

Tea or Coffee



1.3

1. Do Vietnamese people like to drink tea or coffee?

→ Well, I think coffee is more popular. You see, drinking a cup of coffee is **a daily habit**⁽¹⁾ of many Vietnamese people, and coffee shops can be found at every corner in this city. Coffee is my **preference**⁽²⁾ too, just because it tastes better.

⁽¹⁾A **daily habit**: một thói quen hàng ngày.

Daily /ˈdeɪ.li/: hàng ngày

Habit /ˈhæb.ɪt/: thói quen

⁽²⁾**Preference** /ˈpref.ə.ɹəns/: sở thích, sự ưa thích

2. Do you prepare tea or coffee for the guests at home?

→ Although I'm more into coffee, I just offer tea to my guests since many of them **can't stand the bitterness**⁽³⁾ of coffee. Also, coffee contains a lot of caffeine, which may make people stay awake at night. Well, I don't want to **ruin**⁽⁴⁾ their sleep.

⁽³⁾**Can't stand the bitterness** /ˈbɪt.ə.nəs/: không thể chịu được vị đắng

⁽⁴⁾**To ruin** /ˈruː.n/: phá hủy

3. When was the last time you drank tea or coffee?

→ Let me see, it probably was last weekend when I hung out with some friends of mine. After doing some shopping, we ended up at a small coffee shop. You know, it was raining at that time, and so enjoying a **hot cup of coffee while having chit-chat**⁽⁵⁾ was the best option.

⁽⁵⁾**To have a chat** /hæv ə tʃæt/: trò chuyện phiếm, tán gẫu

Mở rộng

Chủ đề tương tự: weekends, visiting relatives, travelling/ holidays

Những chủ đề trên thường có cùng dạng câu hỏi về hoạt động bạn hay làm, do đó có thể dùng cách diễn đạt chung là đi trò chuyện và thưởng thức trà/ cà phê

Ví dụ:

- What do you do when you visit your relatives?
- What do you often do on the weekends?

Trả lời: Well, we tend to have a chat while sipping a hot cup of tea.

Nhóm chủ đề khác cũng có thể vận dụng ý tưởng là: concentration, sleep, staying up late

Ví dụ:

- What can help you concentrate better?
- What can affect your sleep?

Trả lời: Having a cup of coffee which contains a lot of caffeine can help me stay mentally alert/ keep awake all night.

Public Transportation

1.5

1. What's the most popular means of transportation in your hometown?

→ It's the bus, I would say. I see many students in my university going to school by bus **on a daily basis**⁽¹⁾, simply because it's cheap. You know, a bus ticket costs only around five thousand VND, such an **affordable price**⁽²⁾ for anyone who is living on a **tight budget**⁽³⁾ and doesn't have enough money to buy their own vehicle.

2. How often do you take buses?

→ I use the bus almost everyday because like I said, it's the cheapest way to get around even though it's always **overcrowded**⁽⁴⁾ and not very **punctual**⁽⁵⁾.

3. Do you prefer public transportation or private transportation?

→ I think a private vehicle is a better choice for me. To be honest with you, I can **get car-sick**⁽⁶⁾ easily. If I **travel a far distance**⁽⁷⁾ by bus or coach, I will get a terrible headache and even **vomit**⁽⁸⁾.

4. Do you think people will drive more in the future?

→ It's hard to say about the future but I hope people will use more public transport instead of cars and motorbikes. Driving more just makes the air quality **deteriorate**⁽⁹⁾, which negatively affects people's health.

⁽¹⁾ **On a daily basis**: hằng ngày
Ví dụ: *On a daily basis, I operated au naturel.*

⁽²⁾ **Affordable price** /ə'fɔːdə.bəl praɪs/: mức giá phải chăng, có thể chi trả được
Ví dụ: *They are meeting consumer demand for fashionable products at affordable prices.*

⁽³⁾ **A tight budget**: ngân sách hạn hẹp
Tight /taɪt/: eo hẹp
Budget /'bʌdʒ.ɪt/: ngân sách
Ví dụ: *I am on a tight budget.*

⁽⁴⁾ **To be overcrowded** /,əʊ.və'kraʊ.dɪd/: đông nghịt, chật ních
Ví dụ: *The prisons are overcrowded*

⁽⁵⁾ **To be punctual** /pʌŋk.tʃu.əl/: đúng giờ
Ví dụ: *He's fairly punctual*

⁽⁶⁾ **To get carsick** /get 'kɑː.sɪk/: bị say xe
Ví dụ: *If you know you are likely to get carsick, there are several ways you can prevent it.*

⁽⁷⁾ **To travel a far distance**: đi chuyển khoảng cách xa
Travel /'træv.əl/: đi chuyển
Far /fɑːr/: xa
Distance /'dɪs.təns/: khoảng cách
Ví dụ: *Notably, men who travelled far distances for a job obligation mainly stated travel for work.*

⁽⁸⁾ **To vomit** /'vɒm.ɪt/: Nôn, buồn nôn
Ví dụ: *He came home drunk and vomited all over the kitchen floor.*

⁽⁹⁾ **To deteriorate** /dɪ'tɪə.ri.ə.reɪt/: Trở nên xấu hơn, tồi tệ hơn
Ví dụ: *The political situation in the region has deteriorated rapidly.*

Mở rộng

Chủ đề tương tự: Travelling, holidays, driving

Nhóm chủ đề này thông thường có đề cập đến những câu hỏi về phương thức đi lại và do đó có thể dùng chung ý tưởng về phương tiện giao thông.

Changes



1.6

1. Do you think you have changed a lot since you were young?

→ Of course yes, **not to mention**⁽¹⁾ changes regarding my **physical look**⁽²⁾, I would say that I'm now more confident, talkative and social than I was many years back. At that time, I was just so shy that I hardly had any friends.

⁽¹⁾**Not to mention:** không kể đến

Mention /ˈmen.ʃən/: đề cập

Ví dụ: *I promised never to mention the incident again.*

⁽²⁾**Physical look** /ˈfɪz.ɪ.kəl lʊk/: bề ngoài, ngoại hình

Ví dụ: *The physical look of the movie is a revelation of a lost past.*

2. What positive change might happen in your life in the next few years?

→ Well, I cannot say anything now but I hope it will be related to my **career path**⁽³⁾. You know, I have just started my job for a couple of months. Currently I'm trying to learn and gain experience so that I can be offered a higher position with a better salary in the near future.

⁽³⁾**Career path:** con đường sự nghiệp

Career /kəˈrɪər/: sự nghiệp

Path /pɑːθ/: con đường

Ví dụ: *Ortiz's career path seemed equally unorthodox.*

3. Have there been a lot of changes in your town/city?

→ Without a doubt. HCMC is developing really fast but at the same time, it is gradually becoming a **concrete jungle**⁽⁴⁾. I mean more and more **skyscrapers**⁽⁵⁾ are being built and there is less green in this city. Unfortunately, it's a negative side.

⁽⁴⁾**A concrete jungle:** một "khu rừng bê tông" (ám chỉ một khu vực với nhiều tòa nhà cao tầng, không gian trống và cây xanh khá ít)

Concrete /ˈkɒŋ.kri:t/: bê tông

Jungle /ˈdʒʌŋ.ɡəl/: rừng

Ví dụ: *New York may be a concrete jungle, but it does have some soil and sky*

⁽⁵⁾**Skyscraper** /ˈskaɪ.skreɪ.pər/: Tòa nhà chọc trời

Ví dụ: *The restaurant is at the top of one of the big downtown skyscrapers.*

Mở rộng

Chủ đề tương tự: Hometown, Cities

Các nhóm chủ đề này thông thường sẽ có câu hỏi về sự thay đổi diễn ra ở quê hương hoặc thành phố đang sống và do vậy có thể.

Picnics



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1. When you were a child, did you ever go on picnics?

→ No, I didn't. Back then, my parents were so busy with their farm work and so I remember that during my childhood, I just studied hard on weekdays and **played hide and seek**⁽¹⁾ with some other kids living next door after school.

⁽¹⁾**To play hide and seek:** chơi trốn tìm

Hide /haɪd/: trốn

Seek /si:k/: Tìm

Ví dụ: *We'd play hide and seek with guns.*

2. How often do you go on picnics now?

→ Rarely. To tell you the truth, I am not really interested in picnicking now. What's more, my **hectic schedule**⁽²⁾ doesn't allow me to enjoy it. If I have some days off, I just wanna sleep, you know, to unwind a bit before getting back to work.

⁽²⁾**Hectic schedule:** lịch trình bận rộn

Hectic /'hek.tɪk/: Bận rộn, tất bật

Schedule /'ʃedʒ.u:l/: lịch trình

Ví dụ: *Mr. Vas has a very hectic schedule.*

3. Where would people go for a picnic in your country?

→ Well, I don't even care about it. Let me see, maybe on a park or on the outskirts of the city. I just can only think of these two places which may be nice spots for a picnic. People can also have a chance to **unwind**⁽³⁾ and enjoy some fresh air.

⁽³⁾**To unwind** /ʌn'waɪnd/: thư giãn

Ví dụ: *A glass of wine in the evening helps me to unwind after work.*