

VIETNAMESE

COUNTRY: Vietnam

Vietnamese is a "tone" language in which the meaning of a word can change when pronounced with a different musical pitch or contour. There are six high rising and low falling tones which give it a sing-song effect. The tones may be difficult for foreigners but the grammar is not complicated. There are slight regional differences in pronunciations and accent but these should not pose difficulties in comprehension.

Quoc Ngu is the official written Vietnamese language. It is a relatively simple phonetic system of writing using roman letters with accent marks to indicate the tones for pronunciation.