

LESSON NOTES

Learn Vietnamese in Three Minutes #1 Self Introductions

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GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Self Introduction in Vietnamese

Topic 1: How to introduce yourself in an informal situation

Sentence from the lesson:

Xin chào, tôi là Giang. Rất vui được làm quen với bạn.

"Hi, I'm Giang. Nice to meet you."

1. Start by saying *Xin chào*. *Xin chào* means "Hi" or "hello" and it is used in both formal and informal situations. It can also be used at any time of the day. Though the equivalents of "good morning, good afternoon" and "good evening" do exist, Vietnamese people don't normally use them in their daily conversation. So you have to remember only two words *Xin chào*.
2. Say *Tôi là* and your name. *Xin chào, tôi là Giang. Tôi là ...* is similar to "I am" and you simply need to add your name to this. Using *Tôi là* + "your name" is neutral and sounds ok in any circumstances.
3. You say *Rất vui được làm quen với bạn*. *Rất vui* means "I'm very happy" and *được làm quen với bạn* means "to get to know you." or "to get acquainted with you." Vietnamese people usually look forward to a closer relationship in the future, so they tend to say "I'm happy to get to know you" rather than just "I'm happy to meet you."

Topic 2: How to introduce yourself in a formal situation

Sentence from the lesson:

Xin chào. Tôi tên là Giang. Rất hân hạnh được làm quen với bạn.

"Hi, I'm Giang. Nice to meet you. "

1. The word *Xin chào* doesn't change.
2. The way you say your name is longer. One more word is added *Tôi tên là* instead of *Tôi là*. So instead of saying "I am," you say, "My name is...." *Tôi tên là Giang*: "My name is Giang."

3. The last sentence: *Rất hân hạnh được làm quen với bạn.* means "It's my pleasure to get to know you." So *hân hạnh* means "my pleasure." It should be noted that the formal way is mostly used in business situations, rather than in daily conversations. So unless you go to Vietnam for business, it is advisable that you stick to the previous introduction.

Language Tip

Vietnamese people are not familiar with personal touches when meeting each other. So kissing or hugging is not recommended though business people and male friends do shake hands when they meet. For the first meeting, simply introducing yourself with a smile is the best way to get to know a Vietnamese person.