Appendix 2
Pronunciation Guide and Drills

I. VIETNAMESE ALPHABET

The Vietnamese alphabet has 29 letters. It includes 7 letters that are not part of the English alphabet: ā, â, đ, ê, ô, ơ, ư and it omits 3 letters: f, w, z.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>h</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>q</th>
<th>u</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ā</td>
<td>ṭ</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>â</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>ô</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>ê</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>u</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. VIETNAMESE PHONOLOGY

Three major systems of sounds: consonants, vowels, and tones of Vietnamese language will be introduced in this section.

A. Consonants

The following consonants are listed in alphabetical order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b</th>
<th>ð</th>
<th>k</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>q</th>
<th>th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>kh</td>
<td>ng / ngh</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>tr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>gh</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>nh</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>ph</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following table lists consonants that may occur in the initial position of a word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>As pronounced in English</th>
<th>Example in VN</th>
<th>Meaning in English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>/b/</td>
<td>buy</td>
<td>bó</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>con cá</td>
<td>fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>king</td>
<td>kim</td>
<td>needle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qu</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>quick</td>
<td>qua</td>
<td>to pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>/c/</td>
<td>cha-cha</td>
<td>cha</td>
<td>father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tr</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>trä (No. dialect)</td>
<td>trè “</td>
<td>be young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>zero</td>
<td>đê (No. dialect)</td>
<td>easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gi</td>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>zest</td>
<td>già (No. dialect)</td>
<td>old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>to do</td>
<td>đi</td>
<td>to go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>/g/</td>
<td>to go</td>
<td>ga</td>
<td>gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gh</td>
<td>/g/</td>
<td>ghost</td>
<td>ghi</td>
<td>to write down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>/h/</td>
<td>hat</td>
<td>ho</td>
<td>to cough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kh</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>lock</td>
<td>khi</td>
<td>when</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>/l/</td>
<td>long</td>
<td>la</td>
<td>to scold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>/m/</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>Mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>/m/</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>mother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>/n/</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>to be full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ng</td>
<td>/ŋ/</td>
<td>sing</td>
<td>ngô (no equiv. in EN)</td>
<td>corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngh</td>
<td>/ŋ/</td>
<td>sing</td>
<td>negh (no equiv. in EN)</td>
<td>to think</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nh</td>
<td>/n/</td>
<td>canyon</td>
<td>nhà</td>
<td>house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>/p/</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>pin *</td>
<td>battery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ph</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>pha</td>
<td>to mix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>top</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>big</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>th</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>thin</td>
<td>thu</td>
<td>autumn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>/v/</td>
<td>video</td>
<td>và</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>stay</td>
<td>sur</td>
<td>monk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>saw</td>
<td>xa</td>
<td>far</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>/j/</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>dì (So.&amp; Central dialect)</td>
<td>aunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gi</td>
<td>/j/</td>
<td>young</td>
<td>gió “</td>
<td>wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tr</td>
<td>/ɾʃ/</td>
<td>try</td>
<td>trè “</td>
<td>be young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>/ʃ/</td>
<td>shoe</td>
<td>sọ “</td>
<td>to be afraid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>/ɾ/</td>
<td>run</td>
<td>ra “</td>
<td>to go out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
-The phoneme /p/ only occurs at the end of a word. There are some words borrowed from French that have “p” as the initial consonant such as píp (pipe), pô ke (poker), pô po lin (poplin)

-Only eight consonants can appear in the final position: c, g, h, m, n, p, t, y

-The letter q is not used by itself but with the vowel u → qu

-Although there are many dialectical variations in Vietnamese language, only those of Hà Nội, Huế and Sài Gòn are illustrated in the above table.

-The last five consonants are typical of the pronunciation of the area of north central Vietnam (Huế dialect) and South Vietnam (Sài Gòn dialect).

-For Huế and Sài Gòn dialects, the “t” in final position or a word sounds like an unreleased “c” /k/ (mât → pronounced like mác) and the final “n” /n/ sounds like “ng” or /ŋ/ (bán → pronounced like báŋ).

-In the Sài Gòn dialect, both the “v” and “gi” sound more like “d” /j/ (vô → pronounced more like “dố” and gió sounds more like dố).

-In the Hà Nội dialect, the following consonants are pronounced alike:
  a. the “tr” and “ch” sound alike.
     They are both pronounced as “ch” /c/ (trà → pronounced like chà).
  b. the “r” and “d” sound alike.
     They are both pronounced as “d” /z/ (rôi → pronounced like dôi).
  c. the “s” and “x” sound alike.
     They are both pronounced as “x” /s/ (sè → pronounced like xè).

**Practice 1:**  c, k, kh

c  k  kh
ca (to sing)  kê (to place furniture)  Khá (fairly good)
cô (Miss; aunt)  kem (ice cream)  khi (when)
co (to shrink)  kì (kilogram)  kho (to stew)

*Spelling rules:
Vowels a, o, ô, o, u, u are preceded by c while e, ê, i, y have to be preceded by k.
**Practice 2: ng, ngh, g, gh**

*ng* and *ngh* both sounded as /ŋ/. In initial position, /ŋ/ is perhaps the most difficult consonant sound for English speakers to pronounce because in English this sound exists only in medial or final positions. To pronounce this sound correctly in initial positions, try to release and emphasize the English final /ŋ/ to begin a word in Vietnamese. For example, emphasize the ending consonant *ng* in *wing* /...ŋ...ŋ/ when pronouncing “*ng*” in Vietnamese.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ng</th>
<th>ngh</th>
<th>g</th>
<th>gh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nga (Russia)</td>
<td>nghe (to listen; hear)</td>
<td>ga (train station)</td>
<td>ghé (to stop by)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngô (corn)</td>
<td>nghi (to doubt)</td>
<td>gô (wood)</td>
<td>ghi (to write down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ngu (be stupid)</td>
<td>nghê (occupation)</td>
<td>gü (hunch back)</td>
<td>ghĩ (to hold tight)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Spelling rules:*

- Vowels a, o, ô, o, u, â, ā are preceded by ng and g, while e, ê, i, y have to be preceded by ngh and gh in order to produce the same consonant sound respectively.

**Practice 3: gi**

* g followed immediately by i and other vowel combinations pronounced like /z/ in the Hà Nội
gì (what)  già (fake)  giê (rag)  giò (leg – So.)  giố (death anniversary)

**Practice 4** c, ch, t, p as ending consonants

Words with c, ch, t, p as ending consonants only can have either sác or nằng tones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>nhạc (music)</th>
<th>sách (book)</th>
<th>tát (to slap)</th>
<th>ngáp (yawn)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bác (uncle)</td>
<td>sạch (clean)</td>
<td>hạt (seed)</td>
<td>hạp (suitable)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B. VOWELS**

Vietnamese language has:

-9 single vowels:  front unrounded: i, ê, e  central unrounded: a, o, u
 back rounded: u, ô, o

-2 short vowels:  â, ā

The vowel triangle, originally created by Panini -a scholar from India, is an imaginary triangle located in the mouth used to represent graphically the position of the tongue while pronouncing certain vowels.
### Spelling, Sound, As pronounced in ENG, Ex. in VN, Meaning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>As pronounced in ENG</th>
<th>Ex. in VN</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>/ɪ/</td>
<td>city</td>
<td>bì</td>
<td>marbles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>/ɛ/</td>
<td>end</td>
<td>len</td>
<td>wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ê</td>
<td>/e/</td>
<td>fate</td>
<td>lê</td>
<td>pear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>/a/</td>
<td>far, father</td>
<td>ba</td>
<td>three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>/o/</td>
<td>but</td>
<td>bô</td>
<td>butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ur</td>
<td>/ɨ/</td>
<td>does not resemble any EN sound</td>
<td>sú</td>
<td>monk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>/u/</td>
<td>bull</td>
<td>thu</td>
<td>autumn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>/ɔ/</td>
<td>law</td>
<td>lo</td>
<td>be worried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ô</td>
<td>/o/</td>
<td>so</td>
<td>ô tô</td>
<td>car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ā</td>
<td>/ä/</td>
<td>cut</td>
<td>cât</td>
<td>to cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>â</td>
<td>/ɒ/</td>
<td>umpire; under</td>
<td>sâm</td>
<td>ginseng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1. Front unrounded vowels: i, ê, e

When pronouncing these vowels, the tip of the tongue is at the lower jaw.

**Practice 5:** i or y is a close vowel, therefore, the mouth is almost closed. This vowel is almost the same as the English [i] in cheese, tea, key, and so on.

bì (marble)  khô (when)  thi (test)  ly (glass)  ky (bamboo dust pan)

**Practice 6:** ê is a close-mid vowel. It is similar to the vowel [ei] as in fate, may, or hay.

bê (calf)  tê (numb)  phê (to criticize)  dê (goat)  mê (to have a passion for)
**Practice 7**: e is an open-mid vowel. It has no equivalent in English, but it sounds similar to the vowel in tan, fan, pair, or care.
exe (vehicle) me (tamarind) che (to cover) de (anvil) que (stick)

2. **Central unrounded vowels**: a, o, u

**Practice 8**: a is an open vowel and has no equivalent in English. It sounds like the vowel in far or farther.
xa (far) cha (father) ma (ghost) la (to yell) ta (I, self)

**Practice 9**: o is a close-mid vowel. It sounds almost the same as the vowel in above, but.
bo (butter) mo (dream) to (silk) do (dirty) ho (to dry)

**Practice 10**: u is a close vowel. It has no equivalent in English and is the most difficult vowel for English speakers to pronounce.
su (monk) tu (fourth) thu (letter) hur (naughty) nhur (as)

3. **Back rounded vowels**: u, ô, o

**Practice 11**: u is a close vowel. It sounds like the vowel in who, you, sue.
thu (autumn) ngu (stupid) khu (area) phu (labor worker)

**Practice 12**: ô is a close-mid vowel as in so, oh
tô (big bowl) cô (aunt, Miss) xô (to push) ngô (corn) nô (frolic)

**Practice 13**: o is an open vowel and almost the same as the vowel in saw, law, bother.
to (big) ho (to cough) lo (worry) cho (to give) no (full)

4. **Short vowels**: ă, â. These vowels must be preceded or followed by consonants.

**Practice 14**: ă and a are basically pronounced the same but the vowel ă is much shorter than a.
ăn (to eat) chac (solid) mát (eye) chăn (blanket) săn (to hunt)

**Practice 15**: â and ô are basically pronounced the same but the vowel â is much shorter than o.
ân (favor) tác (10 cm) màt (to lose) cân (scale) sán (courtyard)
5. Vowel and consonants

**Practice 16:** ich, it, in, inh
ich (benefit)    dịch (to translate)    ít (little)    bịt (to suppress)
in (to print)    tin (to trust)    xinh (pretty)    dinh (palace)

**Practice 17:** ên, ênh, êch, êt
tên (name)    hên (lucky)    kênh (channel)    bệnh (sick)
éch (frog)    kêch (coarse)    tết (holiday)    đдет (to weave)

**Practice 18:** en, eng, et, ep
ten (name)    sen (lotus)    beng (to cut off)    bengo (immediately)
hết (to yell)    nghẹt (be choked)    chép (to copy)    đẹp (beautiful)

**Practice 19:** an, ang, anh
anh (safe)    tan (to dissolve)    tang (mourning)    banh (ball)
bàn (table)    màn (curtain)    làng (village)    bánh (cake)

**Practice 20:** ac, ach, at, ap
ác (cruel)    bác (silver)    sạch (clean)    táčh (cup)
bát (bowl)    hạt (seed)    ngáp (to yawn)    hập (to suit)

**Practice 21:** ot, op, ôc, ôt, ôp, oc, ot, op
ót (chili)    bọt (to reduce)    lốp (class)    lốp (to roof)
ôc (snail)    học tủ (drawer)    tôt (good)    bột (flour)
bớp (to plop)    xớp (spongy)    óc (brain)    học (to study)
ngọt (sweet)    hốt (to chirp)    chớp (top)    hớp (to meet)

**Practice 22:** on, ong, ôn, ôm, ông, on
con (offspring)    ngon (delicious)    ong (bee)    xông (complete)
ôn (to review)    hôn (to kiss)    ôm (to hug)    tôm (shrimp)
ông (Mr.)    hông (hip)    ơn (favor)    sơn (to paint)

**Practice 23:** un, ung, ung
hun (to kiss- So,)    run (to shake)    sung (fig)    chung (together)
ung (to agree)    sung (be swollen)    nhung (but)    bung (to carry)

**Practice 24:** uc, ut, uč, ứt
cúc (daisy)    chud (dozen)    hứt (to smoke)    hựt (to miss sthg.)
mực (ink)    bức (be hot)    bứt (to pluck)    giựt (to snatch)
### Appendix 2: Pronunciation Guide and Drills

**Practice 25:** ān, āng, ân, âng  
| ān (to eat) | nhăn (wrinkle) | xăng (gasoline) | tăng (to increase) |  
| ân (favor) | nhăn (to multiply) | dăng (to offer) | vâng (yes) |  

6. **Vowels clusters and consonants**

**Practice 26:** ia, ua, u ra  
| tía (ray) | hia (slipper) | chi (to divide) | mua (to buy) |  
| cua (crab) | mura (rain) | dura (melon) | chura (not yet) |  

**Practice 27:** iêu, ëu, eo  
| tiêu (to spend) | yêu (love) | kêu (to yell) | heo (pig) |  
| hiếu (to understand) | liéu (tent) | nêu (if) | béo (overweight) |  

**Practice 28:** iêc, iết, iếp  
| tiếc (to regret) | tiệc (banquet) | viết (to write) | biết (to know) |  
| diệt (to destroy) | tiệp (to receive) | thiệp (card) | hiệp (round) |  

**Practice 29:** iên, iêng  
| hiên (veranda) | liên (lotus) | miệng (mouth) | siêng (diligent) |  

**Practice 30:** ao, au  
| ao (pond) | bao (cover) | sau (after) | mau (fast) |  

**Practice 31:** ai, ay, ảy  
| ai (who) | hai (two) | hay (interesting) | tây (west) |  

**Practice 32:** ươi, ươu, ươc, ươt, ươp  
| tưới (fresh) | cười (to laugh) | hươu (stag) | rươu (alcohol) |  
| nước (water) | dươc (to receive) | urót (wet) | cuớp (to rob) |  

**Practice 33:** ương, uơn, uơm  
|uron (eel) | lùơn (rib) | xương (bone) | gươm (sword) |  

**Practice 34:** uê, uynh, uyt, uyêt, ươn, ươn, ươn  
| thuê (to rent) | huê (lily) | duyên (charm) | xe buurt (bus) |  
| túyê (wonderful) | tuyét (snow) | quyết (to decide) | huyệt (grave) |  

**Practice 35:** uy, uynh, uya, uyu  
| tuy (although) | quỳnh (panicky) | khuya (late night) | khuỳu tay (elbow) |  

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**Appendix 2: Pronunciation Guide and Drills**
Practice 36: uôi, uôn, uôm, uông
duôi (tail) nuôi (to raise) luôn (often) buôn (to sell)
buồm (sail) cuôm (to steal) uông (to drink) buông (to let go)

Practice 37: âng, uân, uâng, uất
vâng (yes) luận (essay) bằng khuàng (to feel melancholic)
luật (law) suốt (portion) khuất (to pass away)

Practice 38: uốc, uột
cuốc (to hoe) buốc (to tie) được (torch)
nuốt (to shallow) chút (mouse) tuột (to slip off)

Practice 39: hoa (flower)
hoa (flower) xoá (to rub) hoa (reddish) loe (bell-shaped)
heo (pig) béo (be fat) ngòan ngòèo (zigzag)

Practice 40: khoai (potato)
khoai (potato) ngoài (outside) ngoài (to stir) toát (to sweat)
hoạt động - action tắc (to rip, torn up) ngoài (to open wide)
hoạch định (to plan)

Practice 41: hoàn (to return)
hoàn (to return) ngoài (well-behave) oanh (oriole) loang (be spread)

Practice 42: học (or, either)
học (or, either) ngoài (to hook) ngoài (turning point)
hoắt (very sharp) xoắn (curly) hóang (deer) hơăm (deep)

C. TONES

Vietnamese is a tonal language. There are 6 tones and each tone gives a different meaning to each word.

1. **Mid-level tone**: This tone has a pitch starting at the midpoint of the pronunciation of a syllable and remains the same. It is marked by the absence of any tone marks: ma, bi, le, la

2. **High-rising tone**: This tone starts slightly higher than the mid-level tone and rises sharply in the middle of the syllable. It is signified by the acute accent placed above the vowel called **dấu sắc**: má, bí, lé, lá
3.  

4. **Low-falling tone:** This tone starts slightly lower than the mid-level tone and trails downward at the end of the syllable. It is signified by the grave accent above the vowel called *dầu huyền* in Vietnamese: mà, bì, lè, là

5. **Low-falling rising tone:** This tone starts at the beginning point of the low-falling tone and drop completely (Hanoi dialect), or rises swiftly at the end of the syllable (Saigon dialect). The accent called *dầu hỏi* looks like the top half of a question mark: mà, bì, lè, là

6. **High-rising broken tone:** This tone has a pitch which is as high as that of the high rising tone but is accompanied by a glottal stop. It is signified by the tilde above the vowel called *dầu ngã*: mà, bì, lè; là

7. **Low-falling broken tone:** This tone starts with a low pitch as that of the low-falling tone but it then drops very sharply. It is signified by a dot placed under the vowel called *dầu nằng*: mà, bì, lè, là

![Diagram of six tones – Nguyễn Đình Hoà](image)

**Practice 43:** Tones

ma (ghost)  má (cheek)  mà (but)  mà (tomb)  mà (horse)  mà (to plate)
le (to loll)  lé (cross-eyed)  lè (to stick out)  lé (odd)  lé (reason)  lé (rapid)
vo (to grab)  vồ (sock)  vờ (to pretend)  vở (notebook)  vở (be broken)  vợ (wife)

**Practice 44:** Single vowels and tones

thi (to take a test)  phi (fee)  phi (be fat)  chi (to show)
Mỹ (America)  chị (sister)  dê (goat)  kê (next to)
hè (clown)  bè (be broken)  lệ (ceremony)  té (bad)
thur (letter)  thú (order; rank)  tür (from)  thừ (to try)
chữ (alphabet letter)  tự (self)  thu (autumn)  thú (animal)
mù (blind)  tủ (cupboard)  cũ (be old – thing)  cụ (old person)
cô (aunt; Miss)  cố (to try hard)  hồ (lake)  cổ (neck)
cỗ (banquet; feast)  hổ (lake)  cho (to give)  chó (dog)
bò (cow)  bợ (to drop)  mõ (wooden bell)  họ (last name)

Practice 45: Mid-level tone:
Tôi không đi chơi đâu. – I will not go out at all.
Cô Chi ăn cơm cSign.
– Miss Chi eats fried rice.
Anh em như tay chân (proverb) - Siblings are like one’s arms and legs.

Practice 46: High-rising tone:
Cá lớn nuốt cá bé (exp.) – The big one wins.
Khánh hát, Ánh hét – Khánh is singing, Ánh is screaming.
Khúc đó hát khó l skepticism!
– It is very difficult to sing that song.

Practice 47: Low-falling tone:
Thì giờ là vàng bạc (English proverb) – Time is money.
Tay làm hàm nhai (proverb) – Working hands earn food for the mouth.
Nhà bà Nhàn gần nhà bà Hà. – Mrs. Nhàn’s house is near Mrs. Ha’s house.

Practice 48: Low-falling rising tone:
Phủ chẳng hiểu gì cả! – Phú does not understand anything at all!
Trẻ em đi Bi nghiêm – The children go to Belgium for holidays.
Bà chủ của Thuỷ chỉ ngủ đủ bảy tiếng. – Thuỷ’s boss only sleeps 7 hours.

Practice 49: High-rising broken tone:
Dễ được, dể mất (idiom) – Easy come, easy go.
Nguyễn Vũ sẽ về tranh mài mai. – Nguyễn Vũ will always be an artist.
Hề đến rễ thì lỡ chuyến bay. – If you come late, then you will miss the flight.

Practice 50: Low-falling broken tone:
Chị Lụa bị đau bụng nặng. – Lụa has a severe stomach ache.
Tại sao Phụng bị tai nạn xe cộ? – Why was Phụng involved in a car accident?
Chị Hạnh học thuộc lòng bài học này. – Hạnh learns this lesson by heart.

Practice 51: Mix tones practices with idioms, proverbs
Nói dễ làm khó (idiom) – Easier said than done.
Chí lớn gặp nhau (idiom)- Great minds think alike.
Xa mắt cách lòng (idiom)- Out of sight, out of mind
Nhắm mắt mua liều (idiom) - To buy a pig in a poke  
Ô hiền gặp lành (idiom.) - One good turn deserves another  
Bỏ của chạy lấy người (idiom) – To flee for one’s life

**Practice 52:** More practices with a, ā, ě
An đang mang khăn tang – An is wearing the mourning band.  
Bà Ba đang ăn canh măng – Mrs Ba is eating bamboo shoot soup.  
Lâm làm nhà hàng năm tầng – Lâm is building a five-storey restaurant.  
Anh Cang đang bị căng thẳng – Cang is stressed out.  
Nam đang cắt năm quả cam – Nam is cutting 5 oranges.  
Thanh thanh Lắm làm cái tâm – Thanh complaints that Lắm is nuts.

**Practice 53:** More practices with i/y, è, e
Minh bènh em. – Minh is defending his brother  
Hết Tết thì hết bánh tết. – Tết is finished and there are no more rice cakes.  
Đêm đến, dem đến len – It is nighttime, bring the lamp upstairs.  
Lý đi đi đi Mỹ học - Lý sits for an exam to go study in America.

**Practice 54:** More practices with o o ô ông ơ ông
Mỗi tối có hợi – There is a festival every night.  
Loi soi mói hỏi tôi. – Loi curiously asks me questions.  
Trung mong Động và Phong. – Trung is waiting for Động and Phong.  
Hợp hợp trong lớp học – They have a meeting in the classroom.

**Practice 55:** More practices with u ư ưng ưng ương
Thư đi tu còn Như thì sao?– Thư enters a convent and how about Như?  
Thương thương ông cụ đi từ tụ. – The old man usually walks slowly.  
Đừng đứng dang dấy – Don’t stand over there.  
Xưởng ung dung, Cung thì lúng túng – Xưởng is poised while Cung is embarrassed.

**Practice 56:** More practices with c k kh qu
Kiều khóc khi Khôi không khỏe- Kiều cries when Khôi is not well.  
Khué không kêu khi khái khó khăn – In hardship Khuế does not complain.  
Cá khoé và canh khối qua. - Stewed fish with star fruits and bitter melon

**Practice 57:** More practices with t th x
Tuấn thích thời tiết mưa thu thơ mộng. – Tuấn likes the romantic autumn weather.  
Tháng tám trôi mưa thành thơm rơi. – The rain in August drops melodiously.  
Xuân xui xẻ, quần áo xộc xệch – Xuân has been unlucky, her clothes are untidy.
Practice 58: More practices with anh inh ênh
Anh Thanh lanh chanh với Minh và Mạnh. – Thanh is in a fuss with Minh and Mạnh.
Bình có thân hình thanh mảnh. – Bình has a slender body.
Lênh đênh trên biên mòng mènh. - Floating in the immense sea.

D. SOUND DISCRIMINATION PRACTICE
Following are the practices for sound discrimination for both pronunciation and spelling as well. The teachers can start with demonstration, practice, drills, then role plays, and dictation with these sounds written in sentences or paragraphs.

Practice 59:  e è
1. e
bé (little child)
-Anh có thích bé Vi không?
Do you like [little child] Vi?
te (to fall down)
-Hóm qua ông Tuế té ở đền.
Yesterday Mr. Tuế fell down at the temple.

2. è
bé (to carry a child in one’s arms)
-Anh có thích bé Vi không?
Do you like to carry Vi?
té (to worship and make offerings)
-Hóm qua ông Tuế té ở đền

che (to block someone’s view)
-Cô Lê bị nhiều người che.
Miss Lê was blocked by many people.
dèn (lamp, light)
-Ngôi đền này có nhiêu đèn.
There are many lamps in this temple.
-Hố có mua đèn cho chiếc xe của anh không?
Did they buy the lights for your car?

hen (asthma)
Em có [bệnh] hen hà? –
Do you have asthma?

Practice 60: ao au âu
1. ao
báo (newspaper)
-Tôi thích đọc báo.
I like reading newspapers.
cáo (tall)
-Anh Long cáo quá!
Long is so tall!

2. au
báu (precious)
-Tôi thích châu báu.
I like precious gems.
câu (betel nut)
-Cây câu này cao quá!
This betel nut tree is very tall.

3. âu
báu (to grasp)
-Tôi báu láy cánh cửa.
I have to grab the door.
câu (to fish)
-Tôi thích đi câu.
I like to go fishing.
Practice 61:  ai  ay  ây
1.  ai
  tai (ear)
  -Tai em đau quá!
  My ear hurts!

2.  ay
  tay (arm)
  -Tay em đau quá!
  My arm hurts!

3.  ây
  ây
  -May được đi chơi.
  Luckily we can go out!

Shall we go out tomorrow!
hai (two)
-Hai anh đi chơi đi!
Two/both of you go ahead
and go out!

Practice 62:  an  ang
1.  an
  ban (section)
  -Chí học ở ban nào?
  In which section did you study?

2.  ang
  bang (state)
  -Chí học ở bang nào?
  In which state did you study?

bàn (copy; classifier for song)
-Cô mua cho tôi một bàn.
Buy me a copy [of that song]

màn (mosquito net)
-Ông ấy không cần màn.
He doesn’t need a mosquito net

Practice 63:  an  ān
1.  an
  An (proper name)
  -Đi gặp An đi. Let’s go see An.

2.  ān
  ān (to eat)
  -Đi ān đi. Let’s go eat.

cán (to run over)
-Con chó tôi bị cán.
My dog was run over.

ngán (fed up) -Tôi ngán ān cơm rồi.
I am fed up with rice already.

Practice 64:  ān  anh
1.  ān
  ān (to eat)
  -Chỉ có ān không?
  Did you eat?

2.  anh
  anh (older brother)
  -Chỉ có anh không?
  Do you have older brothers?

anh (two)
-Hai anh đi chơi đi!
Two/both of you go ahead
and go out!

tay (arm)
-Đi phía tây.
Go towards the west.

mây (cloud)
-May đẹp quá!
The clouds are beautiful!

đỏ hây (reddish)
-Má em bé đỏ hây.
The baby’s cheeks are reddish.

Practice 65:  ān
1.  ān
  ān (to eat)
  -Chỉ có ān không?
  Did you eat?

2.  anh
  anh (older brother)
  -Chỉ có anh không?
  Do you have older brothers?

màn (mosquito net)
-Ông ấy không cần màn.
He doesn’t need a mosquito net

bằng (state)
-Chí học ở bằng nào?
In which state did you study?

bàn (copy; classifier for song)
-Cô mua cho tôi một bàn.
Buy me a copy [of that song]

màn (mosquito net)
-Ông ấy không cần màn.
He doesn’t need a mosquito net

ngán (fed up) -Tôi ngán ān cơm rồi.
I am fed up with rice already.
I did not eat.  

I don’t have older brothers.

chăn (blanket)  
-Tôi đi mua chăn. - I’ll go buy blankets.

chánh (lemon; lime)  
-Tôi đi mua chánh. - I’ll go buy lemon.

săn (to hunt)  
-Hôm qua bà Loan đi săn.  

sanh (to give birth)  
-Hôm qua bà Thanh đi sanh.  

Yesterday Mrs. Thanh went hunting.  

Yesterday Mrs. Thanh went [to the hospital] to give birth.

Practice 65: on ăn

1. on
son (paint)  
-Sơn nhà anh đẹp quá!  
The paint of your house is beautiful!

hon (more than) -Anh thích ở nhà hon.  
I’d like to stay home more.

2. ăn
sân (courtyard)  
-Sân nhà anh đẹp quá!  
The courtyard of your house is beautiful!

Hân (proper name) -Anh thích ở nhà Hân.  
I’d like to stay at Hân’s house.

E. ONLINE RESOURCES:

*Pronunciation Drills: Downloadable MP3 files
http://www.public.asu.edu/~ickpl/lsv/pronunciation/index.htm

*Online Pronunciation and Spelling Practice:
http://www.public.asu.edu/~ickpl/listening/index.htm