

## LESSON NOTES

# Lower Beginner S1 #1

## What's Your Vietnamese Friend's Name?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Vietnamese
- 2 English
- 2 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 6 Grammar
- 7 Cultural Insight

# 1

## VIETNAMESE

1. Mary: An, cậu đến tham dự hội thảo du học à?
2. An: Ừ, cậu làm gì ở đây thế?
3. Mary: tớ làm lễ tân ở hội thảo đấy.
4. An: Ồ vậy à? Xin giới thiệu với cậu, đây là anh Nam, đồng nghiệp của tớ.
5. Mary: Chào anh, rất vui được gặp anh.
6. Nam: Chào em, anh cũng vậy.

## ENGLISH

1. Mary: An, are you coming to the study abroad workshop?
2. An: Yes, what are you doing here?
3. Mary: I'm a receptionist at the workshop.
4. An: Oh, really? Let me introduce someone to you. This is Mr Nam, my colleague.
5. Mary: Hello, nice to meet you.
6. Nam: Hi, you too.

## VOCABULARY

---

<b>Vietnamese</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Class</b>
-------------------	----------------	--------------

---

anh	older brother, I, me, or you	Noun, Pronoun
em	younger brother/sister, I/ me or you (detailed explanation in the vocabulary section)	Noun, Pronoun
hội thảo	workshop	noun
giới thiệu	to introduce	verb
tham dự	to join/to participate/to attend	Verb
cậu/ tớ	you/I (among friends or people of the same age)	Pronouns
du học/ đi du học	to study abroad	verb
đồng nghiệp	colleague	noun
lễ tân	receptionist	Noun

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p><b>Anh ơi, anh dạy em chơi piano nhé.</b></p> <p>"Brother, please teach me how to play the piano."</p>	<p><b>Em học xong chưa?</b></p> <p>"Have you finished your study?"</p>
<p><b>Hội thảo về phát triển công nghệ thông tin đã thu hút sự quan tâm của nhiều người.</b></p> <p>"The workshop about information technology development has drawn the attention of many people."</p>	<p><b>John có thể giới thiệu bản thân bằng tiếng Việt.</b></p> <p>"John can introduce himself in Vietnamese."</p>
<p><b>Chúng tôi tham dự cuộc họp nội bộ công ty vào thứ hai hàng tuần.</b></p> <p>"We attend our company's internal meeting every Monday."</p>	<p><b>Cậu cho tớ mượn cái bút nhé.</b></p> <p>"Can I borrow your pen? (lit: can you lend me a pen?)"</p>

<p><b>Đi du học là ước mơ của nhiều sinh viên Việt Nam.</b></p> <p>"Studying abroad is the dream of many Vietnamese students."</p>	<p><b>Tôi có 2 đồng nghiệp người nước ngoài.</b></p> <p>"I have 2 foreign colleagues."</p>
<p><b>Người nhân viên cấp cao rời khỏi văn phòng cùng một đồng nghiệp.</b></p> <p>"The company executive leaves with a colleague."</p>	<p><b>Lễ tân ở khách sạn này rất tồi.</b></p> <p>"The receptionists in this hotel are very bad."</p>

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

**Cậu/tớ** meaning "you/I" or "me" (*cậu* is "you" and *tớ* is "I/me") is a pair of pronouns used between friends or people of the same age. These phrases are equivalent to *bạn/tớ* (also meaning "you/I") as we already learned in the Absolute Beginner series.

For example:

1. *Tớ sẽ gọi cho cậu tối nay.*  
"I will call you tonight."
2. *Cậu có muốn học tiếng Hàn cùng với tớ không?*  
"Do you want to study Korean with me?"

**Giới thiệu** means "to introduce." This verb can be followed by a noun indicating a person or a thing and like the verb "to introduce" in English, *giới thiệu* is used to present someone to another person, to establish a relationship/acquaintance, to provide information about someone or something for the first time, or to present something new to the public. Some common phrases using *giới thiệu* are:

1. *Giới thiệu bản thân:* to introduce oneself
2. *Giới thiệu đối tác làm ăn:* to introduce a business partner
3. *Giới thiệu sản phẩm:* to introduce a product
4. *Giới thiệu công ty:* to introduce a company

5. *Giới thiệu chung*: general introduction, preface

**Anh/em**, equivalent to "I/me" and "you," is a pair of pronouns that is used in the following cases:

**1. You (the first speaker) are talking with a slightly older man.**

In this case, you call yourself *em* and call the man *anh*.

For example, you will address him as:

1. *Em chào anh.*  
"Hello brother."
2. *Anh cho em đi nhờ nhé.*  
"Can you give me a lift?"

**2. A man is talking with a slightly younger man/woman.**

In this case, the man (the first speaker) calls himself *anh* and calls the other person *em*.

For example, when an older man is talking with you, he may ask you:

1. *Em cho anh đi nhờ nhé.*  
"Can you give me a lift?"
2. *Anh là Nam. Em tên là gì?*  
"I am Nam. What's your name?"

**3. The speakers are in a romantic relationship.**

In this case, the man calls himself *anh* and is called *anh* by the woman.

The woman calls herself *em* and is called *em* by the man.

This way of addressing each other remains the same regardless of the age. In other words, the man is always *anh* even if he is younger or of the same age, and the woman is always *em* even if she is older or of the same age.

For example: Learn to say "I love you" in Vietnamese:

A woman would say: *Em yêu anh.*

A man would say: *Anh yêu em.*

## GRAMMAR

**The Focus of this Lesson is on Introducing Another Person to your Friend.**

***Xin giới thiệu với cậu, đây là anh Nam, đồng nghiệp của tớ***

**"Let me introduce to you. This is Mr Nam, my colleague."**

---

Start with *Xin giới thiệu* which means "let me introduce." The next phrase *với cậu* means "to you." Please note that the pronoun *cậu* is being used because the speaker is talking with her friend. Therefore, *cậu* can be changed according to the person you are talking to. The whole phrase *xin giới thiệu với cậu* literally means "let me introduce to you."

Then start introducing the other person by saying *Đây là* + (title) + that person's name, which means "this is + (title) + that person's name." In Vietnamese, unless the person you are introducing is your friend or a person of the same age or younger, a title is often added before the name. The title can be *anh* (Mr/Brother), *chị/cô* (Ms/Aunt), *chú/bác* (Mr/Uncle - someone around your uncle's age), *thầy* (Teacher - male), *cô* (Teacher- female), *giáo sư* (professor) etc. In this lesson's dialogue, the title being added is *anh*. *Đây là anh Nam* ("This is Mr Nam/Brother Nam.")

Finally, add a phrase to explain your relationship with that person. In the dialogue, the phrase is *đồng nghiệp của tớ* which means "my colleague." Again, like the pronoun *cậu*, the pronoun *tớ* here is used because the two speakers are friends. It changes depending on whom you are talking to.

The whole structure is as follows:

*Xin giới thiệu với* + 2nd person pronoun, *đây là* + (title) + the person's name, + phrase explaining the relationship.

### **Introductions in Informal Situations**

---

In a very informal situation, the word *xin* in the phrase *xin giới thiệu* can be removed.

The whole structure is:

*Giới thiệu với* + 2nd person pronoun, *đây là* + (title) + the person's name, + apposition (explaining the relationship).

For example:

1. *Xin giới thiệu với anh, đây là Nga, bạn cùng lớp của em.*  
"Let me introduce to you, this is Nga, my classmate." (Talking to a slightly older man)
2. *Giới thiệu với cậu, đây là Minh, bạn trai của tớ.*  
"Let me introduce to you, this is Minh, my boyfriend." (Talking to a friend)
3. *Xin giới thiệu với chị, đây là thầy Tom, thầy giáo tiếng Anh của em.*  
"Let me introduce to you, this is Teacher Tom, my English teacher." (Talking to a slightly older woman)
4. *Xin giới thiệu với anh, đây là chú Bình, giám đốc công ty của tôi.*  
"Let me introduce to you, this is Mr/Uncle Binh, my company's director." (Talking to a man in formal situation)

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

### Meeting Etiquette in Vietnam

---

Vietnamese people are generally open and quite informal even when meeting for the first time. Except for business, political and diplomatic meetings which obviously require a high level of formality, Vietnamese people are very flexible in addressing each other in daily life. The pronoun *tôi*, meaning "I/me" is not commonly used in daily conversation. When meeting for the first time, people often ask each other about age to choose the most suitable pronoun. In the dialogue, Mary and Nam meet each other for the first time, but they both know An, and An introduces them together, so they use *anh/em* instead of *tôi*.

Vietnamese people do not usually use gestures such as bowing or shaking hands (except in business and mostly between men) when they first meet, they just smile or give a little nod. Even when they are close, personal contact is not common. You will hardly ever see Vietnamese people hugging or kissing in public places or in front of other people. This is because Vietnamese people are not used to expressing emotions or feelings in public.