

EBOOK + VIDEO

40

# CHỦ ĐỀ PHẢI BIẾT CHO IELTS SPEAKING 7.5+

\* PHIÊN BẢN BỔ SUNG THÊM **10** CHỦ ĐỀ MỚI.

\*\* KÈM THEO BÀI TẬP MẪU, ĐÁP ÁN VÀ VIDEO THEO TỪNG CHỦ ĐỀ.



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# An E-Book

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## LỜI GIỚI THIỆU

Tác giả của cuốn sách: thầy Đặng Trần Tùng từng chia sẻ câu nói “Always keep yourself interested”. Đây là một câu nói đã gây cảm hứng tới hàng trăm nghìn những sĩ tử của thầy Tùng đã, đang ở trong guồng quay chinh phục những đỉnh cao của IELTS. Chính tinh thần của “Always keep yourself interested” cũng đã giúp thầy Tùng trở thành một trong số hiếm hoi người xuất sắc đạt điểm 9.0 IELTS overall, trở thành một người thầy giáo đặt mọi đam mê và tâm huyết vào nghề truyền dạy tiếng Anh, IELTS của mình.

Về cuốn sách, IELTS Speaking Part 1 là cuốn ebook nằm trong series E-book IELTS Speaking P1, P2, P3 (ứng với 3 section của phần thi Speaking), được dày công nghiên cứu, viết và biên soạn suốt nửa năm qua bởi chính tay Thầy Tùng IELTS. Năm “thóp” được tâm lý coi nhẹ phần Speaking Part 1 bởi các câu hỏi thường chỉ xoay quanh vấn đề cá nhân ở mức căn bản nhất, thầy Tùng lại đưa ra một góc nhìn khác: “Phần này quyết định ấn tượng đầu tiên có tốt hay không của bạn với giám khảo, thể hiện khả năng ứng biến và sử dụng từ vựng có hay, sáng tạo không. Vậy nên đây là phần quan trọng không kém các section còn lại.” Do vậy, không chỉ nghiên cứu ra cái khó của việc phát âm, khi phải nói chuẩn ngữ điệu, khi bị chính ngôn ngữ mẹ đẻ hạn chế khả năng chủ động tư duy ngôn ngữ tiếng Anh, Thầy Tùng còn khéo léo lồng vào cuốn sách Speaking cách giải quyết mọi vấn đề trên mà đến khi học xong rồi học sinh mới ngỡ ngàng nhận ra sự tiến bộ đáng kể của mình.

Với khối lượng kiến thức được biên soạn trong sách, đây chắc chắn sẽ là một công trình rất đồ sộ và hữu ích cho các sĩ tử IELTS. Vậy thì cuốn EBOOK: IELTS Speaking Part 1 này có đáng để cho vào tủ sách ôn luyện IELTS của các sĩ tử không?



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# CHỦ ĐỀ 01: STUDY

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Are you a student or are you working?**

I'm currently a **senior** at Hanoi University, which is one of the top schools in the nation. **Admission is incredibly competitive** so I'm very proud of being a student here.

**Q2: What are you studying?**

Well, I'm **majoring in** Accountancy, so as you can guess, I deal a lot with numbers and figures **day in, day out**. It can be **overwhelming** at times, but I'd like to think that I **have a knack for** mathematics and calculations so it's okay.



***I have a knack for mathematics and calculations.***

**Q3. What's the most difficult part of your study?**

Well, for the most part, I'd say it's the workload. I mean there are so many assignments and students are always under a lot of pressure from deadlines. But on the other hand, exams are **a piece of cake**. They are quite predictable, and I can **breeze through** them with a bit of revision.

**Q4: What do you like most about your school?**

I guess the aspect I find most enjoyable is the environment. I mean, I get to study in **English-speaking classrooms** and the facilities are **top-notch**; I mean, all the classrooms are air-conditioned and equipped with projectors. My friends and teachers are all very nice as well, so all in all it's a great place to study.



*the facilities are top-notch.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **senior (n)**: sinh viên năm cuối
- **admission is ... competitive**: đầu vào rất khó/ cạnh tranh
- **I major in (v)**: tôi học ngành gì
- **day in, day out (idiom)**: ngày qua ngày
- **overwhelming**: quá sức
- **have a knack for (idiom)**: có năng khiếu
- **a piece of cake (n)**: dễ như ăn bánh
- **breeze through sth (idiom)**: vượt qua cái gì dễ dàng
- **English - speaking classrooms (n)**: lớp học nói tiếng Anh
- **top-notch (idiom)**: tuyệt vời, đỉnh

**PRO TIPS**

Luôn luôn **giải thích kỹ** những gì mình nói - việc này vừa giúp bạn nối dài câu trả lời, vừa cho bạn cơ hội "phô" thêm từ vựng. Ví dụ:

- *top school* -> *competitive admission* + *very proud*
- *accountancy* -> *deal with numbers* -> *overwhelming*
- *workload* -> *many assignments* -> *pressure*
- *top-notch amenities* -> *air-conditioned classrooms* + *equipped with projectors*.



TOPIC 02:  
WORK

## CHỦ ĐỀ 02: WORK

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Are you a student or are you working?**

Well, for the past couple of years, I've been working as an auditor at KMPG, which is among the top 4 auditing firms in Vietnam. I love my job, and I think it's a very interesting **line of work**.

**Q2: What do you like about your job?**

Well I guess the thing I like most about my job is the salary. I make what I'd consider is a **lucrative income**, which means not only is it enough to **cover my bills**, but there's also some extra to spend on

whatever I want. So on **payday**, I often **treat myself to** a meal at a high-end restaurant or **splurge on** a nice shirt.

“

*I love my job, and I think it's a very interesting **line of work**.*

**Q3: What do you dislike about your job?**

You know, I'd have to say the overwhelming workload is something I am not a fan of. I mean, I've got a very **hectic schedule**, which means I'm always **up to my ears** in deadlines. That leaves me with very little **quality time** for family and friends. In the future, I might look into another job that is a bit less stressful.

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **line of work (n)**: nghề
- **a lucrative income (n)**: lương lậu ngon
- **cover my bills (v)**: trả tiền hoá đơn (điện, nước, tiền thuê nhà, net, ...)
- **payday (n)**: ngày lĩnh lương
- **treat myself to something (v)**: tự thưởng cho bản thân cái gì
- **splurge on something (v)**: vung tiền vào cái gì
- **hectic schedule (n)**: lịch làm việc dày đặc
- **up to my ears in (idiom)**: bận ngập đầu
- **quality time (n)**: thời gian riêng tư
- **hit the bar (v)**: đi uống
- **a bite to eat (n)**: đồ ăn
- **unwind (v)**: thư giãn, xả stress

**PRO TIPS**

Các bạn nên nhớ combo các từ liên quan tới nhau thay vì từ đơn lẻ để câu trả lời dài và chất hơn.

- Nói về tiền nong: *lucrative/ cover bills/ payday/ treat oneself/ splurge on*
- Nói về bận rộn: *hectic schedule/ up to my ears*
- Nói về đi chơi: *hit the bar/ grab a drink/ grab a bite/ unwind*

**Q4: What do you do after work?**

Well, when we get off work, my colleagues and I usually **hit the bar** and grab a couple of drinks and maybe **a bite to eat** if we're feeling up to it. It's great fun, and a fantastic way to **unwind**.



*I'm always **up to my ears** in deadlines.*

TOPIC 03:  
ROBOTS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 3: ROBOTS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Are you interested in robots?**

Yes, **robotics engineering** is something I take a keen interest in. I actually **subscribe to a journal** dedicated entirely to robots called "The Robot Workshop". The other day I read a really interesting article about how robots can be used to **perform surgeries**.

**Q2: Do you like robots to work at your home?**

I think that's a brilliant idea. I'm quite lazy, so household chores like cleaning or cooking are a **real hassle**. I would prefer to have those

a robot. Actually, we have a robotic vacuum cleaner at our house. It's truly a **life-saver**.

**Q3: Do you want to take a car which robot is the driver?**

Well you know nowadays **self-driving cars** are certainly not a strange topic anymore. A.I. has gotten more sophisticated, and it's more than capable of **navigating** addresses and controlling a vehicle. However, I gotta say I don't really feel comfortable letting robots **take the wheel**. I think they are not 100 percent reliable, and may not handle



dangerous situations like a slippery road as well as a human driver does. So for now I still prefer to **drive manually**.

**Q4: Will robots replace human beings in the workplace completely?**

Well, these days human labor is

being **marginalized** by automation in the workplace, especially in manufacturing. **Labor-intensive tasks** can be done by machines with ease and precision. However, there are always things that require **the delicate touch of a human hand**. For example, a **hand-made** shirt always has more soul than a **machine-made** one.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **robotics engineering (n)**: công nghệ robot
- **subscribe to something (v)**: đăng ký một dịch vụ nào đó
- **journal (n)**: báo chuyên ngành
- **perform a surgery (v)**: làm phẫu thuật
- **a real hassle (idiom)**: một việc phiền phức
- **a life-saver (idiom)**: một đồ vật rất hữu ích, làm cho cuộc sống đơn giản hơn
- **self-driving cars (n)**: xe tự lái
- **navigate (v)**: định vị
- **take the wheel (v)**: cầm lái
- **drive manually (v)**: tự lái
- **marginalize (v)**: làm cho kém quan trọng hơn
- **labor-intensive tasks (n)**: công việc tốn sức
- **the delicate touch of a human hand (n)**: sự cẩn thận của bàn tay con người
- **hand-made >< machine-made (adj)**: làm bằng tay >< làm bằng máy

### PRO TIPS



Nếu bạn gặp một topic lạ, hãy "đá" về những topic liên quan mà bạn quen hơn. Ví dụ:

- birds -> nature (species)
- birds -> food (cooking and eating birds)



TOPIC 04:  
CELEBRITIES

## CHỦ ĐỀ 04: CELEBRITIES

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Who is your favorite celebrity in your country?**

Well, I'd have to say I'm a big fan Son Tung MTP, a prominent pop singer in Vietnam. His music is fantastic, and he also has a very nice personality. Even though he got **a bad rap** about copying other people's music, I gotta say I'm still a **diehard fan**.



*I can't seem to **resist the urge to splurge on a new bag**.*

**Q2: How do celebrities influence their fans in your country?**

Well, for the most part, people, especially teenagers, tend to **imitate** their idols. I mean, they want to wear the same fashion or act in the same way as their favorite celebrities. So for example, if a celebrity **endorses** a certain product, it is going to **sell like hot cakes**.

**Q3: Would you like to be a celebrity? Why?**

Well, the idea certainly sounds tempting. Personally, I'd love to be **in the limelight**. I would be able to

**make a killing** by **doing shows** and **starring in** commercials. Ever since I was a child, I've dreamt of **being featured on** the cover of popular magazines.



*if a celebrity **endorses** a certain product, it is going to sell like **hot cakes**.*

**Q4: Do you think we should protect famous people's privacy?**

Definitely. As much as we love **prying into** other people's lives, I think we should respect celebrities' privacy. I know a few famous people get **traumatized** from being photographed all the time by paparazzis.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **prominent (adj):** nổi tiếng
- **a bad rap:** tiếng xấu/ tai tiếng
- **diehard fan (n):** fan cuồng
- **imitate (v):** bắt chước, a dua
- **endorse (v):** quảng cáo cho một sản phẩm
- **sell like hot cakes (idiom):** bán chạy
- **in the limelight:** được dư luận chú ý
- **make a killing (idiom):** kiếm được nhiều tiền
- **do shows:** diễn show
- **star (in something) (v):** đóng, diễn xuất
- **be featured in/ on:** được xuất hiện ở đâu đó
- **pry into (v):** bới móc, soi mói
- **traumatized:** bị sốc tâm lý nặng





TOPIC 05:  
Leisure Time

## CHỦ ĐỀ 05: LEISURE TIME

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you have any hobbies?**

Well, everyone has their own **leisure pursuits**, and mine is reading. The book I'm reading at the moment is *The Godfather* by renowned author Mario Puzo. It's a **classic**, really, and I'd really recommend it.

**Q2: Is it important to have a hobby?**

Definitely! I mean nowadays life is getting more and more **hectic**, so people are constantly under an enormous amount of stress. That's why it's necessary to get into some **recreational activities** to **unwind** and just forget about life for a minute, you know?

**Q3: Is it harmful to spend too much time on a hobby?**

Yes, I believe spending excessive time on a hobby may **have an adverse effect** on people. You may end up having not enough time for your priorities like family or work. For example, it's easy for me to **lose myself in** books and neglect the deadlines at work.



*It's necessary to get into some **recreational activities** to **unwind**.*



I would love to **have a crack at** extreme sports.

**Q4: What free-time activities would you like to try in the future?**

I would love to **have a crack at** extreme sports in the future, maybe skidiving. It looks like **a blast** and I think I will **get a real kick out of** freefalling from enormous heights.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **leisure pursuits = recreational activities** = sở thích, hoạt động giải trí
- **a classic**: một tác phẩm kinh điển (a book/ a song/ a movie/...)
- **hectic**: hối hả
- **unwind**: thư giãn
- **have an adverse effect on**: gây ảnh hưởng xấu tới ai đó
- **lose myself in something**: đắm chìm vào trong cái gì đó
- **have a crack at**: thử làm gì đó
- **a blast**: rất vui (I have a blast/ It looks like a blast)
- **get a kick out of something**: làm gì đó rất vui

### PRO TIPS



Để làm câu trả lời dài hơn, hãy giới thiệu một context (bối cảnh). Bạn có thể giới thiệu như sau: "Well, you know, nowadays, ..." Ví dụ:

1. Is it important to have a hobby?

- Không có context: Yes, I think hobbies are a great way to unwind.

- Có context: **You know, nowadays, life is very hectic and I find myself very busy with work**, so it's nice to have a hobby just to unwind in the off-hours.

2. Will robots replace humans at work?

- Không có context: Yes, I think robots will do all the tasks humans are doing now.

- Có context: **You know, nowadays automation is the trend in the workplace. Most heavy tasks can now be done by machines with ease**, so yes, maybe we'll be replaced by robots in the future.



TOPIC 06:  
PATIENCE

# CHỦ ĐỀ 06: PATIENCE

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: What do you think "patience" is?**

Well, I think patience is a **virtue**. Unfortunately, nowadays most people are quite impatient. For example, many people want to get rich quickly but are willing to **get their hands dirty**, so they always complain about how harsh life is.

**Q2: Do you think patience is important?**

Absolutely. I think it's a **quality** that everybody should try to learn. Learning to **wait until the timing is right** is the key to success, in my

my opinion. In fact, most successful entrepreneurs are very patient people.

“

*Patience is a virtue.*

**Q3: Do you think being patient is an important part of being polite?**

Yes, I think patience is an indicator of politeness. I mean, a polite person



would never **chew someone out** for keeping them waiting. If there's a good excuse for being late, a polite person should be willing to **overlook** such minor mistakes.



*There have certainly been times when I lost my cool.*

**Q4: Have you ever lost your patience?**

Well, yeah, without a doubt, there have certainly been times when I **lost my cool**. For example, there was this one time when I had to wait forever to be seated at a popular restaurant. Then someone suddenly **cut in line** and that really ticked me off.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **virtue (n)**: đức tính tốt
- **get one's hands dirty (idiom)**: lao động, làm việc nặng
- **quality (n)**: phẩm chất
- **wait until the timing is right (v)**: đợi tới khi thời cơ chín muồi
- **chew someone out (v)**: mắng chửi ai đó
- **overlook (v)**: chằm chước, bỏ qua
- **lose my cool (v)**: giận, mất bình tĩnh
- **cut in line (v)**: chen hàng



TOPIC 07:  
TOY

## CHỦ ĐỀ 07: TOY

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: What was your favorite toy in childhood?**

Well, to be honest, I was kind of a **spoiled kid**. My parents used to **pamper me with** all kinds of toys, but my favorite was this Power Ranger **action figure**. I am a big fan of the franchise so when I got the toy, I was elated. I still have it in my living room, actually.

**Q2: Should parents buy many toys for their children?**

Mhmm, personally I don't think it's a good idea. I mean, if parents **indulge** their children and just buy whatever

toy they like, the kids are likely to develop a habit of **pestering** their parents for things, and that's definitely not a good thing.

“

*I was kind of  
a spoiled kid.*



**Q3: What are the benefits of children playing toys?**

People often think of toys as being **detrimental** to kids, but I think they can benefit children's development in some ways. Educational toys like building blocks can actually **boost**



*Children often **lose track of time** when they play with toys.*

**the cognitive development** of small kids. For example, my brother used to with Lego a lot when he was small, and he's a very creative person.

**Q4: What are the disadvantages of children playing toys?**

Toys can be time-consuming. I mean, children often **lose track of time** when they play with toys, and as a result, they may not have enough time for other priorities such as study, for example.

## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **a spoiled kid (n)**: đứa trẻ hư, được chiều
- **pamper somebody with something (v)**: chiều chuộng ai bằng cái gì
- **action figure (n)**: đồ chơi hành động, kiểu siêu nhân
- **indulge (v)**: chiều chuộng
- **pester (v)**: vò vãnh
- **detrimental (adj)**: có hại (~harmful)
- **boost the cognitive development**: đẩy mạnh quá trình phát triển não
- **lose track of time (idiom)**: quên hết giờ giấc



TOPIC 08:  
WEATHER

# CHỦ ĐỀ 08: WEATHER

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: What's the weather like where you live?**

Well, Vietnam is a **tropical** country, so it's pretty much hot and **humid** year round. However, in Northern cities like Hanoi, we actually enjoy

“

*In summery months, it can get really **sweltering**.*

**four distinct seasons.** So in summery months, it can get really **sweltering** and by contrast, **temperatures can really dip** in winter.

**Q2: What type of weather do you like best?**

I'd consider myself a **cold weather person**. I love the **crisp** mornings at the end of fall and the **chill** of winter. Maybe it's because we have to bundle up as the weather turns cold, and I love wearing sweaters and overcoats.

**Q3: Does the weather ever affect what you do?**

You know, I gotta say yes, especially when it rains. I mean, I cannot go out and run **my errands** if it's **pouring** outside. The roads get really **slippery**, so it's quite dangerous to drive. Besides, you will definitely be **soaked** if you do decide to go out.



We have to **bundle up** as the weather turns cold.

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **tropical (adj)**: nhiệt đới
- **humid (adj)**: ẩm ướt
- **enjoy four distinct seasons (v)**: bốn mùa rõ rệt
- **sweltering (adj)**: rất nóng
- **temperatures ... dip**: nhiệt độ giảm sâu
- **a cold weather person**: người thích thời tiết lạnh
- **crisp (adj)**: lạnh (và khô)
- **chill (n)**: cái lạnh (adj = chilly)
- **bundle up (v)**: mặc nhiều quần áo
- **run errands (v)**: chạy việc vặt
- **pour (v)**: mưa như trút nước
- **slippery (adj)**: trơn trượt
- **soaked (adj)**: ướt như chuột lột

**PRO TIPS**

Ngoài paraphrase về từ vựng, bạn còn có thể paraphrase về ngữ pháp để tạo sự đa dạng và gây ấn tượng với examiner.

- *It can get really sweltering (adj) and temperatures (n) can really dip in winter.*

- *I love the crisp (adj) mornings at the end of fall and the chill (n) of winter.*



# CHỦ ĐỀ 09: HOUSEWORK

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Do you do housework at home?**

Of course! Even though **traditional Vietnamese thinking dictates** that women are in charge of doing chores, I try to help out around the house when I can. I'm quite **clumsy**, so I only do simple tasks like hanging the clothes or sweeping the floor.

**Q2: Did you do housework when you were a child?**

Yes, I certainly did. My parents had a very **hectic** schedule, which means they were always **up to the ears** in work, so I wanted to **give them a hand** by taking care of some **light tasks** around the house like doing the dishes.



*I wanted to **give them a hand** by taking care of some **light tasks**.*

**Q3. Do you think that children should do housework?**

Absolutely. I think doing **domestic** tasks at an early age really benefit children's development. It kind of teaches them how to take care of themselves and live independently, which is really important if they want



to live abroad. Besides, studies have shown that working with the hands do wonders for your cognitive development, so yes, I think children should do housework.



*working with the hands  
do wonders for your  
cognitive development*

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **traditional Vietnamese thinking dictates that:** suy nghĩ truyền thống Việt Nam quy định rằng
- **clumsy (adj):** vụng về
- **hectic schedule:** lịch làm việc dày đặc
- **up to the ears (idiom):** bận ngập đầu
- **give somebody a hand (idiom):** giúp đỡ ai đó
- **light tasks (n):** các công việc nhẹ.
- **domestic tasks (n):** việc nhà
- **do wonders for something:** có tác dụng tuyệt vời cho cái gì đó
- **cognitive development:** phát triển tư duy não bộ



TOPIC 10:  
RAIN

## CHỦ ĐỀ 10: RAIN

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Does it rain much in Vietnam?**

Well, I would say **precipitation** in Vietnam is quite high, given the fact that it's a tropical country, unlike America, for example. When I lived there, it **hardly ever rained**.

**Q2: When does it rain most in your hometown?**

I think **the rainy season** is around spring. There're **intermittent**



**Precipitation** in Vietnam is quite high.

**showers** and **drizzles** all day. I cannot stand it; I always get **filthy** whenever I go out.

**Q3: Can you remember any time when it rained particularly heavily in your hometown?**

The first thing that springs to mind is the **torrential rain** in 2008. I mean, it was **pouring** for days, and all the roads became **clogged**. People had, like, a whole week off. There were always long lines of people **stocking up on** food and other **supplies** at supermarkets because **there was no telling** when the rain was gonna stop.

**Q4: Does rain ever affect transportation in your hometown?**

Definitely. I mean whenever it rains, the roads would always become really **congested**, and **gridlock** is very common. It's also very difficult to **catch a cab**. On rainy days, I usually just stay at home or walk if I have to go anywhere.

“  
*It was **pouring** for days.*”

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **precipitation (n)**: lượng mưa
- **hardly ever rained**: hầu như không mưa bao giờ
- **the rainy season (n)**: mùa mưa
- **intermittent (adj)**: thi thoảng, lắt nhắt
- **shower (n)**: mưa rào
- **drizzle (n)**: mưa phùn
- **filthy (adj)**: bẩn thỉu
- **torrential rain (n)**: mưa to
- **pour (v)**: mưa như trút nước
- **clogged (adj)**: tắc nghẽn
- **stock up on (v)**: tích trữ
- **supplies (n)**: đồ dùng hàng ngày
- **there's no telling**: không có gì chắc chắn
- **congested (adj)**: tắc đường
- **gridlock (n)**: hiện tượng kẹt cứng đường



TOPIC 11:  
TELEVISION

# CHỦ ĐỀ 11: TELEVISION

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Did you often watch television when you were a child?**

Oh definitely. When I was a kid, my parents often sat me down in front of **the telly** and turned on some cartoons, trying to get me to finish my meal. We didn't have **cable TV**, though, so I watched a lot of reruns of the same shows.

**Q2: Do you often watch TV recently?**

Well, not really. I mean we have a **TV set** and **cable subscription** and all, but we don't really watch the box all that much. I guess something that

we still watch **from time to time** is The Voice, a singing competition. It's **all the rage** in Vietnam right now, and supposedly has really **high viewership**.



*Sit in front of  
the telly.*

**Q3: What kind of TV programmes do you like most?**

I'm a fan of competitions on TV like, as I was saying, The Voice. I also find quiz shows quite interesting. I feel like I really **broaden my horizons** and learn **a wealth of** knowledge about the world around me.



*The Voice has really high **viewership**.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **the telly** = TV (n)
- **cable TV** = cable subscription (n): truyền hình cáp
- **rerun (n)**: tập chiếu lại
- **TV set (n)**: cái TV
- **from time to time (adv)**: thỉnh thoảng
- **all the rage (idiom)**: rất hot
- **high viewership (n)**: tỉ lệ người xem cao (nhiều view)
- **broaden my horizons (idiom)**: mở mang đầu óc
- **a wealth of (n)**: rất nhiều (một kho báu cái gì đó)

**PRO TIPS**

Trong những câu hỏi chung chung, bạn nên lấy một ví dụ cụ thể.

Nó sẽ giúp bạn có thêm ideas để phát triển. VD:

- I don't watch TV too much

-> example: sometimes watch The Voice

-> all the rage -> high viewership

TOPIC 12:  
HOLIDAYS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 12: HOLIDAYS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: What do you do on your holidays?**

Well, it kind of depends, really. If I only have a few days off, I'll just stay at home and **lounging about**, maybe put on a movie or something, you know? On the other hand, if it's **an extended holiday**, I will probably go travelling. My favorite destination is Bangkok, because of the food and the culture.



*If I only have a few days off, I'll just stay at home and **lounging about**.*

**Q2: Do you think holidays are becoming more and more important?**

Definitely. You know, nowadays life is very **hectic**, and I'm always **up to my ears** in work, so it's crucial to just **take a break** and **get away from it all every once in a while**.

**Q3: What kind of places do you want to travel to?**

My travel **destination of choice** is **metropolises**. To my mind, big cities are the best place to explore a country's culture and **feast on** its delicious food. But **from time to**



**time**, I might go for somewhere quieter, like a nice and secluded beach resort, for example.



*I tend to prefer travelling **in the company** of my friends or family.*

**Q4: Do you prefer travelling alone or in a group?**

I tend to prefer travelling **in the company** of my friends or family. It's more **economical**, I think, as you can **split the costs** of accommodation and meals. And besides, **the more the merrier**, you know.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **lounge about (v):** thư giãn nhẹ nhàng
- **an extended holiday (n):** kì nghỉ dài
- **up to my ears (idiom):** bận
- **take a break (v):** nghỉ ngơi
- **get away from it all:** đi xa để nghỉ
- **every once in a while:** thi thoảng
- **destination of choice:** địa điểm ưa thích
- **metropolis (n):** thành phố lớn
- **feast on (v):** ăn (nhiều)
- **from time to time:** thi thoảng
- **secluded (adj):** yên tĩnh, tách biệt với thành thị
- **in the company of:** cùng với ai đó
- **economical (adj):** tiết kiệm
- **split the costs:** chia sẻ chi phí
- **the more the merrier:** càng đông càng vui

TOPIC 13:  
DANCING

## CHỦ ĐỀ 13: DANCING

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like dancing?**

Well, dancing is not exactly my **forte**. I mean, I **haven't got a clue** how to dance. That said, when I hear my favorite song, I often cannot help but **move my body to the music**. I also love to watch other people dance; it's so **energizing**.

**Q2: What kinds of dancing are popular in your country?**

I don't really know what style of dancing is **the in-thing** at the moment, but I guess hip-hop has always been quite popular. Dancesport is starting to **pick up**, too, now that there's a television show .

**dedicated to** this type of dancing. "Dancing with the stars", I believe, is the name of the show. The show really **took the world by a storm** when it was first aired.

“  
*Dancing is  
so energizing.*”

**Q3: Is traditional dancing popular among young people in your country?**

Not really, in my opinion. I mean young adults often think of traditional dancing as **obsolete**, and they tend to prefer something more **hip and trendy** like hip-hop for example. Traditional dancing is more common in remote areas, I believe.



Young people tend to prefer something more **hip and trendy** like hip-hop.

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **forte (n)**: điểm mạnh
- **haven't got a clue (v)**: chả biết gì
- **move my body to the music (v)**: nhún nhảy theo nhạc
- **energizing (adj)**: nhiều năng lượng, vui
- **pick up (v)**: bắt đầu nổi
- **dedicated to (adj)**: dành riêng cho
- **take the world by a storm (v)**: khuấy đảo thế giới
- **obsolete (adj)**: cổ hủ
- **hip and trendy (adj)**: thời thượng

**PRO TIPS**

Thỉnh thoảng bạn có thể nói câu "Tôi nghĩ rằng" ở giữa hoặc đằng sau câu. Đây cũng là một thói quen nói của người bản địa:

- Not really, in my opinion.
- Traditional dancing is more common in remote areas, I believe.
- "Dancing with the stars", I believe, is the name of the show.

Những từ đơn giản như thế này sẽ làm cho văn nói của bạn nghe natural hơn!



TOPIC 14:  
BIRTHDAYS

# CHỦ ĐỀ 14: BIRTHDAYS

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Are people's birthdays very important in your country?**

I guess for **the vast majority of** Vietnamese, birthdays are kind of **a big deal**. They usually throw **lavish parties** to celebrate and there's usually a lot of **anticipation** before **big day**. For example, people expect to get things that are on their **wish list** and if they do not, it'll be a real **letdown**.



*I am **a real sucker for all things blue**.*

**Q2: How do people in your country celebrate birthdays?**

Well, most people like to **throw a birthday party** at a **posh restaurant**, and usually there's a lot of eating and drinking. At the same time, there are also those who prefer to celebrate their birthday at home with their **loved ones**. I guess there's a real **sense of intimacy** in doing so.

**Q3: What did you do on your last birthday?**

Well, last year on my birthday I **had a few friends over** at my house and

have a nice dinner. Then we decided to **hit the club** and dance all night long. We drank a lot of booze and I remembered waking up to a **splitting headache** the next day. It was a blast, though.

**Q4: Are birthdays more important for children or for adults?**

I think birthdays **mean the world** to small kids. They tend to expect a lot

of presents and at least some kind of celebration. By contrast, a lot of adults are probably too busy with their work to even think about their birthday.



*It's crucial to just **take a break and get away from it all**.*

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **the vast majority of something:** đại đa số
- **a big deal:** một chuyện lớn
- **anticipation:** sự háo hức, hóng
- **big day:** ngày quan trọng
- **wish list:** list những món quà mình hi vọng nhận được (thường vào những dịp như Christmas, sinh nhật, v.v)
- **letdown (n):** sự thất vọng
- **throw a party (v):** tổ chức tiệc
- **a posh restaurant (n):** nhà hàng sang chảnh
- **loved ones (n):** người thân
- **a sense of intimacy:** một cảm giác ấm cúng, thân mật
- **have friends over:** mời bạn qua nhà
- **hit the club:** đi quẩy
- **booze:** rượu bia
- **a splitting headache:** đau đầu như búa bổ
- **It is a blast:** rất là vui
- **mean the world to somebody:** có ý nghĩa lớn lao với ai đó

TOPIC 15:  
MIRROR

## CHỦ ĐỀ 15: MIRROR

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you often look in the mirror?**

Absolutely, I look at myself in the mirror everyday when I wake up; it's sort of my **morning ritual**. I work in a professional environment, so I always do my best to look **presentable**. That's why I have to look in the mirror to make sure my hair is tidy, my face is groomed and my clothes are not wrinkled.

**Q2: Do you often buy mirrors?**

Not really. I mean I only buy it when mine gets broken. But other than that, I don't really buy mirrors. Girls might, though. I think most females

have a habit of replacing mirrors quite often.



*Looking in the mirror is sort of my **morning ritual**.*



**Q3: Do you think mirrors are a necessary decoration?**

I think it is a very useful decorative item. With a beautiful frame, it can nicely **complement** a living room or a bed room. In addition, in a small house, mirrors can actually make the space look bigger. Actually, a lot of restaurants use mirrors to give the guests the **illusion** that the space is bigger than it actually is.



*With a beautiful frame, mirrors can nicely **complement** a living room.*

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **morning ritual (n)**: nghi thức buổi sáng (những việc mình hay làm)
- **presentable (adj)**: chỉnh tề
- **complement (v)**: tôn lên, làm đẹp lên
- **illusion (n)**: ảo giác

### PRO TIPS



Để tăng điểm từ vựng, bạn không cần biết quá nhiều từ "khủng", mà chỉ cần để ý *paraphrase* trong khi trả lời. VD:

- **Girls** might buy a lot of mirrors. Most **females** tend to have a habit of replacing mirrors quite often.

- Do you think mirrors are a necessary **decoration**? I think it is a very useful **decorative item**.



# CHỦ ĐỀ 16: FOOD

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: What kinds of food do you particularly like?**

I'd have to say Asian **cuisine** is my favorite. I am a huge fan of the **bold flavors** and spices used in Vietnamese and Thai dishes. Something I often **daydream about** eating is Bánh Đa Cua, which is a **lip-smacking** Vietnamese noodle soup dish served with a crab **broth**. It's every bit as delicious as it sounds.



*Cooking is my **forte**.*

**Q2: Is there any food you don't like?**

It's true that there are a few things that kind of **put me off**. For example, I cannot stand Mắm Tôm, which is essentially a shrimp paste used in a lot of Vietnamese recipes. A lot of people like it, though, but I think it smells awful. Definitely **not my cup of tea**.

**Q3: What kinds of food are most popular Vietnam?**

I think street food is a **staple** around here. You can find **bustling food stalls** all around Hanoi, and they are my **go-tos** for a **cheap and cheerful** meal. I mean **gourmet restaurants** are nice and all, but street food is what Vietnam is all about.

**Q4: Do you like cooking? (Why?/ Why not?)**

Actually, I'd like to think that cooking is my **forte**. I developed a passion for **culinary arts** when I first watched the cooking show Masterchef. Since

then, I have learnt a lot of recipes and I can easily **whip up** a good dinner.



**Food stalls** are my go-tos for a **cheap and cheerful** meal.

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **cuisine (n)**: ẩm thực
- **bold flavors (n)**: hương vị đậm đà
- **spices (n)**: gia vị
- **daydream about (v)**: mơ mộng về cái gì đó
- **lip-smacking (adj)**: rất ngon
- **broth (n)**: nước dùng
- **put somebody off (v)**: làm ai đó cảm thấy "hãi"
- **cannot stand something (v)**: không thể chịu được cái gì
- **not my cup of tea (idiom)**: không phải thứ tôi thích
- **staple (n)**: đồ ăn phổ biến, cơ bản
- **culinary arts (n)**: nghệ thuật ẩm thực
- **whip up (v)**: nấu (nhANH) món gì đó
- **bustling food stalls (n)**: các cửa tiệm đồ ăn tấp nập người vào người ra
- **go-to (n)**: lựa chọn thường xuyên
- **cheap and cheerful (adj)**: ngon, bổ, rẻ
- **gourmet restaurants (n)**: nhà hàng cao cấp
- **forte (n)**: thế mạnh

**PRO TIPS**

Giám khảo người nước ngoài chắc là sẽ không quen với những nét văn hoá của Việt Nam (VD: đồ ăn), nên những tên riêng đều nên giải thích bằng "which is..." (- Mam Tom, which is.../- Banh Da Cua, which is...) Việc này sẽ giúp bạn nâng điểm từ vựng (paraphrase) và ngữ pháp (mệnh đề quan hệ) hơn nhiều so với việc dịch (Mam Tom: shrimp sauce, Banh Da Cua: crab noodles)





TOPIC 17:  
INDOOR GAMES

# CHỦ ĐỀ 17: INDOOR GAMES

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Do you play any indoor games?**

Not much, but I guess something I still play **from time to time** is Monopoly, which is a very popular board game. It **originated** in America, I think, and it's really starting to **pick up** in Vietnam.

**Q2: Do you prefer to play indoor games or outdoor games?**

Well, I kind of **gravitate towards** outdoor games. I'm quite an **athletic** person, so I love engaging in **physical activities** and sports. Indoor games are fun too, but it's not always my favorite.

**Q3: What indoor games did you play when you were a child?**

Well, when I was small, I didn't really play any games inside the house beside video games. However, every now and then, I would go and watch my dad play ping pong, which is technically an indoor sport, right? I think it's loads of fun!



*I am **a real sucker** for all things blue.*

**Q4: What sorts of indoor games do children play now?**

Video games, mostly. I mean, children can play games on their game consoles **for hours on end**. I think it's really **detrimental** to their health, and their parents definitely should **wean them off** this habit **lest** their eyesight gets worse.

of presents and at least some kind of celebration. By contrast, a lot of adults are probably too busy with their work to even think about their birthday.



*It's crucial to just **take a break and get away from it all**.*

## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **from time to time:** thỉnh thoảng
- **originate:** bắt nguồn
- **pick up:** bắt đầu nổi
- **graviate towards:** thiên về
- **athletic:** khoẻ mạnh, thích thể thao
- **physical activities:** hoạt động thể chất
- **for hours on end:** hàng giờ liền
- **detrimental:** có hại
- **wean somebody off something:** giúp/bắt ai đó bỏ một thói quen có hại
- **lest:** nếu không thì



TOPIC 18:  
PLANS &  
GOALS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 18: PLANS &amp; GOALS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: What plan do you currently have?**

Actually, at the moment I'm planning to **lose weight** and **get leaner**. I've **put off** this plan for too long, and my body has just been so **out of shape**.

**Q2: When do you plan to start that?**

Hopefully this month. I really am a **procrastinator**, so I gotta **make up my mind** quickly. Next week, I'm planning to sign up for a gym membership and start working out.

**Q3: How do you intend to achieve that?**

As I was saying, **hitting the gym** is probably the first step. However, it is difficult to **stay the course**, as there're always excuses to not work out. So in order to **realise** my fitness goal, I might have to look for an **accountability partner**. You know, someone who is **fit** and willing to coach me and **hold me accountable**.



*I really am a  
**procrastinator**.*



**Q4: If you go abroad, do you plan to live in the countryside or in a big city?**

Well, each has its own **perks**, I guess, but I gotta go with a big city. I love the energy of **metropolises**. It can get a bit **hectic** at times, but I think living in cities is a lot of fun. A lot of people like the **sleepiness** of the countryside though, but personally I'm not a fan.

“  
*It is difficult to  
stay the course.*”

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Lose weight:** giảm cân
- **Get lean:** trở nên ít mỡ, cân đối hơn
- **Put off:** trì hoãn
- **Out of shape:** cơ thể xõ xề
- **Procrastinator:** người hay lưỡng lự
- **Make up my mind:** quyết định
- **Hit the gym:** đi tập gym
- **Stay the course:** kiên trì
- **Realize a goal:** thực hiện mục tiêu
- **Accountability partner:** bạn đồng hành để kiểm tra xem mình có thực hiện một kế hoạch không
- **Fit:** body chuẩn
- **Hold somebody accountable:** kiểm tra xem ai đó có làm đúng kế hoạch không
- **Perks:** lợi ích
- **Metropolis:** thành phố lớn
- **Hectic:** xô bồ, hối hả
- **Sleepy:** yên ắng

TOPIC 19:  
SWIMMING

## CHỦ ĐỀ 19: SWIMMING

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like swimming?**

To be honest, swimming is not exactly **my forte**. I learnt how to swim when I was small, but I was never really good at it. I guess I just don't **have a knack for** sports in general.

**Q2: How often do you swim?**

Not too often, as you can probably guess. But in the summer, I still love coming to the pool for a **dip to shelter from the sweltering heat of summer**. There's a public swimming pool near my house, so that's neat.



*I love coming to the pool for a **dip**.*

**Q3: Do you like to go swimming on holiday?**

I guess. When I go on vacation, swimming is kind of **a must-do**. Last summer, I went to Danang for a **short getaway** and got the chance to swim at My Khe, which is one of the most immaculate beaches in Vietnam. The water was **crystal clear**, and I really enjoyed swimming there.

**Q4: Is it difficult to learn how to swim?**

Definitely. Swimming seems easy for some people, but it's quite hard for me. I mean, it doesn't take long to **get the hang of** the basics like **staying afloat** and breathing techniques. The **tricky** part for me is how to coordinate your arms and legs and learning the different **strokes**.



The **tricky** part for me is learning the different **strokes**.

## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **forte (n):** thế mạnh
- **have a knack for (idiom):** có năng khiếu
- **a dip (n):** bơi (go for a dip)
- **shelter from the sweltering heat of summer:** tránh cái nóng nực của mùa hè
- **a must-do (n):** một việc phải làm
- **a short getaway (n):** một chuyến đi ngắn
- **crystal clear (adj):** trong vắt
- **get the hang of (v):** hiểu, nắm được
- **stay afloat (v):** nổi trên nước
- **tricky (adj):** khó
- **strokes (n):** kiểu bơi

## PRO TIPS



Bên cạnh những từ vựng 'tủ', bạn cũng nên có một vài ... câu 'tủ'. Chúng sẽ giúp bạn tạo ra những câu trả lời trôi chảy hơn! VD:  
Thay vì chỉ nhớ 'sweltering', các bạn hay nhớ câu:  
'I love going for a dip to shelter from the sweltering heat of summer!'



TOPIC 20:  
MARRIAGE

## CHỦ ĐỀ 20: MARRIAGE

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: If you are 35 years old without marriage, do you still wait for true love?**

If I'm still single by the time I turn 35, I will still wait for **my other half**.

Because getting married to someone you do not love is **miserable**. You may end up **parting ways** and **getting a divorce**. On the other hand, for those who still decide not to wait, it is completely **justifiable**. Some people just cannot stand being alone.

**Q2: Who will pay for the wedding costs, man or woman or both?**

Actually, neither. Their parents are

the ones who **finance** the wedding. It is kind of **the norm** in Vietnam. Most young couples are still trying to **make ends meet**, so they cannot possibly afford the **prohibitive costs** of weddings.



*By the time I turn 35, I will still wait for **my other half**.*

**Q3: What do you think is the best age to marry?**

Well, you know, it kind of depends. Some people think the optimal age

to marry is mid-20s, because they try to avoid the **generation gap** between them and their kids. On the other hand, there are those who want to **tie the knot** when they are a bit older because they prioritize their career. You know, **parental duties** make it hard to earn a living.

**Q4: Do you think Vietnamese wedding wastes a lot of money?**

Definitely. Vietnamese people love **lavish** weddings. They are willing to **splurge on** decoration, food, service, invitations, ... in order to show the guests their wealth and status.



*There are those who want to **tie the knot** when they are a bit older*

**Q5: Do you think men should take care of babies and wash the dishes?**

**Traditional Vietnamese thinking dictates that** women are in charge of chores and child-rearing. However, nowadays the responsibilities are shared between **spouses**. Because gender equality is **championed** in most countries, men now also have to do domestic tasks, and women also help **bring home the bacon**.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **my other half (n):** một nửa còn lại
- **miserable (adj):** khổ
- **part ways (v):** đường ai nấy đi
- **get a divorce (v):** li dị
- **justifiable (adj):** có thể hiểu được
- **finance (v):** chi trả cho cái gì
- **make ends meet (idiom):** trang trải cho cuộc sống
- **prohibitive costs (n):** chi phí đắt đỏ
- **the generation gap (n):** khoảng cách thế hệ
- **tie the knot (idiom):** cưới
- **parental duties (n):** trách nhiệm của phụ huynh
- **lavish (adj):** sang chảnh

- **splurge on (v):** vung tiền vào việc gì đó
- **traditional Vietnamese thinking dictates that:** suy nghĩ truyền thống Việt Nam quy định rằng
- **spouse (n):** vợ hoặc chồng
- **champion (v):** đề cao cái gì đó
- **bring home the bacon (idiom):** kiếm tiền, chu cấp cho gia đình

## PRO TIPS



Kể cả những từ ngữ thông dụng, phổ biến cũng có thể biến thành "nguy hiểm" khi bạn dùng dạng không phổ biến của chúng.

VD:

- *finance (n):* tài chính -> *finance (v):* trả tiền
- *regularly (adv):* thường xuyên -> *a regular (n):* khách quen
- *frequently (adv):* thường xuyên -> *frequent (v):* hay lui tới đâu đó







# CHỦ ĐỀ 21: MUSIC

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Do you like listening to music?**

Absolutely. I love music. It's a great way to **unwind** and alleviate stress. My favorite performer is Son Tung MTP, who is a **prominent** pop singer in Vietnam. He's **all the rage** right now, especially among youngsters.



*I can't seem to **resist the urge to splurge on a new bag.***

**Q2: What types of bags do you like?**

Well, my favorite **genre** is Pop. Pop music is quite **catchy** and the lyrics are simple. Some people may find that a bit too **mainstream**, and prefer something like Jazz.

**Q3: Where do you usually listen to music?**

Well, I listen to music pretty much everywhere. When I'm at home, I **stream** music on websites. Sometimes, if I'm feeling up to it, I might go to a concert. You know, MP3s cannot really compare with the incredible atmosphere and sound

effects at live shows. And of course, I also put on my favorite song when I'm **on the move** to make my commute a bit less boring.

**Q4: Can you play any musical instruments?**

Actually, I play the guitar, but I'm only a **novice**. In the future, I will try to play

more often to **hone** my skills. I'm really inspired by the great guitar **virtuosos**, and I hope that one day I can play a shade as well as they do.



*I'm really inspired by the great guitar **virtuosos**.*

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **unwind (v):** thư giãn
- **prominent (adj):** nổi tiếng
- **all the rage (idiom):** rất phổ biến, hot
- **genre (n):** thể loại
- **catchy (adj):** nghe bắt tai
- **mainstream (adj):** đại trà
- **stream (v):** tải nhạc/ phim trên mạng
- **on the move:** đang di chuyển trên đường
- **novice (adj/ n):** gà
- **hone my skills:** cải thiện kỹ năng
- **virtuoso (n):** bậc thầy (nhạc)



TOPIC 22:  
WATCHES

## CHỦ ĐỀ 22: WATCHES

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Did you wear a watch when you were a child?**

Actually, yes. I used to wear a **digital watch** when I was in primary school. I took a lot of pride in having it and often **bragged** about it in front of my friends.

**Q2: Do you like to wear a watch now?**

Yes, I'm a big fan of wearing a watch. I think it's a wonderful way to **lend some visual interest** to your outfit. The one I'm wearing right now is by Daniel Wellington, a well-known watch brand. Their designs are very nice, and their products **reasonably priced** as well.

**Q3: Why do people like to wear expensive watches?**

I think **high-end** watches are a **symbol of status**. You know, as people get rich, they want to wear things that **project their wealth and success**, and wearing an expensive **timepiece** is an easy way to do this.



*I think **high-end** watches are a **symbol of status**.*



**Q4: Have you ever received a watch as a gift?**

As a matter of fact, yes. My dad gave me a wristwatch as a graduation gift. It's a really nice, **minimalistic** watch, with a black **dial** and a leather **strap**. It's an item that I really treasure. I'm thinking of passing this watch down to my son when he's old enough.



*It's a really nice, **minimalistic** watch, with a black **dial** and a leather **strap**.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **digital watch (n)**: đồng hồ điện tử
- **brag (v)**: khoe khoang
- **lend some visual interest to something (v)**: tạo điểm nhấn cho cái gì đó
- **reasonably priced (adj)**: giá cả hợp lý
- **high-end (adj)**: cao cấp
- **a symbol of status (n)**: biểu tượng của đẳng cấp
- **project wealth and success (v)**: phô trương sự giàu có và thành công
- **timepiece (n)**: đồng hồ
- **minimalistic (adj)**: đơn giản
- **dial (n)**: mặt đồng hồ
- **strap (n)**: dây đeo đồng hồ

**PRO TIPS**

Khi học từ, đặc biệt là các từ dễ, nên nghiên cứu kỹ về các dạng khác của từ để tìm ra cách diễn đạt 'chất' và không quá 'đài trà'. Ví dụ, từ 'interesting' có thể diễn đạt theo 4 cách:

- *That book is very interesting. (adj)*
- *I'm very interested in that book (adj)*
- *That book really interests me. (v)*
- *I take a keen interest in that book (n)*

TOPIC 23:  
BAGS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 23: BAGS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like bags?**

I gotta say I'm a big fan of bags. I know people think bags are kind of a **feminine** thing, but I quite like it. I have a pretty big collection of bags already, but I can't seem to **resist the urge** to **splurge on** a new bag whenever I'm **feeling flush**.



*I can't seem to **resist the urge to splurge on** a new bag.*

**Q2: What types of bags do you like?**

One of my **all-time favorite** styles is the backpack. It's such a **versatile** and **utilitarian** design. I mean, it's easy to carry around, and it's got lots of space for my stuff. Besides, it matches well with most of my outfits, from formal to casual wear.

**Q3: What do you put in your bag?**

A **boat load of** stuff, mainly my essentials such as my laptop, keys and wallet. It's nice to have **roomy** bag to **stuff** all of (my things) them in when I'm **on the move**.

**Q4: Do people collect bags?**

Well, it kind of depends. Some people **go crazy about** bags and have different ones for different occasions. For example, my friend has a **clutch** that she carries to formal events, and a backpack for daily use. But by contrast, there are guys who want an **all-purpose** bag because they don't want to **fuss over what to wear**.



*It's nice to have **roomy** bag to **stuff** all of my things in.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- feminine (adj): nữ tính
- resist the urge (v): cưỡng lại ham muốn
- splurge on (v): vung tiền vào cái gì đó
- feeling flush (adj): dư giả
- all-time favorite (n/ adj): một vật mình rất thích từ trước tới nay
- versatile (adj): đa năng
- utilitarian (adj): nhiều công dụng
- a boat load of: rất nhiều
- roomy (adj): rộng rãi, nhiều chỗ trống
- stuff (v): nhét vào
- on the move: đang di chuyển trên đường
- go crazy about (v): phát cuồng về cái gì đó
- clutch (n): ví to của phụ nữ
- all-purpose (adj): nhiều công dụng
- fuss over what to wear (v): đắn đo xem mặc gì

**PRO TIPS**

Có những cách diễn đạt informal gắn với từ 'crazy' rất dễ học:

- crazy expensive: rất đắt
- go crazy about: phát cuồng về cái gì đó
- drive somebody crazy: làm cho ai đó tức điên





TOPIC 24:  
SUNSHINE

## CHỦ ĐỀ 24: SUNSHINE

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: How do people use energy from sunshine in your country?**

So the primary way in which Vietnamese people use solar energy is to **power** heaters. I think this is a very **economical** practice, unlike **fossil fuels**, which can cost a lot of money.



*I love to **bask** in the sun.*

**Q2: Do you like to live in a place where there's lots of sunshine?**

Definitely. I love to **bask in the sun**, so I would like to **reside** somewhere with a lot of sunshine. For example: Danang, which is a **coastal city**, located in Central Vietnam would be somewhere I want to move to. The city is quite sunny **year-round** and it's not **sweltering**, unlike Saigon, where the weather is **baking**.

**Q3: What activities do you usually do on sunny days?**

So one of my favorite things to do when it's sunny out is taking a trip to

to a nice, **secluded** beach and spending the day there. You could **bask in the sun, go for a dip** or just have a picnic. I usually go to the beach with my buddies, and **it's always a blast**.

“  
*One of my favorite things to do when it's sunny out is taking a trip to a nice, **secluded** beach.*

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Economical (adj):** tiết kiệm
- **Power (v):** cung cấp điện
- **Fossil fuels (n):** năng lượng hoá thạch
- **Bask in the sun:** tận hưởng ánh nắng mặt trời
- **Reside (v):** sinh sống, cư trú
- **Coastal city (n):** thành phố biển
- **Sweltering (adj):** rất nóng
- **Baking (adj):** rất nóng
- **Secluded (adj):** xa khỏi thành phố
- **Go for a dip:** đi bơi
- **It's a blast:** rất vui



TOPIC 25:  
FASHION

# CHỦ ĐỀ 25: FASHION

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: What types of clothes do you like wearing?**

Well, it sort of depends. When I go to work, I always try to **look sharp** because I work in a formal environment, so that often means a suit and tie. But by contrast, if I'm just hanging out with my friends or talking a leisurely stroll, you're more likely to find me in casual outfits: a **well-worn** pair of jeans, a T-shirt and some sneakers.

**Q2: Where do you buy your clothes?**

Hmm, again, it kind of depends. If I'm **feeling flush**, I might go to the

and splurge on some designer clothes. On the other hand, if I don't have a lot of money, I might shop at flea markets. You can **score some great deals** there and buy tons of clothes **without breaking the bank**.

“

*I always try to  
**look sharp.***





Shopping at flea markets, you can **score some great deals** there and buy tons of clothes without **breaking the bank**.

**Q4: Did you wear a school uniform when you were younger?**

Yes, absolutely. Wearing uniform is kind of **the norm** in Vietnam.

Students are often dressed in a plain white button-up shirt and a pair of navy slacks, and the shirt has to be tucked in. The look is quite sedate, and I gotta say I liked it. because I didn't have to stand in front of the mirror **fussing over** what to wear to school.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **look sharp (v)**: trông chỉnh tề
- **well-worn (adj)**: mặc nhiều, trông hơi cũ
- **feel flush (v)**: có nhiều tiền
- **splurge on something (v)**: vung tiền vào cái gì đấy
- **score some great deals (v)**: mua được đồ tốt giá rẻ
- **not break the bank (idiom)**: không tốn nhiều tiền
- **the norm (n)**: chuyện thường tình
- **sedate (adj)**: thoải mái, không cầu kì
- **fuss over (v)**: chăm chút quá mức

### PRO TIPS



Nếu câu hỏi hơi rộng và nhiều lựa chọn, hãy trả lời bằng "It depends..."  
Việc chia trường hợp và dùng câu điều kiện sẽ giúp bạn nâng điểm ngữ pháp đáng kể.

What kind of food do you like?  
Where do you listen to music?



TOPIC 26:  
PLACES NEAR  
WATER

## CHỦ ĐỀ 26: PLACES NEAR WATER

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Why do so many people like going to places with water, such as lakes, oceans or rivers?**

Well, I guess it's because these places are often nice and **secluded**. You know nowadays, life is very **hectic**, and sometimes we just need to **get away from it all** and **unwind** somewhere away from the **hustle and bustle** of the city.



*these places are often nice and **secluded***

**Q2: What kinds of activities do people like to do there?**

All kinds of things, really. The most popular activity obviously is swimming. It's nice to **go for a dip** and **immerse yourself** in the water. People also love **basking in the sun** and get tanned, especially ladies.

**Q3: Do you think seaside is more suitable for children or old people?**

Mhmm, that's a tough question because I mean, both can enjoy the beach. However, if children are playing on the beach, their parents definitely need to **keep an eye on**

them. By contrast, the elderly, for the most part, can take care of themselves.

**Q4: Do you think governments should invest money in developing facilities for water sports?**

Nah, I don't think so. I mean, it is companies who own seaside resorts that should pour money into **recreational facilities** like water sports, since it is of interest to them. **State budget** should be used to address more urgent needs like education and healthcare, for example.

“  
*It's nice to  
go for a dip.*”



### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **secluded (adj):** tách xa khỏi thành thị
- **get away from it all:** đi nghỉ ở nơi nào đó xa
- **unwind (v):** thư giãn
- **hustle and bustle (n):** sự hối hả
- **go for a dip (v):** đi tắm (nhẹ)
- **immerse yourself in (v):** đắm chìm trong cái gì đó
- **bask in the sun (v):** tận hưởng ánh nắng
- **keep an eye on (v):** để ý, theo dõi ai đó
- **seaside resorts (n):** resort bên bờ biển
- **recreational facilities (n):** cơ sở giải trí
- **state budget (n):** ngân quỹ nhà nước



TOPIC 27:  
VISITORS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 27: VISITORS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you welcome guests in your home?**

Yes, I love to **have people over** and **entertain** them. I have a couple of friends whom I always invite to my home for dinner or a movie. I love taking care of people and showing them **hospitality**.

**Q2: Do you like to visit others' home?**

Absolutely. When I visit other people's houses, I **take my cue for** the design of my own house from them. For example, I just visited my friend who is an interior designer last week and absolutely loved the Scandinavian vibe of his apartment.

**Q3: What do visitors usually do in your home?**

A bunch of things, really. There's usually a lot of **wining and dining**. My wife loves to cook, so whenever we have friends over she would put out a lot of dishes. Her cooking is absolutely **phenomenal**, and we just eat til we're **stuffed**. After that, maybe we'll put on a movie and just **chill**.



*love to **have people over** and **entertain** them.*

**Q4: Do you usually hang out with your friends at home or outside?**

I would say about 50 - 50. I mean, we love having people over at our house, as I was saying. There's a real **sense of intimacy** in spending time with your friends at home. But sometimes, all of us don't want to bother with the hassle of cleaning up, and we just go for dinner at our favorite restaurant.



*There's a real **sense of intimacy** in spending time with your friends at home.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **have people over (v)**: mời người khác qua nhà
- **entertain + [guests] (v)**: chiêu đãi khách
- **hospitality (n)**: sự hiếu khách
- **take somebody's cue from something/ somebody (v)**: lấy cảm hứng từ ai/ cái gì đó
- **wine & dine (v)**: chiêu đãi ăn uống
- **phenomenal (adj)**: tuyệt đỉnh
- **stuffed (adj)**: no căng
- **chill (v)**: thư giãn
- **a sense of intimacy (n)**: cảm giác thân mật
- **the hassle of something (n)**: sự phiền hà của việc gì đó



TOPIC 28:  
SPORTS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 28: SPORTS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like playing sports?**

Well, I'd consider myself a pretty **athletic** person, so naturally I **have an affinity for** all sporting activities. My favorite is football. Not only is it fun to play, it's also loads of fun to watch.



*I'd consider myself a pretty **athletic** person, so naturally I **have an affinity for** all sporting activities.*

**Q2: What sports are the most popular in your country?**

I guess football is kind of a **big deal** in Vietnam. I mean, it's the most popular **spectator sport**. When it is football season, like August, for example, when the Premier League takes place, football **fanatics** usually go to watch the matches at a cafe and **root for** their favorite team.

**Q3: Do you think it is important to play a sport?**

Absolutely. I think playing sports is a fantastic way to **get lean**, because it involves a lot of physical activities



Nowadays, most people **lead a sedentary** lifestyle and tend to **shy away from** the gym. For these people, I believe sports would be an **energizing** way to get some exercise.



***Fanatics** usually go to watch the matches at a cafe and **root for** their favorite team.*

**Q4: What sports would you like to try in the future?**

Hmm, I would love to have a crack at skydiving in the future. Freefalling from enormous altitudes looks like a lot of fun, as much as I'm scared of heights. A while back, I almost gave bungee jump a go, but in the end I kind of chickened out.



#### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Athletic (adj):** năng động, yêu thể thao
- **Have an affinity for (v):** thích cái gì đó
- **A big deal:** cái quan trọng
- **Spectator sport (n):** môn thể thao nhiều người xem
- **Fanatic:** fan cuồng
- **Get lean (v):** tập tành để có cơ thể cân đối hơn
- **Lead a sedentary lifestyle:** sống một lối sống thụ động
- **Shy away from (v):** tránh cái gì đó
- **Energizing (adj):** tràn trề năng lượng
- **Have a crack:** thử cái gì đó
- **Freefall:** rơi tự do
- **Give something a go (v):** thử cái gì đó
- **Chicken out (v):** nhát quá không làm cái gì đó

TOPIC 29:  
COLOURS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 29: COLOURS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: What's your favourite colour?**

Well, I am **a real sucker for** all things blue. I love all **shades** of blue, from the brighter shades like electric blue to the more **subdued** ones like navy. In fact, **the bulk** of my wardrobe is blue!

**Q2: Are there any colours you dislike?**

Mhmm, I'd have to say that when people wear **overly bright** colors like



*I am **a real sucker for** all things blue.*

neon, for example, it **bugs** me a lot. I think those people **have terrible taste** in clothes.

**Q3: When you are buying clothes, is the colour important to you?**

Absolutely. When I'm shopping for clothes, I have to **be mindful of** the color of the **garment** and whether it would **match well** with the rest of my wardrobe. Of course, I don't think I **can ever go wrong with** blue.

**Q4: Are there any colours that have a special meaning in your country?**

Yeah I guess. I mean, white usually symbolises **purity** and **innocence**, so it's the **colour of choice** for weddings or school uniforms. By contrast, darker colours like gray or black often suggest sorrow or suffering, so I guess that's why a lot of people wear black to funerals.



*White is the **colour of choice** for weddings.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **a real sucker for:** thích mê cái gì đó
- **shade (n):** sắc, tông màu
- **subdued (adj):** màu tối
- **the bulk of:** phần lớn cái gì đó
- **overly bright (adj):** quá chói
- **bug somebody (v):** làm phiền ai đó
- **have terrible taste:** có gu rất kém (không có gu)
- **be mindful of (adj):** để ý cái gì đó
- **garment (n):** một đồ quần/ áo gì đó
- **match well (v):** kết hợp tốt
- **can ever go wrong with A:** A không bao giờ là lựa chọn sai lầm
- **purity (n):** sự tinh khôi
- **innocence (n):** sự trong trắng
- **colour of choice (n):** màu ưa thích

**PRO TIPS**

"of choice" là một cách diễn đạt hay thay cho "I like". Khi cái gì đó là "of choice" của bạn, nó là thứ bạn rất thích và luôn luôn chọn. VD:

- *Oishi is my snack of choice.*
- *Honda is my motorbike of choice.*
- *Blue is my color of choice.*







# CHỦ ĐỀ 30: BRINGING THINGS

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: What will you bring when you go out?**

Well, you know, there are certainly some items that I'd consider **essentials** whenever I go out. For example, a pair of headphones to listen to music when I'm **on the move**. It really makes my daily commute less boring.

**Q2: Did you ever forget to bring things?**

Well, I gotta admit I'm quite a **forgetful person**. There have certainly been times when I've left the house without my keys, my

phone or even worse, my wallet. **It's really a nuisance** finding out that you have no cash on hand when you want to pay for, like, a coffee or something.



*A pair of headphones to listen to music when I'm **on the move**.*

**Q3: Will you bring different things in the daytime or at night?**

I guess I do bring different items at different times of day. Like, for example, in the morning when it's really sunny, **a pair of shades** might **come in handy** so I always bring that. By contrast, at night when it can get a bit cold, it's quite useful to have a light jacket to **brace yourself against the chill**.



***It's really a nuisance finding out that you have no cash on hand.***

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **essential (n)**: đồ thiết yếu
- **on the move (idiom)**: đang di chuyển
- **daily commute (n)**:
- **a forgetful person (n)**: người đãng trí
- **It's really a nuisance**: "Đúng là một việc phiền phức!"
- **on hand**: (có cái gì đấy) trên người, sẵn dùng
- **a pair of shades (n)**: kính râm (shade là bóng râm, từ này cool ngầu hơn sunglasses nhiều :P)
- **come in handy (v)**: hữu dụng, có ích
- **brace yourself against the chill (v)**: chống lại cái lạnh

**PRO TIPS**

Nên chèn nhiều trạng từ vào khi nói - chúng sẽ làm câu của bạn tự nhiên hơn rất nhiều.

- There are **certainly** some items ...
- It's **really** a nuisance ...
- It can get **a bit** cold ...
- It's **quite** useful ...

Nhớ nhấn vào trạng từ nhé ;)

TOPIC 31:  
HISTORY

## CHỦ ĐỀ 31: HISTORY

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like history?**

Yes, I **take a very keen interest** in history. I find learning about **historical events** and **historical figures** really fascinating. World history is pretty cool, but I am more interested in Vietnam's history. I love learning about the **rich heritage** of Vietnam, our past struggles against foreign **colonization** and how peace was established in the country.

**Q2: What historical event do you find most interesting?**

Well, for me, the Declaration of Independence is definitely one of the



***I take a very keen interest in history.***

biggest **milestones** in Vietnam's history. On September 2nd 1945, President Ho Chi Minh declared to the world that Vietnam officially became a **sovereign state**, after years of being invaded.



**Q3 Do you think history is important?**

Without a doubt, history **plays an integral part** in any society. It instills in people a sense of **patriotism** and an appreciation for **peace and order**. Without history, we cannot possibly learn from our past failures.

**Q4: Do you like to watch programs on TV about history?**

Absolutely. I find them much more interesting than learning about history from, **say**, textbooks. History documentaries provide a much more

**vivid portrayal** of historical events, especially battles and wars.

**Q5: How do you get information about history?**

I gotta say the Internet is **my go-to** source for historical facts and figures. I also love visiting museums, where I can **peruse their collection** of exhibits. I think it is a very **involved experience** of learning about history.



*History instills in people a sense of **patriotism**.*

## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Take a very keen interest in (v):** quan tâm/ hứng thú với một lĩnh vực nào đó
- **Historical event (n):** sự kiện lịch sử
- **Historical figure (n):** nhân vật lịch sử
- **rich heritage (n):** di sản giàu có
- **Colonization (n):** công cuộc thuộc địa hoá
- **Milestone (n):** cột mốc
- **Soverign state (n):** nước tự trị
- **Play an integral part (v):** đóng vai trò quan trọng
- **Instill (v):** làm thấm nhuần
- **Patriotism (n):** lòng yêu nước
- **Peace and order (n):** hoà bình và trật tự
- **Say:** ví dụ
- **Vivid portratat:** sự mô tả sống động
- **go-to:** ưa thích
- **peruse a collection:** xem (kĩ) một bộ sưu tập
- **Involved experience:** trải nghiệm rất thực tế

TOPIC 32:  
BIRDS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 32: BIRDS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like birds?**

Well, I **take a very keen interest in** nature, so I love to learn about different **species** of plants, animals, and yes, birds. They are truly fascinating creatures and they **come in all shapes and sizes**. **Bird watching** is one of my favorite things to do.

**Q2: Have you seen many kinds of birds?**

Well, living in the city, birds are a **rare sight**. Most of the stuff about birds that I've seen is on documentaries of the **great outdoors**. I mean, I've seen

some common breeds in real life like pigeons and such, but nothing too **exotic**.



*Well, I **take a very keen interest in** nature.*





*I've seen some common **breeds**, but nothing too **exotic**.*

**Q3: How do Vietnamese people feel birds?**

Well, for the most part, Vietnamese people are not that into birds. I mean, we like to eat them, especially **game birds** like pheasants. People in remote areas often hunt for birds in the wild and roast them over an open fire. They are considered a **delicacy** where I come from.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **take a keen interest in something (v)**: đam mê cái gì đó (thay cho be interested in)
- **species = breed**: loài (động vật)
- **come in all shapes and sizes**: đa dạng về chủng loại
- **bird watching**: ngắm chim
- **a rare sight**: một thứ ít thấy
- **the great outdoors**: nơi xa xôi cách xa thành phố
- **exotic**: quý hiếm
- **game birds**: chim để đi săn
- **a delicacy**: đặc sản

### PRO TIPS



Nếu bạn gặp một topic lạ, hãy "đá" về những topic liên quan mà bạn quen hơn. Ví dụ:

- birds -> nature (species)
- birds -> food (cooking and eating birds)





TOPIC 33:  
SHOPPING

## CHỦ ĐỀ 33: SHOPPING

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Are there many shops near your house?**

Well, there is **an eclectic mix of** shops **in the vicinity of** my house. There are lots of **high-end boutiques** selling **designer clothes**. In addition, there are also **an abundance of** street **food stalls** and **grocery stores**, so you really have everything in once place.

**Q2: Do you like shopping?**

Absolutely. My work is incredibly stressful, so every now and then I really need some **retail therapy**. And so on **payday**, I usually **hit the mall**

and **treat myself to** something nice, maybe a new shirt or a nice pair of shoes.

“

**On payday, I usually hit the mall and treat myself to something nice.**

**Q3: Who does the shopping in your house?**

Well my dad is the **breadwinner**, but it's actually my mom who is in

charge of finances and purchases. So every morning, she goes to the market to buy groceries and you know, our **daily supplies**.



Every now and then, I still go to a **brick-and-mortar** store.

**Q4: How often do you buy something in a shop?**

Well, given the fact that online shopping is really popular nowadays, I find myself shopping more on the Internet. But every now and then, I still go to a **brick-and-mortar** store where I can peruse the store's **offerings** in person. If I'm shopping for clothes, going to the store is always a **must**, as I want to try on the clothes to see if they fit or **flatter my body**.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **An eclectic mix of (n):** rất nhiều loại
- **In the vicinity of:** ở gần
- **High-end boutique (n):** hàng quần áo/ phụ kiện sang chảnh
- **Designer clothes (n):** quần áo hàng hiệu
- **An abundance of:** rất nhiều
- **Food stall (n):** các quầy bán đồ ăn
- **Grocery store (n):** hàng tạp hoá
- **Retail therapy (n):** mua sắm để xả stress
- **Payday (n):** ngày lĩnh lương
- **Hit the mall (v):** đến trung tâm thương mại chơi
- **Treat myself to (v):** tự thưởng cho mình
- **Breadwinner (n):** trụ cột gia đình
- **Daily supplies (n):** đồ dùng hàng ngày
- **Brick-and-mortar (adj):** cửa tiệm ngoài đời thật (ngược lại với online)



# CHỦ ĐỀ 34: HANDWRITING

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Do you usually write by hand?**

Not really anymore. These days I find myself typing a lot on computers and **texting** on my phone, so I rarely use paper and a pen anymore. That said, I still have to **jot down** notes in class because laptops are not allowed. I think **it's a pain**, really.



*I still have to **jot down** notes in class because laptops are not allowed.*

**Q2: Do you think handwriting will be replaced by computers?**

Well, you know, **in this day and age**, modern technologies have largely **marginalized** handwriting, and you don't see people writing by hand as much as they did in the past. However, I still think some things need to be handwritten. For example, you should always **handwrite** a wedding invitation to show respect to the guests.

**Q3: Is it still necessary to keep handwriting?**

Definitely. I think it's important to teach young kids to **handwrite**. I think



handwriting exercises really **do wonders** for their cognitive development. For example, my brother who has really beautiful handwriting is a brilliant kid.

**Q4: What impression does a person's handwriting have on other people?**

I think in Vietnam handwriting can **speak volumes** about somebody's personality. For example, if you have **neat handwriting**, people tend to think that you are a **good-hearted person**. On the other hand, if you writing is **unintelligible**, they may think badly of you. It's quite an **antiquated** way of thinking, I guess.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **text (v)**: nhắn tin
- **jot down (v)**: viết ngoáy
- **It's a pain (idiom)**: Đó là một việc rất phiền
- **in this day and age**: vào thời buổi ngày nay
- **marginalize (v)**: làm cho kém quan trọng hơn
- **do wonders for something (v)**: có lợi cho cái gì đó
- **speak volumes about somebody (v)**: nói nhiều điều về ai đó
- **neat handwriting (n)**: chữ viết gọn gàng, dễ đọc
- **good-hearted (adj)**: tốt bụng
- **unintelligible (adj)**: khó đọc
- **antiquated (adj)**: lỗi thời, cổ hủ

### PRO TIPS



Khi giám khảo hỏi các câu hỏi Yes/ No Questions, các bạn không nhất thiết phải trả lời bắt đầu bằng "Yes" hoặc "No". Các cách trả lời khác nghe tự nhiên hơn như:

- Definitely
- Why not?
- Not really
- I'm not so sure about that

TOPIC 39:  
JEWELLRY

## CHỦ ĐỀ 35: JEWELLERY

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like jewellery?**

Well, jewellery is kind of a **feminine thing**. You know, ladies love to wear lots of **bling** as a way of **lending some visual interest to** their outfit. As a man though, I'm not really into jewellery.



*On **payday**, I usually **hit the mall** and **treat myself to something nice**.*

**Q2: What jewellery do you have?**

Well, as I was saying I'm not a big fan of jewellery, but I guess a piece of jewellery that I do own is a pair of **cufflinks**. I usually wear it on my shirt cuffs to formal events when I want to look a bit **fancy** and dressed up.

**Q3: What do people do to protect their jewellery?**

Well, most people would put their bracelets, necklaces and other pieces of jewellery in a jewellery box. Some people do **go an extra mile** and buy a **safe** just to store their jewellery. I guess it makes sense, because some items can **cost a fortune**, like a diamond **pendant**, for example.



Every now and then, I still go to a **brick-and-mortar** store.

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **A feminine thing:** một việc nữ tính
- **Bling (n):** đồ lấp lánh
- **Lending some visual interest to sth (v):** làm cái gì đó trông thú vị hơn
- **Cufflinks (n):** măng sét áo sơ mi (đeo ở cổ tay áo)
- **Fancy (adj):** sang chảnh
- **Go an extra mile (v):** làm nhiều hơn mức cần thiết
- **Safe (n):** cái két
- **Cost a fortune (v):** tốn nhiều tiền
- **Pendant (n):** dây đeo cổ (có đá quý)
- **Offerings (n):** sản phẩm một công ty bày bán/ cung cấp
- **a must (n):** một thứ phải làm
- **Flatter my body (v):** tôn dáng



TOPIC 36:  
SHOES

## CHỦ ĐỀ 36: SHOES

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like shoes?**

To be honest, I'm not much of a **shoe enthusiast**. Some of my friends are crazy about shoes, though. They love to read about footwear from books, blogs, etc.

**Q2: Are people willing to buy expensive shoes?**

I think so, yeah. Some people are really loaded and willing to splurge on nice shoes. But at the same time, there are those who are quite frugal like myself who would typically (I often) **shy away from** the big brands because of their **stratospheric prices**.



*I'm not much of a **shoe enthusiast**.*

**Q3. Which do you prefer, comfortable shoes or fashionable ones?**

I definitely value comfort over looks. I mean, I do a lot of walking, and wearing shoes that are too **snug**, for example, would **blister** my feet. So I often wear really **comfy** shoes like sneakers for example.

**Q4: Do you buy shoes from online shops?**

From time to time, yes. But I always try to go to a **brick-and-mortar** store and try on the shoes in person. I mean, my feet are pretty weird, so I might wear different sizes for different brands.



*(I often) shy away from the big brands because of their stratospheric prices.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **shoe enthusiast (n):** người đam mê giày
- **loaded (adj):** lăm tiền
- **splurge on (v):** vung tiền vào cái gì
- **frugal (adj):** tiết kiệm, thắt bóp
- **shy away from (v):** tránh cái gì đó
- **stratospheric prices (n):** giá trên trời
- **snug (adj):** bó sát, chật
- **blister (v):** sưng/ làm bị sưng
- **comfy (adj) = comfortable**
- **a brick-and-mortar store:** cửa hàng ngoài đời (đối lập với cửa hàng online)

**PRO TIPS**

Tiền nong là một chủ đề hữu dụng, nên thành thạo. Đa phần các topic khó đều có thể "đá" về tiền nong. Ví dụ:

- Are people willing to buy **expensive** shoes?
- Các từ vựng về tiền:
  - + loaded
  - + splurge on
  - + frugal
  - + stratospheric prices

TOPIC 37:  
FRUITS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 37: FRUITS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you usually eat fruit and vegetables every day?**

Absolutely. Fruits and **veggies** are an **indispensable** part of my diet. I always carry a bag of dried fruits to **snack on** when I've got the **munchies**, and for lunch I usually opt for some kind of salad. It's quite a healthy eating habit I'd say.



*Fruits and **veggies** are an **indispensable** part of my diet.*

**Q2: What kind of fruit do you enjoy the most?**

I gotta say mango is my **all-time favorite**. **Ripe** mangos are so sweet and soft; they practically **melt in your mouth!** And you can do a bunch of things with mangos too. You know, you can eat them, you can **juice** them, and **unripe** mangos make for a **mean** salad.

**Q3: Did you enjoy the same type of fruit when you were a child?**

I guess when I was a child I tended to prefer fruits that are sweet, soft with as few **seeds** as possible, so you



know things like mangos, bananas and pomelo. I also loved, and still do, **smoothies** and **fruity** drinks.

**Q4: Do you prefer to eat fruit or vegetables?**

Mhmm, **I don't really have a preference**, but I guess fruit is easier to eat. Even the more **citric** fruits like oranges and lemons are pretty easy

to eat. Some vegetables can be quite hard to eat as they have a bitter and **earthy** taste.



*You can eat them, you can **juice** them, and **unripe** mangos make for a **mean** salad.*

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Veggies (n):** rau củ
- **Indispensable (adj):** không thể thiếu
- **Snack on sth (v):** ăn nhẹ
- **I've got the munchies:** đói bụng
- **All-time favorite (n):** cái từ trước đến nay lúc nào cũng thích
- **Ripe (adj):** chín (quả)
- **Melt in your mouth:** tan chảy trong miệng
- **Unripe (adj):** chưa chín, xanh (quả)
- **Mean (adj):** rất tốt, rất ngon
- **Seed (n):** hạt
- **Smoothie (n):** sinh tố
- **Fruity (adj):** có vị hoa quả
- **I don't really have a preference:** chả thích cái nào hơn cái nào
- **Citric (adj):** có vị chua chua

TOPIC 38:  
DREAMS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 38: DREAMS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you remember your dream when you wake up?**

No, not really. I mean, when I wake up, I often **have no recollection** of what happened in my dreams. I just remember **disconnected fragments** of the dream which **don't really make any sense**.

**Q2: Do you like hearing others' dreams?**

Yes, I guess. A lot of people are **haunted** by their dream, and they really just need someone to talk to about it. Some are **scared out of their mind** if they see nightmares.



*I often **have no recollection** of what happened in my dreams.*

**Q3: Do you think dreams will affect life?**

Yeah, to a certain extent, I think. Some people are really affected by what they see in their dreams. If they see death or suffering, for example, they may interpret it as **an omen**, and they often take some precautions like being extra careful on the road. So yeah, I guess dreams do influence our behaviors.

**Q3: Do you want to learn more about dreams?**

Well, it's not an area that I take a keen interest in, so I gotta say no. I'm sure dreams can reveal truly fascinating things about our brain and our cognition, but to be honest, I'm more of an art person, so I prefer to learn about music or culture rather than dreams.



**Some are scared out of their mind if they see nightmares.**

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **have no recollection:** không còn ký ức gì
- **disconnected fragments (n):** các mảnh ghép rời rạc
- **do not make sense (v):** không có ý nghĩa gì
- **be haunted by:** bị ám ảnh bởi cái gì
- **scared out of their mind:** sợ chết khiếp
- **an omen (n):** điềm xấu

**PRO TIPS**

Với những câu hỏi về các topic lạ, các bạn có thể trả lời thật là mình không có hứng thú, và nói sang các topic khác.

VD:

- *Do you want to learn more about dreams?*
- *Well, it's not an area I take a keen interest in. I'm more of an art person, so I prefer to learn about music or culture rather than dreams.*



TOPIC 39:  
FLOWERS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 39: FLOWERS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you love flowers?**

Well, flowers are kind of a **feminine thing**, so I don't really like them. My mom is very fond of them, though. **Every now and then**, my mom goes to the market to buy fresh cut flowers and arrange them in a vase in our living room.



***A bouquet of flowers can make any girl's day.***

**Q2: Do you think flowers are important?**

I guess. It is kind of the gift of choice on special occasions, especially for the ladies; **a bouquet of flowers** on Valentine's Day, for example, **can make any girl's day** I also think flowers are a wonderfully useful decorative item. A flower vase can be a nice touch to a living room or a bedroom.

**Q3: What are the occasions when people give or receive flowers?**

Well in Vietnam, people give flowers on a number of different occasions

So for example, on Teacher's day, students often give their teachers a bouquet or a basket of flowers as a **token of** appreciation and gratitude. Valentine's Day is another occasion when you can also see **an abundance of** florists selling flower arrangements on the streets of Hanoi. It is a very popular gift.

**Q4: Do flowers have a special meaning in your culture?**

Yeah I think so. For example, lotus is considered Vietnam's national

flower. It is such a beautiful flower, and it symbolises the purity and innocence. Lotus is also the logo of the biggest commercial airline in Vietnam, Vietnam Airlines. You can spot a giant lotus on every single one of their aircrafts.



*you can also see **an abundance of** florists selling flower arrangements on the streets of Hanoi.*

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **a feminine thing (n):** một thứ nữ tính
- **every now and then:** thi thoảng
- **a bouquet of flowers (n):** một bó hoa
- **make somebody's day (v):** làm ai đó vui
- **a token of (n):** một biểu tượng cho cái gì đó
- **an abundance of:** rất nhiều
- **Earthy (adj):** có mùi vị giống đất, thường để miêu tả các sản phẩm được trồng

TOPIC 40:  
CHOCOLATE

# CHỦ ĐỀ 40: CHOCOLATE

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: What's your favorite flavor?**

Mhmm, I gotta go with dark chocolate. I find milk chocolate too **rich** for my taste. By contrast, the dark variety has a nice balance between richness and bitterness.

**Q2: How often do you eat chocolate?**

Not too often, as you can probably guess. Chocolate is not really a staple food. It's (Chocolate is) kind of **a treat** on special occasions. For example, a box of chocolate truffles makes for a wonderful present on Valentine's Day.

**Q3: Is chocolate popular in your country?**

Absolutely. People in Vietnam are crazy about chocolate and **sugary products** in general. In supermarkets, you can find thousands of brands selling **chocolate bars**.



*I find milk chocolate too **rich** for my taste*





*Chocolate is kind of a **treat** on special occasions*



**Q4: Do you think people use chocolate differently now than in the past?**

Well, I guess we do consume chocolate in vastly different ways compared to the past. I mean, before, we just ate them, but nowadays, chocolate is **incorporated into** a number of foods and drinks. For example, **chocolatey** desserts or **chocolate-flavored** bubble tea are **all the rage** in Vietnam right now.

### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **rich (adj):** ngậy
- **a staple food (n):** đồ ăn cơ bản, phổ biến
- **a treat (n):** một đồ hiếm khi ăn/ dùng vì đắt
- **sugary products (n):** đồ ăn/ uống có đường
- **chocolate bars (n):** thanh sô cô la
- **be incorporated into:** kết hợp vào gì đó
- **chocolatey (adj):** có vị hoặc mùi sô cô la
- **chocolate-flavored (adj):** có vị sô cô la
- **all the rage (idiom):** phổ biến, hot

### PRO TIPS



Một phương pháp hữu hiệu để vừa ghi điểm Fluency, vừa ghi điểm Pronunciation là phát âm thật rõ âm '-ed' ở cuối. Khi nói nhanh thì rất khó phát âm rõ 'ed', nên bạn cần "chậm lại một chút" và bật thật rõ.

Quy tắc phát âm 'ed':

- /id/ với những ending sound 't' hoặc 'd'
- /t/ với những ending sound p, k, h, gh, sh, ch, ss, c và x
- /d/ với những ending sound l, n, r, g, v, s, z, và m.

\*\*\*Extra pro tip: bạn không cần suy nghĩ quá về ending sound, vì việc này có thể khiến bạn nói chậm hơn. Thay vào đó các bạn cứ nghĩ:

- nói /id/ với các âm 't' và 'd'
- nói /t/ với các âm khác. Nếu các bạn đọc đầy đủ âm, nó sẽ tự ra /t/ hoặc /d/



# EXERCISES



PHẦN BÀI TẬP (40 CHỦ ĐỀ)

“ *There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.*

- Colin Powell

# Topic 01: Study

## Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words

1. fourth-year student
2. everyday
3. too difficult/ too much to handle
4. have a natural talent for
5. excellent
6. study something

## Exercise 2 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. ...one of the top schools in VN... → | a) ... all the rooms are well-furnished and equipped with the most cutting-edge technologies          |
| 2. ...overwhelming workload... →        | b) ... I am always up to my ears in deadlines and assignments. I mean, I barely have time to breathe! |
| 3. ...exams are a piece of cake... →    | c) ... You need to score really high on the placement test in order to be accepted                    |
| 4. ...facilities are top-notch... →     | d) ... I didn't attend my tutorials and I still managed to pass all of them                           |

## Exercise 3 - How do you explain the following names

1. Phở bò, which is ...
2. FPT, which is ...
3. Harvard, which is ...
4. Danang, which is ...

# Topic 02: Work

## Exercise 1 - Multiple Choice Questions

- Accountancy is a very demanding \_\_\_\_\_ of work.
  - row
  - way
  - column
  - line
- Man, I can barely breathe these days! My schedule is just so \_\_\_\_\_!
  - incredible
  - hectic
  - bustling
  - lucrative
- I just got paid today, so maybe I'll \_\_\_\_\_ myself to something nice, maybe dinner at a posh restaurant.
  - buy
  - go
  - take
  - treat
- I'm feeling peckish, so do you want to grab a \_\_\_\_\_ to eat?
  - food
  - dish
  - bite
  - cuisine
- Living costs in cities are prohibitive, so a lot of people struggle to \_\_\_\_\_ their bills.
  - cover
  - shelter
  - hide
  - guard



**Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks**

1. These days I've just been drowning in work, so I haven't got to spend much \_\_\_\_\_ time with my family.
2. Whenever I'm feeling flush, I often hit the mall and \_\_\_\_\_ on nice clothes.
3. After work, most people usually \_\_\_\_\_ the bar just to grab a drink and unwind.
4. He has a high-flying startup and is earning a very \_\_\_\_\_ income.
5. When is \_\_\_\_\_? I am in dire need of some cash right now.

# Topic 03: Robots

**Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words**

1. I just bought a robotic vacuum cleaner, and so far it's been wonderful. Cleaning is just a difficult task to me.
2. I'm perfectly comfortable with a robotic driver driving me around.
3. Machines in the factory have largely reduced the importance of human workers.
4. I'm a big fan of robots so I love reading specialised newspapers about robotics engineering.
5. Automation can now replace humans to perform tasks that previously required a lot of human labor.

**Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks**

1. Some people do not see the point of \_\_\_\_\_ to a newspaper. They'd rather read news online for free.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ engineering is a field of growing interest.
3. Human doctors are more reliable than robots when it comes to \_\_\_\_\_ surgeries.
4. I use a navigation app on my phone, but I still prefer to drive \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_-made products always look and feel better, but \_\_\_\_\_-made ones are cheaper.

**Exercise 3 - Choose the correct word**

1. I used to always get lost, but since I downloaded this navigation app, it's just been a real **life-saver/ consumer**.
2. Without breakthroughs like smartphones and electronic mails, communication would be a real **hustle/ hassle**.
3. Online newspaper has largely **minimized/ marginalized** printed newspaper.
4. I think robotics **engineering/ engineer** is a very burgeoning industry and a career in robotics certainly seems promising.

# Topic 04: Celebrities

**Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words**

1. famous
2. copy
3. make a lot of money
4. bad reputation
5. big fan

**Exercise 2 - Choose the correct word**

1. Hoai Linh makes a killing from **supporting / endorsing** Meizan cooking oil.
2. Adele's song 'Hello' was such a hit that her latest album is selling like hot **cupcakes/ cakes**.
3. Ho Ngoc Ha was **starred/ featured** on the cover of the latest issue of 'Health & Family' magazine.
4. Tom Cruise **stars/ features** in all the Mission Impossible movies, and that's probably why the franchise is so popular.

**Exercise 3 - Multiple choice questions**

1. Being in the \_\_\_\_\_ sure has a lot of perks. I mean you make a killing and get to stay in luxury properties.  
A. light

- B. highlight  
C. lemonlight  
D. limelight
2. Fans tend to \_\_\_\_\_ their idols. I mean, they really keep up with what their favorite celebrities are wearing.
- A. intimidate  
B. imitate  
C. immediate  
D. invigorate
3. I don't get why so many people love to \_\_\_\_\_ into other people's lives. It's so annoying.
- A. cry  
B. dry  
C. pry  
D. try

## Topic 05: Leisure Time

### Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words

1. Everybody should have his or her own hobbies.
2. I haven't got a clue how to dance but in the future I would love to try it.
3. Most people relax after work by watching TV, but I prefer to go for some drinks.
4. Life nowadays is just so busy; we don't get to spend that much quality time with our friends and family anymore.
5. Too much eating can cause you a lot of dietary problems.

### Exercise 2 - Choose the correct word

1. Football is my favorite **recreational/ recreative** activity.
2. Spending too much time playing video games definitely is going to have a **reverse/ adverse** effect on your eyesight.
3. Most movie lovers will agree that Titanic is truly a **classical/ classic**.
4. Last week I went to my friend's party and I had an absolute **blast/ fart** there.

**Exercise 3 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description**

1. My favorite leisure pursuit is reading...→

a) ... most people don't get to spend much quality time with their family anymore

2. I often get carried away when I read...→

b) ... because from what I've seen ... on TV, it looks like fun.

3. Maybe in the future I'll have a crack at diving...→

c) ... and the one I'm on at the moment is The Hunger Games

4. Life today is so incredibly hectic... →

d) ... and neglect the tasks that I have to do

# Topic 06: Patience

**Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks**

1. Patience is a \_\_\_\_\_, but unfortunately a lot of people nowadays lack this quality.
2. In doing business, knowing how to wait until the \_\_\_\_\_ is right is of critical importance.
3. It requires a lot of patience to queue in supermarkets. I mean, there are just so many people \_\_\_\_\_ in line.
4. My father is a very patient man. If I do something that displeases him, he would never \_\_\_\_\_ me out or take me to the woodshed or something like that.
5. In order to succeed in life, sometimes you have to be willing to get your hands \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 2 - Chọn 1 trong 2 từ**

1. I think patience is a **rareness/ rarity** nowadays, since life is becoming increasingly fast-paced.
2. An example of a patient person would be Don Corleone in The Godfather. I mean, the man seems like he always manages to keep his **hot/ cool**, no matter how much other people try to upset him.



3. A patient person should be willing to oversee/ overlook minor mistakes.
4. It's hard to maintain your composure/ composition when driving in Hanoi.

**Exercise 3 - Upgrade the following words**

1. shout at somebody
2. forgive
3. do the work necessary to get something done
4. a good quality
5. remain calm

# Topic 07: Toy

**Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

spoiled      pester      track      cognitive      pampering

1. I've been giving my dog a lot of treats recently. Do you think I am \_\_\_\_\_ him too much?
2. When I play video games, I always lose \_\_\_\_\_ of time and end up playing too much.
3. Educational toys can do wonders for a child's \_\_\_\_\_ development.
4. If parents always accommodate children's requests, they will \_\_\_\_\_ for new things all the time.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ children are generally very ill-mannered.

**Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks**

1. I love Power Rangers, so as a kid I used to had a lot of Power Ranger action \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I don't think parents should \_\_\_\_\_ their children too much, lest they become unable to lead an independent lifestyle when they become grown-ups.
3. I think excessive gaming can definitely be \_\_\_\_\_ to the development of small kids.
4. Overindulging children can turn them into \_\_\_\_\_ brats.

**Exercise 3 - Choose the correct word**

1. My parents were sort of over-**indulgent/ pampering** when I was a kid so they bought me a boat load of toys.
2. Children who were born with a silver spoon in their mouth tend to **pester/ paster** their parents and are unwilling to do do hard work.
3. Toys can be a huge **distractor/ distraction** for kids, so you shouldn't let yours play with them too much.
4. Lego is an example of how toys can dramatically boost kids' **cognitive/ cognition** development.

# Topic 08: Weather

**Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

distinct      sweltering      errands      slippery      dip

1. Living in Hanoi, we're fortunate enough to enjoy four \_\_\_\_\_ seasons.
2. In the winter, the temperatures can really \_\_\_\_\_, especially at night, so it's always wise to bundle up.
3. Going to the pool is the best way to shelter from the \_\_\_\_\_ heat of summer.
4. After it rains, the roads always get so \_\_\_\_\_ so it's not safe to drive.
5. "Where are you heading?" "Oh I'm just going to run some \_\_\_\_\_ real quick."

**Exercise 2 - Multiple choice questions**

1. I used to live in Nebraska, where the weather gets really freezing in the colder months, and I just couldn't stand the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. hills  
B. chill  
C. thrill  
D. bill

2. It's \_\_\_\_\_ outside, so you should wait until the rain stops.
- A. pouring
  - B. dropping
  - C. slipping
  - D. falling
3. Vietnam is a \_\_\_\_\_ country, so precipitation is high year round.
- A. tropical
  - B. arid
  - C. polar
  - D. continental

### Exercise 3 - Choose the correct word

1. I am kind of a cold weather **human/ person** so I love winters.
2. It's really chucking it down outside, but I have to leave. I'd probably be **soaped/ soaked** by the time I get home though.
3. Winters in Sweden can be brutal, so you gotta **bundle/ hurdle** up whenever you go out.
4. I love the **crispy/ crisp** air up in the mountains, especially in the morning. It just feels so refreshing.

## Topic 09: Housework

### Exercise 1 - Multiple choice questions

1. Conventional wisdom \_\_\_\_\_ that learning to do housework can help you become independent.
  - A. commands
  - B. dictates
  - C. requires
  - D. regulates
2. I have an incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ schedule, so my wife is the one that's in charge of housework.
  - A. hectic
  - B. frantic

C. gigantic

D. comic

3. Cooking is kind of my forte, so I try to give my parents a \_\_\_\_\_ by preparing dinner.

A. foot

B. limb

C. hand

D. head

### **Exercise 2 - Short-answer**

**Question: Do you do housework at home?**

*Answer: Absolutely. I have to do chores at home.*

Expand the answer in the following ways.

- benefit

- popularity

- example

### **Exercise 3 - Upgrade the following words**

- busy

- busy schedule

- housework

- benefit something

- brain development



# Topic 10: Rain

## Exercise 1 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

1. Vietnam is a tropical country... →

a. ... so naturally precipitation is quite high year round, especially in the South.

2. Whenever there's a torrential rain in Hanoi... →

b. ...the streets would get clogged.

3. During rush hours, it's virtually impossible to move around... →

c. ...some people may dislike the intermitted showers and drizzles around this time, but I love it.

4. Spring is my favorite season... →

d. ...since gridlock is pretty common.

## Exercise 2 - Short-answer

Expand the following answer

**Question: Does it rain much in Vietnam?**

*Answer: Well, Vietnam is a tropical country so rainfall, as you would expect, is quite high...*

→ (example of a region where it rains more than the others)

→ (disadvantages of rain)

→ (discuss the opposite - talk about a country where it doesn't rain much)

## Exercise 3 - Upgrade the following words

1. the amount of rain

2. dirty

3. you cannot predict

4. serious traffic jam

5. flooded

# Topic 11: Television

## Exercise 1 - Short-answer

1. I love watching TV. (example of a show)
2. I am a big fan of reading. (example of a book)
3. I am quite into music. (example of a performer)

## Exercise 2 - Choose the correct word

1. On holidays, they show a lot of **recaps/ reruns** on TV of popular shows.
2. I feel like by watching quiz shows, I can really **widen/ broaden** my horizons and learn something new about various topics.
3. 'The Voice' has a very young **viewership/ viewers**.
4. 'Living with the in-laws' is all the **fury/ rage** at the moment.
5. In the past, most people didn't have access to **cable/ capable** TV

## Exercise 3 - Multiple choice questions

1. I missed the airing of *Táo Quân* on the 30th, but I can always watch the \_\_\_\_\_ later.
  - A. rerun
  - B. rewatch
  - C. reepisode
  - D. reair
2. I am sort of a couch potato, so I can sit in front of the \_\_\_\_\_ for hours on end.
  - A. tell
  - B. tella
  - C. telly
  - D. tellason
3. *Người Phán Xử* is all the rage right now. I mean the show's got really high \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. readership
  - B. membership
  - C. ownership
  - D. viewership

# Topic 12: Holidays

## Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

lounge      ears      extended      merrier of      choice

1. On Independence Day, I often just \_\_\_\_\_ about at home and maybe put something on the grill if I'm feeling up to it.
2. I cannot imagine myself travelling alone. I always prefer to have some company, because you know, the more the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Gosh! I've just been up to my \_\_\_\_\_ in work lately; there's barely anytime to breathe. I think a vacation is in order.
4. My drink \_\_\_\_\_ is Martini. It is a bit smoother than Scotch, and it's got a bit more class than just a Gin and Tonic.
5. I've been working hard all year, and the company just gave me a well-deserved \_\_\_\_\_ holiday. Bali, here I come!

## Exercise 2 - Choose the correct word

1. I like to go to the beach because it's nice and **isolated/ secluded**.
2. Whenever I travel, I always prefer some **company/ companies** because it's much more fun.
3. I get tired of urban life sometimes, and that's when I go on a vacation just to **get away from it all/ walk away from it all**.
4. Big cities are my **destination of choice/ destination of selection**. I love exploring the different neighborhoods of a city as well as its food culture.

## Exercise 3 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

1. Hanoi has an amazing food culture ... →

2. Work has been so hectic lately... →

a. ...because I can split the costs with them and save a lot of money on accommodation, transport and meals.

b. ...so maybe I'll just lounge about the house, maybe have some friends over and cook a little bit.

3. I have a day off tomorrow... →

c. ....tourists can feast on all kinds of delicious eats from street vendors all across the city.

4. I love travelling with a large group of friends... →

d. ...I think I need to just get away from it all to some secluded beach resort.

## Topic 13: Dancing

### Exercise 1 - Multiple choice questions

- Dancing is not exactly my \_\_\_\_\_. I mean, I get so embarrassed going to nightclubs because I have no idea how to dance.
  - forty
  - fortee
  - forte
  - fort
- 'So you think you can dance' is a popular TV show \_\_\_\_\_ to contemporary dancing.
  - dedicated
  - managed
  - allocated
  - given
- Hip hop used to be really popular. It really took the world by a \_\_\_\_\_. I mean, every kid wanted to learn how to breakdance and dress like hip hop artists.
  - storm
  - typhoon
  - flood
  - torrential rain
- People nowadays prefer dancing styles that are hip and trendy, so traditional dancing has sort of become \_\_\_\_\_.
  - obese
  - obsolete



- C. opaque
- D. obsessed

**Exercise 2 - Upgrade the following words**

1. exciting
2. strength
3. a popular thing
4. become more popular

**Exercise 3 - Choose the correct word**

1. I haven't got a **clue/ cue** how to dance, but I still love watching other people dance.
2. I think dancesport can be incredibly **electrifying/ energizing**. It's so much fun to watch, and I'm sure actually dancing is a blast, too.
3. I guess EDM is kinda the **in/ inside** thing right now. Everywhere you go, whether it is a bar or a coffee shop, they always play EDM songs.
4. As Vietnamese embrace Western values, traditional ways of life are being viewed as **omelette/ obsolete**.

# Topic 14: Birthdays

**Exercise 1 - Choose the correct word**

1. Breakfast is kind of a big **deal/ stuff** in Vietnam. Vietnamese almost never skip breakfast, and restaurants open when it's bright and early for people to get a quick meal before they head off to work.
2. I think people tend to go overboard with the **snooze/ booze** when they're having fun in the club.
3. My ideal birthday celebration is a candle-lit dinner with my girl. There's a real sense of **coziness/ intimacy** in cooking and dining with your loved ones.
4. For the most part, Vietnamese people love **lavish/ luxury** parties with lots of food and extravagant decorations.

**Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

let down

posh

over

world

blast

1. Last year birthday was such a \_\_\_\_\_. I invited a bunch of friends, and we partied all night long.
2. Do you want to do birthday at home this year? We can have some of our friends \_\_\_\_\_ and throw a nice little party.
3. My dad's children means the \_\_\_\_\_ to him. He'd be willing to give up anything for our happiness.
4. The restaurant we went to last week was quite \_\_\_\_\_. All the dishes looked stunning and tasted delicious, but the bill was racked up quite a bit.
5. I was so stoked the concert, but it turned out to be a major \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 3 - Upgrade the following words**

1. go to the club
2. a disappointment
3. an importing thing
4. organize a party
5. have fun

# Topic 15: Mirror

**Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks**

1. I gotta have coffee every morning. It is sort of my morning \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My workplace has a very strict dress code; so all employees are expected to look \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Mirrors can give people the \_\_\_\_\_ that a space looks bigger than it actually is.
4. I think a cute flower vase can very nicely \_\_\_\_\_ a living room.

**Exercise 2 - Multiple choice questions**

1. I have to look at myself in the mirror every morning before I get out of the house to make sure my clothes are nicely \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. pressed  
B. pressured

- C. pressing  
D. press
2. I have often to make sure that I always look \_\_\_\_\_. My brother, on the other hand, doesn't at all care about his appearance and always looks quite scruffy.
- A. groomed  
B. brided  
C. bridesmaid  
D. groomsman
3. Girls look at themselves in the mirror a lot because they want their make-up to be on \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. angle  
B. dot  
C. line  
D. point

**Exercise 3 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Before every game my team often has some barbecue... → | a) ... all the rooms are well-furnished and equipped with the most cutting-edge technologies          |
| 2. Mirrors can help amplify the space of a room... →      | b) ... I am always up to my ears in deadlines and assignments. I mean, I barely have time to breathe! |
| 3. I work in a professional environment... →              | c) ... You need to score really high on the placement test in order to be accepted                    |
| 4. Some advertisements can be deceptive... →              | d) ... I didn't attend my tutorials and I still managed to pass all of them                           |

# Topic 16: Food

**Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words**

1. Bun Bo Hue is a must-try when you come to the city of Hue. It is an absolutely delicious dish.
2. Rice is a really popular food in Vietnam.

3. 'Tiết canh', or coagulated blood, is a favorite for many, but it is **not my favorite thing**.
4. I **absolutely hate** the smell of shrimp paste. It's awful.
5. On special occasions, I usually go to a **nice** restaurant and treat myself to a nice meal.

### Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

cheap and cheerful    cuisine    spices    broth    staple

1. All around Hanoi, you can find an abundance of food stalls selling street food. One of the \_\_\_\_\_ is Bun Rieu Cua, which is a lip-smacking noodle soup dish.
2. Street food is my go-to lunch because it's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Before cooking the meat, you should marinade it with \_\_\_\_\_ to develop a nice flavor.
4. Thai \_\_\_\_\_ is known for its bold flavors.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Pho can make or break the dish.

### Exercise 3 - Complete the answers using the clues given

- Shrimp paste is not my cup of tea. (smell)  
 Cooking is kind of my forte. (cook quickly)  
 Xôi is my go to breakfast. (cheap)

# Topic 17: Indoor Games

### Exercise 1 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Board games are all the rage in Vietnam right now... →      | a. ...so parents should wean their children off excessive gaming.      |
| 2. My brother has a very athletic build... →                   | b. ...due to all the vigorous sporting activities that he does.        |
| 3. Video games can be very harmful... →                        | c. ...so I look kind of wimpy compared to my peers.                    |
| 4. I didn't do much outdoor activities when I was a child... → | d. ..., they were introduced just recently but have quickly picked up. |



**Exercise 2 - Multiple choice questions**

1. I'm trying to decide where to move. At the moment, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ towards somewhere in the inner-city.
  - A. sucking
  - B. drawing
  - C. gravitating
  - D. gratifying
2. I am a video game addict. I can play on the console for hours on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. end
  - B. finish
  - C. destination
  - D. closing
3. Excessive exposure to a digital screen can definitely be \_\_\_\_\_ to our health, and that's why I tend to avoid technological devices.
  - A. detrimental
  - B. detrimental
  - C. detrimental
  - D. detrimental

**Exercise 3 - Short-answer**

Expand the following answer

**Question: Do you play any indoor games?**

Answer: Well, certainly...

- ➔ (give example of an indoor game?)
- ➔ (benefits of playing inside the house?)
- ➔ (discuss the opposite - other people prefer outside?)

# Topic 18: Plans & Goals

**Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks**

1. Because I've put \_\_\_\_\_ working for so long, I am so out of shape right now.
2. Making a plan is one thing, but actually doing it and staying the \_\_\_\_\_ are a different matter altogether.
3. If you want to stay with your plan, finding an \_\_\_\_\_ partner is a must.

4. Working at a hotel has a lot of \_\_\_\_\_. For one, you get to stay at one of the luxury suites once a year completely free of charge.
5. Man, I am such a \_\_\_\_\_. I can never make up my mind about anything.

**Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

lose      procrastinate      accountable      hectic      sleepy

1. Life is incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ nowadays, so planning your week ahead is a wise thing to do.
2. I've been living in the city all my life, but lately I've been thinking about moving somewhere \_\_\_\_\_ like in the countryside.
3. I am determined to \_\_\_\_\_ some pounds over the next two weeks. Let's get to work!
4. My wife holds me \_\_\_\_\_ for my own fitness plan, so if I skip a workout I have to give her some money.
5. I know it is common to \_\_\_\_\_, but you gotta make a decision this week, lest you blow your shot at this scholarship.

**Exercise 3 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. I'm planning to lose weight ... →                 | a. ...so my ideal kind of place is New York, a city which truly never sleeps. |
| 2. It is difficult to stay the course... →           | b. ...you have to make careful preparations in advance.                       |
| 3. I love the hustle and bustle of metropolises... → | c. ...so over the next week I'll try to cut back on sugar and alcohol.        |
| 4. In order to realise a goal... →                   | d. ...so having an accountability partner to look out for you is necessary.   |

# Topic 18: Swimming

## Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks

1. You know, swimming is kind of my \_\_\_\_\_. I mean, I know all the different strokes and can swim pretty long distances without my muscles getting sore.
2. In the summer, it's great to go for a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Some people struggle to get the \_\_\_\_\_ of the basics in swimming.
4. Going swimming in fitness suites can be a tad pricey, but it's so worth it. The water is always \_\_\_\_\_ clear, unlike public swimming pool where the water can be a bit muddy.
5. Hitting the pool is a good way to stay cool in this \_\_\_\_\_ heat.

## Exercise 2 - Short-answer

### Question: Do you like swimming?

Expand the answer in the following ways:

- benefit
- popularity
- talk about the past

## Exercise 3 - Multiple choice questions

1. The butterfly stroke is pretty \_\_\_\_\_, but once you get the hang of it, it's a lot of fun!
  - A. trick
  - B. tricky
  - C. trickster
  - D. trick or treat
2. My brother is pretty athletic and really has a \_\_\_\_\_ for sports. I mean, difficult things to learn like swimming or golf seem to come naturally for him.
  - A. ability
  - B. excellence
  - C. knack
  - D. capacity
3. I think the trickiest bit when it comes to swimming is how to stay \_\_\_\_\_. I always struggle with that.
  - A. float

- B. afloat
- C. floaty
- D. floated

# Topic 20: Marriage

## Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words

- break up
- high costs
- pay
- a common thing
- get married

## Exercise 2 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Vietnamese people love extravagant wedding parties... → | a) ...because living with someone you do not love for the rest of your life is miserable.                              |
| 2. My father is the one who brings home the bacon... →     | b) ...so most young couples decide to delay child-bearing and rearing.   |
| 3. Having a kid creates a huge financial burden... →       | c) ...so parents tend to lash out on their children's wedding in order to show the guests the measure of their wealth. |
| 4. I'll not get married until I meet my soul mate... →     | d) ...but my mom is charge of finances because she's a much wiser shopper.   |

## Exercise 3 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

ends      championed      duties      spouse      gap

1. People who delay child-bearing and rearing tend to have a generation \_\_\_\_\_ with their kids.
2. Often times both spouses have to work in order to make \_\_\_\_\_ meet.
3. It is best to be honest about everything with your \_\_\_\_\_ to prevent any rifts in the marriage.





4. When you have kids, you also have parental \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. As gender equality is \_\_\_\_\_ in most societies, more women are participating in the workforce and men are not the only ones who bring home the bacon.

## Topic 21: Music

### Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

mainstream      rage      stream      catchy      prominent

1. Dam Vinh Hung is probably the most \_\_\_\_\_ artist in the entertainment industry in Vietnam.
2. I guess EDM is all the \_\_\_\_\_ right now. You can hear this kind of music being played in all sorts of nightclubs and even cafes.
3. Because there're lots of websites hosting pirated movies in Vietnam, most people often just \_\_\_\_\_ the latest movies instead of going to the cinema.
4. I've always found Pop music too \_\_\_\_\_. I prefer something a bit more sophisticated like Jazz. Pop songs just kind of sound the same to me.
5. I am a huge fan of Coldplay. Their music is quite \_\_\_\_\_ without bordering on being boring.

### Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks

1. I just picked up the guitar a few months ago, so I'm still a \_\_\_\_\_. I mean, I can strum and know most basic chords, but soloing is still very challenging for me.
2. Leonardo Da Vinci was a painting \_\_\_\_\_. He produced many masterpieces and still has a huge influence on the new generation of artists.
3. Listening to music is a good way to \_\_\_\_\_ after work. When I get home after work, I usually put on my favorite tune, grab a nice, cold drink and just relax.
4. Instrumental music is my favorite \_\_\_\_\_ of music.
5. I always listen to music when I'm on the \_\_\_\_\_. It really makes my commutes less boring.

### Exercise 3 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description



1. Soo Bin Hoang Son is a young gun in the Vietnamese music scene... →

a) ... all the rooms are well-furnished and equipped with the most cutting-edge technologies

2. EDM is currently quite mainstream... →

b) ... I am always up to my ears in deadlines and assignments. I mean, I barely have time to breathe!

3. I'm only a newbie on the piano... →

c) ... You need to score really high on the placement test in order to be accepted

4. Vietnamese people are not used to paying for music... →

d) ... I didn't attend my tutorials and I still managed to pass all of them

## Topic 21: Watches

### Exercise 1 - Choose the correct word

1. His dad just bought him a brand new Mercedes and he can't stop **nagging/ bragging** about it.
2. Daniel Wellington's **minimum/ minimalistic** design is one of their selling points.
3. Expensive watches are considered a **symbol/ sign** of status in many societies.
4. Audemars Piguet is a Swiss watch manufacturer that has been making high-end **timebites/ timepieces**.

### Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

project      priced      dial      interest      straps

1. I love Timex. Their watches have changeable \_\_\_\_\_ so you can always swap them out if you find a new one that you like.
2. I think as far as high-end watches are concerned, Omega is the best bang for your buck. I mean their offerings are very reasonably \_\_\_\_\_ and would last you a lifetime.
3. When you work in a professional working environment, your dress should \_\_\_\_\_ confidence and competence.
4. I don't care for flashy watches; I prefer ones with a simple, minimalistic \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I think watches are one of the best ways to lend some visual \_\_\_\_\_ to your outfit without looking contrived.



**Exercise 3 - Upgrade the following words**

1. luxury
2. fair price
3. talk proudly about something you own
4. watch
5. simple

# Topic 23: Bags

**Exercise 1 - Multiple choice questions**

1. I'm a bag addict, so whenever my favorite brands come out with a new collection, I can't \_\_\_\_\_ the urge to add some new ones to my collection.
  - A. resist
  - B. reside
  - C. retain
  - D. restrain
2. Bags are considered a \_\_\_\_\_ thing, so men used to not care so much about them. That's started to change though; we're seeing more males taking an interest in bags.
  - A. masculine
  - B. feminine
  - C. male
  - D. female
3. Coach is opening up a new store in Hanoi, so bag lovers are going \_\_\_\_\_ about it.
  - A. crazily
  - B. craze
  - C. crazy
  - D. craziness

**Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

flush      boat      versatile      splurge      all-purpose

1. I didn't make any major purchases last month, so right now I'm feeling quite \_\_\_\_\_. I think I'm going to hit the mall.





2. Adidas Stan Smith is one of the most enduring and \_\_\_\_\_ designs. I mean, you can pair a pair of Stan Smiths with practically anything in your wardrobe.
3. When people travel overseas, they tend to \_\_\_\_\_ on a lot of things that they wouldn't normally do.
4. I paid a \_\_\_\_\_ load of money for that clutch and now I'm starting to regret the purchase. I could have spent the money on something that offers a better bang for the buck.
5. I am a frugal shopper, so I tend to have only one \_\_\_\_\_ bag that can do a lot of things.

### Exercise 3 - Short-answer

**Question:** *What types of bags do you like?*

*Answer:* *I gotta say my all-time favorite is the backpack.*

Expand the answer in the following ways:

- example (of a brand)
- benefits of a backpack
- popularity of backpacks in Vietnam

## Topic 24: Sunshine

### Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

basking      sweltering      economical      secluded      blast

1. I went clubbing last night at The Bank, and I had an absolute \_\_\_\_\_ with my friends just dancing and partying until morning.
2. For students, cooking at home is recommended because it's infinitely more \_\_\_\_\_ than store-bought meals or eating out.
3. You should try to make a trip to Bali. The weather is fantastic, and you can spend all day at the beach just \_\_\_\_\_ in the sun.
4. Do Son is a nice and \_\_\_\_\_ beach located just a 30 minute drive away from the city center of Hai Phong.
5. Summer in Hanoi can be \_\_\_\_\_, and it's absolutely torturous to be inside without AC.

### Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks





2. Danang is a \_\_\_\_\_ city located in Central Vietnam. The city is known for its fresh seafood thanks to its close proximity to the sea.
3. When it's sunny out, I love going for a \_\_\_\_\_ at the pool.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ energy can be used to provide electricity for the house.
5. I am currently \_\_\_\_\_ (living) in a beautiful estate just 10 minutes outside the city limits.

### Exercise 3 - Multiple choice questions

1. In many parts of California, using solar power is the norm. I think it is a very \_\_\_\_\_ practice.
  - A. economic
  - B. saving
  - C. economical
  - D. save money
2. Southern Vietnam is sunny year-\_\_\_\_\_, so it's always a good destination for a vacation.
  - A. in
  - B. out
  - C. around
  - D. round
3. On days like these, there's nothing I'd rather do more than just putting on some sunscreen, lying poolside and \_\_\_\_\_ in the sun.
  - A. bathing
  - B. basking
  - C. bashing
  - D. barging

## Topic 25: Fashion

### Exercise 1 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

1. I work in a professional environment... →  
a) ...so I tend not to fuss over what to wear each day.
2. I love shopping at thrift stores... →  
b) ...because sometimes you can score some nice clothes for not a lot of money.



3. The Old Quarter can be quite sedate on weekdays ... →

c) ... so I always do my best to look sharp.

4. I am a rather simple person... →

d) ... when there're not much traffic and activities going on.

### Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks

1. Payday is when I feel kind of \_\_\_\_\_ and often cannot resist the urge to hit the mall and treat myself to some nice clothes.
2. You should wait for sales to shop for clothes without breaking the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I work in a very professional environment where punctuality is the \_\_\_\_\_. I mean everybody is on time, and showing up late at work or missing deadlines are generally frowned upon.
4. I've owned these shoes for a while now, so they are pretty \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exercise 3 - Multiple choice questions

1. On payday, people often go out and \_\_\_\_\_ on a nice meal.  
A. spend  
B. lose  
C. plunge  
D. splurge
2. My mother always keeps an eye out for good sales when she can \_\_\_\_\_ some great deals.  
A. mark  
B. score  
C. grade  
D. evaluate
3. Independent learning is kind of the \_\_\_\_\_ in college now, so students are kind of expected to do a lot of reading before coming to class.  
A. thing  
B. in-thing  
C. normal  
D. norm

# Topic 26: Places near water

## Exercise 1 - Multiple choice questions

1. People sometimes go to the beach just to get away from the \_\_\_\_\_ of city life.
  - A. tried and true
  - B. hustle and bustle
  - C. oil and water
  - D. sticks and stones
2. On the milder days of summer, I like to hit the pool and just \_\_\_\_\_ in the sun.
  - A. stay
  - B. stand
  - C. bath
  - D. bask
3. You should keep a close \_\_\_\_\_ on small children lest they wander off and get lost.
  - A. vision
  - B. supervise
  - C. eye
  - D. overlook

## Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks

1. Swimming is not exactly my forte, but going for a \_\_\_\_\_ is kind of a must-do when I go to the beach.
2. Hospitality groups are making huge investments in beach properties in Nha Trang. They're building a ton of \_\_\_\_\_ facilities like water parks.
3. I guess one of the most relaxing things to do while you're on the beach is just to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the water.
4. I am under a lot of pressure from work at the moment, so hopefully when things get a bit less hectic I will have some time to go on a trip and just \_\_\_\_\_ away from it all.

**Exercise 3 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

unwind      secluded      dip      basking      hectic

1. Do Son is a nice and \_\_\_\_\_ beach located just 30 minutes away from the center of Hai Phong.
2. The pedestrian precinct in Hanoi's Old Quarter can get pretty \_\_\_\_\_ at night.
3. Last summer, I went to Italy for a summer vacation and one of the most amazing things was \_\_\_\_\_ in the Sicilian sun.
4. After finals I usually go on a long vacation overseas just to \_\_\_\_\_ and recover from all the stress.
5. You can go on a head and take a \_\_\_\_\_, I'm just gonna stay on the beach and keep an eye on our stuff.

## Topic 27: Visitors

**Exercise 1 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. The host at the party last night was incredibly gracious... →              | a. ... since I can take home design cues from him.           |
| 2. One of my favorite people to visit is this friend who is an architect... → | b. ...they love to show their hospitality even to strangers. |
| 3. I love to eat, so I always go to a buffet... →                             | c. ...he wined and dined us with the most decadent food.     |
| 4. Hanoians are a really nice bunch... →                                      | d. ...where I can eat until I get stuffed.                   |

**Exercise 2 - Choose the correct word**

1. Over the weekends, I usually throw a party, have a couple of friends over and just **wine and dine/ dine and wine** them.
2. There's a real sense of **intimacy/ illiteracy** to a candle-lit dinner.
3. I have a mini-bar at home as an excuse to have people **in/ over**.



4. The biggest hustle/ hassle when entertaining guests at your house is cleaning up after dinner.

### Exercise 3 - Multiple choice questions

1. Johnny Depp is a very \_\_\_\_\_ actor. I love his style.
  - A. chick
  - B. cheek
  - C. chic
  - D. cheeky
2. I usually celebrate my birthday by having some of my close friends \_\_\_\_\_; maybe we'll put on a movie, have some drinks and pull an all-nighter.
  - A. in
  - B. out
  - C. around
  - D. over
3. I love having dinner with my parents-in-law; they are such \_\_\_\_\_ hosts.
  - A. gracious
  - B. graceful
  - C. grazie
  - D. gracey

## Topic 28: Sports

### Exercise 1 - Multiple choice questions

1. I am Vietnamese, so naturally I have an \_\_\_\_\_ for Vietnamese cuisine since it's the dishes that I grew up eating.
  - A. amenity
  - B. affinity
  - C. liking
  - D. enamored
2. Football is kind of a big \_\_\_\_\_ in not only Vietnam but also lots of other countries. It's starting to pick up in America as well.
  - A. thing



- B. stuff
- C. deal
- D. sport

3. I was lucky enough to get a hold of the tickets to the Manchester United game. I am their diehard fan, and being at the stadium to \_\_\_\_\_ for them will be incredible.

- A. bark
- B. trunk
- C. leaf
- D. root

### Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

crack      go      chickened      sedentary      fanatic

1. I don't know the first thing about basketball, but my parents encourage me to give it a \_\_\_\_\_ since I'm relatively tall.
2. We were gonna go bungee jumping as a group, but Tung \_\_\_\_\_ out in the end.
3. Because today most people are addicted to their smartphones, they tend to lead a \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle with little physical activity.
4. I think I'm going to have a \_\_\_\_\_ at the IELTS again this year. Last time I was so close to a 9. I have a feeling that I'll nail it this time.
5. My brother is an absolute \_\_\_\_\_ about robots. I mean he collects all sorts of robot models and action figures, and you wouldn't believe how many times he has watched 'The Transformers'.

### Exercise 3 - Fill in the blanks

1. Dance sport is incredibly \_\_\_\_\_. You sweat buckets after a dance, but you're going to have a lot of fun.
2. I grew up in Saigon, so naturally I have an \_\_\_\_\_ for the Saigon Heats - one of the best basketball teams in all of Asia.
3. Street food is kind of a big \_\_\_\_\_ in Vietnam, as you can already tell.
4. People who lead a \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle should try to make room for some light exercise each day. It really does make a difference in how you feel.

5. Sports can be a good way to get \_\_\_\_\_ if you dread the commitment of going to the gym.

## Topic 28: Colours

### Exercise 1 - Multiple choice questions

1. I am a real \_\_\_\_\_ for fried food. But I've been putting on so much weight lately, so I gotta cut back on that.

- A. fan
- B. sucker
- C. slave
- D. fool

2. I don't like flashy house designs. They \_\_\_\_\_ me a lot.

- A. butt
- B. buck
- C. bush
- D. bug

3. I've been trying to incorporate a little more color into my wardrobe. Of course, I can never \_\_\_\_\_ with blue and grey, but I want to step out of my comfort zone and experimenting a bit.

- A. go wrong
- B. come wrong
- C. go incorrect
- D. come defective

### Exercise 2 - Upgrade the following words

1. not bright
2. most of
3. favorite color
4. pay attention to
5. have poor judgment in fashion



**Exercise 3 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

purity      garment      bugs      shades      subdued

1. My style is understated, so I tend to reach for clothes in more \_\_\_\_\_ colors, because I don't want to stand out in the crowd.
2. The suit is a wonderfully useful \_\_\_\_\_. Wearing a suit instantly commands respect from other people, and I think men should definitely dress up more often.
3. White often connotes \_\_\_\_\_ and innocence, so it is the color of choice at wedding ceremonies.
4. I'm experimenting a bit with brighter \_\_\_\_\_ of reds and yellows just to add some character to my otherwise sedate wardrobe.
5. It really \_\_\_\_\_ me how a lot of restaurants put MSG into their food.

# Topic 30: Bringing Things

**Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided**

forgetful      nuisance      on the move      come in handy      on hand

1. Traffic in Hanoi is such a \_\_\_\_\_. I mean, every morning, the roads are just absolutely packed.
2. I am a frequent traveller, so books really \_\_\_\_\_ on long-haul flights.
3. I gotta I admit I'm quite a \_\_\_\_\_ person, so I tend to leave things around and just cannot remember where I put them.
4. He is a food shipper, so he is always \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The company is going to organize a huge event, so we need all the staff \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 2 - Upgrade the following words**

1. In the summer, I always bring a pair of **sunglasses** when I go out.
2. In the winter, a thick coat can be a wonderfully useful item to **protect** yourself against the cold.
3. My neighbor plays the drum, and whenever he practices I think it is a **very annoying thing**.





4. I am planning to buy a new bag, one that is roomy enough to store all of my important things.
5. I go to work everyday by bus, and I think it is such an efficient and economical way to get around the city.

**Exercise 3 - Come up with an example for each of the following sentences**

1. I am such a forgetful person. For example, I tend to ...
2. There are a couple of things that I'd consider essentials when I am on the move. For example, a ...
3. I think what I bring depends largely on the weather. For example, ...

# Topic 31: History

**Exercise 1 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description**

1. I take a very keen interest in History... →

a. ...because it nurtures your patriotism and gives you a deeper appreciation for peace and order.

2. I love watching history movies... →

b. ...so I love to pore over books about wars and political events in the past.

3. The Internet is my go-to source for historical information... →

c. ...because you can easily get access to a wealth of knowledge on history.

4. Learning about history can be a rewarding experience... →

d. ...because I think they provide a more vivid portrayal of historical events than, you know, just textbooks.

**Exercise 2 - Multiple choice questions**

1. Independence Day is definitely a \_\_\_\_\_ in the history of Vietnam.
  - A. milestone
  - B. kilometrestone
  - C. yardstone
  - D. footstone



2. Most Asian countries underwent a period of \_\_\_\_\_ by Western countries.
- A. establishment
  - B. peace and order
  - C. colonization
  - D. donation
3. The majority of countries in the world nowadays are \_\_\_\_\_ states. Very few have not gained their freedom.
- A. unsolicited
  - B. sober
  - C. sovereign
  - D. somber

### Exercise 3 - Short-answer

Expand the following answer:

**Question:** *Do you watch programs on TV about history?*

Answer: Absolutely, they are among my favorite things to watch on the telly...

→ (example of a TV show)

→ (benefits of watching TV shows about history)

→ (discuss the opposite - do your friends like the same thing)

## Topic 32: Birds

### Exercise 1 - Multiple choice questions

1. That store sells excellent curry, and it comes in all \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. forms and shapes
  - B. shapes and lengths
  - C. lengths and sizes
  - D. shapes and sizes
2. Ostrich is considered a delicacy in some regions because it is kind of an \_\_\_\_\_ breed of birds.
- A. exotic
  - B. special



- C. eclectic
- D. eradicated

3. In order to see rare bird species, people sometimes have to venture into the great

\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. outside
- B. outdoors
- C. inside
- D. indoors

### Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks

1. In the city, game birds can be a rare \_\_\_\_\_. They are more likely to be found in remote areas.
2. Bird \_\_\_\_\_ has sort of become a sport. Bird lovers are willing to spend extravagant sums of money on travelling to the far-flung corners of the earth just to see rare breeds of birds.
3. Dong Tao chicken is a true \_\_\_\_\_ in Vietnam. It sells for prohibitive prices but I've had it once and I can confirm that it's worth every penny.
4. I take quite a \_\_\_\_\_ interest in biology, so I love to learn about the natural habitats and feeding habits of various animals.

### Exercise 3 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

1. Penguins are a rare sight in most zoos... →

a... because good hides are hard to find on such animals.

2. Exotic leathers like crocodile are quite expensive ... →

b... so learning about them can be a bit overwhelming.

3. Chicken feet are a true delicacy in Vietnam... →

c... because they require a really cold place to live in.

4. Birds come in all shapes and sizes... →

d... but they can be off-putting to a lot of foreigners.

# Topic 33: Shopping

## Exercise 1 - Choose the correct word

1. My house is in the **proximity/ vicinity** of a lot of street food stalls that open late, so grabbing a bite to eat at 2 o'clock in the morning is no big deal.
2. Today I have to run some errands. First, I gotta pick up the kid from school and then I have to run by the grocery store to pick up some **grocery/ groceries**.
3. I don't shop for clothes online, because I find the images of products on web stores can be unreliable. I always prefer to go to a **brick-and-mortar/ brick-and-mortar** shop and try on the clothes myself.
4. I'm so stressed out right now, so I need myself some retail **therapy/ therapist**.

## Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

abundance      eclectic      must      offerings      treat

1. In the Old Quarter, you can find an \_\_\_\_\_ of street food.
2. Visiting the Reunification Palace is kind of a \_\_\_\_\_-do whenever you're in Saigon.
3. I love that store's \_\_\_\_\_. They are always so diverse, so there's something for everyone.
4. I usually just go to the mall, because I can choose among an \_\_\_\_\_ mix of stores and boutiques there.
5. On my birthday this year, my father promised to \_\_\_\_\_ me to a vacation in the Bahamas.

## Exercise 3 - Fill in the blanks

1. Men used to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the house. However, that has changed, as nowadays more females are going to work and taking up management positions in an organization.
2. You want to \_\_\_\_\_ the bar this weekend? The one on Ta Hien is having a buy-1-get-one-half-off deal for all the craft beers.
3. When choosing clothes, you must make sure that not only the clothes fit but they also must \_\_\_\_\_ your body.





4. That new kid in school is filthy rich. He always shops at \_\_\_\_\_-end boutiques on the high street.

# Topic 34: Handwriting

## Exercise 1 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

hearted      marginalized      age      jot      volumes

1. A lot of people nowadays use note-taking apps on their smartphone, but I prefer to \_\_\_\_\_ down notes with a pencil and paper.
2. I believe handwriting can speak \_\_\_\_\_ about somebody's personality.
3. In this day and \_\_\_\_\_, texting is the most common method of communication.
4. She is such a good-\_\_\_\_\_ person; she is so tolerant and she always looks after the people around her.
5. Digitalized form of communication has largely \_\_\_\_\_ handwriting.

## Exercise 2 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. If your handwriting is neat... →                               | a) ... so you don't see people handwrite as much as they used to in the past. |
| 2. If your handwriting is unintelligible... →                     | b) ... people will think favorably of you.                                    |
| 3. Modern technologies have largely marginalized handwriting... → | c) ... the examiner will have a hard time reading your essays.                |
| 4. I hate writing by hand... →                                    | d) ... so taking a pencil and paper test is a real pain to me.                |

## Exercise 3 - Short-answer

Expand the following idea in three different ways:

I think in some cases people should handwrite.

- (example?)
- (benefit?)
- (popularity?)

# Topic 35: Jewelry

## Exercise 1 - Short-answer

Expand the following answer

**Question: Do you like jewellery?**

*Answer: Yes, I love jewellery.*

- > (example of a piece of jewelry)
- > (example of a piece of jewelry + benefit)
- > (popularity)

## Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

bling

feminine

interest

fancy

mile

1. That new curtain certainly lends some visual \_\_\_\_\_ to the living room.
2. I'm going to a ball tonight, so I gotta wear something \_\_\_\_\_, but I'm worried that a tuxedo might be a bit too much.
3. Women, for the most part, love to wear \_\_\_\_\_. It's probably one of the reasons why most people who get mugged are female.
4. The service at the restaurant last night was impeccable. I mean, the staff was very accommodating and willing to go the extra \_\_\_\_\_ just to please the diners.
5. I don't like flowers. I think it's kind of a \_\_\_\_\_ thing.

## Exercise 3 - Upgrade the following words

1. do more than necessary
2. shiny things
3. expensive (cost...)
4. a container to store valuables

# Topic 36: Shoes

## Exercise 1 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Some people are loaded... →                              | a... so I only buy shoes when they are on discount. |
| 2. Sneakers are very comfy... →                             | b... I can wear them all day long!                  |
| 3. Big fashion brands often are exorbitantly expensive... → | c... and are willing to lash out on luxury footwear |
| 4. I'm quite a frugal shopper... →                          | d... so I tend to shy away from them.               |

## Exercise 2 - Upgrade the following words

- rich
- spend a lot of money
- high prices
- shoe lover
- offline store

## Exercise 3 - Choose the correct word

1. My feet are too big so all shoes end up feeling a bit **snuggle/ snug** on them.
2. If you wear shoes that are too tight, your feet may **blissful/ blister**
3. Online shopping is nice and all, but I prefer to shop at a **brick-and-model/ brick-and-mortar** store when I can see the products in person.
4. Prices at high-end boutiques can be **atmospheric/ stratospheric**, so it's not for people like who have to live on a budget.

# Topic 37: Fruits

## Exercise 1 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Ripe mangos are my favorite... →                            | a. ...so maybe it's time I cut back on the McDonald's and start eating more veggies. |
| 2. I've been eating lots of junk food... →                     | b. ...you can eat it, juice it or even make a nice citrus salad.                     |
| 3. I don't really have a preference when it comes to food... → | c. ...as long as it tastes good and doesn't contain a lot of sugar in it.            |
| 4. Orange is a very versatile fruit... →                       | d. ...they're so soft they practically melt in your mouth.                           |

## Exercise 2 - Upgrade the following words

- necessary
- eat
- hungry
- amazing

## Exercise 3 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

unripe      indispensable      mean      snack      munchies

- Dieting is a real struggle. In the first week, I got the \_\_\_\_\_ all the time, but fortunately managed to refrain from consuming junk food.
- Vegetables are an \_\_\_\_\_ part of any diet, since they provide you with all the vital nutrients that you need to keep your body going.
- My mother can make a \_\_\_\_\_ grilled cheese sandwich. Mhmm, thinking about it is making my mouth water right now.
- I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ fruits. They always taste so sour.
- When it's late at night and I am feeling a little peckish, I might go downstairs to the kitchen and \_\_\_\_\_ on some potato chips. It's a bad habit, I know.





# Topic 38: Dreams

## Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words

- bad luck
- thinking
- understand
- memory
- meaningless

## Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks, using the words provided

person      mind      haunt      recollection      keen

1. Cerebral activity is an area that I take a particularly \_\_\_\_\_ interest in.
2. I don't like cats, I'm more of a dog \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Nightmares can be so terrifying that they may \_\_\_\_\_ a person for the rest of their lives.
4. My \_\_\_\_\_ of what happened last night is pretty hazy since I drank a lot.
5. I almost got run over by a bus this morning. I'm still scared out of my \_\_\_\_\_.

## Exercise 3 - Choose the correct word

1. Many people **interpret/ interfere** nightmares as bad luck.
2. Vietnamese people are heavily influenced by their dreams, which I don't think makes any **meaning/ sense**.
3. Studying about dreams may **unveil/ reveal** interesting facts about our brain.
4. For the most part, after I wake up, I cannot **recollect/ memorize** what happened in my dream.

# Topic 39: Flowers

## Exercise 1 - Upgrade the following words

1. girly
2. make someone happy
3. a symbol of
4. sometimes

## Exercise 2 - Choose the correct word

1. Around Valentine's Day, you can spot an **abundance/ abundant** of florists on the street selling grossly overpriced flower arrangements.
2. Sometimes you just gotta surprise the lady with a **bouquet/ bunch** of flowers. It doesn't need to be fancy, just something cute to make her day.
3. I love flowers. I think they can be a nice **touch/ kiss** to an otherwise austere room.
4. I guess most people are attracted to flowers mainly because of their **sent/ scent**.

## Exercise 3 - Multiple choice questions

1. A flower vase can nicely \_\_\_\_\_ a living room.  
A. compliment  
B. complement  
C. condiment  
D. condition
2. Flowers are the decoration of \_\_\_\_\_ at weddings.  
A. pick  
B. course  
C. means  
D. choice
3. In Vietnam, people often favor a daughter-in-law who knows basic home economics, including skills like cooking and \_\_\_\_\_ flowers.  
A. making  
B. selling

- C. cutting
- D. arranging

# Topic 40: Chocolate

## Exercise 1 - Choose the correct word

1. Chocolate is usually really **rich/ wealthy** in flavor.
2. Chocolate is generally very expensive, so in Vietnam it's kind of a **specialty/ treat** on special occasions.
3. I have been putting on some heft, so I in the mean time I gotta cut back on **sugar/ sugary** products.
4. Not only am I a sucker for chocolate, I also love **chocolate-flavored/ chocolate-tasted** things like chocolate drinks or cupcakes with chocolate frosting.

## Exercise 2 - Fill in the blanks

1. Pho is a real \_\_\_\_\_ in Hanoi. I mean you can find street food stalls selling this ubiquitous dish all around town.
2. Chocolate strawberry smoothie is such an easy and delicious drink to make. All you need to do is break up a chocolate \_\_\_\_\_ and blend it with some frozen strawberries. Voila!
3. Bubble tea is all the \_\_\_\_\_ right now - teenagers go crazy about it.
4. Chocolate is often \_\_\_\_\_ into a lot of Mexican recipes. It sounds weird, but it's mucho delicioso!

## Exercise 3 - Match the following phrases to an appropriate description

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. French food has a lot of cream and fat... →                                   | a. ... so as you can imagine, the taste is quite rich.              |
| 2. Truffle is one of the most prized ingredients... →                            | b. ... it is now all the rage among food lovers.                    |
| 3. Americans consume vast quantities of sugary products... →                     | c. ...so the obesity rate in the country is always alarmingly high. |
| 4. Even though Japanese fine dining was just recently introduced in Vietnam... → | d. ...and dishes with truffle are always a treat.                   |

# KEY



PHẦN CÂU TRẢ LỜI (40 CHỦ ĐỀ)

“ One language sets you in a corridor for life.  
Two languages open every door along the way  
- Frank Smith



# KEY: STUDY

## Exercise 1

1. senior
2. day in, day out
3. overwhelming
4. have a knack for
5. top-notch
6. major in

## Exercise 2

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. a

## Exercise 3 - Suggested answers (câu trả lời tham khảo)

1. Phở bò, which is a popular beef noodle soup dish in Vietnam
2. FPT, which is a reputable university in Vietnam specialising in information technology
3. Harvard, which is probably the most prestigious university in the world
4. Danang, which is a coastal city in Central Vietnam

# KEY: WORK

## **Exercise 1**

1. D
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. A

## **Exercise 2**

1. quality
2. splurge
3. hit
4. lucrative
5. payday

# KEY: ROBOTS

## **Exercise 1**

1. a real hassle
2. taking the wheel
3. marginalized
4. journal
5. labor-intensive

## **Exercise 2**

1. subscribing
2. robotics
3. performing
4. manually
5. hand/ machine

## **Exercise 3**

1. saver
2. hassle
3. marginalized
4. engineering

# KEY: CELEBRITIES

## **Exercise 1**

1. prominent
2. imitate
3. make a killing
4. bad rap
5. diehard fan

## **Exercise 2**

1. endorsing
2. cakes
3. featured
4. stars

## **Exercise 3**

1. D
2. B
3. C



# KEY: LEISURE TIME

## **Exercise 1**

1. leisure pursuits
2. have a crack at
3. unwind
4. hectic
5. excessive

## **Exercise 2**

1. recreational
2. adverse
3. classic
4. blast

## **Exercise 3**

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. a

# KEY: PATIENCE

## **Exercise 1**

1. virtue
2. timing
3. cutting
4. chew
5. dirty

## **Exercise 2**

1. rarity
2. cool
3. overlook
4. composure

## **Exercise 3**

1. chew somebody out
2. overlook + [mistakes]
3. get somebody's hand dirty
4. virtue
5. keep somebody's cool

# KEY: TOY

## **Exercise 1**

1. pampering
2. track
3. cognitive
4. pester
5. spoiled

## **Exercise 2**

1. figure
2. indulge/ pamper
3. detrimental
4. spoiled

## **Exercise 3**

1. indulgent
2. pester
3. distraction
4. cognitive

# KEY: WEATHER

## **Exercise 1**

1. distinct
2. dip
3. sweltering
4. slippery
5. errands

## **Exercise 2**

1. B
2. A
3. A

## **Exercise 3**

1. person
2. soaked
3. bundle
4. crisp



# KEY: HOUSEWORK

## Exercise 1

1. B
2. A
3. C

## Exercise 2

1. It's a bit of a hassle, but doing housework often really helps keep the house tidy. Besides, knowing how to do things like cleaning and cooking is a must if you want to live abroad.
2. In Vietnam, doing housework is a big deal. People always want to keep their house spotlessly clean to welcome guests into their home.
3. For example, I am in charge of cooking, which is kind of my forte. Usually I cook, and then my brother does the dishes after dinner.

## Exercise 3

1. up to the ears
2. hectic schedule
3. domestic tasks
4. do wonders for
5. cognitive development

# KEY: RAIN

## Exercise 1

1. a
2. b
3. d
4. c

## Exercise 2

1. example - ... especially in the South, where it rains practically everyday. That's why I kind of prefer to live in the North, since I am not a fan of rainy weather.
2. disadvantages - whenever it rains, you would get so filthy. Your clothes would get soaked and you'd smell terrible.
3. discuss the opposite - unlike America, for example, where it hardly ever rains at all. I gotta say I prefer places like that, since I'm not a fan of rainy weather.

## Exercise 3

1. precipitation/ rainfall
2. filthy
3. there's no telling
4. gridlock
5. clogged

# KEY: TELEVISION

## Exercise 1

1. For example, one of my favorite shows is 'Vietnam's Next Top Model'. The show got me hooked on modelling - I never knew it could be so fascinating.
2. The one I'm reading right now is The Hunger Games, written by the acclaimed author Suzanne Collins.
3. Son Tung MTP is my all-time favorite performer. I've seen him live a couple of times, and he always put on such a spectacular show.

## Exercise 2

1. reruns
2. broaden
3. viewership
4. rage
5. cable

## Exercise 3

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. A

# KEY: HOLIDAYS

## **Exercise 1**

1. lounge
2. merrier
3. ears
4. of choice
5. extended

## **Exercise 2**

1. secluded
2. company
3. get away from it all
4. destination of choice

## **Exercise 3**

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. a



# KEY: DANCING

## **exercise 1**

1. C
2. A
3. A
4. B

## **Exercise 2**

1. energizing
2. forte
3. the in-thing
4. pick up

## **Exercise 3**

1. clue
2. energizing
3. in
4. obsolete

# KEY: BIRTHDAYS

## **Exercise 1**

1. deal
2. booze
3. intimacy
4. lavish

## **Exercise 2**

1. blast
2. over
3. world
4. posh
5. letdown

## **Exercise 3**

1. hit the club
2. a letdown
3. a big deal
4. throw a party
5. have a blast

# KEY: MIRROR

## **Exercise 1**

1. ritual
2. presentable
3. illusion
4. complement

## **Exercise 2**

1. A
2. A
3. D

## **Exercise 3**

1. d
2. b
3. c
4. a

# KEY: FOOD

**Exercise 1**

1. lip-smacking
2. staple
3. not my cup of tea
4. cannot stand
5. gourmet

**Exercise 2**

1. staples
2. cheap and cheerful
3. spices
4. cuisine
5. broth

**Exercise 3**

1. The smell of it always puts me off. I cannot understand why people love it so much.
2. I know a lot of recipes and can easily whip up a nice lunch or dinner.
3. I think it makes for a cheap and cheerful meal.



# KEY: INDOOR GAMES

## Exercise 1

1. d
2. b
3. a
4. c

## Exercise 2

1. C
2. A
3. B

## Exercise 3

1. ...Something that I play a lot is cards. There are a lot of card games out there, but my favorite is Poker. It's always a blast playing Poker with my friends.
2. ...I guess playing indoor games is sometimes better than outdoor games. It doesn't really matter what the weather is like, you can always enjoy games inside the house. By contrast, if you want to play, say, some kind of sports outside, adverse weather conditions like rain or snow will prevent you from doing that.
3. ...I love playing indoor games, but my brother prefers to play outside. He loves sports, so he loves to be out in the open, you know, places like parks and outdoor swimming pools. By contrast, I am perfectly comfortable lying on my bed and playing my video games.

# KEY: PLACES NEAR WATER

## **Exercise 1**

1. B
2. D
3. C

## **Exercise 2**

1. dip
2. recreational
3. immerse
4. get

## **Exercise 3**

1. secluded
2. hectic
3. basking
4. unwind
5. dip

# KEY: SWIMMING

## Exercise 1

1. forte
2. dip
3. hang
4. crystal
5. sweltering

## Exercise 2

1. It's a great way to stay lean because swimming burns a lot of calories.
2. It's a really common sport in Vietnam. A lot of young people love to hit the pool, especially in the summer, to shelter from the sweltering heat.
3. When I was in sixth grade, my mom bought me a monthly pass to a local swimming pool where I learnt the basic strokes and techniques.

## Exercise 3

1. B
2. C
3. B

# KEY: MARRIAGE

## **Exercise 1**

part ways  
prohibitive costs  
finance  
the norm  
tie the knot

## **Exercise 2**

1. c  
2. d  
3. b  
4. a

## **Exercise 3**

1. gap  
2. ends  
3. spouse  
4. duties  
5. championed



# KEY: MUSIC

## **Exercise 1**

1. prominent
2. rage
3. stream
4. mainstream
5. catchy

## **Exercise 2**

1. novice
2. virtuoso
3. unwind
4. genre
5. move

## **Exercise 3**

1. b
2. a
3. d
4. c

# KEY: WATCHES

## **Exercise 1**

1. bragging
2. minimalistic
3. symbol
4. timepieces

## **Exercise 2**

1. straps
2. priced
3. project
4. dial
5. interest

## **Exercise 3**

1. high-end
2. reasonably priced
3. brag
4. timepiece
5. minimalistic

# KEY: BAGS

## Exercise 1

1. resist
2. feminine
3. crazy

## Exercise 2

1. flush
2. versatile
3. splurge
4. boat
5. all-purpose

## Exercise 3

- **example:** Mine is from Ladoda, one of the top companies in Vietnam specialising in fine leather goods. I think their bags offer a good bang for the buck.
- **benefits:** It is a very versatile design. I can put all kinds of things in there. It's got an outer compartment where you can put things like keys and wallet. The bag is pretty roomy as well, it can store my laptop and some files and folders.
- **popularity:** Backpacks are pretty common in Vietnam. You can see lots of students wearing different kinds of backpacks. People who have to be on the move a lot also favor backpacks over other bag designs.

# KEY: SUNSHINE

## **Exercise 1**

1. blast
2. economical
3. basking
4. secluded
5. sweltering

## **Exercise 2**

1. fossil
2. coastal
3. dip
4. solar
5. residing

## **Exercise 3**

1. C
2. D
3. B



# KEY: FASHION

## Exercise 1

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. a

## Exercise 2

1. flush
2. bank
3. norm
4. well-worn

## Exercise 3

1. D
2. B
3. D

# KEY: PLACES NEAR WATER

## **Exercise 1**

1. B
2. D
3. C

## **Exercise 2**

1. dip
2. recreational
3. immerse
4. get

## **Exercise 3**

1. secluded
2. hectic
3. basking
4. unwind
5. dip

# KEY: VISITORS

## **Exercise 1**

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. B

## **Exercise 2**

1. wine and dine
2. intimacy
3. over
4. hassle

## **Exercise 3**

1. C
2. D
3. A

# KEY: SPORT

## Exercise 1

1. B
2. C
3. D

## Exercise 2

1. go
2. chickened
3. sedentary
4. crack
5. fanatic

## Exercise 3

1. energizing
2. affinity
3. deal
4. sedentary
5. lean



# KEY: COLOURS

## **Exercise 1**

1. B
2. D
3. A

## **Exercise 2**

1. subdued
2. the bulk of
3. color of choice
4. be mindful of
5. have terrible taste in fashion

## **Exercise 3**

1. subdued
2. garment
3. purity
4. shades
5. bugs

# KEY: BRINGING THINGS

## Exercise 1

1. nuisance
2. come in handy
3. forgetful
4. on the move
5. on hand

## Exercise 2

1. shades
2. brace
3. nuisance
4. essentials
5. commute

## Exercise 3 - Suggested answers

1. ... forget important dates and events. So it is kind of awkward sometimes, for example, when somebody's wedding is right around the corner and I do not remember to congratulate them.
2. ... a face mask can come in handy, given the fact that I commute by scooter and Hanoi is really polluted.
3. For example, when it's sunny out, a pair of shades is kind of a must. By contrast, if it's rainy, I cannot leave the house without an umbrella or a raincoat.

# KEY: HISTORY

## Exercise 1

1. b
2. d
3. c
4. a

## Exercise 2

1. A
2. C
3. C

## Exercise 3

1. (example) So one of my favorite TV shows about History is The Bible. It is essentially about the life of Jesus Christ, as you can probably guess. I learn a ton of things from the show.
2. (benefits) I feel like watching history TV programs is a wonderful way to broaden my horizons and learn more about other countries and their heritage.
3. (discuss the opposite) My friends think that I'm weird. They tend to prefer mainstream TV shows, you know, things like reality shows and singing competitions and all that.

# KEY: BIRDS

## **Exercise 1**

1. D
2. A
3. B

## **Exercise 2**

1. sight
2. watching
3. delicacy
4. keen

## **Exercise 3**

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. B



# KEY: SHOPPING

## **Exercise 1**

1. vicinity
2. groceries
3. brick-and-mortar
4. therapy

## **Exercise 2**

1. abundance
2. must
3. offerings
4. eclectic
5. treat

## **Exercise 3**

1. breadwinners
2. hit
3. flatter
4. high

# KEY: HANDWRITING

## Exercise 1

1. jot
2. volumes
3. age
4. hearted
5. marginalized

## Exercise 2

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d

## Exercise 3

-> example: For instance, you should always handwrite a wedding invitation to show the guests a sense of formality.

-> benefit: If you take notes by hand, it actually helps you memorize much better than typing everything you hear verbatim.

-> popularity: However, it is a shame that handwriting is no longer common, and people type pretty much everything.

# KEY: JEWELRY

## Exercise 1

- (example) One of the pieces that I wear is a pair of earrings. I've had them for a while now. They are so versatile; they go well with pretty much all of my wardrobe.
- (example + benefit) So one of the pieces of jewellery that I wear all the time is my earrings. They are a wonderful way to lend some visual interest to your outfit.
- (popularity) In Vietnam, wearing earrings is pretty common, especially among teenage girls. Nowadays you can get a nice pair made of silver for not a lot of money.

## Exercise 2

1. interest
2. fancy
3. bling
4. mile
5. feminine

## Exercise 3

1. go the extra mile
2. bling
3. cost an arm and a leg
4. a safe

# KEY: SHOES

## **Exercise 1**

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. a

## **Exercise 2**

1. loaded
2. splurge
3. stratospheric prices
4. shoe enthusiast
5. brick-and-mortar store

## **Exercise 3**

1. snug
2. blister
3. brick-and-mortar
4. stratospheric



# KEY: FRUITS

## **Exercise 1**

1. d
2. a
3. c
4. b

## **Exercise 2**

1. indispensable
2. snack on
3. get the munchies
4. mean

## **Exercise 3**

1. munchies
2. indispensable
3. mean
4. unripe
5. snack

# KEY: DREAMS

## **Exercise 1**

1. omen
2. cognition
3. interpret
4. recollection
5. do not make sense

## **Exercise 2**

1. keen
2. person
3. haunt
4. recollection
5. mind

## **Exercise 3**

1. interpret
2. sense
3. reveal
4. recollect

# KEY: FLOWER

## **Exercise 1**

1. feminine
2. make somebody's day
3. a token of
4. every now and then

## **Exercise 2**

1. abundance
2. bouquet
3. touch
4. scent

## **Exercise 3**

1. B
2. D
3. D

# KEY: CHOCOLATE

## **Exercise 1**

1. rich
2. treat
3. sugary
4. chocolate-flavored

## **Exercise 2**

1. staple
2. bar
3. rage
4. incorporated

## **Exercise 3**

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b



# WORDLIST



## TỔNG HỢP TỪ VỰNG



*No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.*

*- Atwood H. Townsend*



- a bad rap (n)  
a big deal (n)  
a bite to eat (n)  
a blast (n) /blɑːst/  
a boat load of (n)  
a bouquet of flowers (n)  
a brick-and-mortar store (n)  
a classic (n) /'klæs.ɪk/  
a cold weather person (n)  
a delicacy (n) /'del.ə.kə.si/  
a dip (n) /dɪp/  
a feminine thing (n)  
a forgetful person (n)  
a life-saver (idiom)  
a lucrative income (n)  
a must (n) /mʌst/  
a must-do (n)  
a pair of shades (n)  
a piece of cake (n)  
a posh restaurant (n)  
a rare sight (n)  
a real hassle (idiom)  
a real sucker for (n)  
a sense of intimacy (n)  
a short getaway (n)  
a splitting headache (n)  
a spoiled kid (n)  
a staple food (n)  
a token of (n)  
a treat (n) /tri:t/  
a wealth of (n)  
accountability partner (n)  
action figure (n)  
admission is ... competitive  
all the rage (idiom)  
all-purpose (n)  
all-time favorite (n)  
an abundance of (n)  
an eclectic mix of (n)  
an extended holiday (n)  
an omen (n) /'oʊ.mən/  
anticipation (n) /æŋ,tɪs.ə'peɪ.ʃən/  
antiquated (adj) /'æn.tɪ.kweɪ.tɪd/  
athletic (adj) /æθ'let.ɪk/  
baking (adj)  
bask in the sun (v)  
be haunted by (v)  
be mindful of (adj)  
being featured on (v)  
big day (n)  
bird watching (n)  
bling (n) /blɪŋ/  
blister (v) /'blɪs.tər/  
bold flavors (n)  
boost the cognitive (v)  
development (n) /dɪ'vel.əp.mənt/  
boozer (n) /'buː.zər/  
brace yourself against the chill (v)  
breadwinner (n) /'bred,wɪn.ər/  
breed (v) /briːd/  
breeze through sth (idiom)  
brick-and-mortar (adj)  
bring home the bacon (idiom)  
broaden my horizons (idiom)  
broth (n) /brɑːθ/  
bugs (n) /bʌg/  
bundle up (v)  
busting food stalls (n)

- cable subscription (n)  
cable TV (n)  
cannot stand something (v)  
catch a cab (v)  
catchy (adj) /'kætʃ.i/  
championed (adj)  
cheap and cheerful (adj)  
chew someone out (v)  
chicken out (v)  
chill (n) /tʃɪl/  
chilly (adj) /'tʃɪl.i/  
chocolate bars (n)  
chocolate-flavored (n)  
chocolatey (adj) /'tʃɑ:k.lət.i/  
citric (adj)  
clogged (adj)  
clumsy (adj) /'klʌm.zi/  
clutch (n) /klʌtʃ/  
coastal city (n)  
cognitive development (n)  
colonization (n) /'kɑ:l.ə.naɪz/  
color of choice (n)  
come in all shapes and sizes (v)  
come in handy (v)  
comfy (adj) /'kʌm.fi/  
complement (v) /'kɑ:m.plə.ment/  
congested (adj) /kən'dʒes.tɪd/  
cost a fortune (v)  
cover my bills (v)  
crisp (adj) /krɪsp/  
crystal clear (adj)  
cufflinks (n) /'kʌf.lɪŋk/  
cuisine (n) /kwɪ'zi:ɪn/  
culinary arts (n)  
cut in line (v)  
daily commute (n)  
daily supplies (n)  
day in, day out (idiom)  
daydream about (v)  
dedicated to (adj)  
designer clothes (n)  
destination of choice (n)  
detrimental (adj) /'det.rə.mənt/  
diehard fan (n)  
disconnected fragments (n)  
do not make sense (v)  
do wonders for something (v)  
doing shows (n)  
domestic tasks (n)  
drive manually (v)  
earthy (adj) /'ɜ:θi/  
economical (adj) /,i:kə'nɑ:mi.kəl/  
endorses (n) (sai) /ɪn'dɔ:rs/  
energizing (adj) /'en.ə.dʒaɪz/  
english speaking classrooms (n)  
enjoy four distinct seasons (v)  
essential (n)  
every now and then (adv)  
every once in a while (adv)  
exotic (adj) /ɪg'zɑ:tɪk/  
fanatic (n) /fə'nætɪk/  
fancy (adj) /'fæ.n.si/  
feast on (v)  
feel flush (v)  
feminine (adj) /'fem.ə.nɪn/  
filthy (adj) /'fɪl.θi/  
finance (n) /'faɪ.næns/  
fit (adj) /fɪt/  
flatter my body (v)  
food stall (n)



- for hours on end (idiom)  
forte (n) /'fɔːr.teɪ/  
fossil fuels (n)  
freefall (n) /'frē ,fôl/  
from time to time (adv)  
frugal (adj) /'fruː.gəl/  
fruity (adj) /'fruː.ti/  
fuss over (v)  
game birds (n)  
garment (n) /'gɑːr.mənt/  
genre (n) /'ʒɑːn.rə/  
get a kick out of something (idiom)  
get away from it all (v)  
get lean (v)  
get one's hands dirty (idiom)  
get the hang of (v)  
give somebody a hand (idiom)  
give something a go (v)  
go an extra mile (v)  
go crazy about (v)  
go for a dip (v)  
good-hearted (adj)  
go-to (n)  
gourmet restaurants (n)  
graviate towards (v)  
gridlock (n) /'grɪd.lɔːk/  
grocery store (n)  
hand-made ><  
machine-made (adj)  
have a crack at (idiom)  
have a knack for (idiom)  
have an adverse effect on (v)  
have an affinity for (v)  
have friends over (v)  
have no recollection (v)  
haven't got a clue (v)  
hectic (adj) /'hektɪk/  
hectic schedule (n)  
high viewership (n)  
high-end boutique (n)  
hip and trendy (adj)  
historical event (n)  
historical figure (n)  
hit the bar (v)  
hit the club (v)  
hit the gym (v)  
hit the mall (v)  
hold somebody accountable (v)  
hone my skills (v)  
humid (adj) /'(h)yoʊməd/  
hustle and bustle (n)  
I can ever go wrong with (phrase)  
I don't really have a preference ()  
I major in (v)  
I've got the munchies (idiom)  
illusion (n) /ɪ'luː.ʒən/  
imitate (v) /'ɪm.ə.teɪt/  
immerse yourself (v)  
in the company of (adv)  
in the limelight (adv)  
in the vicinity of (adv)  
in this day and age (adv)  
incorporated into (adj)  
indispensable (adj)  
indulge (v) /ɪn'dʌldʒ/  
innocence (adj) /'ɪn.ə.səns/  
instill (v) /ɪn'stɪl/  
intermittent showers and drizzles (n)



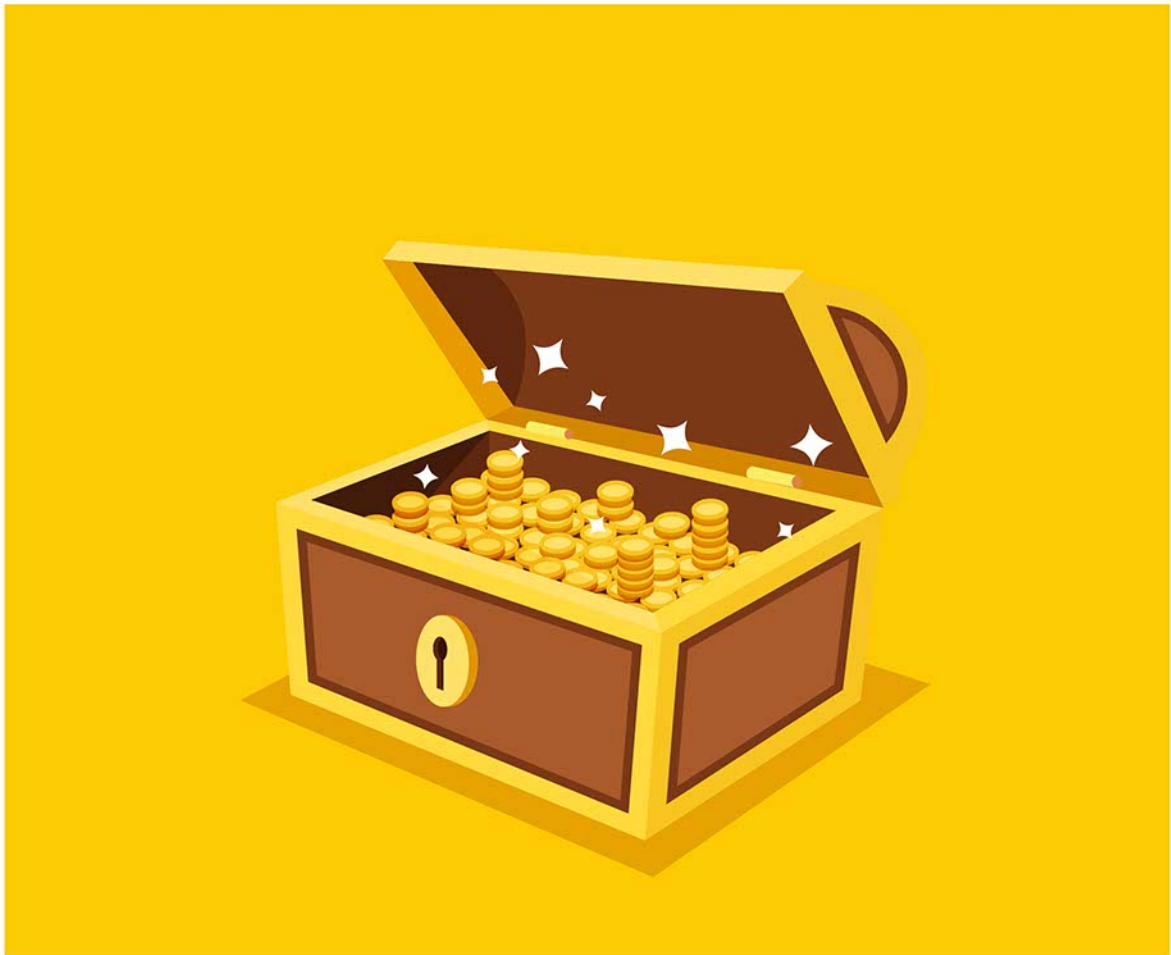
- involved experience (n)  
it's a blast (n)  
it's a pain (idiom)  
it's really a nuisance (idiom)  
jot down (v)  
journal (n) /'dʒʌːnəl/  
justifiable (adj)  
keep an eye on (v)  
labor-intensive tasks (n)  
lavish (adj) /'læv.ɪʃ/  
lead a sedentary lifestyle  
leisure pursuits (n)  
lending some visual interest to  
sth (v)  
lest (conjunction) /lest/  
letdown (n) /'letdaʊn/  
light tasks (n)  
line of work (n)  
lip-smacking (adj)  
loaded (adj) /'ləʊ.dɪd/  
look sharp (v)  
lose my cool (v)  
lose myself in something (v)  
lose track of time (idiom)  
lose weight (v)  
lounging about (v)  
loved ones (n)  
mainstream (adj) /'meɪn.striːm/  
make a killing (idiom)  
make ends meet (v)  
make somebody's day (v)  
make up my mind (v)  
marginalize (v)  
match well (v)  
mean (adj) /mēn/  
mean the world to somebody  
(phrase)  
melt in your mouth (idiom)  
metropolis (n) /mə'trɔː.pəl.ɪs/  
metropolises (n)  
milestone (n) /'maɪl.stəʊn/  
miserable (adj) /'mɪz.ə.ə.bəl/  
morning ritual (n)  
move my body to the music (v)  
my other half (n)  
navigate (v) /'næv.ə.ɡeɪt/  
neat handwriting (n)  
nice and secluded (adj)  
not break the bank (idiom)  
not my cup of tea (idiom)  
novice (n) /'nɔː.vɪs/  
obsolete (adj) /,ɑːb.sə'l'iːt/  
offerings (n) /'ɑː.fə.ɪŋ/  
on hand (phrase)  
on the move (idiom)  
originate (v) /ə'ɪdʒ.ən.eɪt/  
out of shape (adj)  
overlook (v)  
overly bright (adj)  
overwhelming (adj) /,oʊ.və-/  
pamper somebody with  
something (v)  
parental duties (n)  
parting ways and getting a  
divorce (n)  
patriotism (n) /'pɑːtriətɪzəm/  
payday (n) /'peɪ.deɪ/  
peace and order (n)  
pendant (n) /'pen.dənt/  
perform a surgery (v)

- peace and order (n)  
pendant (n) /'pen.dənt/  
perform a surgery (v)  
perks (n) /pɜːk/  
peruse a collection (v)  
pester (v) /'pes.tə/  
physical activities (n)  
pick up (v)  
play an integral part (v)  
pour (v) /pɔːr/  
power (v) /'paʊ.ə/  
precipitation (n)  
/priːsɪp.ə'teɪ.ʃən/  
presentable (adj) /prɪ'zen.tə.bəl/  
procrastinator (n)  
/prɒʊ'kræs.tə.neɪ.tə/  
prohibitive costs (n)  
prominent (adj) /'prɒːm.ən.ənt/  
prying into (n)  
purity (n) /'pjʊr.ə.ti/  
put off (v)  
put somebody off (v)  
quality (n) /'kwɒː.lə.ti/  
quality time (n)  
realize a goal (v)  
recreational activities (n)  
recreational facilities (n)  
rerun (n) /,ri:'rʌn/  
reside (v) /rɪ'zaɪd/  
resist the urge (v)  
retail therapy (n)  
rich (adj) /rɪtʃ/  
rich heritage (n)  
ripe (adj) /raɪp/  
robotics engineering (n)  
roomy (adj) /'ruː.mi/  
scared out of their mind (idiom)  
score some great deals (v)  
seaside resorts (n)  
secluded (adj) /sə'kluː.dɪd/  
sedate (adj) /sə'deɪt/  
seed (n) /siːd/  
self-driving cars (n)  
sell like hot cakes (v)  
senior (n) /'siː.njə/  
shades (n) /ʃeɪdz/  
shelter from the sweltering heat of summer (v)  
shoe enthusiast (n)  
shy away from (v)  
sleepy (adj) /'sliː.pi/  
slippery (adj) /'slɪp.ə.i/  
smoothie (n) /'smuː.ði/  
snack on sth (v)  
snug (adj) /snʌg/  
soaked (adj) /soʊkt/  
Sovereign state (n)  
speak volumes about somebody (v)  
species (n) /'spiː.ʃiːz/  
spectator sport (n)  
spices (n) /spaɪs/  
split the costs (v)  
splurge on (v)  
splurge on something (v)  
spouses (n) /spaʊs/  
staple (n) /'steɪ.pəl/  
starring in (n)  
state budget (n)  
stay afloat (v)  
stay the course (v)



stocking up on ( )  
stream (n) /stri:m/  
strokes (n) /strouk/  
stuff (n) /stʌf/  
subdued (adj) /səb'du:d/  
subscribe to something (v)  
sugary products (n)  
supplies (n) /sə'plɑɪz/  
sweltering (adj) /'swel.tə.ɪŋ/  
take a break (v)  
take a keen interest in something (v)  
take the wheel (v)  
take the world by a storm (v)  
temperatures ... dip  
terrible taste (n)  
text (v) /tekst/  
the bulk of (n)  
the delicate touch of a human hand (n)  
the generation gap (n)  
the great outdoors (n)  
the more the merrier (phrase)  
the norm (n) /nɔ:rm/  
the rainy season (n)  
the telly (n) /'tel.i/  
the vast majority of something (n)  
there was no telling (phrase)  
throw a party (v)  
tie the knot (v)  
top-notch (idiom)  
torrential rain (n)  
stratospheric prices (n)  
traditional Vietnamese thinking dictates that (phrase)  
traumatized (adj)  
treat myself to (v)  
treat myself to something (v)  
tricky (adj)  
tropical (adj)  
TV set (n)  
unintelligible (adj)  
unripe (adj) /,ən'rɪp/  
unwind (v) /,ən'wɪnd/  
up to the ears (idiom)  
utilitarian (adj) /ju:tɪl.ə'ter.i.ən/  
veggies (n) /'vedʒ.i/  
versatile (adj) /'vɜ:ɪ.sə.təl/  
virtue (n) /'vɜ:ɪ.tʃu:z/  
virtuosos (n) /,vɜ:ɪ.tʃu'ou.sou/  
vivid portratal (n)  
wait until the timing is right (v)  
wean somebody off something (v)  
well-worn (adj)  
whip up (v)  
wish list (n)

# 10 NEW TOPICS



*Phân bổ sung thêm 10 chủ đề mới.*



*A dream doesn't become reality through magic;  
it takes sweat, determination and hard work.*

*- Colin Powell*





# CHỦ ĐỀ 41: BOATS

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: In your country do people use boats?**

Well, people actually use boats quite a lot in Vietnam, mostly for commercial purposes. In the Southern provinces of Vietnam, you can see a lot of **floating markets**, where vendors **peddle** their goods from their boats. There're also quite a few **port cities** across Vietnam, so that's where a lot of trading activities take place. I wouldn't say many Vietnamese families own **pleasure crafts**, though. I guess it's just not our thing.



*In the Southern provinces of Vietnam, you can see a lot of **floating markets**.*

**Q2: Would you like to own a boat?**

Eh, a boat seems like a luxury item that wealthy people would **splurge on** at one point, but I don't think owning a boat in Vietnam would be practical. I mean, I live in Hanoi, where there's no place for my boat to **dock**. Unless I moved somewhere near the sea, in which case I would love to own a **yacht**, you know, to go cruising every once in a while.

**Q3: Would you shop online or in a store for a boat?**

Well, if I ever buy a boat, I would certainly go to a **brick-and-mortar store** to inspect the boat I want to buy before **taking the plunge**. I mean, there's just no way to get a sense of what a boat actually looks like from pictures on the Internet. And if you're going to **spend a fortune on** something like a boat, you don't want to end up with a piece of junk that doesn't suit your needs.



“

*I would inspect the model that I want to buy before **taking the plunge**.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **floating market (n):** chợ nổi
- **peddle (v):** bán hàng dạo
- **port city (n):** thành phố cảng
- **pleasure craft (n):** tàu dùng cho mục đích giải trí, thư giãn
- **splurge on sth (v):** vung nhiều tiền mua cái gì đó
- **dock (n):** đậu (tàu, thuyền)
- **yacht (n):** du thuyền
- **brick-and-mortar store (n):** cửa hàng (ngược lại với online store)
- **take the plunge (v):** quyết định làm gì đó, sau khi suy nghĩ rất lâu
- **spend a fortune on (v):** tiêu nhiều tiền vào cái gì đó



TOPIC 40:  
ADVERTISEMENT

# CHỦ ĐỀ 42: ADVERTISEMENT

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: Are there many advertisements in your country?**

Absolutely. Advertisements have certainly **proliferated** in recent years. I mean, you see them pretty much everywhere: on **billboards**, websites, TV **commercial breaks**, you name it.

**Q2: What does the night skyline in your hometown look like?**

Well, I guess this **can be attributed to** the increasingly **fierce competition** between rival companies today. You know, there are so many companies selling similar products, so in order to draw customers they need to spend a lot on marketing and advertising, I guess.



*Advertisements have certainly **proliferated** in recent years.*



**Q3: What kinds of advertisements do you like most?**

To be honest, I'm not a big fan of advertisements to begin with. I mean, they are a real **nuisance**. I hate it when I'm streaming videos on the Internet, and an advert just pops up and I cannot skip them. **Having said that**, every once in a while I come across commercials that amuse me, you know, usually ones with a funny **skit**. Those I don't mind so much.



*Companies need to increase their **brand awareness**.*

**Q4: How do you feel about advertisements?**

As I was saying, for the most part, I **don't care for** advertising at all. But to be fair I think it is essential to businesses. I mean, companies need to increase their **brand awareness** and build a customer base, or else nobody knows about them. For example, young start-ups are unlikely to get **word-of-mouth** recommendations. So in this case, advertisements would be a good way to **get their name out there**.



## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **proliferate (v)**: mọc lên như nấm
- **billboards (n)**: bảng quảng cáo (trên đường hoặc các tòa nhà)
- **commercial break (n)**: quảng cáo giữa giờ
- **you name it**: vân vân và vân vân
- **can be attributed to sth**: là do điều gì đó
- **fierce competition (n)**: cạnh tranh khốc liệt
- **nuisance (n)**: điều phiền toái
- **having said that**: đành là như vậy
- **skit (n)**: kịch hài ngắn
- **not care for sth (v)**: không thích cái gì đó
- **brand awareness (n)**: nhận diện thương hiệu
- **word-of-mouth (adj)**: truyền miệng
- **get sb's name out there (v)**: làm cho mọi người biết tới ai đó



TOPIC 40:  
SKY

## CHỦ ĐỀ 43: SKY

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Do you like to watch the sky?**

That's a funny question. Obviously, **in this day and age**, we have a **myriad of** ways to entertain ourselves that seem a lot more interesting than watching the sky, like going to the movies or drinking. But I do have to admit that there are times when I looked at the sky and was just **in awe of** its beauty.

**Q2: What does the night skyline in your hometown look like?**

Well, Hanoi doesn't have that much of a **skyline** to begin with. I mean, there are not a lot of **high rises** yet, so at night you wouldn't get the beautiful

**panoramic view** of the skyline that you would otherwise get in cities like New York or Hong Kong. Hopefully one day we'll have a skyline like that.



*There are times when I looked at the sky and was just **in awe of** its beauty.*



**Q3: Have you ever taken a course about stars?**

Funnily enough, I used to take **astronomy** when I was in college. I mean, I had to take an **elective** in my first year, so I decided to opt for something slightly unconventional like astronomy, because why not? Anyway, I did learn a great deal about planets and **constellations**, though I've forgotten most of it now. But it was super fun!



*The beautiful **panoramic view** of the skyline.*

**Q4: What's your favorite star?**

Woah, that's a tricky question. I am not that familiar with names of stars to begin with. But I had to pick, I'd go with, ummm, Jupiter. It's technically a star, right? Anyway, the reason for that is simply because it is mentioned in the lyrics to one of my favorite songs of all time: Drops of Jupiter by Train. I probably can't tell you much about the star itself though, haha.



## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **in this day and age:** trong thời buổi ngày nay
- **a myriad of :** rất nhiều loại
- **in awe of sth:** một đồ hiếm khi ăn/ dùng vì đắt
- **skyline (n):** đường chân trời (hình thù của các toà nhà trong một thành phố)
- **high rise (n):** high rise
- **panoramic view (n):** toàn cảnh
- **astronomy (n):** thiên văn học
- **elective (n):** môn tự chọn
- **constellation (n):** chòm sao





# CHỦ ĐỀ 44: TREES

## TOPIC Q&A

### **Q1: Do you like trees?**

Well, I am not a **tree hugger**. I mean I am not particularly interested in nature, or trees for that matter. Having said that, I do enjoy being in a place with a lot of **lush** trees. It just feels really refreshing and **rejuvenating**.

### **Q2: Do you think places with trees attract more visitors than places with fewer trees?**

Well, I think it is a matter of personal preference. Obviously, places with lots of trees like **nature reserves** and **national parks** never fail to attract people who are the **outdoorsy** type.

But at the same time, there are also those like myself, who would be more interested in culture and food and not pay that much attention to trees when travelling.



*Places with lots of trees never fail to attract people who are the **outdoorsy** type.*





**Q3: Have you ever climbed a tree when you were a child?**

Oh to be honest, I was never an energetic kid, so I don't think I really got into activities like climbing trees, you know. Besides, I was kind of a **scaredy-cat**, and the tree branches always looked quite **brittle**, so I never wanted to climb up there.



### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **tree hugger (n):** người yêu thiên nhiên và quan tâm tới bảo vệ môi trường
- **lush (adj):** tươi tốt
- **rejuvenate (v):** làm cho ai cảm thấy có sức sống và sáng khoái
- **nature reserve (n):** khu bảo tồn thiên nhiên
- **outdoorsy (adj):** thích ở ngoài thiên nhiên
- **national park (n):** vườn quốc gia
- **a scaredy-cat (n):** một người nhát gan
- **brittle (adj):** dễ gãy





TOPIC 45:  
SNACKS

## CHỦ ĐỀ 45: SNACKS

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: What kind of snacks do you like to eat?**

Actually, I used to **snack** a lot, but not so much anymore. However, **every once in a while** I still can't **resist the urge to** pick up a thing or two to snack on when I'm inside a convenience store. Some of my **guilty pleasures** are **chips** and **beef jerky**.



Some of my **guilty pleasures** are **chips** and **beef jerky**.

**Q2: Is it healthy to eat snacks?**

For the most part, I'd have to say no. Snacks are mostly **junk food**, which means they are heavily processed and usually contain a lot of fats. However, it also depends on the variety, you know? For example, I see a lot of my friends who are very **fit** and they say that they usually snack on things like dried fruits, nuts or protein bars whenever they **get the munchies**. I suppose those are okay.



**Q3: What kind of snacks do children in your country like to eat nowadays?**

Oh Vietnamese kids are **huge on** snacks, and many of the items that they like are unique to Vietnam. For example, they really like potato chips, but with flavors that you are unlikely to find in a Western grocery store like seaweed for example. Talking of which, another popular but unique snack item is seaweed sheets. They're exactly what they sound like: fried, salty sheets of seaweed. It may sound kind of **off-putting**, but trust me it's **addictive!**

“

*It may sound kind of **off-putting**, but trust me it's **addictive!***



### VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **snack (on sth) (v):** ăn vặt
- **every once a while :** thi thoảng
- **resist the urge to do sth (v):** cưỡng lại cảm dỗ làm gì đó
- **guilty pleasure (n):** một đồ gì đó có hại cho cơ thể (đồ ăn, thuốc lá, cỏ cây hoa lá, ...) mà thỉnh thoảng mình vẫn dùng
- **chips (n):** bim bim
- **beef jerky (n):** thịt bò khô
- **junk food (n):** đồ ăn unhealthy
- **fit (adj):** khoẻ mạnh, người đẹp
- **get the munchies (n):** lên cơn đói
- **huge on sth (adj):** rất thích cái gì đó
- **off-putting (adj):** không dễ chịu, kinh tởm
- **addictive (adj):** gây nghiện, cuốn



# CHỦ ĐỀ 46: COMPUTERS

## TOPIC Q&A

### Q1: Do you use computers?

Of course! I mean, who doesn't these days? For the most part, I would say that computers are **indispensable** in our lives. Everybody has one – students, office workers, even elderly people. As soon as I entered university, I immediately pestered my parents for a laptop, since I had to type papers and



*My computer really is a **life saver**.*



### Q2: What kind of activities involves using computers?

Oh all sorts of things, really. I mostly use my laptop for work to type documents and to check emails. I also use my computer for leisure, obviously, to **stream** videos on the Internet and **binge watch** my favorite TV shows. So pretty much anything. People today can even earn a living with their computer from Bitcoin, for example, which really **goes to show** how far we have come with technology.



**Q3: How important is your computer to you?**

As I was saying, my computer is vital to me. I mean it (my computer) really is a **life saver**. I use my computer for both work and leisure. It helps me stay connected with the people in my family and friend **circles**. Although smartphones today are every bit as powerful as computers, I'm always more comfortable using a computer. I guess it's just easier.



*I'm not exactly **tech savvy**, but I do know a thing or two about computers.*

**Q4: What kind of computer skills do you have?**

Well, I'm not exactly **tech savvy**, but I do know a thing or two about computers, like most people who are **computer literate**. Obviously I can type documents without looking at the keyboard, which is seriously something that everybody must know how to do. I also know how to **tinker with** some of the settings on the computer, which is kind of necessary if you use a complicated **operating system** like Windows. In the future, if I am a little less busy, maybe I will **get around to** taking a course in graphic design or video editing.



## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **indispensable (adj)**: không thể thiếu
- **stream (movies, music, videos, ...) (v)**: xem phim, nghe nhạc trên mạng
- **binge watch (v)**: cày (phim)
- **go to show (v)**: chứng minh
- **life saver (n)**: một thứ gì đó làm cho cuộc sống mình dễ dàng, tiện nghi hơn
- **(social/ family/ friend) circle (n)**: mạng lưới bạn bè, người quen
- **tech savvy (adj)**: giỏi công nghệ
- **computer literate (adj)**: biết dùng máy tính
- **tinker with (v)**: điều chỉnh
- **operating system (n)**: hệ điều hành
- **get around to doing sth (v)**: tìm được thời gian để làm cái gì đó



**TOPIC 47:  
TIME  
MANAGEMENT**

# CHỦ ĐỀ 47: TIME MANAGEMENT

## TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: How do you organize your time?**

Well, I'm not a very organized person to begin with, so I'm afraid I might not be the best person to answer this question. I guess when it comes to time management, what I usually do is write down an **agenda** of things to get done during the day. Some people do this very **religiously** and plan their day **to a tee**, but I gotta admit sometimes I am not disciplined enough to make a **to-do list**.



*Some people plan their day **to a tee**.*

**Q2: Do you think it is important to be on time?**

Absolutely. I think being punctual is crucial. I work in a professional environment where punctuality is **the norm**, and what that means is that I always have to be on time for appointments if I want to present myself as a reliable person to my clients and to the people that I work with.

**Q3: How do you feel when you are late for an appointment?**

Well, as I was saying, punctuality is very important to me, so when I **show up** late for an appointment I usually **feel** very **bad** about it. If I keep someone waiting, I will definitely apologize and offer to **make it up to them**, especially if they are my family or someone special like my girlfriend for example.

**Q4: How do you feel when others are late?**

As I am a very punctual person, I also expect others to be on time. Having said that, I have a lot of **tolerance** as far as being late is concerned.

Usually if the person has a good excuse for being late, I will be very willing to forgive them and not send them on a **guilt trip**.



*I work in a professional environment where punctuality is **the norm**.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **agenda (n):** kế hoạch
- **religiously (adj):** rất thường xuyên
- **to a tee:** rất kỹ lưỡng, chần chu
- **a to-do list (n):** list các việc cần làm
- **the norm (n):** việc bình thường
- **feel bad (v):** cảm thấy có lỗi
- **show up (v):** có mặt
- **make it up to sb (v):** bù đắp lại cho ai đó (vì mình có lỗi)
- **tolerance (adj):** sự rộng lượng
- **guilt trip/ guilt-trip:** cảm giác có lỗi/ làm ai đó thấy có lỗi

TOPIC 48:  
MUSEUM

## CHỦ ĐỀ 48: MUSEUM

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: Are there many museums in your country?**

Absolutely, like in many other countries, there is **a plethora of** museums in Vietnam. There are obviously a lot of war museums, given the fact that Vietnam has been through a number of wars in the past. You can find a lot of interesting exhibits and artifacts in these museums and learn a great deal about our country's history. In addition, you can also find **a handful of** galleries in big cities, which **house** lots of paintings and sculptures with a very distinctive Vietnamese style.



*I learnt **a wealth of things** about planets and the development of rocketry.*

**Q2: Do you think museums are useful?**

Of course. I am not much of a museum goer, but I do think that they are very useful. Important, even, in the sense that they help us **broaden our knowledge** and get us interested in not only history but also a range of other fields that we would normally never read about. For example, last year on my trip to



Hong Kong, I got the chance to visit the Space Museum. And I don't know if you can tell or not, but I'm not exactly a fan of science stuff. However, I did find the visit very **informative**. I learnt **a wealth of** things about planets and the development of rocketry. So I guess I did walk away feeling a little more 'sophisticated'.



*Museums are kind of a **must-go** for tourists.*

**Q4: Do you often visit museums?**

As I was saying, museums are not really places where I **frequent**. I think I only visit museums when I'm travelling abroad. You know, museums are kind of a **must-go** for tourists when they're in a foreign country, and I think they are wonderful if you want to have a better understanding of the country's culture and history.



**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **a plethora of:** rất rất nhiều
- **a handful of:** một vài
- **house (v):** lưu giữ
- **broaden sb's knowledge (V):** mở rộng kiến thức
- **informative (adj):** bổ ích
- **a wealth of:** rất nhiều
- **frequent (adj):** thường xuyên lui tới
- **a must-go (n):** một nơi phải đến







## CHỦ ĐỀ 49: SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

### TOPIC Q&A

**Q1: What kind of social networking websites do you like to use?**

Well, I mainly use Facebook, which is kind of **ubiquitous** these days. I mean, if you don't have a Facebook profile, it kind of seems like you've been **living under a rock**. I am also on Instagram, which I find more interesting than Facebook. When I scroll through my Instagram **feed**, I am always inspired by the images and beautiful pictures people take of sceneries, clothing, food, etc. It's a different story on Facebook, though. I mean my Facebook feed is just **flooded with** people complaining about their lives. It's so depressing!



*If you don't have a Facebook profile, it kind of seems like you've been **living under a rock**.*

**Q2: Are you a social person?**

Yeah, for the most part I would say that I am quite social, in the sense that I don't **shun** crowds and conversations, and I'm usually quite **open to** meeting new people and making new friends. However, I don't think being **antisocial** is bad **per se**. Some people may come off as cold and **unapproachable**, but once you get to know them they can be surprisingly friendly and cool. I have a few friends like that.

**Q3: Is it easy to find real friends on a social networking site?**

For the most part, I would say no. It may be easy to find people with **common interests** on social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter, but these people are not necessarily our friends. I think you need to have **physical interaction** with a person over a period of time in order to be friends with them and trust them. After all, friendship is built on trust, right?

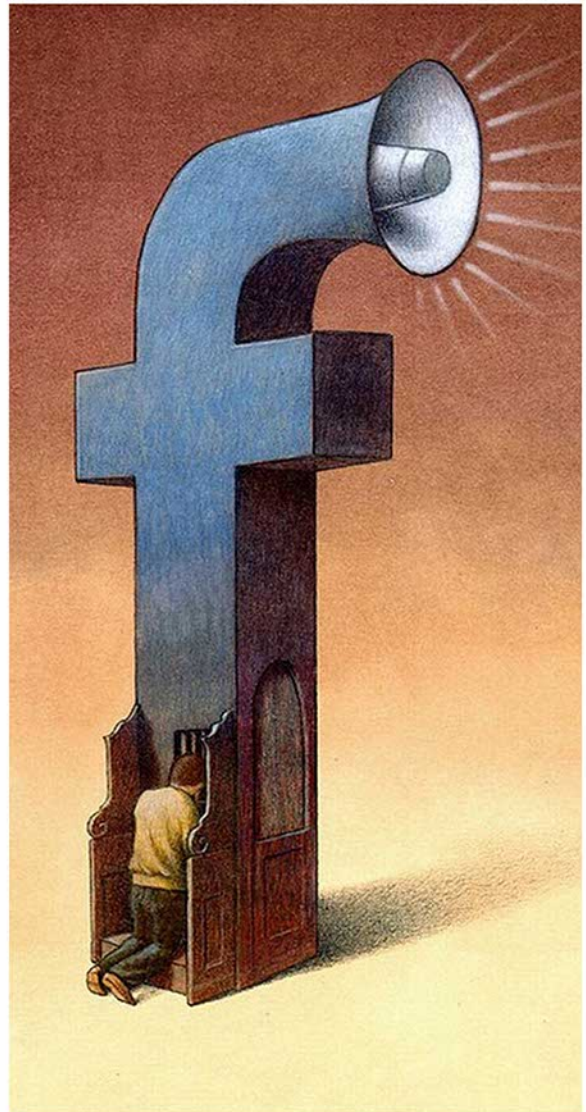


*My Facebook feed is just **flooded with** people complaining about their lives.*

**Q4: What kind of chatting application or website do you like to use?**

I do **keep in touch** with the people in my social and family circles using a messaging software called Messenger. It is actually an application developed by Facebook to **augment** the social networking site, which is quite neat, because most people are on Facebook these days. In general, I would say that the app is very **intuitive** and easy to use.

People in different countries also use messaging apps that are developed specifically for the user base in a certain region. For example, many Vietnamese teenagers use a program called Zalo, whereas Kakao Talk is the most popular choice among Koreans.





## VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **ubiquitous (adj):** phổ biến
- **live under a rock (v):** lạc hậu
- **feed (v):** màn hình hiển thị những post mới nhất
- **be flooded with:** tràn ngập
- **shun (v):** tránh, ngại
- **open to (adj):** cởi mở với cái gì/ việc gì đó
- **antisocial (adj):** ngại giao tiếp với người khác
- **per se:** về bản chất
- **unapproachable đạ):** khó gần
- **common interest (n):** sở thích chung
- **physical interaction (n):** tương tác ngoài đời thật
- **keep in touch (v):** giữ liên lạc
- **circle (n):** mạng lưới bạn bè
- **augment (n):** hỗ trợ
- **intuitive (adj):** (công nghệ) dễ hiểu, dễ sử dụng



TOPIC 50:  
NEIGHBOR

## CHỦ ĐỀ 50: NEIGHBOR

## TOPIC Q&amp;A

**Q1: How well do you know the people who live next door to you?**

To be honest, I am not that familiar with my neighbors. I mean, even if we see each other quite often in the morning when we leave home for work, I only know their faces, not their names or their backgrounds. It's not that I'm antisocial; it's just people in Vietnam don't actively get to know the people living nearby.



*I used to live in a neighborhood where people would quarrel **day in, day out**.*

**Q2: What kind of problems do people sometimes have with their neighbor?**

Oh, from what I've heard, all sorts of **ugly** things, really. For example, I used to live in a neighborhood where people would quarrel **day in, day out**. They would call each other names and sometimes when the argument got really **heated**, they would get into a fight. Another possible conflict that may arise in neighborhoods is **dispute** over property and land. In Vietnam, a lot of people take advantage of the **loopholes** in property law to expand their house or build another floor, which may violate their neighbors' land ownership.



**Q4: How do you think neighbors can help each other?**

Well, I think people who live in the same neighborhood can and should **lend each other a hand** every now and then. For example, people in Vietnam are quite comfortable asking their neighbors for cooking ingredients – something that foreigners may find quite silly but it's true. I don't think neighbors can be

of help **as far as** finance **is concerned**, but it's okay to ask your neighbors for help with minor things, I guess.



*People who live in the same neighborhood can and should **lend each other a hand**.*

**VOCABULARY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **antisocial (adj):** ngại giao tiếp với người khác
- **ugly (adj):** kinh khủng, bạo lực
- **day in, day out (v):** hàng ngày
- **heated (adj):** nảy lửa
- **dispute (n):** tranh chấp
- **loophole (n):** lỗ hổng (trong luật)
- **lend sb a hand (v):** giúp đỡ ai đó
- **as far as sth is concerned:** về mặt gì đó (giống 'in terms of ...')

