

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Intermediate S1 #1

Interviewing for a Job in Vietnam

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INTRODUCTION

Eric: Hi everyone, and welcome to VietnamesePod101.com. This is Intermediate Season 1 Lesson 1 - Interviewing for a Job in Vietnam. Eric here.

Hoang Anh: Chào. I'm Hoang Anh.

Eric: In this lesson, you'll learn how to talk about ability in Vietnamese. The conversation takes place at a backpacker hostel.

Hoang Anh: It's between Trang and the hostel owner.

Eric: The speakers are strangers, so they'll use formal Vietnamese. Okay, let's listen to the conversation.

LESSON CONVERSATION

Chủ khách sạn giá rẻ : Em hãy giới thiệu ngắn gọn về bản thân.

Trang: Vâng, em tên là Trần Thu Trang. Em đang là sinh viên.

Chủ khách sạn giá rẻ : Em đã có kinh nghiệm làm nhân viên lễ tân chưa?

Trang: Dạ, em đã có một (1) năm kinh nghiệm ạ.

Chủ khách sạn giá rẻ : Em có thể nói tiếng Anh không?

Trang: Dạ có ạ, Em có thể nói tiếng Anh trôi chảy.

Chủ khách sạn giá rẻ : Em nghĩ điểm mạnh của mình là gì?

Trang: Điểm mạnh của em là khả năng tiếng Anh tốt, nhiệt tình và tinh thần trách nhiệm cao ạ.

Chủ khách sạn giá rẻ : Em có thể làm việc được mấy ngày trong tuần?

Trang: Em có thể làm vào các buổi chiều thứ hai, thứ tư và thứ bảy ạ.

Eric: Listen to the conversation with the English translation.

Backpacker hostel owner: Can you introduce yourself briefly?

Trang: Yes, my name is Tran Thu Trang. I'm a student.

Backpacker hostel owner: Do you have any experience working as a receptionist?

Trang: Yes, I have one year of experience.

Backpacker hostel owner: Can you speak English?

Trang: Yes, I can. I can speak English fluently.

Backpacker hostel owner: What do you think your strengths are?

Trang: My strengths are my good English ability, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of responsibility.

Backpacker hostel owner: How many days a week can you work?

Trang: I can work on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday afternoons.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Eric: Hoang Anh, can most Vietnamese people speak English?

Hoang Anh: I think most Vietnamese people can't speak English, even though English is taught as early as in elementary school. According to a Switzerland-based international education company called Education First, Vietnam has one of the lowest levels of English proficiency in the world.

Eric: Why do you think that is?

Hoang Anh: I think it's because English education is mainly based on textbooks, with a heavy focus on grammar and writing and not many chances for communication practice.

Eric: Is English proficiency an important factor for a good career in Vietnam?

Hoang Anh: Definitely. A recent survey showed that 95% of employers believe that English proficiency has an effect on work performance and efficiency. People who are good at English can work for foreign companies and organizations in Vietnam, and their salary will be three to five times higher than for those who don't know English.

Eric: That's interesting! Okay, now onto the vocab.

VOCAB LIST

Eric: Let's take a look at the vocabulary from this lesson. The first word is..

Hoang Anh: em [natural native speed]

Eric: This means "I" or "me" when used as a pronoun to talk with a slightly older person, and "you" when used as a pronoun to talk with a slightly younger person.

Hoang Anh: em[slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: em [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: giới thiệu [natural native speed]

Eric: to introduce

Hoang Anh: giới thiệu [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: giới thiệu [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: ngắn gọn [natural native speed]

Eric: brief

Hoang Anh: ngắn gọn [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: ngắn gọn [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: bản thân [natural native speed]

Eric: self (yourself, myself etc)

Hoang Anh: bản thân [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: bản thân [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: nhân viên lễ tân [natural native speed]

Eric: receptionist

Hoang Anh: nhân viên lễ tân [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: nhân viên lễ tân [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: trôi chảy [natural native speed]

Eric: fluent, smooth

Hoang Anh: trôi chảy [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: trôi chảy [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: điểm mạnh [natural native speed]

Eric: strength

Hoang Anh: điểm mạnh [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: điểm mạnh [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: khả năng [natural native speed]

Eric: ability

Hoang Anh: khả năng [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: khả năng [natural native speed]

Eric: Next we have..

Hoang Anh: nhiệt tình [natural native speed]

Eric: enthusiastic

Hoang Anh: nhiệt tình [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: nhiệt tình [natural native speed]

Eric: And last..

Hoang Anh: tinh thần trách nhiệm [natural native speed]

Eric: sense of responsibility

Hoang Anh: tinh thần trách nhiệm [slowly - broken down by syllable]

Hoang Anh: tinh thần trách nhiệm [natural native speed]

KEY VOCAB AND PHRASES

Eric: Let's have a closer look at some of the words and phrases from this lesson. The first word is..

Hoang Anh: em

Eric: which means "I," "me." You use this to talk with a slightly older person.

Hoang Anh: em originally meant "younger brother" or "younger sister."

Eric: But you can also use it as pronoun meaning "you" to address a speaker a few years younger than you, or as "I," or "me" if the other speaker is a few years older.

Hoang Anh: You can use em in both formal and informal situations.

Eric: Hoang Anh, sometimes it's hard to tell if the other speaker is younger or older just by looking at them. What should you do in that case?

Hoang Anh: You should pay attention to the other speaker's attitude and way of speaking to see if he or she is strict or relaxed. If the speaker seems to be a strict person, it is better to use the word tôi to say "I" or "me"

Eric: And how should we address this person?

Hoang Anh: You can use the words bạn, anh, or chị, which all mean "you," instead of em. But I think that the safest way is to politely ask the other speaker how you should address him or her if you aren't sure.

Eric: Ok, can you give us an example using this word?

Hoang Anh: Sure. For example, you can say.. Chào em, anh là Nam, giám đốc công ty Sony. Rất vui được gặp em.

Eric: ...which means “Hi, I'm Nam, director of Sony. Nice to meet you.”

Hoang Anh: In this case, Nam is saying hello to a younger woman in a business situation.

Eric: Okay, what's the next word?

Hoang Anh: bản thân

Eric: which means “self” as in “yourself,” “myself,” and so on.

Hoang Anh: bản thân means “oneself” or “one's own.” You can use it as a noun and as an adjective.

Eric: Just put it before a pronoun or noun.

Hoang Anh: bản thân also means “itself” if the mentioned subject is a thing, not a person.

Eric: As an adjective, it means “my,” “our,” “his” or “her.. own,” or “personal.” Can you give us an example using this word?

Hoang Anh: Sure. For example, you can say.. Bản thân tôi không đồng ý với ý kiến này.

Eric: .. which means “I myself don't agree with this idea.”

Hoang Anh: Another example is...Anh ta chỉ lo cho bản thân anh ta thôi.

Eric: “He does nothing but take care of himself.”

Hoang Anh: One more example is..Bản thân sự việc này rất phức tạp.

Eric: “This matter itself is very complicated.” Okay, what's the last word?

Hoang Anh: khả năng

Eric: which means “ability.”

Hoang Anh: You can use it as a fixed phrase... có khả năng plus verb.

Eric: This means “to be able to do something.”

Hoang Anh: The phrase có khả năng itself, when used alone without a verb, means “to be capable,” “to be talented,” or “to have the potential for something.” You can use Khả năng with a noun.

Eric: In this case it means “the ability to do something” and is often followed by a verb or noun that refers to professional competence.

Hoang Anh: For example..khả năng dịch thuật

Eric: “translation ability”

Hoang Anh: khả năng làm việc nhóm

Eric: “teamwork ability”

Hoang Anh: khả năng ngoại ngữ

Eric: “foreign language ability”

Hoang Anh: Listeners, please note that khả năng is hardly ever followed by a verb or noun that refers to daily activities such as “to eat, drink, sleep” and so on.

Eric: Can you give us an example using this word?

Hoang Anh: For example, you can say.. Tôi có khả năng làm việc độc lập.

Eric: .. which means “I have the ability to” or “I am able to work independently.”

Hoang Anh: Khả năng ngoại ngữ của cô ấy rất tốt.

Eric: “Her foreign language skill is very good.” Okay, now onto the lesson focus.

LESSON FOCUS

Eric: In this lesson, you’ll learn how to talk about ability in Vietnamese. To do this, you can use the following grammar structure...

Hoang Anh: Subject...plus có thể...plus main verb... plus object. Có thể is a verb that means “can” or “to be able to.”

Eric: It’s followed by a main verb indicating the action or activity that the subject is able to do. You can apply this structure to all types of subjects, be they singular or plural, first person or third person. The main verb stays the same without any change in its form regardless of the subjects.

Hoang Anh: You can also add an adverb before or after the object, but it's optional.

Eric: Hoang Anh, can you give us some sample sentences?

Hoang Anh: Sure. For example..Anh ấy có thể ăn hết 5 bát mì trong vòng 10 phút.

Eric: Meaning “He can eat five bowls of noodles in ten minutes.”

Hoang Anh: Another example is Tôi có thể chơi game suốt ngày đêm.

Eric: “I can play games all day and night.”

Hoang Anh: And Cô ấy có thể chơi đàn piano và ghi ta.

Eric: “She can play the piano and guitar.” Great! Hoang Anh, how can we say that we

can't do something in Vietnamese?

Hoang Anh: To express something that someone can't do, we replace có thể with không thể, which means "can't" or "not be able to." The other parts remain the same.

Eric: Can you give us some examples, please?

Hoang Anh: For example, let's take the sentence Tôi có thể chơi game suốt ngày đêm.

Eric: "I can play games all day and night."

Hoang Anh: To negate this, just replace có thể with không thể. We'll have Tôi không thể chơi game suốt ngày đêm.

Eric: Meaning "I can't play games all day and night."

Hoang Anh: Let's take another example...Cô ấy có thể chơi đàn piano và ghi ta.

Eric: "She can play the piano and guitar."

Hoang Anh: Again, replace có thể with không thể. Cô ấy không thể chơi đàn piano và ghi ta.

Eric: "She can't play the piano or guitar." Ok! How we can ask if someone can do something or not in Vietnamese?

Hoang Anh: To ask if someone can do something or not do something, simply add the word không at the end of the affirmative sentence with có thể, and the other parts stay the same.

Eric: If the subject of the affirmative sentence is the first person pronoun, change that pronoun into the second person pronoun in the question.

Hoang Anh: Right. Change tôi to bạn, anh, chị and so on. For example... Bạn có thể chơi game suốt ngày đêm không?

Eric: “Can you play games all day and night?””

Hoang Anh: Anh ấy có thể ăn hết 5 bát mì trong vòng 10 phút không?

Eric: “Can he eat five bowls of noodles in ten minutes?”

Hoang Anh: The answer to these questions can be Có or Có thể, which means “yes,” or Không or Không thể, which means “no.”

Eric: Listeners, we have more grammar rules in the lesson notes, so please be sure to check them out.

OUTRO

Eric: Okay, that’s all for this lesson. Thank you for listening, everyone, and we’ll see you next time! Bye!

Hoang Anh: Tạm biệt.