LESSON 1

BASIC DIALOGUE

	Mr. Hai	
1.	Hello (you^{m}).[1]	Chào ông.
	Mr. Smith	
	Are you^{m} well?	Ông mạnh giỏi không?
2.	Hello (you^{m}). How are you^{m}?	Chào ông. Ông mạnh giỏi không?
	Mr. Hai	
	Fine.	Dạ mạnh.
	Thank you^{m}.	Cám ơn ông.
	And you^{m}?	Còn ông?
3.	Fine, thank you^{m}. And you^{m}?	Dạ mạnh, cám ơn ông. Còn ông?
	Mr. Smith	
4.	I'm fine (too).	Dạ tôi cũng mạnh.

[1]Superscript letters m, w, g, and f are used to limit the meanings of certain English words in order to make them correspond more closely to their Vietnamese equivalents. They have the following meanings:

m - refers to a man	f - is familiar
w - refers to a woman	m.f - refers to a man, familiarly
g - refers to a girl	w.f - refers to a woman, familiarly

Parentheses in an English equivalent enclose explanatory material or something literally translated from the Vietnamese which is not needed in the English.

NOTES

(Numbers refer to sentence numbers in the Basic Dialogue.)

1,2. Chào occurs both as an expression of greeting and of farewell.

1,2,3. Ông is a formal word that refers to men only. Similarly, bà refers to married women and/or older women, and cô to girls and young, unmarried women. Anh is a familiar term, used in reference to young men, men who are close friends, or men who serve as drivers, porters, laborers, etc. The corresponding familiar term for young girls and women who are close friends, and for women who serve as waitresses, maids, saleswomen, etc. is chị. However, neither anh nor chị is used in reference to elderly people. Ông, bà, cô, anh and chị are all made plural when preceded by các. They all may occur followed immediately by a proper name. Thus: ông Hải 'Mr. Hai'; bà Phương 'Mrs. Phuong'; cô Liên 'Miss Lien'; anh Chấn 'Chan'; chị Huế 'Miss/Mrs. Hue'.

3,4. Dạ is an indication of politeness and respect. Often its occurrence softens an otherwise abrupt statement. It regularly occurs at the beginning of a sentence.

2,3,4. Mạnh 'is strong', 'is healthy', 'is vigorous' occurs alone, or together with giỏi 'is good', in reference to a person's well-being. For example, all the following are common replies to the question "How are you?".

a. (Dạ)[1] mạnh. 'Fine.'
b. (Dạ) mạnh giỏi. 'Fine.'
c. (Dạ) tôi mạnh. 'I'm fine.'

4. Cũng: Compare: Tôi mạnh. 'I'm fine.'
and: Tôi cũng mạnh. 'I'm fine, too.'

In this use, cũng means 'too', 'also' in reference to the subject tôi 'I'.

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[1] The use of parentheses around anything in Vietnamese means that the enclosed word (s) may be omitted.

DRILLS

A. Substitution Drill

1.	Hello	(you^{m})	.
2.		(you^{w})	
3.		(you^{g})	
4.		(you$^{m.f}$)	
5.		(you$^{w.f}$)	

B. Substitution Drill

1.	Hello	(you^{m}-plural)	.
2.		(you^{w}-plural)	
3.		(you^{g}-plural)	
4.		(you$^{m.f}$-plural)	
5.		(you$^{w.f}$-plural)	

C. Substitution Drill

1.	How are	you^{m}	?
2.		you^{w}	
3.		you^{g}	
4.		you$^{m.f}$	
5.		you$^{w.f}$	

Chào	ông	.
	bà	
	cô	
	anh	
	chị	

Chào	các ông	.
	các bà	
	các cô	
	các anh	
	các chị	

Ông	mạnh giỏi không?	
Bà		
Cô		
Anh		
Chị		

D. Substitution Drill

1.	Thank	you^{m}	.	Cám ơn ông .
2.		you^{w}		bà
3.		you^{g}		cô
4.		you$^{m.f}$		anh
5.		you$^{w.f}$		chị
6.		you^{m}-plural		các ông
7.		you^{w}-plural		các bà
8.		you^{g}-plural		các cô
9.		you$^{m.f}$-plural		các anh
10.		you$^{w.f}$-plural		các chị

E. Substitution Drill

1.	I'm fine, thank	you^{m}	.	And	you^{m}	?	Dạ mạnh, cám ơn	ông	. Còn	ông ?
2.		you^{w}			you^{w}			bà		bà
3.		you^{g}			you^{g}			cô		cô
4.		you$^{m.f}$			you$^{m.f}$			anh		anh
5.		you$^{w.f}$			you$^{w.f}$			chị		chị

F. Substitution Drill

1.	Hello,	Mr. Hai	.	How are	you^{m}	?	Chào	ông Hải	.	Ông	mạnh giỏi không?
2.		Mrs. Phuong			you^{w}			bà Phương		Bà	
3.		Miss Lien			you^{g}			cô Liên		Cô	
4.		Chan			you$^{m.f}$			anh Chẫn		Anh	
5.		Miss/Mrs. Hue			you$^{w.f}$			chị Huế		Chị	
6.		Mr. Long			you^{m}			ông Long		Ông	
7.		Kim			you$^{m.f}$			anh Kim		Anh	

EXERCISES

Practice the Basic Dialogue with the following variations:

(a) Assume the role of Mr. Hai and converse with:

(1) Ông Phương
(2) Bà Long
(3) Cô Liên
(4) Anh Chẫn
(5) Chị Huế

(b) Assume the role of Mr. Smith and converse with:

(1) Ông Kim
(2) Bà Liên
(3) Cô Huế
(4) Anh Hải
(5) Chị Phương