

# VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL WORDS

## FOODS

English Word	Vietnamese Word	Pronunciation
Milk	Sữa	sōo-ăh
Bread	Bánh Mì	bangh mē
Vegetable	Rau Cải	rawh kaī
Salad	Xà Lách	să lach
Fruit	Trái Cây	traī kaī
Apples	Táo	tao
Oranges	Cam	kăh
Bananas	Chuối	chew-ēē
Carrots	Cà Rốt	ka rot
Celery	Cải củ tây	guy caw tiē
Corn	Bắp	băp
Beans	Đậu	dow
Potatoes	Khoai Tây	kwoai tay
Meat	Thịt	tít

## VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL WORDS-Foods, Cont.

<b>English Word</b>	<b>Vietnamese Word</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<b>Beef</b>	<b>Thịt bò</b>	<b>tít bắh</b>
<b>Pork</b>	<b>Thịt heo</b>	<b>tít hểl</b>
<b>Sandwich</b>	<b>Bánh Mì</b>	<b>bắngh mē</b>
<b>Cereal</b>	<b>Ngũ cốc</b>	<b>new cock</b>
<b>Juice</b>	<b>Nước Trái Cây</b>	<b>nōoc cháỉ gay</b>
<b>Broccoli</b>	<b>Cải rồ</b>	<b>gắi row</b>
<b>Dressing</b>	<b>Nước Tương</b>	<b>nōoc toong</b>
<b>Fork</b>	<b>Nĩa</b>	<b>nēe-ủh</b>
<b>Knife</b>	<b>Dao</b>	<b>yắh-ow</b>
<b>Spoon</b>	<b>Muỗng</b>	<b>mōo-ủhng</b>
<b>Plate</b>	<b>Dĩa</b>	<b>dēe-uh</b>
<b>Bowl</b>	<b>Tô</b>	<b>tōe</b>
<b>Cup</b>	<b>Ly</b>	<b>lēe</b>
<b>Straw</b>	<b>Ống Hút</b>	<b>ong hắt</b>
<b>Napkin</b>	<b>Giấy Lau (or: Khăn ăn)</b>	<b>guy lau (khắhng ắhng)</b>

## VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL WORDS ACTION

English Word	Vietnamese Word	Pronunciation
Brush Teeth	Đánh Răng	dăhn răhng
Clean-up	Dọn dẹp	don dểhp
Sit	Ngồi	noy
Stand	Đứng	yũng
Wash Hands	Rửa Tay	rũa tay
Walk	Đi	dēe
Listen	Nghe	ngăy
Come	Đến Đây	dễn dăhy
Help Me	Giúp Tôi	zōop tdoy
For Mom	Cho Mẹ	chō may
For Dad	Cho Cha	chō chă
Hello	Chào	chăh-ow
Goodbye	Tạm Biệt (or, Chào)	tom bēe-ít
Thank You	Cám ơn	kăhm ứhng
You're Welcome	Không có chi	hōhm kaw chēe

**VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL WORDS - ACTION Words,  
cont.**

<b>English Word</b>	<b>Vietnamese Word</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<b>Please</b>	<b>Làm Ơn</b>	<b>lăm ửnh</b>
<b>Need help?</b>	<b>Cần Giúp Đỡ Không?</b>	<b>khẩn zōop dō hohm?</b>
<b>Bathroom</b>	<b>Nhà Vệ Sinh</b>	<b>nha vắ sỉnh</b>
<b>Eat</b>	<b>Ăn</b>	<b>ăhng</b>
<b>Drink</b>	<b>Uống</b>	<b>ōong</b>
<b>Outside</b>	<b>Bên Ngoài</b>	<b>bun nowhy</b>
<b>Hurt?</b>	<b>Đau</b>	<b>dōw</b>
<b>Sick?</b>	<b>Bệnh</b>	<b>bũnh</b>
<b>Sorry</b>	<b>Xin Lỗi</b>	<b>sỉn loh-ēē</b>
<b>Gently</b>	<b>Cân Thận</b>	<b>khẩn tắnh</b>
<b>Quietly, softer (voice-wise)</b>	<b>Im Lặng</b>	<b>ỉm lang</b>
<b>Stop</b>	<b>Ngừng Lại</b>	<b>ngōng liē</b>
<b>Pass (the food)</b>	<b>Đưa qua</b>	<b>dōoah kwắh</b>
<b>Sad?</b>	<b>Buồn</b>	<b>bōonh</b>
<b>Happy</b>	<b>Vui Vẻ</b>	<b>vōo-ēē vẻh</b>

## VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL WORDS NOUNS

English Word	Vietnamese Word	Pronunciation
Zero	Không	hohm
One	Một	moht
Two	Hai	hī
Three	Ba	băh
Four	Bốn	bohng
Five	Năm	năhm
Six	Sáu	sah-ow
Seven	Bảy	bah-ēē
Eight	Tám	tăhm
Nine	Chín	chĩn
Ten	Mười	mōo-ēē
Red	Màu Đỏ	măh-ow daw
Orange	Màu Cam	măh-ow kăm
Yellow	Màu Vàng	măh-ow vee-āhng
Green	Màu Xanh Lá Cây	măh-ow săhn lăh kay

**VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL WORDS - NOUNS, cont.**

<b>English Word</b>	<b>Vietnamese Word</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
<b>Blue</b>	<b>Màu Xanh Dương</b>	<b>mǎh-ow sǎhn yung</b>
<b>Purple</b>	<b>Màu Tím</b>	<b>mǎh-ow thǐm</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>Màu Đen</b>	<b>mǎh-ow dến</b>
<b>Brown</b>	<b>Màu Nâu</b>	<b>mǎh-ow nuh-oo</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>Màu Trắng</b>	<b>mǎh-ow trǎhng</b>
<b>Pink</b>	<b>Màu Hồng</b>	<b>mǎh-ow hỏhn</b>
<b>Jacket</b>	<b>Áo Lạnh</b>	<b>ow lǎn</b>
<b>Coat</b>	<b>Áo Khoác</b>	<b>ow kwoc</b>
<b>Shoes</b>	<b>Giày</b>	<b>yah-ēē</b>
<b>Tissue</b>	<b>Giấy Lau</b>	<b>yǎy low</b>
<b>Head</b>	<b>Đầu</b>	<b>dow</b>
<b>Nose</b>	<b>Mũi</b>	<b>mōo-ēē</b>
<b>Eyes</b>	<b>Mắt</b>	<b>mǎhk</b>
<b>Ears</b>	<b>Tai</b>	<b>tīē</b>
<b>Mouth</b>	<b>Miệng</b>	<b>mein</b>
<b>Teeth</b>	<b>Răng</b>	<b>zúng</b>

## VIETNAMESE SURVIVAL WORDS - NOUNS, cont.

English Word	Vietnamese Word	Pronunciation
Shoulders	Vai	vi
Arms	Cánh Tay	khǎn tiē
Hands	Bàn Tay	bǎhng tah-ēē
Fingers	Ngón Tay	ngawng tah-ēē
Feet	Bàn Chân	bǎhng chuhng
Toes	Ngón Chân	ngǎwng chuhng
Knees	Đầu Gối	dow goy
Legs	Chân	chũhng
Stomach	Bụng	boong
What is this called?	Cái này kêu là gì?	Kah-ē nǎh-ēē kěh-oo lǎh yēē?

# PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

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Like Chinese, the Vietnamese language is tonal; that is, the meaning of words is changed by inflection. Vietnam used the Chinese writing system until the 17th century, when it was transcribed into the Roman alphabet by Bishop Alexandre de Rhodes, who added a series of diacritical marks to the alphabet to indicate the five tones that characterize the Vietnamese language.

There are three main regional dialects: Northern, Central and Southern, which differ from one another both phonetically and lexically. However, these differences do not prevent Vietnamese people from understanding one another.

The Vietnamese alphabet has essentially the same alphabet as English:

Alphabet										
a	(á)	(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				

## Vowels

There are 12 vowel letters existing in almost all Vietnamese dialects.

a    â    á    e    ê    i    o    ô    ơ    u    ư    y

The pronunciation of these vowels is consistent, unlike in English where the same vowel may be long or short according to the letters which follow it.

## Consonants

There are 28 consonant letters. There are only eight final consonants (c, n, m, p, t, ng, nh, ch) The pronunciation of these consonants slightly differs from one region to another.

For example:

- The D (without a bar) is pronounced like a /z/ by the Northerners and like a /y/ by the



Southerners as in *da* (skin). The Đ (with a bar) resembles the English hard /d/ as in *đá* (stone).

- The S is pronounced /s/ by the Northerners as in *sách* (book). The Southerners pronounce it more like the English /sh/.
- The R is pronounced /z/ by the Northerners as in *rau* (vegetable). The Southerners pronounce it more like the English /r/.
- There is no distinction between the TR as in *trâu* (buffalo) and CH as in *châu* (pearl) by the Northerners. However, within the context the listeners will have no problem understanding it.
- The C is pronounced /k/ before all vowels except e, ê, i and y in such words as *cá* (fish).
- The CH is pronounced /c/ as in *cha* (father).
- The NH is pronounced /ñ/ as in *nhà* (house). It is very much like the sequence of -ni- in onion in English.
- The PH is pronounced /f/ as in *phà* (ferryboat).
- The QU sounds like /kw/ as in *quần áo* (clothes).
- The NG as in *Nga* (Russia) is probably the most difficult sound for Westerners to pronounce. To practice this sound, try to prolong the ending sound of the word *sing* then connect that prolonged sound to the vowel *a* of the word *along* (*sing along*).

## Vietnamese Tone Marks

There are six tones in Vietnamese language. Tones are very important since different tones produce different meanings. Each tone is represented by a diacritic mark.

- (´) called *dấu sắc* in Vietnamese is a rising tone in such words as *má* (cheek).
- (˘) called *dấu huyền* in Vietnamese is a falling tone in such words as *mà* (but).
- (ˇ) called *dấu hỏi* in Vietnamese is a falling-rising tone in such words as *mả* (tomb).
- (↗) called *dấu ngã* in Vietnamese is a creaky-rising tone in such words as *mã* (horse).
- (.) called *dấu nặng* in Vietnamese is a low-falling tone in such words as *mạ* (young rice plant).
- ( ) no diacritic mark represents the level tone.

**VIETNAMESE NOTICES TO SEND HOME**

<p><b>No School Tomorrow.</b></p> <p><b>Ngày mai nghỉ học.</b></p>	<p><b>No School Next Week.</b></p> <p><b>Tuần tới nghỉ học.</b></p>
<p><b>Sign and bring back, please.</b></p> <p><b>Làm ơn ký tên và mang trở lại.</b></p>	<p><b>No School _____.</b></p> <p><b>Nghỉ học _____.</b></p>
<p><b>Parent Meeting</b> <b>date: _____</b> <b>time: _____</b></p> <p><b>Buổi họp phụ huynh</b> <b>ngày _____</b> <b>giờ _____</b></p>	<p><b>Take this form to the doctor and bring back, please.</b></p> <p><b>Làm ơn đem đơn này đến cho bác sĩ điền và mang trở lại.</b></p>
<p><b>Take this form to the dentist and bring it back, please.</b></p> <p><b>Làm ơn đem đơn này đến cho nha sĩ điền và mang trở lại.</b></p>	<p><b>Field Trip Tomorrow!</b> <b>Come to class:</b> <b>_____ time</b> <b>Pick up: _____ time</b></p> <p><b>Ngày Mai Sẽ Đi Tham Quan!</b> <b>Có mặt tại lớp _____ giờ</b> <b>Đến đón _____ giờ</b></p>