

LÊ NGỌC TIẾT

**XÂY DỰNG MỘT NỀN TẢNG VỮNG CHẮC TRONG
HỌC TIẾNG ANH**

QUYỂN 5: THỰC HÀNH NÓI TIẾNG ANH

Sơ lược về tác giả

Thạc sĩ Lê Ngọc Tiết, sinh năm 1954 tại Sadec, Việt Nam. Ông là cựu sinh viên Y Khoa Đại Học Đường Sài Gòn, cựu giảng viên tiếng Anh, tiếng Pháp và công nghệ sinh học tại Đại học Đồng Tháp và là cựu học sinh trường Lasan Mossard Thủ Đức và trường Lasan Taberd Sài Gòn.

Bộ sách này được viết để làm quà tặng, không mua, bán.

LỜI NÓI ĐẦU

Đây là quyển sách thứ năm trong bộ sách tự học “*Xây dựng một nền tảng vững chắc trong học tiếng Anh*” gồm 5 quyển:

Quyển 1: *Nhập môn phiên âm quốc tế trước khi học tiếng Anh*

Quyển 2: *Bắt đầu học tiếng Anh (Từ vựng, ngữ pháp, chính tả)*

Quyển 3: *Rèn luyện kỹ năng đọc, nghe qua các bản tường trình tiếng Anh đặc biệt của VOA*

Quyển 4: *Rèn luyện kỹ năng đọc, nghe qua các chủ đề về đời sống tại Việt Nam và Hoa Kỳ*

Quyển 5: *Thực hành nói tiếng Anh*

Như đã trình bày ở trên, quyển sách thứ năm này có mục đích là thực hành nói tiếng Anh qua đó rèn luyện kỹ năng nói tiếng Anh của học viên từ trình độ căn bản đến trình độ nâng cao.

Tác giả mong rằng học viên sẽ có khả năng giao tiếp bình thường với người bản xứ nói tiếng Anh sau khi học xong 5 quyển sách của bộ sách này và đây cũng chính là mục đích cuối cùng của tác giả khi soạn bộ sách này.

Tác giả

Cách tiến hành

Đối với mỗi chủ đề, học viên tiến hành theo các bước sau:

Bước 1: Học viên đọc hết chủ đề và giải quyết từ mới qua PAQT tắt với từ điển.

Bước 2: Học viên thực hành theo từng cặp với các câu hỏi và trả lời liên quan đến chủ đề.

Thực hành ít nhất hai lần:

- Lần một: Có thể nhìn chủ đề trong khi thực hành.

- Lần hai và những lần sau: Thực hành **thuộc lòng** chủ đề.

PHẦN MỘT: 48 CHỦ ĐỀ NÓI CĂN BẢN

(48 topics for basic speaking)

a. Danh sách 48 chủ đề nói căn bản:

Topic 1: Accident

Topic 2: Book

Topic 3: Business

Topic 4: Car

Topic 5: Communication

Topic 6: Computer

Topic 7: Family

Topic 8: Fashion

Topic 9: Favorite Movie

Topic 10: Festival

Topic 11: Fishing

Topic 12: Food

Topic 13: Football

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Topic 15: Foreign Language
Topic 16: Friend
Topic 17: Health Problem
Topic 18: Historical Place
Topic 19: Hobby
Topic 20: Holiday
Topic 21: Hometown
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Topic 23: Household Appliance
Topic 24: Jewelry
Topic 25: Job
Topic 26: Law
Topic 27: Motorcycle
Topic 28: Museum
Topic 29: Music
Topic 30: Orchard
Topic 31: Party
Topic 32: Pet
Topic 33: Physical Exercises
Topic 34: Plastic Surgery
Topic 35: Pollution
Topic 36: Present (Gift)
Topic 37: Restaurant
Topic 38: School
Topic 39: Shopping
Topic 40: Smartphone
Topic 41: Sport
Topic 42: Teacher
Topic 43: Tourist Destination
Topic 44: Traffic Jam
Topic 45: Transportation
Topic 46: Travel
Topic 47: Weather
Topic 48: Wedding Party

b. Câu hỏi và trả lời cho 48 chủ đề nói căn bản

Topic 1: Accident

1. Have you ever had a traffic accident?
- Yes, I have.
2. Where did it take place?
- It took place on a street in Cao Lãnh City.
3. When did it happen?

- It happened last week.
 - 4. What caused the accident?
 - I collided with another motorcycle while riding mine.
 - 5. Did you sustain serious injuries?
 - Fortunately, I didn't but my motorcycle was badly damaged.
 - 6. How about the other rider?
 - He didn't have any serious injuries either. His motorcycle was also damaged but not as badly as mine.
 - 7. Did the police intervene?
 - No, they didn't. We settled the problem among ourselves without incidents.
- Thank God!

Topic 2: Book

1. Are you a novel lover?
 - Yes, I am. I am very fond of reading books, especially novels.
2. What novel do you like reading the most?
 - It is the Russian historical novel "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy, a famous Russian author.
3. When was "War and Peace" first published?
 - It was first published in its entirety in 1869.
4. What was this novel about?
 - It was about the French invasion of Russia by Emperor Napoleon of France.
5. How do you appraise "War and Peace"?
 - I think this novel always remains an internationally praised classic of world literature.
6. In what language did you read it?
 - I read it in French although there were English and Vietnamese translations.

Topic 3: Business

1. Are you running a business of your own?
 - Yes, I am.
2. What kind of business are you running?
 - I sell ready-made clothes on line.
3. How long have you been in on line business with clothes?
 - Well, I have been selling them for the past two years.
4. Is your business going well?
 - Yes, of course, it's going quite well.
5. What, do you think, are the main advantages of selling and buying products on line?
 - I think selling and buying products on line helps both the seller and buyer save time. The buyer doesn't have to spend time going to the shop every time she or he would like to buy something.

Topic 4: Car

1. Are cars popular with Vietnamese families nowadays?

- Yes, they are. More and more Vietnamese families own cars, compared to the past, say some 10 years ago.

2. Does your family own a car?

- No. Not yet.

3. Why doesn't your family own a car?

There are many reasons for this.

First, cars in Vietnam are too expensive. The price is more than double compared to that in neighboring countries like Thailand or Cambodia.

Second, streets in Vietnam are not yet suitable for cars, they are limited in number and are not large enough.

Third, parking lot scarcity, especially in big cities, is another obstacle.

The last hurdle to buying a car is traffic accidents between cars and motorcycles since there are too many motorcycles on the roads in Vietnam.

Topic 5: Communication

1. How do you communicate with your family when you are away from home?

- I always communicate with my family thru my mobile phone when away from home.

2. In general, what can you do with your mobile phone in terms of communication with other people?

- Well, there are many options. You can phone them directly or use websites and apps such as emails, Facebook, Messenger, Zalo, Instagrams, Twitter, etc.

3. What do you think about the usefulness of mobile phones?

- I think mobile phones are very convenient for communication in general. They help us save not only time but also money, especially with free websites such as Messenger, Zalo...

4. Do you think that modern man could live comfortably without mobile phones?

- Definitely not. In modern times, mobile phones have become an integral part of human daily activities.

Topic 6: Computer

1. Do you own a personal computer (PC)?

- Yes, I do.

2. What brand is it?

- It's a Lenovo, a Chinese product.

3. When did you buy it?

- I bought it last year.

4. What was the price?

- It was USD 500.

5. How often do you use your PC?

- I use it every day, without interruption.

6. What, do you think, are the advantages of a PC?

- Well, there are many advantages with a PC. Once connected to the Internet, it will help you to shop on line, pay bills, send emails, visit various websites, listen to music, either live or recorded, watch films, play games, study foreign languages, etc.

Topic 7: Family

1. How many people are there in your family?
- There are 4 people in my family.
2. Who are they?
- They are my parents, my older sister and me.
3. What is your father?
- He is a civil servant.
4. How about your mother?
- She is a housewife.
5. Where does your family live?
- We live in Dong Thap, a province in the Mekong Delta.
6. How often does your family have dinner together?
- Fortunately, we have dinner together almost every day.
7. Does your family go on trips together often?
- Yes, we do. We went to Dalat last week.
8. Did you enjoy the trip?
- Yes, very much, indeed.

Topic 8: Fashion

1. Are you a fan of fashion?
- Yes, I am.
2. Why so?
- Because fashion could reveal who you really are.
3. What is your favorite piece of clothes?
- Well, my favorite piece of clothes is a pair of authentic American made jeans.
4. What brand is it?
- It's Levi Strauss.
5. Have you bought one recently?
- Yes, I have.
6. What was the price?
- It was USD 400.
7. What color is it?
- It is blue.
8. Did you know where Levi Strauss company headquarters are located?
- Yes, I did. They are located in the city of San Francisco, California, USA.

Topic 9: Favorite Movie

1. What is the movie that you have enjoyed the most so far?
- I think it is "Love Story".
2. When did you watch it?
- I watched it in 1972, nearly half a century ago.
3. Where did you watch it?
- I watched it at Rex Cinema in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City.
4. What was this movie about?

- It was about the love story of a young man with a young girl. Both were college students in the States. The film was made based on a novel of the same name written by Erich Segal.
- 5. Who were the main characters in the movie?
 - They were actress Ali Mac Graw as Jennifer and actor Ryan O’Neal as Oliver Barrett IV.
- 6. How about the music of the movie?
 - Musician Francis Lai composed the famous soundtrack of the same name “Love Story”.

Topic 10: Festival

1. Please name some popular festivals in Vietnam.
 - They are Tết Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival and Christmas.
2. What is the most important festival to the Vietnamese people?
 - It is, definitely, Tết Festival.
3. Why is it so?
 - Because Tết Festival is an occasion for family reunions with parties organized everywhere in the country, in the city as well as in the countryside.
4. When does Tết Festival start?
 - It starts on the first of January, Lunar calendar and continues for several days after.
5. What do Vietnamese families do to prepare for Tết Festival?
 - Before New Year’s Day, Vietnamese families always go shopping for food and drinks and decorate their houses.
6. What do Vietnamese do on New Year’s Day?
 - They visit relatives and friends and organize parties with plenty of food and drinks.
7. What, do you think, is special about Tết Festival?
 - I think it is special because it marks the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one.

Topic 11: Fishing

1. Have you ever gone on a fishing trip in Dong Thap province?
 - Yes, I have.
2. Where did you go?
 - I went to Tram Chim National Park in Tam Nông District, Đồng Tháp Province.
3. How long did the trip take you from Cao Lãnh City to Tràm Chim National Park?
 - It took me about one and one half hours by motorcycle.
4. What kind(s) of fish did you catch there?
 - I only caught snakeheads. There were plenty of them inside the Park.
5. How many snakeheads did you catch?
 - I caught three. The biggest weighed well over one kilo, the two others, about half a kilo each.
6. Did you pay in order to be allowed to fish inside the park?
 - Yes, I did.
7. How much did you pay?
 - We paid VND 200K per capita for 8 hours of fishing.
8. How did you catch fish there?
 - We were advised to use only fishing rods to catch fish there.
9. Were there any limits to the number and weight of fish caught?

- No, there weren't.

Topic 12: Food

1. What is, as a Vietnamese, your favorite food?

- As a Vietnamese, my favorite food is Bánh Xèo (Vietnamese pancake).

2. What are the main ingredients to prepare Bánh Xèo?

- They are rice flour, coconut juice, pork or duck meat, shrimps, bean sprouts and various kinds of local vegetables.

3. Are there any restaurants in Cao Lãnh City selling Bánh Xèo?

- Yes, there are. There is even a "Bánh Xèo Village" on a street along the river.

4. How much did a Bánh Xèo unit cost in 2020 in Cao Lãnh City?

- In 2020, it cost VND 20,000.

5. How often do you enjoy having Bánh Xèo?

- I have it at least twice a month.

6. How many units of Bánh Xèo do you have each time?

- Each time, I have 3.

7. What kind of drink, do you think, is most suitable with Bánh Xèo?

- Personally, I find Nước mía (sugar cane juice) as the best one.

Topic 13: Football

1. Are you a fan of football?

- Yes, I am.

2. Have you ever participated into a football match as a spectator at the stadium?

- Yes, I have.

3. When did you participate into a football match as a spectator at the stadium?

- I did it last week.

4. Where did you do it?

- I did it at Cao Lãnh City Stadium.

5. What were the two competing football teams?

- They were the team from Đồng Tháp province and the other from Bình Dương province.

6. Which team scored the first goal?

- Đồng Tháp Team did.

7. What was the final score?

- It was two to one in Đồng Tháp Team's favor.

Topic 14: Foreign Country

1. Which country in the world do you admire the most?

- It is definitely the United States of America.

2. Why, in your opinion, does the USA deserve such an admiration?

- There are many reasons for this. First, the US is a vast country with plenty of natural resources and numerous spectacular sceneries. Second, this country is the world leader in science and technology. Third, it is the biggest economy in the world with a GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of more than USD 21 trillion in 2019.

3. Would you like to make a trip to the USA as a tourist?

- Yes, I would.

4. What cities do you intend to visit in the States during your trip?

- In the West, I intend to visit Los Angeles with Hollywood, Seattle with Microsoft and Boeing headquarters. In the East, I will visit Washington DC with the White House, the US Capitol, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, New York City with the UN headquarters, Time Square, the Fifth Avenue, Wall Street, and Atlanta with CNN and Coca Cola headquarters.

Topic 15: Foreign Language

1. What is the most popular foreign language in use in Vietnam nowadays?

- Definitely, it's English, especially American English.

2. Why, in your opinion, do the Vietnamese use English so extensively as a foreign language?

- Because English is truly an international language that people around the world use to communicate among themselves in every aspect of life.

3. Can you speak English fluently?

- Yes, I can.

4. How long have you been studying it?

- I have been studying it for more than 10 years.

5. What, do you think, is the main obstacle in studying English?

- It's the English pronunciation.

6. How were you able to overcome this obstacle to become fluent in English?

- Well, the key to solve this problem, which seems to be insurmountable to many English learners, is the international phonetics. Indeed, the international phonetics with its 46 symbols helps non-English speaking people pronounce English correctly.

Topic 16: Friend

1. Who is your bosom friend?

- He's Tâm.

2. What does he look like?

- He has dark hair, brown eyes and a lovely face.

3. When did he and you meet for the first time?

- We met each other for the first time 3 years ago when we were in grade 10, senior high school.

4. How often do you see your bosom friend?

- I see him almost every day as we have been in the same class since grade 10.

5. What is he like?

- He is friendly, helpful and nice.

6. What do your bosom friend and you enjoy doing together?

- We enjoy doing homework and playing sports together.

7. Have both of you gone on a trip together?

- Yes, we have.

8. Where and when did you go on a trip together?

- We went to Dalat during the summer vacations last year.

Topic 17: Health Problem

1. What was the most serious health problem that you had in the past?
- It was typhoid fever.
2. When did you get it?
- I got it at the age of 12.
3. How did you get it?
- I got it after eating boiled fresh water oysters.
4. What were the symptoms?
- They were headache, diarrhea, high fever and loss of appetite.
5. Did you go to the doctor's office or the hospital for treatment?
- I went to the hospital for treatment.
6. What medicines did doctors prescribe for you?
- They prescribed antibiotics, antipyretics, painkillers and vitamins for me.
7. How long did the disease last?
- It lasted for a little over a fortnight.

Topic 18: Historical Place

1. What tourist attractions do you prefer, historical places or natural landmarks?
- I prefer historical places to natural landmarks.
2. Please name 3 historical places in HCMC that you would like to visit.
- They are the Reunification Palace, the Vietnam War Remnants Museum and Củ Chi Tunnel.
3. What is your favorite historical place in HCMC?
- It's Củ Chi Tunnel.
4. When did you visit it?
- I visited it last month.
5. Whom did you go there with?
- I went there with my form teacher and classmates as part of our extracurricular activities.
6. What were your impressions when visiting Củ Chi Tunnel?
- When visiting the Tunnel, I felt that our people were really creative and heroic during the war.

Topic 19: Hobby

1. What is your favorite hobby?
- It's playing badminton.
2. When did you start playing it?
- I started playing it when I was in grade 6 at junior high school.
3. How often do you play it?
- I play it thrice a week, every other day, except Sunday.
4. How much time do you spend for your hobby every time you play it?
- I spend at least one hour for it every time.
5. Whom do you often play badminton with?
- I often play it with my classmate who lives next door.
6. Do you have any other hobbies besides playing badminton?
- Yes, of course, I do. It's reading.

7. What kinds of books do you enjoy reading?

- I enjoy reading detective books.

8. In what language(s) do you read?

- I read in Vietnamese and English.

9. Why do you like reading?

- I like reading because it helps me entertain myself and enlarge my knowledge.

Topic 20: Holiday

1. Where have you gone on holiday recently?

- I have gone on holiday in Vũng Tàu recently.

2. How far is it from Cao Lãnh City?

- It is 233 kilometers away from Cao Lãnh City.

3. When did you go there?

- I went there for my Easter holiday.

4. Whom did you go with?

- I went with my family.

5. How long did the trip take you by car?

- It took us 4 hours to go from Cao Lãnh City to HCMC, then 2 more hours from HCMC to Vũng Tàu, a total of 6 hours.

6. How long did you stay there?

- We stayed there for 3 days.

7. What did you enjoy while in Vũng Tàu?

- First, we enjoyed the three S's (Sun, Sand, Sea). Second, we bought sea food at Xóm Lưới Market, cooked it ourselves at the hotel and tasted it with refrigerated beer. We also spent some time line fishing along Bãi Sau and visiting the statue of Jesus Christ on a hill, also at Bãi Sau.

Topic 21: Hometown

1. What is the name of your hometown?

- It's Sadek City.

2. Where is it located?

- It is located in Đồng Tháp, a province in the Mekong Delta.

3. What is Sadek City famous for?

- My hometown is famous for being one of the biggest ornamental flowers producing regions in the whole of Vietnam.

4. What else is Sadek City famous for, besides ornamental flowers?

- Besides ornamental flowers, Sadek City is also famous for its food, such as Hủ tiếu Sadek (Sadek rice noodle), Sadek flour, Sadek shrimp chips, Sadek Industrial Zone, etc.

5. What are the people in Sadek City like?

- In Sadek City, the people are very friendly, helpful, open minded and nice.

6. What is the population of Sadek City?

- It's over 200,000 people.

Topic 22: Hotel

1. What is your favorite hotel?
 - It's Palace Hotel on Christopher Island.
2. Why do you choose to stay at this hotel when you are on vacation on Christopher Island?
 - There are many reasons for this. First, the reception is excellent. Second, the staff are polite, friendly, helpful and professional. Third, the room equipment is very good with air conditioners, flat screen TV sets, Wi-Fi connection, etc.
3. What is the average price for a double room per night?
 - It's USD 250.
4. Where is it located?
 - It's located on a hill, near the main beach.
5. How can you go there?
 - I can go there either by high-speed boat or plane. There is an international airport on the Island.
6. How often do you go to Christopher Island for your vacations?
 - I go there for my vacations at least once a year.
7. Whom do you go with?
 - I go with my wife and my 2 daughters.
8. How long do you usually stay there?
 - We usually stay there for a week.

Topic 23: Household Appliance

1. Please name the commonest household appliances in your family.
 - They are definitely the refrigerator, the washing machine, the electric rice cooker and the microwave oven.
2. Why are they important?
 - First, the refrigerator helps to store food and make ice.
 - Second, the washing machine gives an effective helping hand in dealing with dirty clothes and the like.
 - Third, the electric rice cooker helps cook rice conveniently, effectively and fast.
 - Fourth, the microwave oven warms our food every day.
3. When you buy a household appliance, what is your favorite brand?
 - There are many brands from South Korea, the Netherlands, Japan to choose from such as Samsung, Philips, Hitachi, Toshiba, Panasonic, etc. But my favorite one is the South Korean brand Samsung.
4. What are the other household appliances that your family owns besides the refrigerator, the washing machine, the electric rice cooker and the microwave oven?
 - They are the air conditioner, the dish washer, flat screen TV sets, various kinds of fans, etc.

Topic 24: Jewelry

1. What is your favorite item of jewelry?
 - I love wearing many kinds of jewelry items but the favorite one is the 18-carat gold chain.
2. How much does your gold chain weigh?
 - It weighs one tenth of an ounce.
3. What is its price?

- It is about VND 4 million.
- 4. Did you buy it or was it a gift from somebody?
- It was a birthday gift from my parents.
- 5. When did you get it?
- I got it on my 18th birthday.
- 6. Do you always wear it?
- Yes, of course, I do.
- 7. What does it mean to you?
- It reminds me of my parents' love for me.

Topic 25: Job

1. What kind of job would you like to have in the future?
- I would like to become a medical doctor in the future.
2. Why do you choose the medical profession?
- I choose this profession because, once an MD, I will have the opportunity to help my family and other people, especially poor people.
3. What are the criteria that you should have in order to become an MD?
- In order to be an MD, I have to study very hard, have a good health and enough money because medical training requires lots of money.
4. What medical specialty would you like to choose?
- I would like to be a pediatrician.
5. Why do you choose pediatrics?
- I choose pediatrics because I love children.
6. What, do you think, are the weak points of being an MD?
- They are not having enough time for the family due to overwork, permanent lack of sleep due to night shifts and risks of contracting serious diseases.

Topic 26: Law

1. Which law on traffic impresses you the most in Vietnam?
- It's the law about wearing safety helmets when riding motorcycles.
2. Why is wearing safety helmets important when riding motorcycles?
- It's important because safety helmets can help protect us against head injuries in motorcycle traffic accidents.
3. Is this law strictly enforced by the police? Yes, of course, it is. If you breach this law, you will be fined.
4. How much was the fine in 2019?
- It was VND 300K.
5. Have you ever been fined for not wearing a safety helmet while on your motorcycle?
- Yes, I have. In 2019, I forgot to wear my safety helmet while on the road with my motorcycle. As a consequence, the police fined me VND 300K.
6. Is this law inconvenient to you? No, it isn't because the act of wearing a safety helmet is quite simple.

Topic 27: Motorcycle

1. Do you own a motorcycle?
- Yes, I do as almost all Vietnamese adults do.
2. What is its brand?
- It's an Air Blade Honda.
3. What is its capacity?
- It's 125 cc (cubic centimeters).
4. When did you buy it?
- I bought it in 2013.
5. At what price?
- At USD 2,000.
6. How has it worked so far?
- So far it has worked perfectly. There have been no major repairs.
7. Is it economical in terms of fuel?
- Yes, it is. It can cover 45 kilometers with one liter of gasoline.

Topic 28: Museum

1. What is, in your opinion, the most famous museum in HCMC?
- In my opinion, HCMC War Remnants Museum is the most famous one.
2. Where is it located?
- It is located on Võ Văn Tần street in HCMC.
3. What is special about it?
- This is a museum in which war remnants such as weaponry, choppers, fixed wing aircraft and war time prisons are on display.
4. When did you visit it?
- I visited it a year ago.
5. Who did you go with?
- I went with my form teacher and classmates as an extracurricular activity.
6. Was there an entrance fee at the Museum?
- Yes, there was, but not very much.
7. Were there many visitors?
- Yes, there were. Many of them were foreigners, among them lots of Americans.

Topic 29: Music

1. What kind of music do you like best?
- I like pop music best.
2. Who is your favorite singer?
- He's Vũ Tuấn Đức.
3. Where is he from?
- He's a Vietnamese American, a singer and a song writer.
4. What is, in your opinion, the best song composed by this song writer?
- I think it's the song "Xin hãy rời xa".
5. When was this song composed?
- It was composed in 1987.
6. Can you sing this song?

- Yes, I can, but just for fun.
- 7. How much time do you spend listening to pop music every day?
 - I spend about one hour to listen to pop music every day.
- 8. Do you enjoy watching and listening to live music on the stage?
 - Yes, of course, I do, very much indeed.

Topic 30: Orchard

1. Does your family own an orchard?
 - Yes, it does.
2. What kinds of fruit trees do you have in it?
 - We have mango trees only.
3. When do you usually gather mangoes annually?
 - Annually, mangoes are gathered in April and May.
4. What is the area of your orchard?
 - It's one hectare (10K square meters).
5. What is the average mango yield in your orchard?
 - It is about 10 tonnes per hectare.
6. What is the average price of one kilo of first-class mangoes?
 - It is about VND 30K.
7. How much does your family earn with the orchard every year, on average?
 - I think the net benefit would be around VND 150 million.

Topic 31: Party

1. On what occasions do people in Vietnam organize parties?
 - They organize them for New Year's Day, weddings, engagements, family reunions, birthdays, one-month birthdays, one-year birthdays, annual death memorials, etc.
2. Do you enjoy going to a party? Why?
 - Yes, I do because I will have the opportunity to meet friends, relatives and acquaintances.
3. Do parties in Vietnam take place indoors or outdoors?
 - Most take place indoors such as wedding or engagement parties. However, barbecues can be organized for birthdays or reunions.
4. What do you wear when going to a party?
 - Except for formal ceremonies such as weddings, engagements, I usually wear casual clothes with a T-shirt and a pair of jeans.
5. What do people usually do during a party?
 - Of course, they talk, laugh, sing karaoke, drink and eat.
6. What are the drinks for a party?
 - They may be beer, rice liquor, cognac, whisky, soft drinks or mineral water with beer being the most popular.
7. Do people bring anything to a party?
 - Yes, they do. For weddings, it's money, and gifts for other celebrations.

Topic 32: Pet

1. Are you a pet lover?

- Yes, I am.
- 2. What kind of pet are you raising?
 - I am raising a female cat.
- 3. What does she look like?
 - She is of medium size, weighing about 4 kilos with a 3-color fur.
- 4. How long have you been raising her?
 - I have been raising her for 3 years.
- 5. What does she enjoy eating?
 - She enjoys eating boiled fish especially snakeheads.
- 6. What else does she eat besides fish?
 - She also eats cooked rice and chicken.
- 7. Do you love your cat?
 - Yes, I do, very much indeed. I love her as I love my daughter.

Topic 33: Physical Exercises

1. Do you do physical exercises daily?
 - Yes, I do, very regularly.
2. What kind of physical exercises do you practice?
 - I ride a stationary bicycle.
3. What does “stationary” mean in this case?
 - It means that you do pedal but your bicycle doesn’t move forward as it usually does on the road.
4. How much time do you spend for your daily stationary cycling?
 - I spend 25 minutes each time.
5. What do you think is the main advantage of cycling on the road?
 - I think cycling on the road in general helps improve your health extensively by moving every part of your body in the process, including your eyes.
6. How about stationary cycling?
 - Stationary cycling has an effect on your health similar to that of cycling on the road. On the other hand, stationary cycling eliminates the risk of you having traffic accidents.

Topic 34: Plastic Surgery

1. Is plastic surgery popular in Vietnam?
 - Yes, it is, very popular indeed.
2. Why is it so popular?
 - It is so because more and more people, once they become well-off, think about making themselves prettier or more handsome.
3. Is a plastic surgery operation costly?
 - In general, any plastic surgery operation is expensive, in the thousands of USD.
4. Are there any risks related to plastic surgery?
 - Yes, there are. Some people may die as a consequence of an ill-performed plastic surgery operation.
5. What parts of the human body are the targets of plastic surgery?

- Cosmetic surgeons can perform plastic surgery operations on practically any part of the human body but chiefly the eyes, the nose, the chin, the breast and the buttocks.

6. What is the biggest danger of plastic surgery?

- The biggest danger of it is related to the introduction of synthetic materials such as silicone or botox into the human body. In the long run, those substances could cause severe damage to the parts operated on.

Topic 35: Pollution

1. What are the main kinds of pollution in Vietnam?

- They are air pollution, land pollution, water pollution and noise pollution.

2. What causes air pollution?

- Air pollution, particularly in big cities and industrial zones, is caused by the release into the air of carbon dioxide and other gases from millions of motorcycles, cars and factories.

3. How about land pollution and water pollution?

- These two are caused chiefly by garbage, particularly plastic materials. In the near future, our oceans might contain more plastic materials than fish.

4. Where, do you think, is there the most serious noise pollution?

- I think the most serious noise pollution takes place in big cities.

5. What causes noise pollution in big cities?

- As with air pollution, noise pollution is caused by noises emanating from millions of vehicles circulating on the roads. Now, there is a new source of serious noise pollution in the whole of Vietnam, in the country as well as the city. It is outdoor karaoke singing.

Topic 36: Present (Gift)

1. On what occasions are gifts given?

- Chiefly, they are given on birthdays, graduation days, wedding days, Valentine's Day and New Year's Day.

2. What kind of gift did you get for your recent birthday?

- I got a Samsung sliding phone for my recent birthday.

3. Where did it come from?

- It came from a bosom friend in America.

4. How much did it cost?

- It cost about VND 30 million.

5. Is giving gifts important in daily life?

- Of course, it is.

6. Why, do you think so?

- I think so because it is the best and easiest way to show your sympathy, love or gratitude to someone.

7. What was the average price of a gift given in a wedding party in 2020 in Cao Lãnh City?

- It was VND 500K.

Topic 37: Restaurant

1. Are you a fan of eating out?

- Yes, I am.

2. How often do you eat out?
 - I eat out every other week.
3. Who do you often go to the restaurant with?
 - I often go there with my parents and older sister.
4. Which restaurant in Cao Lãnh City is your favorite?
 - It's Ngọc Lan restaurant.
4. Where is it located?
 - It is located on Nguyễn Huệ street, across the street from Cao Lãnh City senior high school.
5. Why do you choose Ngọc Lan restaurant as your preferred one?
 - I choose it as my preferred one because the service is excellent and the food is delicious. On the other hand, prices are reasonable.
6. What are the dishes at Ngọc Lan restaurant which you like the best?
 - They are ground Thác lát fish ball sour soup and shrimps cooked the Chinese style.
7. What was the average cost for a table of 4 in 2020?
 - It was about VND 600K.
8. Do you usually give tips at restaurants?
 - Yes, I do, about 10% of the bill. Tips are not compulsory in Vietnam.

Topic 38: School

1. What primary and junior high school did you attend?
 - I attended Lasan Mossard primary and junior high school in the 1960's.
2. What kind of school was it?
 - It was a boys boarding school, run by French educated Lasalle Christian Brothers.
3. Where was it located?
 - It was located in Thủ Đức, some 15 kilometers away from Saigon, now HCMC.
4. What was the vehicle language taught at this boarding school?
 - It was French. I was studying a 100% French curriculum. Vietnamese and English were first and second foreign languages.
5. How many students were there?
 - There were about 600 of us, all boys.
6. How about the tuition?
 - Tuition was extremely high compared to that of other schools in Vietnam at the time.
7. Why was tuition so high?
 - It was so high because the School taught a French program of education, and tuition included food and accommodation from Monday to Friday. We had Saturday and Sunday off at home weekly.
8. What sport facilities did your school have to offer to its students?
 - These included:
 - + One swimming pool with a stream as a source of water supply;
 - + Three basketball courts, two of which were convertible into tennis courts;
 - + One football pitch;
 - + Three volleyball courts;
 - + One one-tenth-of -an-acre camping site with over-a-century old resin trees (*Dipterocarpus alatus*).

Topic 39: Shopping

1. Where do you usually go shopping?
- I usually go shopping at Co-Op Mart super market in Cao Lãnh City.
2. What is its location?
- It is located at the corner of Nguyễn Huệ and Ngô Thời Nhậm streets.
3. What does it look like?
- It is a 2-floor building with ample parking lots for cars and motorcycles.
4. What is the first floor used for?
- The first floor is for selling food, including fast food with Jollibee and Lotteria.
5. How about the second floor?
- On the second floor, people can buy clothes, various household appliances and other items used daily in the house.
6. How often do you go there?
- I go there thrice a week.
7. Whom do you usually go with?
- I usually go with my family.
8. Do you enjoy going shopping?
- Yes, I do.
9. Why so?
- Because it is enjoyable and I can buy what I would like to buy with my parents' money.

Topic 40: Smartphone

1. Do you possess a smartphone?
- Yes, I do.
2. What is the brand of it?
- It's Samsung.
3. When did you buy it?
- I bought it a fortnight ago.
4. How much did it cost?
- It cost USD 500.
5. What do you do with it daily?
- Well, many things can be performed with a smartphone. Let me name a few. First, you can phone directly other people. Second you can send messages or emails. Third you can listen to music, watch films, read newspapers or get in touch with others via Messenger, Zalo, Instagrams, Twitter, etc. On the other hand, you can also watch live events happening around the world with your smartphone connected to Wi-Fi.
6. In what language(s) do you use your smartphone?
- I can use it in Vietnamese, French or English.

Topic 41: Sport

1. What is your favorite sport?
- It's badminton.
2. When did you start playing it?
- I started playing it when I was a junior high school student, some ten years ago.

3. How often do you play it?
- I play it at week-ends.
4. Whom do you usually play with?
- I usually play it with my younger brother.
5. How long do you play it each time?
- Each time, we play it for about an hour.
6. Have you ever taken part into a badminton competition?
- Yes, I have.
7. When did you compete?
- I competed when I was in grade 12, senior high school.
8. Did you win any prize?
- Yes, I won the first prize.
9. Is playing sports important?
- Yes, it is.
10. Why so?
- Because playing sports regularly helps you stay healthy.

Topic 42: Teacher

1. Who is your form teacher?
- He's Mr Anh.
2. What subject does he teach you?
- He teaches me mathematics.
3. How does he explain his lessons?
- He always explains them very clearly and accurately.
4. What is he like?
- He is friendly, dedicated and knowledgeable.
5. Have you ever been punished by your form teacher?
- No, not yet.
6. Do your classmates like him?
- Yes, they do. All of us admire him.
7. How does he go to teach?
- He goes to teach by car.
8. Do you want to become a teacher in the future?
- No, I don't.
9. Why?
- Because teaching pays little.

Topic 43: Tourist Destination

1. What is your favorite tourist destination in Đồng Tháp province?
- It is Tràm Chim National Park.
2. Where is it located?
- It is located in Tam Nông District, about 40 kilometers away from Cao Lãnh City, the provincial capital of Đồng Tháp.
3. When did you visit it?

- I visited it many times, the last time, 3 weeks ago.
- 4. What did you do at the Park?
 - We went on a sightseeing tour by boat on the canals around the Park.
- 5. What is the area covered by the Park?
 - It is more than 7,600 hectares.
- 6. When was it established?
 - It was established in 1979.
- 7. How about the flora and fauna at the Park?
 - The flora includes about 130 species of plants of which lotus is the most famous. The Park is the residence of dozens of fish species and more than 190 species of water birds of which Sarus cranes, also called red headed cranes, are the most famous.

Topic 44: Traffic Jam

1. Have you ever been caught in a traffic jam?
 - Yes, I have.
2. Why do traffic jams always happen on the streets of big cities in Vietnam?
 - They always happen there because there are too many vehicles, particularly motorcycles, circulating on the streets.
3. Where and when do traffic jams usually take place?
 - They can take place anywhere and at any time in big cities like HCMC and Hanoi. They are particularly serious during rush hours.
4. How long does it take you to escape from a traffic jam?
 - It depends on the seriousness of the situation. Sometimes one cannot escape from it for hours.
5. What are the troubles caused by traffic jams?
 - There are a lot of troubles caused by traffic jams such as being late at work, at school, being exposed to the sunshine or the rain for hours, breathing polluted air caused by exhaust fumes released from thousands of vehicles stranded on the roads.

Topic 45: Transportation

1. What means of transportation is the safest in Vietnam?
 - I think travelling by plane is the safest means of transportation in Vietnam but unfortunately, not many Vietnamese can afford to use such a means of transportation.
2. What is the most dangerous means of transportation in Vietnam?
 - Travelling by motorcycle is. Thousands of Vietnamese are killed every year on the roads by motorcycle traffic accidents.
3. What is the most popular means of transportation in Vietnam?
 - It's riding a motorcycle. Every Vietnamese family possesses at least one motorcycle.
4. What are the other means of transportation available in Vietnam?
 - They are going by train, boat, bicycle and car.
5. Of all the above-mentioned means of transportation, which one is your favorite?
 - I like to go around with a motorcycle.
6. Why so?

- Because, with a motorcycle, I can practically go to every corner of my country, even on lanes in the villages. On the other hand, a motorcycle is easily operable and cheap in terms of fuel and spare parts compared to those of a car.

Topic 46: Travel

1. What tourist destinations in Vietnam have you visited so far?

- I have visited Phú Quốc Island, small islands in Rạch Giá province such as Nam Du, Hòn Sơn, Bà Lụa, Vũng Tàu, Đà Lạt, Mũi Né, and Nha Trang.

2. What is your favorite destination?

- It is Phú Quốc Island, Phú Quốc for short. I have been there several times.

3. What is special about this Island in terms of tourism?

- Phú Quốc is famous for its VinPearl Land recreational park, its safari, its beaches and its sea food.

4. What is the main means of transportation from Rạch Giá City to Phú Quốc and vice versa?

- People can go there either by planes or boats, especially speedboats. Personally, I prefer speedboats to planes.

5. What do tourists usually do when visiting Phú Quốc?

- While in Phú Quốc, visitors have many options to relax themselves. They can go on a sightseeing tour around the Island to visit VinPearl Land recreational park and the safari. They can enjoy the sea, sand and sun (the three S's) at the beaches and most interestingly of all, visit Phú Quốc Night Market where sea food of different kinds is served in small restaurants.

6. What about accommodation on the Island?

- There are lots of hotels, from the most expensive to the least ones. Hotel prices are reasonable compared to those at other tourist destinations such as Đà Lạt, Vũng Tàu or Nha Trang.

Topic 47: Weather

1. How many seasons are there in Cao Lãnh City?

- There are 2 seasons in Cao Lãnh City: The dry season and the rainy season.

2. When does the dry season begin and end?

- It begins in late October and ends in late April, the following year.

3. How about the rainy season?

- It starts in early May and ends in early October.

4. How about the weather in the dry season?

- It's very hot, especially in March and April when the air temperature could reach 36 degrees Celsius.

5. Please describe the rainy season.

- The rainy season brings about a lot of rain, wind and lightning. Towards the end of it, there is flood when the river breaks its banks and water flows everywhere. In 2000, flood waters even reached the center of Cao Lãnh City.

6. Which season do you prefer and why?

- I prefer the dry season to the rainy season because it's easy to go around in the dry season. The roads are not slippery and we don't get wet while going here and there on motorcycles.

Topic 48: Wedding Party

1. When did you last attend a wedding party?

- I last attended it last month.

2. Whose wedding party was this?

- It was my cousin's.

3. Where was it organized?

- It was organized at a restaurant in Cao Lãnh City.

4. How many guests were there?

- There were about 500 guests.

5. How long did the wedding party last?

- It lasted about 3 hours.

6. How about the food served?

- We had delicious Vietnamese food such as spring rolls, roasted chicken, ground shrimp on sugar cane, Chinese style roasted pork and chicken stew. As for desserts we had rambutan and home-made yoghurt.

7. How about the drinks?

- Beer with ice was the main drink of the party. Soft drinks were also served, chiefly for women.

8. What else was there besides eating, drinking and chatting?

- Besides eating, drinking and chatting, quite exciting live music was also played.

9. How much did the gift, given by you to the bride and bridegroom, cost?

- It cost VND 500K.

PHẦN HAI : SÁU CHỦ ĐỀ NÓI NÂNG CAO
(6 topics for advanced speaking)

a. Danh sách 6 chủ đề nói nâng cao

Topic 1: Alcoholism and its Effects on the Human Body

Topic 2: Global Warming

Topic 3: New York City's Statue of Liberty

Topic 4: San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge

Topic 5: Smoking Bans and Passive Smoking

Topic 6: The United Nations

b. Câu hỏi và trả lời của 6 chủ đề nói nâng cao

Topic 1: Alcoholism and its Effects on the Human Body

1. What is alcoholism?

- Alcoholism is an addiction to alcoholic drinks resulting in serious mental and physical health problems.
- It is characterized by an increase in tolerance to alcohol and physical dependence leading to having a very strong urge to drink alcoholic beverages.
- Drinking too much alcoholic drink on a single occasion or over time negatively affects the different organs of the body.

2. What are the detrimental effects of alcoholic drinks on the human body?

Practically all of the organs in the human body sustain serious damage due to alcoholism.

3. What are the effects of alcohol on the brain?

- Alcohol affects the brain's communication pathways, in particular the cerebellum, leading to changing the mood and behavior and to difficulty in coordinating movements and in thinking and acting properly.

4. How is mental health affected by alcoholism?

Heavy drinking over the time often leads to memory loss, depression and suicide.

5. How about the liver?

The problems encountered by the liver of a heavy drinker include fatty liver, alcoholic hepatitis, liver fibrosis, cirrhosis, liver failure and ultimately cancer of the liver which, in itself, is fatal.

6. What are the common cardiovascular diseases caused by heavy alcohol use?

These include hypertension (high blood pressure), coronary heart disease, cardiomyopathy, peripheral arterial diseases and potentially deadly stroke.

7. What can alcohol cause to the kidneys?

- Alcoholism is undeniably a contributing factor to kidney diseases, among them kidney failure, chronic or acute.

- Acute kidney failure usually occurs after binge drinking. It is a medical emergency. If left untreated, it could be fatal.

8. What about cancer and alcoholism?

Heavy drinking over the time can lead to a variety of cancers. Usually, they are cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, liver, colon, rectum, etc.

Topic 2: Global Warming (GW)

1. What is GW?

GW is the gradual increase in the overall temperature of the Earth's atmosphere caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons and other pollutants, commonly known as greenhouse gases.

2. What is a greenhouse gas (GG)?

A GG is one of the many gases, especially carbon dioxide, that prevent, heat from the Earth, from escaping into space, thus causing the greenhouse effect known as GW.

3. What are the main greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere?

They are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and chlorofluorocarbons. Among these, carbon dioxide, mainly produced by human activities, is the largest contributor to GW.

4. What are the causes of the rise in GG in the Earth's atmosphere?

They are:

- a. Burning of coal, oil and gas by man, producing lots of carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide;
- b. Deforestation, removing the ability of trees in absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide;
- c. Increasing livestock farming since cows and sheep produce a great deal of methane during their digestion process;
- d. Using extensively nitrogen-based fertilizers, thus increasing the emission of nitrous oxide into the Earth's atmosphere;

e. Using fluorinated gases as refrigerants, aerosol propellants, foam and insulation blowing agents and fire extinguishing agents by man. Fluorinated gases, entirely man-made, have a global warming effect 23,000 times greater than that of carbon dioxide.

5. What are the consequences of GW?

These include extreme weather events such as deadly heat waves, severe droughts, widespread forest fires, heavier rainfall, more powerful cyclones, typhoons and hurricanes, and sea level rise due to water from melting ice sheets and glaciers in the Poles and the expansion of sea water as it warms.

6. What should man do to reduce GW?

In order to reduce GW man should;

- Reduce, reuse and recycle (3R's);
- Plant more trees;
- Switch to renewable sources of energy;
- Drive less;
- Use energy-efficient devices;
- Use less heat and air conditioning;
- Save energy by using the "OFF" switch.

Topic 3: Statue of Liberty (SL) in New York City

1. What is the complete name of the ST in NY City?

It is "The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World". It was a gift from the people of France commemorating the lasting friendship between France and the US.

2. What symbol is the SL in NYC recognized as?

It is recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy, especially to oppressed people around the world.

3. Who were the main designers of the SL in NYC?

They were French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and the Eiffel Tower's designer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel. Frederic Auguste Bartholdi designed the Statue with a face, modelled after his own mother's face. Alexandre Gustave Eiffel designed the Statue steel framework. All the work related to the completion of the Statue was done in France.

4. Where and when was the SL in NYC positioned?

It was positioned in 1886 atop an American designed pedestal on Liberty Island, a small island in Upper NY Bay. The Statue measures 46.05 meters high with a 46.94-meter high pedestal, making a total height of 92.99 meters from ground level to the Statue's torch.

5. What does the SL in NYC depict?

The SL in NYC depicts a Roman Goddess holding a torch in her raised right hand and a tablet in her left hand, upon which was engraved "July 4, 1776", the adoption date of the American independence. The Goddess wears a crown with 7 spikes representing 7 oceans and 7 continents of the world, emphasizing her message of welcome and freedom to the world.

6. What are the nicknames of the SL in NYC?

The SL in NYC has several nicknames. They are America's Freedom, Lady on a Pedestal, Mother of Freedom, Saint Liberty and Green Goddess.

Topic 4: Golden Gate Bridge (GGB) in San Francisco

1. Where is GGB located?

GGB is a suspension bridge spanning the Golden Gate, a one-kilometer straight connecting San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The Bridge links the city of San Francisco to Marin County.

It is possibly the most beautiful and the most photographed bridge in the world and is considered as a symbol of the city of San Francisco and the state of California.

2. What are the characteristics of the GGB?

GGB was opened in 1937 with the following characteristics:

- Suspension bridge;
- Total length: 2.7 kilometers;
- Width: 27 meters;
- Height: 227 meters;
- Clearance above: 4.3 meters;
- Clearance below: 67 meters at high tide;
- 6 lanes for cars;
- 1 bicycle route;
- 2 walkways for pedestrians: 1 eastern and 1 western.

3. Why is GGB called the most suicide site in the world?

GGB is called the most suicide site in the world because, as of 2019, as many as 1,700 people have jumped from the Bridge into water. The deck of the Bridge is about 75 meters above water so any jumper, after a free fall of 4 seconds, will hit the water at a speed of about 120 kilometers per hour. He or she will almost always die instantly from impact trauma. If they survive the impact trauma, they will drown or die of hypothermia in the cold water. The survival rate is only 25%.

4. How many visitors does GGB attract every year?

There are more than 10 million visitors, an average of more than 27,000 a day, walking, riding and driving on the Bridge every year. The Bridge was named one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.

Topic 5: Smoking Bans (SB) and Passive Smoking (PS)

1. What are SB?

SB are laws or regulations prohibiting tobacco smoking in certain areas such as workplaces, public places, especially in enclosed spaces.

2. Why are SB important?

SB are important because they help protect people from hazards caused by PS.

3. What is PS?

When someone smokes, not all the smoke from their lit cigarettes goes into their lungs. Some of this smoke goes into the air around them where other people can breathe it in. That's PS.

4. What can PS cause to someone's health?

People with frequent passive smoking can get the same diseases as smokers, the most serious ones among them being lung cancer and heart disease.

5. What are the harmful effects of PS on children?

Children living in a house with one person smoking have the tendency to develop asthma, pneumonia, bronchitis, meningitis, ear infections and so on.

6. Why are children particularly vulnerable to the harm caused by PS?

They are particularly vulnerable to it because their airways, lungs and immune systems are still less developed, compared to those of adults.

7. What makes smoking in general and PS in particular so dangerous?

In the tobacco smoke there is a cocktail of more than 4,000 irritants, toxins and cancer-causing substances. These irritants, toxins and cancer-causing substances are the real culprits of the danger caused by tobacco smoking.

8. What should smokers do to minimize the harmful effects of PS?

To minimize the harmful effects of PS, smokers should and must always avoid smoking inside of a house, a car or any enclosed space where there are non-smokers. They have to smoke outside or in spaces reserved only for smokers.

Topic 6: The United Nations (UN)

1. What is the UN?

It is an intergovernmental organization aiming at:

- Maintaining global peace and security;
- Developing friendly relations among nations;
- Achieving international co-operation.

2. When and where was it established?

It was established in 1945, after World War II, in San Francisco, California, USA with 51 founding member states. Now it has 193 member states and 2 observer states.

3. Where are its headquarters located?

It has its headquarters located on international territory in New York City, USA along with 4 other offices in Geneva (Switzerland), Nairobi (Kenya), Vienna (Austria) and The Hague (The Netherlands).

4. What are the UN official languages?

They are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

5. What are the 5 principal organs of the UN?

They are the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the UN Security Council (UNSC), the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

6. How many member states does the UNSC have?

The UNSC has 5 permanent members with veto power (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the USA) and 10 non-permanent member states.

7. What are the specialized agencies, funds and organizations of the UN?

They are:

- The World Bank Group, based in Washington D.C., USA;
- The World Health Organization (WHO), based in Geneva, Switzerland;
- The World Food Program (WFP), based in Rome, Italy;

- The United Nations Cultural, Educational and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), based in Paris, France;
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), based in Rome, Italy;
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), based in New York City, USA.

TÀI LIỆU THAM KHẢO

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