

Vietnamese for Beginners

Practical Learning with SynapseLingo

Tobias Hartmann

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Author: Tobias Hartmann

Contributor: Synapse Lingo AI Tools (human-supervised)

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- Full audio version of this book
- Audio pronunciation guides
- Interactive exercises

- Additional vocabulary practice
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Lesson 1

Lesson 1: Have vs có: Learn Vietnamese “have” fast

Learn how to use the Vietnamese verb có (“have”) with clear, reusable chunks like tôi có, bạn có, anh ấy có, cô ấy có, nó có, chúng tôi có, các bạn có, and họ có. Practice with mini-dialogues, call-and-response, and quick tips to build confidence. By the end, you’ll say “I have, you have, we have” naturally in real life.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, ready to have some fun while you learn? This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more resources at www.synapse-lingo.com.

Settle in, smile, and warm up your voice – because in a few minutes you’ll use “have” like a pro in Vietnamese.

Your goal today

You'll master the English word "have" through Vietnamese chunks you can plug into any sentence.

By the end, you'll say "I have, you have, we have" and more – fast, clear, and confidently – with có.

Forms, fast and funny

Repeat aloud after me – short, sweet, and sticky.

- have → có (also works for "there is/are"). Example: "There is Wi-Fi here." → Ở đây có Wi-Fi.
- I have → tôi có. Example: "I have a book." → Tôi có một cuốn sách.
- you have (singular) → bạn có. Example: "You have time." → Bạn có thời gian.
- he has → anh ấy có. Example: "He has two sisters." → Anh ấy có hai chị gái.
- she has → cô ấy có. Example: "She has an umbrella." → Cô ấy có một cái ô.
- it has → nó có. Example: "It has two doors." → Nó có hai cái cửa.
- we have → chúng tôi có. Example: "We have a plan." → Chúng tôi có một kế hoạch.
- you have (plural) → các bạn có. Example: "You have tickets." → Các bạn có vé.
- they have → họ có. Example: "They have a small house." → Họ có một căn nhà nhỏ.

Dialogue: The ticket hunt

Play along – imagine you're racing to a concert with friends.

- A: Do you have the tickets? B: Yes, tôi có!
- A: Great. Do we have snacks? B: Relax, chúng tôi có bánh rồi.
- A: Does he have the map? B: Yep, anh ấy có bản đồ.
- A: And she – does she have cash? B: Of course, cô ấy có tiền lẻ.
- A: What about the phone – does it have battery? B: Good news, nó có pin đầy.
- Guide (to the group): Chill, các bạn có ghế VIP rồi!
- Crowd cheers: We have time to relax! → Chúng tôi có thời gian để nghỉ.

Call-and-response drill

You say the English; I'll echo the Vietnamese. Ready?

- I have a question. → Tôi có một câu hỏi.
- You have a cat. → Bạn có một con mèo.
- He has a ticket. → Anh ấy có một vé.
- She has time today. → Cô ấy có thời gian hôm nay.
- It has three modes. → Nó có ba chế độ.
- We have coffee. → Chúng tôi có cà phê.

- You (plural) have homework. → Các bạn có bài tập về nhà.
- They have experience. → Họ có kinh nghiệm.

Culture tip: zero conjugation magic

Good news: no verb headaches here.

Vietnamese doesn't conjugate like German "haben" (ich habe, du hast, er/sie/es hat...). You keep có and swap pronouns: tôi có, bạn có, anh ấy có, cô ấy có, nó có, chúng tôi có, các bạn có, họ có. Simple, clean, powerful.

Pop quiz time

Quick checks – answer out loud!

- Fill the blank: Tôi - - - - thời gian. Answer: có.
- Translate: "They have a plan." Answer: Họ có một kế hoạch.
- Choose the right "you have" for a group: bạn có or các bạn có? Answer: các bạn có.
- Existential use: "In this café, there is free Wi-Fi." Answer: Quán cà phê này có Wi-Fi miễn phí.

Challenge: speed chain

Ready to flex? Say these in one breath.

- Affirmative → Negative → Yes/No: "She has a pen." Cô ấy có một cây bút → Cô ấy không có một cây bút → Cô ấy có một cây bút không?

- Lightning round: I have; you have; he has; she has; it has; we have; you (plural) have; they have. tôi có; bạn có; anh ấy có; cô ấy có; nó có; chúng tôi có; các bạn có; họ có.
- Bonus rhyme: You've “got” to know có means “have”
– now you're good to go!

Wrap-up

Nice work – high five!

Thanks for listening. Keep practicing “have” with có every day – tiny reps, big wins. This episode was brought to you by SynapseLingo; for more lessons, games, and printables, visit www.synapse-lingo.com. See you next time!

Lesson 2

Lesson 2: Learn Vietnamese To Be: to be = là

Learn how Vietnamese uses the copula là with clear, spoken examples and quick drills that map English 'to be' forms to natural sentences. Practice with mini dialogues, rapid-fire prompts, and tips on when to use là, when to omit it, and how to handle location and pointing. A fast, friendly guide to introductions, identities, and labels for everyday speech.

Welcome

Welcome! This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources.

Today we'll turn "to be" into your Vietnamese superpower, so you can introduce yourself, your friends, and even your pet rock. Ready? Let's roll!

Your goal today

In just a few minutes, you'll speak identity sentences with confidence.

- Master the core copula: là = to be.
- Say the essentials: I am tôi là, you are (sing.) bạn là, he is anh ấy là, she is cô ấy là, it is nó là.
- Level up with plurals: we are chúng tôi là, you are (plural) các bạn là, they are họ là.

The forms, fast and fun

Echo after me – yes, out loud. Your plants won't judge.

- to be = là – the label glue.
- I am = tôi là.
- you are (sing.) = bạn là.
- he is = anh ấy là.
- she is = cô ấy là.
- it is = nó là.
- we are = chúng tôi là.
- you are (plural) = các bạn là.
- they are = họ là.

Mini dialogue party

Listen first, then shadow the Vietnamese parts. Pretend we're at a party.

- A: Quick intro: I am Sam – say tôi là Sam.
- B: Nice! And he is the manager – say anh ấy là quản lý.
- A: Got it. She is the teacher – cô ấy là giáo viên.
- B: And this mysterious box? It is a gift – nó là món quà.
- A: As a team, we are new here – chúng tôi là người mới.
- B: You are the winners! – các bạn là những người chiến thắng.
- A: Who are they? They are our friends – họ là bạn của chúng tôi.

Rapid-fire drills

Your turn – answer in Vietnamese after the pause; then check the answer.

- Say: I am a student. Answer: tôi là học sinh.
- Say: You are (sing.) my friend. Answer: bạn là bạn của tôi.
- Say: He is a doctor. Answer: anh ấy là bác sĩ.
- Say: She is the captain. Answer: cô ấy là đội trưởng.

- Say: It is a book. Answer: nó là một cuốn sách.
- Say: We are a team. Answer: chúng tôi là một đội.
- Say: You are (plural) amazing. Answer: các bạn là tuyệt vời.
- Say: They are managers. Answer: họ là quản lý.

Culture tip: natural Vietnamese

Tiny cheat code to sound native-like.

Use là before nouns and names (identity, definitions): tôi là giáo viên. Skip it before adjectives: say Cô ấy đẹp (she is beautiful), not Cô ấy là đẹp. For location, use ở: Tôi ở Hà Nội. For pointing, you'll also hear Đây là (this is) and Đó là (that is).

Quiz time

Lightning round – answer out loud and then check.

- Fill the blank: “Đây - - - - nhà tôi.” Answer: là.
- Talking to a group: “You are the winners.” Answer: các bạn là những người chiến thắng.
- Negate with a noun: “He is not a doctor.” Answer: anh ấy không phải là bác sĩ.
- Translate: “It is the original painting.” Answer: nó là bức tranh gốc.

Your friendly challenge

Lock it in with a quick real-life mission.

- Introduce yourself and two friends using tôi là, anh ấy là, and cô ấy là.
- Point at three objects around you and label them with nó là.
- If you address a group, try a compliment with các bạn là. Bonus: As a team, declare chúng tôi là bạn bè!

Wrap-up

Nice work – your brain just did push-ups in two languages.

Thanks for listening! Keep practicing your là magic, share a smile, and come back tomorrow. And remember, this show is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more lessons and resources at www.synapse-lingo.com. See you next time!

Lesson 3

Lesson 3: Learn go = đi fast: English – Vietnamese mini podcast

*Learn the Vietnamese verb for go – *đi* – with clear examples and lively practice. This English – Vietnamese mini episode covers pronoun forms, mini-dialogues, culture tips, and rapid-fire drills, plus the mood word so-so *tầm tạm*. A short quiz helps you lock in the phrases for everyday use.*

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Great to have you here! Get comfy, we'll laugh, repeat, and speak Vietnamese together.

- This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources and freebies.
- Goal today: nail go = *đi* across everyday forms, with quick wins and zero stress.

Your goal today

You'll master nine essentials in minutes.

Say them out loud with me: go đi; I go tôi đi; you go đi; he goes anh ấy đi; she goes cô ấy đi; we go chúng tôi đi; you (plural) go các bạn đi; they go họ đi; and the mood word so-so tạm tạm.

Forms in motion

Stand up, take tiny steps, and speak. Your brain loves movement!

- Step 1: go – đi.
- Step 2: I go – tôi đi.
- Step 3: you go – đi. Give yourself a thumbs up.
- He goes – anh ấy đi. Point ahead.
- She goes – cô ấy đi. Smile and step.
- We go – chúng tôi đi. Fist-bump the air.
- You (plural) go – các bạn đi. Wave to your imaginary crew.
- They go – họ đi. March two steps.
- How's the energy? So-so – tạm tạm. Shoulder shrug!

Crosswalk mini-dialogues

Time for quick, funny scenes you can reuse today.

- A: Light is green – go! B: Okay, đi!

- A: Are you ready? B: Yes, I go now – tôi đi bây giờ.
- A: Where's Tom? B: He goes to work – anh ấy đi làm.
- A: And Anna? B: She goes home – cô ấy đi về nhà.
- A: Team, move! B: We go – chúng tôi đi!
- Guide: Class, you (plural) go first – các bạn đi trước nhé.
- A: Where are the students? B: They go to the library – họ đi đến thư viện.
- A: How was the movie? B: Meh, so-so – tầm tạm.

Culture tip

Use the magic combo: đi + transport or style.

- Say go by bus: đi xe buýt. Go on foot: đi bộ. Go home: đi về nhà.
- Pro tip: In casual chat, if you feel average, say so-so – tầm tạm. It's friendly and natural.

Rapid-fire drills

You answer fast; I'll cheer loudly.

- Translate: I go. – Answer: tôi đi.
- Translate: you (plural) go. – Answer: các bạn đi.
- Translate: he goes to class. – Answer: anh ấy đi vào lớp.