

Borrowing / Lending



1. Have you ever borrowed money from others?

→ Yes, occasionally, in unexpected cases. Like, yesterday, I did borrow some money from my roommates to buy some food since I forgot my wallet at school. But most of the time, I try to manage my money carefully so that I won't **get into debt**⁽¹⁾ some days.

2. Do you like lending things to others?

→ I don't mind lending things as long as the borrower promises to return it back to me on time and **on top of that**⁽²⁾, they must be a responsible person because I don't like to see any damage to my stuff.

3. How do you feel when people don't return the things they borrowed from you?

→ Basically, those people will **leave a bad impression on**⁽³⁾ me. They have **betrayed my trust**⁽⁴⁾. Well, it's not that serious actually but I won't lend them anything after that.

⁽¹⁾**To get into debt:** nợ nần

Debt /det/ : nợ

Ví dụ: He got into debt after he lost his job.

⁽²⁾**On top of that:** trên hết là

Ví dụ: On top of that, it was funny.

⁽³⁾**To leave a bad impression on somebody:** để lại ấn tượng xấu cho ai đó

Impression /ɪmˈpreʃ.ən/ : ấn tượng

Ví dụ: Remember, bad hygiene will leave a bad impression on everyone

⁽⁴⁾**To be betrayed my trust:** phản bội lòng tin

Betray /biˈtreɪ/: phản bội

Trust /trʌst/: lòng tin

Ví dụ: My girlfriend betrayed my trust



1.17

1. Is your voice similar to that of a family member?

→ I don't think so. My parents have heavy **local accents**⁽¹⁾ from central Vietnam while I don't. I guess it's because I was born and raised in the south. Not to mention that my parents' voices are much **thicker**⁽²⁾ than mine.

⁽¹⁾**A local accents:** giọng địa phương

Local /'ləʊ.kəl/: địa phương

Accents /'æks.sənts/: giọng

Vi dụ: He speaks with a local accent.

⁽²⁾**To be thicker** /θɪk/: trầm hơn

Vi dụ: Closed-circuit security cameras are probably thicker on the ground in Britain than in any other country.

2. Do you enjoy recording your voice and listening to it?

→ I used to feel quite **awkward**⁽³⁾ when recording and listening to my own voice, but now, I really enjoy it. Actually, it's the thing I do every day to become more **fluent at**⁽⁴⁾ speaking English. By listening to my voice, I can easily check my pronunciation, fluency and intonation.

⁽³⁾**To be awkward** /'ɔː.kwəd/: kỳ quặc; ngượng ngùng

Vi dụ: He seemed a little awkward when I first met him.

⁽⁴⁾**To be fluent at** /'fluː.ənt/: trôi chảy, lưu loát

Vi dụ: There was not anything fluent at all about our offense

3. Was your voice different when you were young?

→ I'm not sure but I don't think there have been any significant changes in my voice. I've always had this **high-pitched**⁽⁵⁾ voice. To be honest, I don't really like my voice because it doesn't sound "mature" at all.

⁽⁵⁾**High-pitched** /haɪ'pɪtʃt/: giọng cao

Vi dụ: He talks to his dog in the most ridiculous high-pitched voice.

4. Does everyone have the same voice?

→ I guess not since I have never met two people with the same voice, **let alone**⁽⁶⁾ everyone. Voices **vary from person to person**⁽⁷⁾ and it either will be different in pitch, volume or tone.

⁽⁶⁾**Let alone** /let ə'laʊn/: huống chi, huống hồ

Vi dụ: Some people never even read a newspaper, let alone a book.

⁽⁷⁾**To vary from person to person:** khác biệt giữa người này với người khác

Vary /veə.rɪ/: thay đổi.

Person /'pɜː.sən/: người

Vi dụ: The effects will vary from person to person.

5. Are you using the same voice all the time?

→ Probably no. Whenever I am in a **heated discussion**⁽⁸⁾, I often **raise the tone and volume**⁽⁹⁾ of my voice in order to place more emphasis on the message I am delivering.

⁽⁸⁾**A heated discussion:** cuộc tranh luận nảy lửa

Heated /hiː.tɪd/: nổi nóng

Discussion /dɪ'skʌʃ.ən/: cuộc tranh luận

Vi dụ: Her remarks on the employment question led to a heated discussion.

⁽⁹⁾**To raise the tone and volume:** lên tông giọng và lớn tiếng

Raise /reɪz/: làm cho thứ gì đó tăng lên

Tone /taʊn/: tông giọng

volume /'vɒl.juːm/: độ lớn của âm thanh

Vi dụ: My boss raise the tone and volume to me

1. What's your favorite hairstyle?

→ I don't actually have a favorite hairstyle these days. But in the past, I used to be crazy about the **undercut**⁽¹⁾ style which was really **compatible with**⁽²⁾ my face shape. However, now I just let the **barber**⁽³⁾ do whatever he wants as long as I look neat and tidy.

⁽¹⁾**Undercut** /ˌʌn.dəˈkʌt/: kiểu tóc undercut
Ví dụ: My favorite hairstyle is the undercut style.

⁽²⁾**To be compatible with** /kəmˈpæt.ə.bəl/: thích hợp với
Ví dụ: Such policies are not compatible with democratic government.

⁽³⁾**Barber** /ˈbɑː.bər/: thợ cắt tóc
Ví dụ: He used to work as a barber.

2. How often do you have your hair cut?

→ Once a month or once every two months I suppose. Because my hair grows quite fast so I have to go to a barbershop to **have it cut**⁽⁴⁾ and sometimes dyed if I want to **refresh**⁽⁵⁾ myself.

⁽⁴⁾**To have it cut and dyed**: cắt và nhuộm tóc
cut /kʌt/: cắt
dyed /daɪ/: thay đổi màu sắc của vật bằng chất lỏng, trong trường hợp này là nhuộm tóc.
Ví dụ: My girl friend will have it cut and dyed before TET holiday.

⁽⁵⁾**To refresh** /rɪˈfreʃ/: làm mới
Ví dụ: A good night's sleep will refresh you.

3. How much money do you usually spend on your hair cut? How often do you change your hair cut?

→ As I mentioned, I **do multiple things at the same time**⁽⁶⁾ like having my hair cut and dyed, so the cost of my haircut is quite high. Every now and then, I often **get a facial massage**⁽⁷⁾ and shampoo also, so the cost can sometimes **amount to**⁽⁸⁾ a hundred VND in total.

⁽⁶⁾**To do multiple things at the same time**: làm nhiều việc cùng lúc
Ví dụ: The Congress and its members can do multiple things at the same time.

⁽⁷⁾**To get a facial massage**: mát-xa mặt
facial /ˈfeɪ.jəl/: thuộc hoặc nằm trên khuôn mặt
massage /ˈmæ.s.ɑːʒ/: mát-xa
Ví dụ: I get a facial massage in every day.

⁽⁸⁾**To amount to** /əˈmaʊnt/: lên đến
Federal and state costs for building and operating prisons amounted to \$25 billion.

4. Have you ever kept a hairstyle you don't like?

→ Everyone must have, at least once in their life, and I am no exception. When I was in grade 6, undercut style was a **megatrend**⁽⁹⁾ so I decided to **give it a try**⁽¹⁰⁾. It turned out that the style made me look quite rebellious, which gained a lot **unnecessary attention**⁽¹¹⁾ from my teachers.

⁽⁹⁾**Megatrend**: xu hướng lớn (toàn cầu)
Ví dụ: The advance of technology constitutes a development megatrend with megatrend with huge potential.

⁽¹⁰⁾**To give it a try**: thử
Ví dụ: You can give it a try here.

⁽¹¹⁾**Unnecessary attention**: sự chú ý không cần thiết
Unnecessary /ʌnˈnes.ə.ser.i/: không cần thiết
attention /əˈten.ʃən/: sự chú ý
Ví dụ: It would create unnecessary attention.

5. What was the last time you had your hair cut?

→ If I'm not mistaken, it has been a month since the last time I **had my hair done**⁽¹²⁾. I'm planning to go to the barber's next week to have my hair cut and styled for my birthday.

⁽¹²⁾**To have my hair done:** làm tóc

hair /heər/: tóc

done /dʌn/: làm

Ví dụ: I had my hair done yesterday.

6. On what occasions do Vietnamese people usually have their hair cut?

→ Well, people in my country usually have their haircut and also styled before important occasions like their birthdays, Tet holidays and so on; or simply when it has reached a certain length.



1.19

1. What kind of people do you like to make friends with? / What do you think make good friends?

→ Honestly speaking, I would say those who **take responsibility for**⁽¹⁾ their actions would make great friends because they must be very **trustworthy**⁽²⁾. On the other hand, I would never, **not even in a million years**⁽⁴⁾, be friends with a **stingy**⁽³⁾ person.

⁽¹⁾**To take responsibility for** /rɪˈspɒn.sɪ.bəl.ə.ti/: chịu trách nhiệm

Ví dụ: I take responsibility for what happened.

⁽²⁾**To be trustworthy** /ˈtrʌst.wɜː.ði/: đáng tin cậy

Ví dụ: We have a brand that is perceived as trustworthy.

⁽³⁾**To be stingy** /ˈstɪŋ.dʒi/: keo kiệt

Ví dụ: The landlords are so stingy - they refused to pay for new carpets.

⁽⁴⁾**Not even in a million years**: không bao giờ

2. Do you think you are a good friend for others?

→ Like everyone else, I do make mistakes **once in a while**⁽⁵⁾ but I believe that I **have tried my best**⁽⁶⁾ to be a supportive and **trustworthy** friend who they can always **confide in**⁽⁷⁾.

⁽⁵⁾**Once in a while** /wʌns ɪn ə waɪl/: thỉnh thoảng

Ví dụ: We meet for lunch once in a while.

⁽⁶⁾**To try my best**: cố gắng hết sức

Try /traɪ/: cố gắng làm điều gì đó

Best /best/: tốt nhất

Ví dụ: I'm trying my best, but I just can't do it.

⁽⁷⁾**To confide in** /kənˈfaɪd ɪn/: tâm sự

Ví dụ: She's nice, but I don't feel I can confide in her.

3. Do you have any far friends? How close are you to them? /Why are they close to you?

→ I have a few friends who are studying and working abroad. We try to **catch up with**⁽⁸⁾ each other once in a while but it isn't easy. We used to be much closer but now we are slowly **growing apart**⁽⁹⁾.

⁽⁸⁾**To catch up with** /kætʃ ʌp wɪð/: bắt kịp với

Ví dụ: Will Western industry ever catch up with Japanese innovations?

⁽⁹⁾**To grow apart** /grəʊ əˈpɑːt/: không còn thân thiết với nhau

Ví dụ: There was nobody else involved - we just grew apart.

4. Have you ever contacted your friends from primary school?/ How important childhood friends are?

→ Honestly the thought of **reaching out to**⁽¹⁰⁾ my childhood friends never occurs to me. Simply because I think we no longer **share any similar interest**⁽¹¹⁾. To me, childhood friends are like good old memories that we look back on occasionally.

⁽¹⁰⁾**To reach out to** /rɪtʃ aʊt tuː/ chủ động liên lạc với ai đó

Ví dụ: The Democrats have to reach out to these people to win this election.

⁽¹¹⁾**To share any similar interest**: có cùng sở thích

share /ʃeə/: chia sẻ

similar /ˈsɪm.ɪ.lər/: gần giống, tương đồng

interest /ˈɪn.trəst/: sở thích

Ví dụ: Toan and Hoang no longer share any similar interest