hạnh	honored
		biết	know



Language points

Using “xin lỗi” to politely get someone's attention

For example:

- **Xin lỗi chị, chị tên là gì?**
Excuse me, what's your name? (to a female peer)
- **Xin lỗi anh, anh tên là gì?**
Excuse me, what's your name? (to a male peer)

Terms of address (Part 1)

The terms of address in Vietnamese are very complicated and vary from situation to situation, depending on many factors such as age, social status and relationship. Vietnamese people are very friendly. They tend to refer to other people in society as family members by calling them older brother, younger sister, aunt, uncle, etc.

The formal Vietnamese pronouns for “I” and “you” are “tôi” and “anh” (male peer, literally meaning “older brother”) or “chị” (female peer, literally meaning “older sister”). More formal terms for “you” that are appropriate for an elderly person or person of high social status are

“ông” (male person, literally meaning “grandfather”), “bà” (female person, literally meaning “grandmother”) and “bác” (either a male or female person, literally meaning “senior uncle/aunt”).

Once you have addressed an older person as “ông” or “bà” or “bác,” please note that you should refer to yourself as “cháu” (literally, niece/nephew or grandchild), saving the formal “tôi” for when talking to your peers. However, after you have become well acquainted with a peer, it is friendlier to refer to yourself by using an appropriate family term such as “older brother” or “younger sister,” or even by your first name.

In general, you can usually let your Vietnamese acquaintances take the lead in deciding which terms of address you should be using.

Exercise 3



Introduce the following people, using “Đây là ...”:

- 1 a female peer by the name of Thuận → **Đây là chị Thuận.**
- 2 an elderly man by the name of Hòa
- 3 an elderly woman by the name of Bảo
- 4 a male peer by the name of James

Exercise 4



Ask an acquaintance, using different terms of address, to see whether he/she is:

- 1 healthy
- 2 happy

Exercise 5



You meet with a group of Vietnamese people. Say hello to:

- 1 an elderly man → **Chào bác.**
- 2 a peer’s aunt
- 3 a female peer
- 4 a male peer
- 5 a friend’s uncle



Exercise 6

Fill in the blanks using the words in the box:

<i>gì</i>	<i>tên</i>	<i>chào</i>	<i>có</i>	<i>không</i>
<i>cũng</i>	<i>gặp</i>	<i>còn</i>	<i>cám ơn</i>	<i>vui</i>

- TIM: Chào chị.
- NICOLE: _____ anh. Anh tên là _____ ?
- TIM: Tôi _____ là Tim. Rất vui được gặp chị.
- NICOLE: Tôi tên là Nicole. Rất _____ được biết anh.
- TIM: Chị _____ khỏe _____ ?
- NICOLE: Tôi khỏe. Cám ơn anh. _____ anh?
- TIM: Tôi _____ khỏe. _____ _____ chị.
- NICOLE: Chào anh. Hẹn gặp lại.
- TIM: Chào chị. Hẹn _____ lại.



Exercise 7

Turn these statements into questions. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 Tôi tên là Sarah. (female peer) → **Chị tên là gì?**
- 2 Bác tên là Hoa. (elderly woman) _____
- 3 Tôi tên là Hùng. (male peer) _____
- 4 Tôi khỏe. (female peer) _____
- 5 Tôi cũng khỏe. (male peer) _____



Exercise 8

Match each sentence in column A with its logical complement in column B:

A

- 1 Chào bác.
- 2 Xin lỗi cháu, cháu tên là gì?

B

- a Hẹn gặp lại.
- b Chào chị. Rất vui được gặp chị.

- 3 Rất hân hạnh được gặp cháu. c Cháu cũng rất hân hạnh được biết bác.
- 4 Xin giới thiệu với cháu Emily, đây là chị Mai. d Cháu tên là Emily.
- 5 Chị Emily có khỏe không? e Tôi khỏe. Cảm ơn chị.
- 6 Hẹn gặp lại. f Chào cháu.

Dialogue 4



(Audio 1; 17)

Angela gặp Hương

Angela meets Hương



- ANGELA: Chào em.
 HƯƠNG: Chào chị.
 ANGELA: Chị tên Angela. Em tên gì?
 HƯƠNG: Dạ, em tên Hương.
 ANGELA: Em khỏe không?
 HƯƠNG: Em hơi mệt. Còn chị?
 ANGELA: Chị khỏe. Cảm ơn em.
- ANGELA: *Hello.*
 HƯƠNG: *Hi.*
 ANGELA: *My name's Angela. What's your name?*
 HƯƠNG: *My name's Hương.*
 ANGELA: *How are you?*
 HƯƠNG: *I'm rather tired. And you?*
 ANGELA: *I'm fine. Thank you.*

Họ tiếp tục nói chuyện ...

They continue chatting ...

- HƯƠNG: Chị đi với ai, chị Angela?
 ANGELA: Chị đi một mình. Còn em?
 HƯƠNG: Em đi với bố mẹ của em.
 ANGELA: Chị buồn ngủ quá. Chị về chỗ của chị đây. Chào em.
 HƯƠNG: Chào chị Angela.

- HƯƠNG: *Who are you traveling with, Angela?*
 ANGELA: *I'm traveling by myself. And you?*
 HƯƠNG: *I'm with my parents.*
 ANGELA: *I'm so sleepy. I'll go back to my seat now. Bye.*
 HƯƠNG: *Bye, Angela.*



Vocabulary

em	younger sibling, term of address for a person younger than you	một mình	by oneself
ạ	polite particle preceding an utterance	bố (N), ba (S)	father
hơi	rather	mẹ (N), má (S)	mother
mệt	tired	của	of, belonging to
họ	they	buồn	sad
tiếp tục	continue	buồn ngủ	sleepy
nói chuyện	talk, chat	quá	so
đi	go	về	go back
với	with	chỗ	seat, place
ai	who	đây	ending particle, loosely meaning "now"



Language points

Adopting an informal tone

For example:

- **Em tên gì?**
What's your name? (to someone younger than you)
- **Em tên Hương.**
My name's Hương.

NB The omission of **là** in both the question and the response indicates that the speakers have chosen to adopt an informal tone for their conversation. The intentional omission of **có** in "Em khỏe không?" is part of this same strategy.