

Vietnamese is of the Mon-Khmer branch of Austro-Asiatic and is the native language of about 60 million people in the delta lowlands of Vietnam. There are also another million speakers in various Vietnamese speaking communities around the world. The main dialectal variations of the language center around major cities such as Saigon, Huế, and Hā - nôi. The northern dialect is the spoken standard and the modern literary standard combines the consonantal inventory of the central dialect with the tonal system of the northern dialect.

The speaker in this recording is 23 year-old male from Saigon.

Vietnamese (Saigon) Consonant Phonemes:

Stops:	p	t	ʈ	c	k
		tʰ			kʰ
	b	d			
Affricates:			tʃ		
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ	x	h
	v	z	ʒ	ɣ	
Nasals:	m	n		ɲ	ŋ
Liquids:		l r			
Glides:				j	w

Only /p,t,k,m,n,ŋ,j,w/ may occur in syllable final position. In the Hā - nôi dialect of Vietnamese, the retroflex [ʈ] is not realized, and both the trill and /ʒ/ are realized as [z]. The Saigon [j] corresponds to [ɣ] in Huế, and [s] in Hā - nôi.

Vietnamese Vowel Phonemes:

i		u u
e	ʌ	ɤ o
ɛ		ɔ
	a(:)	

The vowel system remains consistent throughout the dialects.

Vietnamese Tones:

There are 6 contrastive tones in Vietnamese:

- 1) Mid - level: not marked
- 2) High - rising: marked by [ˀ]
- 3) Low - falling: marked by [ˁ]
- 4) Low - rising after initial dip: marked by [ˁˀ]
- 5) High - broken (glottalized): marked by [ˀ̚]
- 6) Low - broken (glottalized): marked by [ˁ̚]

If a syllable ends in a stop, only the High-rising tone or the Low-broken tone are possible. In the Saigon dialect, the last two broken tones have merged and so only 5 tones are distinguished.

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Tones:

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. | 'ghost' |
| 2. | 'cheek' |
| 3. | 'yet' |
| 4. | 'tomb' |
| 5. | 'rice seedling' |
| 6. | 'three' |
| 7. | 'to grab' |
| 8. | 'grandmother' |
| 9. | 'poison' |
| 10. | 'residue' |
| 11. | 'haphazardly' |
| 12. | 'to supply' |
| 13. | 'to pay respect' |
| 14. | 'with' |
| 15. | 'to consolidate' |
| 16. | 'also' |
| 17. | 'to rap on the head' |
| 18. | 'calf' |
| 19. | 'sea, ocean' |
| 20. | 'to carry somebody' |
| 21. | 'platform' |
| 22. | 'side' |
| 23. | 'to set' |
| 24. | 'to succeed' |
| 25. | 'silent' |
| 26. | 'one tenth of a kilogram' |
| 27. | 'uncle' |
| 28. | 'lamp wick' |
| 29. | 'to kick' |
| 30. | 'dozen' |
| 31. | 'to rebel' |
| 32. | 'colour' |
| 33. | 'wood' |
| 34. | 'to knock' |
| 35. | 'hole' |
| 36. | 'high in the air' |
| 37. | 'to get burnt' |

Vowels:

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. | 'letter' |
| 2. | 'market' |
| 3. | 'fourth' |
| 4. | 'monk' |
| 5. | 'to be dirty' |
| 6. | 'extra' |
| 7. | 'to rip something narrow apart' |
| 8. | 'chopping board' |
| 9. | 'layer' |
| 10. | 'Germany' |
| 11. | 'joint' |
| 12. | 'exam' |
| 13. | 'to push down' |
| 14. | 'to vow' |
| 15. | 'stick out the tongue' |
| 16. | 'durable' |
| 17. | 'craving' |
| 18. | 'out' |
| 19. | 'to be dispersed' |
| 20. | 'garbage' |
| 21. | 'to be thick' |
| 22. | 'cheap' |
| 23. | 'to groan' |
| 24. | 'to have supernatural power' |
| 25. | 'to worry' |
| 26. | 'strong wind' |
| 27. | 'to be short' |
| 28. | 'strength' |
| 29. | 'to invite' |
| 30. | 'to smell' |
| 31. | 'to be wet' |
| 32. | 'to be wise' |
| 33. | 'much, many' |
| 34. | 'man, person' |

Palatal Consonants:

- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 1. | 'put on blocks' |
| 2. | 'to cover' |
| 3. | 'to give' |
| 4. | 'foot' |
| 5. | 'to be torn' |
| 6. | 'bamboo' |
| 7. | 'measurement' |
| 8. | 'infant' |
| 9. | 'to dote' |
| 10. | 'corn' |

- | | |
|-----|------------------------|
| 11. | 'to remember' |
| 12. | 'slavery' |
| 13. | 'but, yet' |
| 14. | 'to raise face upward' |
| 15. | 'to coddle' |
| 16. | 'rope' |

Fricatives:

- | | |
|-----|----------------------|
| 1. | 'pretty good' |
| 2. | 'train station' |
| 3. | 'to be dull, dumb' |
| 4. | 'to be disgusted' |
| 5. | 'to be chubby' |
| 6. | 'forever' |
| 7. | 'a fruit' |
| 8. | 'worm' |
| 9. | 'to judge' |
| 10. | 'plywood' |
| 11. | 'to be cute, pretty' |
| 12. | 'palace, mansion' |
| 13. | 'to be astonished' |
| 14. | 'to joke, play' |
| 15. | 'to cut' |
| 16. | 'to be wavy' |
| 17. | 'room' |
| 18. | 'wristband' |
| 19. | 'afraid' |
| 20. | 'to meet' |
| 21. | 'pirate' |
| 22. | 'poetry' |
| 23. | 'to help' |
| 24. | 'to wake up' |

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