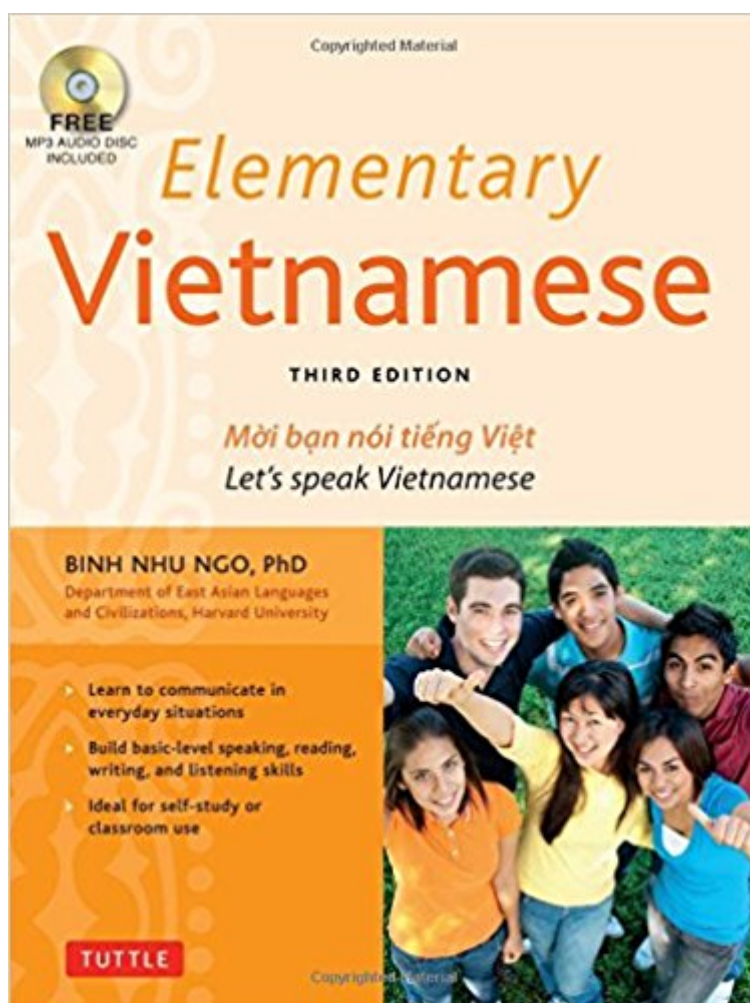


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# Elementary Vietnamese: Moi Ban Noi Tieng Viet. Let's Speak Vietnamese. (MP3 Audio CD Included)



## Synopsis

This is a complete Vietnamese language course designed for college or high school classroom use or self-study. Since its publication in 1998, Elementary Vietnamese has become the leading book for anyone wishing to learn Vietnamese, and an invaluable resource for people traveling, studying or working in Vietnam. This beginner Vietnamese book was originally developed for classroom use at Harvard University, where it has been field-tested for many years. This revised Third Edition has been thoroughly updated to reflect recent developments in Vietnamese speech patterns and culture over the past decade. The main focus of Elementary Vietnamese is to assist learners in developing basic skills in listening, speaking, writing and reading the language. It serves a secondary function as a general introduction to modern Vietnamese society and culture, with dialogues, cultural notes, exercises and readings drawn from contemporary life and popular media there. Elementary Vietnamese is designed for effective self-study as well as for use in a college-level classroom. Features of the Third Edition include: Many hours of new audio recordings by native Vietnamese speakers. Innovative pronunciation drills to help you to achieve near-native pronunciation ability. New usage examples, cultural notes, and exercises along with photos showing life in Vietnam today. A guide for instructors ("New Edition Notes") detailing changes made in the Third Edition. The MP3 audio recordings which accompany this book are of native Vietnamese speakers. These recordings cover: All dialogues, narratives and vocabulary. Grammar and usage notes. Everyday Vietnamese idioms and expressions. A unique set of pronunciation drills to help you speak like a native. Commonly-used proverbs, to help you speak and understand colloquial Vietnamese.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is a superbly constructed textbook written by an experienced teacher for the benefits of beginning learners of Vietnamese. Professor Ngo is to be congratulated on his outstanding achievement; he has indeed produced a powerful tool in the area of learning resources for Southeast Asian languages." • Nguyen Dinh Hoa, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Foreign Languages, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale  
It comes with a mp3 CD, which is super important because Vietnamese is a tonal language and the tones can be subtle to untrained ears." • I'm Not the Nanny blog

Dr. Binh Nhu Ngo is the Director of the Vietnamese Language Program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University and has been teaching Vietnamese there since 1992. He was born and educated in Hanoi, and earned his Ph.D. in linguistics from the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. He has taught Vietnamese and linguistics at Moscow University, and since 1992 he has taught at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) and at a number of universities and colleges in the United States. He has served as the Vice-President of the Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages (COTSEAL) and represents Harvard University at the Group of Universities for the Advancement of Vietnamese Abroad (GUAVA). His other books include *Speak & Read Vietnamese* (Simon & Schuster) and *Continuing Vietnamese* (Tuttle).

I took Southern Vietnamese classes in Saigon and wanted to get a book with Northern Vietnamese with grammar lessons. This book is perfect and has really helped me with both Southern and Northern accents. I am back in the US now and using it for self study until I return to Vietnam in a few months to continue my studies. MP3s are very helpful.

I've been studying foreign languages for about 4 years and I loved this book. I wish I learned my 2nd language the way this book teaches it. Can't say anything bad about it.

My girlfriend is Viet, and she mentions this book starts off by already taking in Viet. But don't focus on how to pronounce all the tones of Viet easily for beginners. They do in the back but it's soo

poorly done, I had a hard time my self, this book is really confusing to use this book as a learner with 0% knowledge of Viet. I wish I never bought it,

The drills are confusing, the words are too cramped together. Also, it would be nice if the drills were spoken so one could practice the pronunciation. Definitely not for most independent learners. I regret buying it.

It is just what I expected.

This book would be perfect if the conversations were not only in Vietnamese but in English too. The grammar notes are written in English but most of the conversations and singular words are written in Vietnamese. I wanted to use it to help teach my Vietnamese student. He enjoyed the conversations but he didn't learn anything in English. IMHO unless you read Vietnamese it is not so elementary my dear Watson!

I'm startled by the reviews that are on this book. I am Vietnamese-American, and I wasn't raised speaking Vietnamese. I'm a heritage "speaker" which means that I can understand most of it, but I'm absolutely dreadful at pronouncing Vietnamese words and I didn't learn to read and write it as a child. I finally buckled down in April to work on my Vietnamese. I looked at the reviews of this version of the book as well as other versions. I had my mother (who is 100% Vietnamese) sit down and try to teach me from what we could see in the Look Inside. We bought the book as a result. Was it a struggle? Oh, absolutely. But my Vietnamese has improved by leaps and bounds. To be successful with this textbook: 1) Have a native teacher with you. This book is pretty much incomprehensible to anybody who only speaks English and is trying to teach himself. Bonus points for having a native teacher who speaks the Ha Noi dialect. My parents grew up in South Vietnam (for obvious reasons), so they don't actually speak the dialect in which this book is written. Most of the time, it's not a big deal (generally, Sai Gon and Ha Noi dialect speakers can grasp what the other dialect's words mean), but there were a couple of times where both my parents were surprised by some Vietnamese words which were totally new to them. 2) Have a ton of patience. Just because you read the dialogue doesn't mean that you'll understand what's going on in it. The vocab is placed after the dialogue in each chapter, and when they start putting in narratives, the vocab is after those, too. I think that if I didn't already understand spoken Vietnamese, learning from this book would've been substantially more difficult. I guess I'd just advise working at a slow pace. This book is used for Year

1 of Vietnamese at Harvard (the author is a Harvard employee), and anybody learning from it should expect the work to take 9+ months. My mother also used to be a French teacher, so she's comfortable taking the role of a language teacher. I learned to read, write, and speak French when I was 7. I've formally studied French, Spanish, Latin, and Mandarin. I have a degree in Spanish. I've learned a smattering of Portuguese and Italian as well, enough to get around. Vietnamese is my eighth written language, I guess, and it's hard (but still a lot easier than Mandarin). I'm really dreadful at tones. Don't pick up this textbook and expect to become fluent in Vietnamese in a day. It's a lengthy process that will take time, dedication, and a lot of studying. If you're not willing to put in the work, don't buy it. But if you sincerely wish to learn Vietnamese and are willing to put in a lot of effort, pick it up.

Could have better improvement.

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