

Unit 1: Hello, I am Mai.

Chào bạn, tôi tên là Mai.

In this lesson, we are going to learn about the topic of greetings, simple ways of greeting people, introducing yourself and some common personal pronouns.

A - New words

First let learn some new words in the dialogue:

Track 1-1

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| chào | hi/hello |
| anh | Mr. |
| chị | Mrs. |
| ông | Sir/Mr. |
| bà | Madam/Mrs. |
| rất | very |
| vui | glad/nice |
| gặp | to meet |
| tôi | I |
| xin lỗi | Excuse me |
| tên | name |
| ạ | usually put at the end of the sentence to show respect to others. |

When you practice speaking at home, you could try to say the new words after me. It is the best to say each word three times, first we say the word as slowly as we can. This helps us produce the correct tone of each word. After that we say the word more quickly, then we say the words in our normal speaking speed.

B - Dialogue

Now, listen to the dialogue between Nam and Mai. Nam and Mai haven't seen each other before. They meet each other the first time at a reception or a meeting. The setting of the conversation is very formal.

Track 1-2

Mai: Chào anh,
 Nam: Chào chị, xin lỗi chị tên là gì?
 Mai: Tôi tên là Mai, còn anh, anh tên là gì?
 Nam: Tôi tên là Nam. Rất vui được gặp chị!
 Mai: Rất vui được gặp anh.



2. Now let listen to the dialogue between Mr. An and Mrs. Ha. They haven't seen each other before, they meet each other on a train.

Track 1-3



ông An :Chào bà.
bà Hà :Chào ông,
xin lỗi ông tên là gì ạ.
ông An :Tôi tên là An.
Còn bà, bà tên là gì ạ?
bà Hà :Tôi tên là Hà.

3. For more informal situation and intimate relationship, we could just say “Hi” meaning “Chào + personal pronouns” in Vietnamese.

For examples: Chào anh; Chào chị.

4. In daily speaking, Vietnamese people usually use “Personal pronouns + đi đâu đấy?” meaning “where are you going?” as a greeting.

For examples: Anh đi đâu đấy? (Where are you going - talking to a man)

Chị đi đâu đấy? (Where are you going - talking to a woman)

We consider this question is more of a greeting than a question. So the listener doesn't need to answer the question, and just needs to say “hi / chào” instead.

C - Grammar

1. Saying hello/hi/good morning - afternoon - evening

Generally, to say hello we use the sentence function:

Chào + second personal pronouns

Some common second personal pronouns are:

| Pronouns | Description in Vietnamese | Gender | Description |
|----------|----------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|
| ông | đàn ông, già | male | a senior male |
| bà | phụ nữ, già | female | a senior female |
| anh | đàn ông, trẻ, nhiều tuổi hơn người nói | male | male, young but older than the speaker |
| chị | phụ nữ, trẻ, nhiều tuổi hơn người nói. | female | female; young and older than the speaker |

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| | Hoặc chỉ phụ nữ nói chung trong những tình huống lịch sự | | Or to address woman in general polite situations |
| cô | phụ nữ nói chung | female | ladies in general |
| em | nam và nữ | male and female | man and woman who are younger than speaker |

2. Asking about name

To ask for name, you use the sentence function

Tên + second person pronouns + là gì?

or

Second person pronouns + tên + là gì?

“gì” is a question word, usually put after “là” to make a question.

Example 1:

Q: Cô tên là gì? What is your name, Miss?

A: Tôi tên là Lan. My name is Lan.

Example 2:

Q: Tên anh là gì? What is your name, Mr.?

A: Tên tôi là Nam. My name is Nam.

3. To answer: My name is...

To answer “My name is...” you say:

Tôi tên là + name
or
Tên tôi là + name

Note: “tôi” is the first person pronoun which can be replaced by other person pronouns, for example

Chị tên là Emma (My name is Emma).

In this case the speaker is a female and she knows that she is older than the listener, and she wants to continue the conversation in a friendly way.

Em tên là Peter (My name is Peter).

Anh tên là Charles (My name is Charles).

C- PRACTICES

Practice 3: Write down the answers for the following questions

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| a. What would you say to greet | a senior male? | _____ |
| | a senior female? | _____ |
| | an older male? | _____ |
| | an older female | _____ |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| b. What would you say to ask "how are you" with | a senior male? | _____ |
| | a senior female? | _____ |
| | an older male? | _____ |
| | an older female | _____ |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| c. What would you say "How about you" to | a senior male? | _____ |
| | a senior female? | _____ |
| | an older male? | _____ |
| | an older female | _____ |

Practice 4

Look at the following pictures then choose the suitable person pronouns (ông, bà, anh, chị, em...)



To a senior male
Chào (1)_____ ạ.



To a senior female
Chào (2)_____ ạ.



To an older male
Chào (3)_____ ạ.



To a younger male
Chào (4)_____.



To an older female
Chào (5) _____ ạ.



To a younger female
Chào (6) _____.

Practice 5: Choose suitable person pronouns to fill in the blanks:

A: Chào _____. _____ khỏe không?

B: Cảm ơn _____. Tôi _____. Còn _____?

A: Cảm ơn _____. Tôi cũng _____.

Practice 6: Read the following conversation in Vietnamese and give the English equivalents.

A: Chào ông ạ.

B: Vâng, chào bà.

A: Ông có khỏe không ạ?

B: Cảm ơn bà. Tôi khỏe, Còn bà, bà có khỏe không?

A: Cảm ơn ông. Tôi cũng khỏe

Practice 7: Choose a word from the word box to fill in the blanks:

khỏe tên gì là chào

1. _____ anh. Anh có _____ không?

2. Xin lỗi, cô tên là _____?

3. Tôi tên _____ Mai.

4. Anh _____ là _____?

Practice 8: Making conversation in the following situation.

Lan and Minh come to Hoa's house. Hoa doesn't know Minh, now imagine you are Lan then introduce Minh to Hoa

Practice 9: Choose the correct sentence to fill in the blanks:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Xin lỗi, _____ () | 1. tôi khỏe. |
| b. Chào cô Lan. _____ () | 2. tên anh là gì? |
| c. Cảm ơn anh, _____ () | 3. Cô có khỏe không? |

Practice10: Sắp xếp lại các từ để tạo thành câu/Rearrange the words to make a sentence.

1. Nam / tên / là / tôi

2. cô / khỏe / không / có ?
