

SPANISH AND VIETNAMESE

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SPANISH:

- It's phonetic, which means there's a direct link between the sound of the word and its spelling.
- There are five vowels and five vowel sounds. (Contrast that to English where there are 15+ vowel sounds.)
- It's said to be one of the easiest languages to learn.
- Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world.
- Spanish sentences can omit subjects. English grammar requires a subject for a complete sentence.

HARDEST ENGLISH SOUNDS FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS:

1. The TH sound as in THINK or THIS. It's often substituted for a S or D sound.
2. The R sound as in RED or BIRTHDAY
3. The V sound as in very. It's often substituted for a B or F.
4. The short vowel sounds as in CAT, PET, FISH, HOP, CUP
5. The SH and ZH sounds as in SHE and MEASURE. It's often substituted for an S or a CH.
6. The consonant clusters as in STRENGTH. Spanish tends to have simpler consonant patterns.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE:

-80% of words are only one or two syllables and these syllables are written separately, though both are needed to convey word meaning.

-It's also a syllable-timed language, meaning each syllable is given the same stress for an equal length of time.

-Vietnamese ESL students tend to speak English either without any stress at all, for fear of getting the word meaning wrong, or they apply Vietnamese pronunciation rules and stress each syllable the same.

-Vietnamese is a tonal language made of 6 tonal variations, all changing the meaning of the word.

-There are no long vowel sounds in Vietnamese.

-There are no definite or indefinite articles in Vietnamese sentences. For example, you may hear them say, "*They want job.*" Or, "*She wants to be teacher.*"

HARDEST ENGLISH SOUNDS FOR VIETNAMESE SPEAKERS:

1. The TH sound as in THINK or THIS.
2. The R sound as in RED or BIRTHDAY. They will typically flap the R
3. Endings like S or ES as in CAKES or BUSHES
4. The Z, ED, KS, and ST sounds because there are no equivalents in Vietnamese.
5. DIPHTHONGS: a sound formed by the combination of two vowels in a single syllable in which the sound begins as one vowel and moves toward another (as in coin, loud, and side).
6. The Middle Sounds of multisyllabic words.