

## *Shopping and Recreation*<sup>1</sup>



Source: Kimloan Hill Photo



Sources: [www.damsenpark.com.vn](http://www.damsenpark.com.vn)

By

**Kimloan Hill**

**University of California, San Diego**

---

<sup>1</sup> The author reserves the copy right to any material in this chapter. Any reproduction in this chapter must have the author's consent.

## A—Objective

By the end of this chapter, you will:

- Know how to bargain when going shopping in Vietnam
- Have knowledge of sports, recreational activities, shopping culture, and the network of markets in Vietnam
- How to make suggestions or polite orders with nhá, nhé, nghe
- How to use terms of address such as: *chúng mình, mình, cậu, tui* and conjunctions such as *vậy thì, thé, thé thì*.

## B—Scenarios

**Dialogue 1:** Tại thành phố Hồ-chí-Minh



Source: www.circleofasia.com

Thảo: Chị Ngọc cho em đi chợ với. Em sẽ xách giỏ cho chị.

Ngọc: Hôm nay *ngoài* thịt và rau (*ra*) mẹ cũng muốn chị mua hoa quả về cúng.

Thảo: *Thé* chị đi chợ nào?

Ngọc: Chị định đi chợ Bến Thành. Ở đó có nhiều trái cây tươi.

Thảo: *Vậy thì chị em mình* không đi bộ được. Minh phải bằng xe Honda.

Ngọc: Đi thôi kéo chợ hết rau tươi.

**Dialogue 2:**

Người bán trái cây: Cam sành 25 ngàn một kí, bà mua đi.

Ngọc: *Sao mắc quá vậy!* 15 ngàn được không?

Người bán trái cây: **Đâu có rẻ dữ vậy!** Tôi đâu có nói thách. Bà mua **mở hàng dùm “tui”** đi.

Ngọc: 18 ngàn nghe. Được thì tôi **mua mở hàng cho** chị.

Người bán trái cây: 20 ngàn. Không thể bán **rẻ hơn** được. Bà không mua thì thôi.

Ngọc (chọn cam): Chị cân cho tôi hai kí. Cân cho đúng **nghe**.

Người bán trái cây: **“Tui”** bảo đảm.... **Hơn** hai kí **một chút**. Tất cả là 42 ngàn.

#### **Dialogue 3:** Tại Hà – Nội



Source: www.webdulich.com

Mai: Lan ơi, mình muôn đi chợ mua vải may áo dài **trước khi** về Mỹ.

Lan: Ủ, Mai may áo dài tại Việt - Nam **vừa** rẻ **vừa** đẹp.

Mai: Mình không biết ở đâu có lụa tốt và đẹp. Lụa Hà-Đông có còn nổi tiếng **nhus** ngày xưa không?

Lan: Lụa Hà Đông hay lụa Vạn Phúc, vẫn còn nổi tiếng. Tại Hà Nội có lụa Thái Tuấn cũng nổi tiếng, vừa đẹp vừa sang. Tại đó họ cũng đo người và may **luôn**. Ba ngày là có áo. Nếu Mai muốn thì mình đưa Mai đi.

Mai: Như vậy thì tuyệt vời. **Chúng mình** đi nhá

#### **Dialogue 4:** Cà-phê và bóng đá

Thành: Hải định đi đâu đó?

Hải: **Mình** định ra quán cà-phê uống bia và xem bóng đá với các bạn.

Thành: Hôm nay đội Việt Nam đấu với đội nào?

Hải: Đáu với đội Nhật Bản, thắng hay thua đội Việt Nam vẫn vào tứ kết . **Cậu** nghĩ đội nào sẽ thắng?

Thành: Việt Nam là chắc và sẽ thắng với tỉ số cao.

Hải: **Mình** thì nghĩ là đội Nhật Bản sẽ thắng. Nếu Việt Nam thua thì **cậu** phải đai mình một tô phở.

Thành: Được. Trận đấu sắp bắt đầu rồi. **Mình** đi ngay đi.



Source: www.bongda.com

#### **Dialogue 5:** Tại Thành phố Hồ-chí-Minh



Source: www.damsenpark.com.vn



Source: www.waterpuppetry.com

Dì Diệp: Hôm nay trời nắng, các cháu nên đi chơi giải trí.

Thúy: Chúng cháu định đi công viên nước Đàm Sen. Cháu nghe nói ở đó có nhiều trò chơi lành mạnh cho cả người lớn và trẻ em.

Dì Diệp: Tại đó các cháu có thể trượt máng nước; chèo thuyền trên hồ; hoặc xem múa rối nước.

Thuý: Công viên Đàm Sen ở đâu vậy dì?

Dì Diệp: Dì chỉ biết là nó ở quận 11. Cháu gọi tổng đài thì họ sẽ cho cháu địa chỉ của nó ngay.

### **Dialogue 6:**

Nhân: Ba ơi, cuối tuần này ba đưa chúng con đi cắm trại ***nghe***.

Ba của Nhân: Con muốn đi cắm trại ở đâu?

Nhân: Con muốn đi cắm trại gần sông để câu cá.

Ánh: Con cũng muốn đi cắm trại gần sông ; nhưng con không thích câu cá, con thích bơi và chèo thuyền.

Ba: ***Vậy thì*** mình đi cắm trại ở thung lũng gần sông Williamette.

### **Dialogue 7:**

Tâm: Tối nay ký túc xá có dạ vũ, Oanh có đi không?

Oanh: Oanh có hẹn với các bạn đi uống cà -phê và hát Karaoke ở câu-lạc-bộ của Hội Sinh Viên Việt - Nam lúc tám giờ.

Tâm: Hát Karaoke vui hơn. Tâm sẽ đi với Oanh.

Oanh: Bảy giờ Tâm lại đón Oanh nhé

Tâm: Được.

## **C—Vocabularies**

Xách giỏ: to carry shopping bag

Ngoài...(ra): besides

Hoa quả/trái cây: fruits

Tươi: fresh (vegetable), raw (meat)

Bàn thờ tổ tiên: alter to worship ancestors

Mắc/đắt: expensive

Rẻ: cheap

Nói thách: to inflate the price

Trả giá, mặc cả:	to bargain
Mua mở hàng dùm/cho:	to be the first buyer of the day (see notes on grammar and culture)
Cân:	to weigh
Lụa:	silk
Vừa...vừa:	both....and...
Đẹp:	beautiful
Sang:	elegant
Đo người:	to take body measurement
May:	to sew
Tuyệt vời:	wonderful, excellent
Đi chơi:	to go out for leisure
For recreation...	Để giải trí....
Bóng đá:	soccer
Đội:	team
Đấu:	to compete with/play against (another team)
Trận đấu:	a match
Tứ kết:	quarter final
Bán kết:	semifinal
Chung kết:	final
Tỉ số:	score
Đãi:	to treat someone to a meal
Đi chơi giải trí:	to go out and entertain oneself
Công viên:	a park
An amusement park:	công viên có trò chơi giải trí
Trò chơi lành mạnh:	healthy and safe games
Người lớn và trẻ em:	adults and children
Máng nước:	water slide
Trượt:	to slide
Chèo thuyền:	boating
Hồ:	lake
Múa rối nước:	water puppetry
Tổng đài:	telephone directory
Cuối tuần:	weekend
(Đi) Cắm trại:	camping
Sông:	river
(Đi) Câu cá:	fishing
(Đi) Bơi:	swimming
(Đi) Chèo thuyền:	boating
Thung lũng:	valley
Ký túc xá:	dormitory
Dạ vũ:	dancing at night (dạ = night; vũ = dancing)
Câu-lạc-bộ:	club
Hội sinh-viên:	students' association

**Idioms:**

Sao mắc quá vậy!	Why it is so expensive!
Đâu có rẻ dữ vậy!	It is not that cheap!
Bán đắt như tôm tươi:	sell like hot cakes
Rau nào sâm này:	like father like son

## D—Classroom Activities

**Activity 1:** Shopping and Bargaining

Student A & B = Shoppers	Student C, Student D, Student E = Vendors
Step1: A dialogue – discuss a shopping list for cooking ingredients and some fruits and flowers to buy for the day.  Step 2: go shopping for those ingredients and bargain for a right price for each item on your list. In lowering the prices of these items, try to give them a reason why you do not want to pay for such a high price.	Student C = a vendor of meat & poultry Student D = a vendor of fruits & vegetables Student E = a vendor of flowers  Prepare a minimum price for each of the meat, poultry, fruit, and vegetables items. Try to make as much profit as you can by trying to sell them higher than the minimum sale price.

**Activity 2:** A conversation on “sports and hobbies.”

Student A	Student B
Tell student B about your favorite sport(s) – what are some special features about this sports and why you like it - and your favorite athlete(s)– why you like him/her, how often you watch that person play, what were some highlights of the games	Tell student A about some of your favorite past time activities – what do you do for leisure, what are some special features about those activities, why do you like them, what are some special experiences.

**Activity 3:** Buying a souvenir in Vietnam

Student A	Student B
Walk into a souvenir shop in search for a souvenir for family members in the U. S. Take a look at a few items, ask for their prices, choose the item (s) that you like and bargain for a cheaper price.	Greet student A Ask him/her what s/he would like to buy; show some of items on the shelves that you know tourists love to buy; and try to sell for a price higher than the minimum price

**Activity 4:** An invitation to a movie

Student A	Student B
Call a friend and invite him or her to go dancing with you on weekend evening. Convince him/her to go with you even though s/he says no.	Tell your friend that you would be very busy and feel that you should be home to finish your tasks – cite some convincing reasons to decline the invitation.

**Activity 5:**

Say the following sentences in Vietnamese:

1. Let me go shopping with you; I will carry the shopping bag for you.
2. Đồng Xuân Market has a lot of fresh fruit, vegetables, and flowers.
3. Let's go to a coffee shop to have a soft drink (*nước ngọt*) and watch the soccer game between Indonesia and Vietnam.
4. You can call the (telephone) operator to get the address of that restaurant.
5. Many Americans are the fans of baseball.
6. The final score of yesterday basketball game was 101-89.
7. Vietnamese shoppers like to use fresh meat and vegetables for their daily cooking.
8. Legoland is an amusement park that has many healthy and safe games for children.
9. For recreation, my family likes to go camping in the forest or fishing in the river.
10. Raging Water is a park that has many water games for both adults and children.
11. My sister likes to go to movies in the weekend.
12. I like to shop for souvenirs in Bến Thành Market but I do not like bargaining.
13. Vietnamese housewives like to go to the market early every morning to get the freshest fish.
14. When my sister graduated from college she treated everyone to a nice meal in a Chinese restaurant.
15. Why it is so expensive!
16. This summer is hot; electric fans are sold like hot cake.
17. I do not inflate the price, do not bargain anymore.
18. It is not that cheap!
19. He is behaving like his father, like father like son.
- 20.

## E—Grammar Notes

a—*Ngoài...ra; ngoài ra = besides*

Example 1:

*Ngoài tôi ra*, gia đình tôi còn có năm người nữa : mẹ tôi, cha tôi, hai anh tôi và em gái tôi.

*Besides me, there are five more persons in my family: my mother, father, two brothers and my younger sister.*

Example 2:

Hôm qua Anh Hải phải đi làm trước khi đi học; *ngoài ra* anh ấy cũng đi lại nhà thương thăm mẹ anh ấy.

*Yesterday Hải had to go to work before he went to school; besides he also visited his mother at a hospital.*

b—*Thé, thé thì, vây thì = In that case, if so, from what was just said, therefore:* are used in the beginning of a statement which is said following a statement and as the result of that statement.

Example1:

- A: Hôm nay trời đẹp quá, chúng ta đi cắm trại nhé.  
*Today the weather is beautiful, shall we go camping?*
- B: Anh không được khỏe.  
*I do not feel well.*
- A: Vậy thì/thé thì hôm khác chúng ta đi cũng được.  
*In that case, we can go some other days.*

Example 2:

- A: Chị đang định đi chợ Cầu Ông Lãnh để mua vải.  
*I am planning to go to Cầu Ông Lãnh market to buy some fabric.*
- B: Thé, chị định mua vải gì?  
*So, what type of fabric do you want to buy?*

c—*Tui, cậu = I, you:* are terms of address. *Tui* is southern version for *tôi*. *Cậu* is used by a male to address a male friend.

d—*Mình, chúng mình, chi em mình = chúng ta or we* (including the speaker), which are used intimate situation to address friends and family members.

e—*Vừa...vừa = both ... and; (doing something) at the same time.*

Example 1: Căn nhà này vừa rộng vừa sáng.  
*This house is both large and bright.*

Example 2: Cô Nga vừa lái xe vừa nói chuyện trên điện thoại di động.  
*Miss Nga drives and talks on the mobile phone at the same time.*

f—*Hơn = more than, less than; như = as...as*

Example 1: Cam đắt hơn táo.  
*Oranges are more expensive than apples.*

Example 2: Chiếc xe này trị giá hơn 25,000 đô-la.  
*This car costs more than 25,000 dollars.*

Example 3: Ông Bảo trông vẫn trẻ như ngày xưa.  
*Mr. Bảo looks as young as before.*

g—*Nghe, nhé, nhá:* is used at the end of a sentence to denote a suggestion or a polite order to someone. *Nghe* is used more often by southerners, while *nhé* and *nhá* are used more often by northerners.

Example 1: Ba đang bị đau, ngày mai mình đi thăm ba nghe.  
*Our father is ill; let's visit him tomorrow.*

Example 2: Trời mưa quá , không thể đi coi phim được ; chúng ta ở nhà coi Ti-vi nhé  
*It rains heavily, we can't go to movie; let's stay home and watch television (Or: shall we stay home and watch television?)*

h—*Luôn = as soon as:* is used to indicate one action will immediately follow another action. *Thì* is usually used to link two actions. Although “as soon as” is placed at the beginning of a sentence; *luôn* is placed in the end of the sentence.

Example 1: Cô Thúy làm việc xong thì (cô ấy) đi xem phim luôn.  
*As soon as Ms Thuy finishes working, she goes to a movie.*

Example 2: Em Ngọc học bài xong thì đi chợ luôn.  
*As soon as Ngọc finishes studying, she goes shopping.*

## F—Culture Notes

1—*Chợ* or market functions not only as an economic center where people buy, sell, and trade agricultural products, food stuffs and other products but also a social, cultural and informational center where people socialize, maintain cultural activities, and disseminate information. The organization of *Chợ* varies with local needs, tradition, and history. In large cities like Hà-Nội and Thành phố Hồ-chí-Minh there are *siêu thị* or western style supermarkets. *Chợ hôm* or daily market, which is held in early morning or late afternoon, is common in both cities and rural areas. In *chợ hôm* vendors sell meat, vegetables, fruits and seafood that were freshly butchered, cut, and brought in from the countryside or the

sea. Vietnamese shoppers prefer to buy ingredients for their daily cooking from *chợ hôm*. Chợ Đồng Xuân in Hà-Nội, established in 1899, and Chợ Bến Thành in Thành Phố Hồ Chí Minh, rebuilt by the French in the 1870s, were the two oldest *chợ hôm* in Việt Nam. *Chợ phiên* is similar in organization and structure to farmer and flea markets in the United States but it is held mostly in the country sides. It is held at a certain day of the week or month. People can bring agricultural products, arts and crafts, and other goods to sell at trade at *chợ phiên*. In highland areas such as Sapa (North Vietnam), *chợ phiên* has not only economic but also social and cultural functions. Ethnic people bring their goods to sell and trade and buy dried foods and imported goods brought in by merchants from urban areas. Traditionally, ethnic people gather the day before *chợ phiên* is held to socialize and participate in cultural activities; young people may find their prospective brides or groom while participating in those activities.



A scene of Chợ Hôm.  
Source: Kimloan Hill Photo



A Black Thai merchant sells fabric in chợ phiên Sapa  
Source: Kimloan Hill Photo

In western regions of South Vietnam, where rivers serve as the main thoroughfares, and in some parts of northeastern part of North Vietnam, where people lived on houseboats, there are *chợ nổi* or floating markets. It is held daily and very busy in early morning when fresh fruits, vegetables, and fresh river products such as shrimp and fish are offered. Merchants and buyers move about in hundreds of canoes and boats to buy, sell and trade goods and services.



A merchant in chợ nổi – Halong Bay, North Vietnam  
Source: Kimloan Hill Photo



A scene of chợ nổi – Cai Rang, Can Tho, South Vietnam  
Source: Viet Wikipedia

2—Prices of goods and products in supermarket are marked at fixed prices. However, if you shop in *chợ hôm* or *chợ phiên* you must *trả giá* or bargain for the price of the goods and/or products that you buy. The vendors will *nói thách* or inflate the prices of their goods and products. It has become a tradition and buyers are expected to bargain for the price they think is right.

3—Vietnamese merchants are superstitious. They believe that whether they can have a good day in the market depends on the first buyer of their goods for that day. If this buyer is someone who likes to prolong the bargaining process and, sometimes, does not want to pay a high price for the good (s), the vendors believe they would not be able to make a good profit out of the first merchandise they sell and/or they would have a “slow” day. They would appeal to their “early” customers by “pleading” with them to facilitate their bargaining process and bring them good luck for the day: (Bà, cô, ông, etc.) *mua mở hàng dùm*. Knowing their tactics, the buyers counter with a tactics of their own: they encourage the vendors to give them a quick sale by saying: *Đέ tôi mua mở hàng cho*. (Note that different adverbs are used: *dùm* when spoken by the vendor and *cho* when spoken by the buyer). When the bargaining process does not bring the desired results, some of the vendors would *đốt vía*, or to burn off the bad omen, hoping it would change their misfortune for that day.

4—Hà Đông province in North Vietnam has been the silk production center for centuries. Its silk is known for its light, colorful, and shiny quality. Vạn Phúc is the village in Hà Đông, which has produced the best quality silk in Vietnam.



Bank note: VND\$10,000  
Source: Kimloan Hill Photo



Bank Note: VND\$ 1.000  
Source: Kimloan Hill Photo

5—The currency in Vietnam is the *đồng*. Currently, the rate of exchange between the U.S dollar and the Vietnamese *đồng* is as follows:

$$1 \text{ USD} = 16,117.00 \text{ VND} \text{ OR } 1 \text{ VND} = 0.0000620463 \text{ USD}$$

This rate will be higher or lower depending on the rise and fall of the exchange market. Remember, however, that the Vietnamese *đồng* is not accepted at any Currency Exchange Office in international airports and seaports. You can only get the *đồng* in Vietnam and before you leave Vietnam trade any amount of the *đồng* you have for the dollars. You can exchange your dollars for the *đồng* at any jewelry shops, your hotels, or national and international banks such as the VietCom Bank or the ANZ (Australian and

New Zealand Bank). You can also use your ATM cards to withdraw you money from your bank in the U.S. There will be a fee charged to your account by the banks.

6—Soccer is a traditional and the most popular pastime sport in Vietnam. Introduced to Vietnam in early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it has become a popular sport since. In the past few decades, after Vietnam became an official member of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) this sport has become a means to promote nationalism at home and overseas. Before the age of television, most Vietnamese men like to meet their friends in a café to listen to chat and discuss local affairs. Vietnamese people also love to sing and can sing well, a natural advantage deprived from their tonal language. Today, watching and playing soccer, sipping coffee and having a drink in a caté, and singing karaoke are the most popular past time activities in Vietnam.

## G—Writing Exercises:

**Exercise 1:** Write a 3-minute report and present it to your class about your favorite grocery store and what it has to offer its customers. List types of vegetables, meats, food products, etc. and explain why you like to shop there.

**Exercise 2:** Learning while surfing the Internet.

Surf the Internet and find out what you can do for recreation in a city that you would like to visit in the future: sports, shopping centers, movies, camping, fishing, hiking, etc....

**Exercise 3:**

Complete the following sentences with the aid of a dictionary if necessary:

1. \_\_\_\_\_tại Hà-Nội và \_\_\_\_\_tại Thành Phố Hồ-chí-Minh được xây dựng trong thế kỷ thứ 19.
2. Việt-Nam có bốn loại chợ: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, và \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_rất thịnh hành ở miền Tây Nam Việt .
4. Miền núi có \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ vừa có các hoạt động kinh tế vừa có các hoạt động \_\_\_\_\_ cho các người dân tộc ở miền núi.
5. Loại thể thao thịnh hành nhất ở Việt Nam là \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Đàm Sen là \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Tại Đàm Sen, du khách có thể \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, và \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Người Việt thích đi chợ mỗi ngày để mua \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Người bán hành hay \_\_\_\_\_ cho nên người đi chợ phải \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Tại Mỹ bóng đá không thịnh hành như \_\_\_\_\_ và \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 4:**

Answer the following questions in complete sentences and in Vietnamese with the aid of the Internet and a dictionary if necessary.

1. What would you say if you want to suggest to your friend politely that both of you should study before going to a movie?
2. What are five activities you would do for leisure?
3. What types of market are popular in the United States and in Vietnam?
4. Name three ethnic minority groups in the high land of Vietnam.
5. Name three popular amusement parks in Vietnam.
6. Name three popular winter sports.
7. What is the most popular type of market in highland?
8. How often are *chợ hôm* and *chợ phiên* held?
9. What is name of the village which has produced the most famous silk in Vietnam? Where is it located?
10. What are the verbs that denote the “bargaining” practice in market culture?

**Exercise 5:**

With the aid of a dictionary, find the English equivalence for each of the following terms:

Pork ribs:

Fresh bacon:

Beef steak:

Chicken drum stick:

Mushroom:

Cabbage:

Onion:

Garlic:

Pepper:

Chili pepper:

Lemon:

Basket ball:

Volley ball:

Ice skating:

Skiing:

Tennis:

Badminton:

Table tennis/ping-pong:

Ball player:

To be a fan of (to admire):