

**VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE
PROFICIENCY GUIDELINES
ADVANCED LEVEL: SPEAKING**

Lê Phạm, Thuý-Kim - Arizona State University
Ngô, Như Bình - Harvard University
Hill, Kim-Loan - University of California at San Diego

CONTENT	FUNCTION	GRAMMAR & USAGE	ACCURACY
Combination of topics mentioned in beginning and intermediate levels and following topics: 1. Current events and affairs. 2. Politics. 3. Economics. 4. History. 5. Language. 6. Cultural and moral issues. 7. Social issues. 8. Literature and poetry. 9. Arts and fine arts.	1. Initiating, sustaining and concluding conversations on the common topics. 2. Using a variety of language strategies to convey meanings (short, responsive comments, pause fillers, circumlocutions.) 3. Trying to speak with culturally appropriate language and behavior and using a wide range of vocabulary. 4. Handling complicated activities, such as elaborating, complaining, negotiating, convincing others, providing personal perspectives, and defending opinions. 5. Discussing/Presenting/Debating concrete topics relating to particular interests and special fields of competence.	1. Emphasizing the differences between styles. 2. Introducing more complex grammatical patterns and vocabulary characteristic of <i>spoken</i> Vietnamese. 3. Introducing affixation, compounding, reduplication and borrowings more systematically.* 4. Introducing more idioms, sayings and proverbs related to the topics. 5. Introducing some systematic phonetic and lexical differences between the Hanoi and Saigon dialects.	1. Speaking in paragraphs and using more sophisticated, abstract vocabulary and some circumlocutions; however, still making errors which do not considerably interfere with comprehension. 2. Feeling more confident when using idioms, sayings, pro-verbs. 3. Enhancing speech rate but occasionally feeling hesitation.

*We suggest introducing the following:

1. Some affixes which make up systems. For instance: *đội trưởng, đội viên, đội tuyển, đội ngũ, đoàn trưởng, hội trưởng, lớp trưởng, hiệu trưởng, cửa hàng trưởng.*
2. Meanings of different types of coordinate compounds: a) *quần áo, mua bán* b) *chợ búa, viết lách*, etc.
3. Meanings of different types of subordinate compounds: a) *xe đạp, xe máy, xe hơi*, b) *xanh um, xanh biếc, xanh rì, xanh lơ* etc.
4. Main patterns of reduplication: total (*đùng đùng, khăng khăng*) and partial (alliterative: *đúng đắn, khăng khít*; rhyming: *lung tung, bẻng nhặng*).
5. Semantic, grammatical or stylistic differences between Chinese borrowings and Vietnamese synonyms *quốc gia and nhà nước, phi cơ and máy bay* etc.

References

1. Omaggio, Alice C. (1986) *Teaching Language in Context*, Heinle & Heinle Publishers, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts.
2. The College Entrance Examination Board (1996) *Language Learning Continuum from Articulation and Achievement: Connecting Standards, Performance, and Assessment in Foreign Language*, New York (pp. 24-28).
3. Ngô Như Bình (2001) *Vietnamese Language: Teaching and Learning Framework (linguistic part)* published by the Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages (COTSEAL), 2005.