

AN ENGAGING ENGLISH TEXTBOOK TO IMPROVE SPEAKING SKILLS!

Compelling Conversations

Questions & Quotations for Advanced Vietnamese English Language Learners—Volume 1

WRITTEN, COMPILED, AND EDITED BY
Eric H. Roth and Toni Aberson



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CHAPTER 3

BEING HOME

SHARING EXPERIENCES

Everybody lives somewhere. Share the story of your home with a conversation partner by responding to these questions. Feel free to add other questions.

1. Do you live in a house or an apartment?
2. How long have you lived there?
3. Why did you choose your current home? What attracted you?
4. Did you have a checklist when looking for a home? What was on it?
5. What legal documents did you have to sign before moving in? Lease? Mortgage? Other? Did you have to pay any fees?
6. What do you like about it? How long did it take you to make a decision?
7. What do you dislike about it? What, if anything, annoys you?
8. Which is your favorite room? Why? What does it look like?
9. Which room is the heart of your current home? Kitchen? TV room?
10. What changes have you made to this residence? Paint? Repairs?
11. What further changes would you like to make?
12. What paintings, posters, or other artwork do you have?
13. Do you have any pets? What's their favorite spot?
14. What, if any, plants or flowers do you have? Where are they?
15. By the way, how did you find your current home? Word of mouth? Ad?

EXPANDING VOCABULARY

Which words do you already know? Working with your partner, use each of the vocabulary words in a sentence.

appliance checklist exterior fee homesick
interior lease neighbor neighborhood residence

appliance *noun*: a machine or device that performs particular functions in the office or home; an object with a special use or purpose.

- Her family had a coffee-maker and a toaster, but still needed a TV and other appliances at home.

checklist *noun*: a written series of items arranged top to bottom, created to insure accuracy or completeness.

- Nga always kept a checklist of what she needed from the store because it was far from her house.

“The strength of the nation derives from the integrity of the home.”

—Confucius (551-479 B.C.E), Chinese philosopher

exterior *adjective*: the outside; opposite of interior

- Exterior paint must be stronger than interior paint because it must protect against the rain.

fee *noun*: money paid for a service; the cost to use something of value owned by someone else.

- You have to pay a fee to register a motorcycle in Ho Chi Minh City.

homesick *adjective*: feeling lonely, missing one's family or home.

- She got homesick for her family after two weeks away.

interior *noun*: the inside of a house, room, object or area; the inner part of a place or thing.

- The bright interior colors gave the new restaurant a modern, hip look.

lease *noun*: a contract made to obtain the use of something (home, business, car) for a specified price over a specified period of time; a period of time covered by a lease; verb to rent or lease

- My apartment lease ends next month.

neighbor *noun*: a person living next door or nearby

- The neighbor feeds the cats when I leave town.

neighborhood *noun*: a particular section of a city;

- They liked the neighborhood because it had a lovely park and a good school.

residence *noun*: a place one lives; the act or fact of living in a specific place as one's home.

- My school residence is in Hanoi where I study, but I feel like my true home is back home with my family.

ASKING QUESTIONS

A. Select five vocabulary words in this chapter, and write a question for each word. Remember to start your question with a question word (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How, Is, Are, Do, Did, Does, etc.). You also want to end each question with a question mark (?). Underline each vocabulary word.

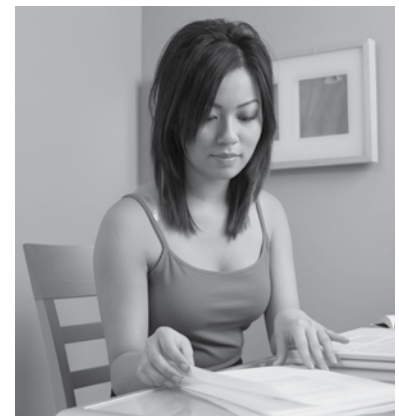
Example: Is this a new appliance?

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....

B. Take turns asking and answering questions with your partner or group members. Ask your teacher to give you feedback on your questions to check your English grammar.

A good neighbor is a found treasure.

—Vietnamese



 **ON YOUR OWN**

Can you add two more proverbs about homes?

-
-

PARAPHRASING PROVERBS

What do these proverbs and sayings mean? Discuss them with your partner. Circle your favorite.

- East or West, home is best.—Vietnamese
- Home is where the heart is.
- Home is where we grumble the most and are treated the best.
- Birds return to old nests.—Japanese
- A house is not a home.
- Settling in a good home brings forth prosperity.—Vietnamese
- Anger in a home is like rottenness in a fruit.
- A good neighbor is a found treasure.—Vietnamese

THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES...

1. When you were a child, did you live in a house or an apartment?
2. How long did you live in one residence?
3. What did you like about it? What did you dislike?
4. With whom did you live as a child?
5. Which was your favorite room? Why?
6. Which room was the heart of your childhood home?
7. Have you ever felt homesick? What did you miss the most?
8. What is your favorite childhood memory at home?
9. Is your old neighborhood the same today as it was when you were a child?
10. Would you like to live there now? Why or why not?
11. Would you rather live in an apartment or a house? Why?
12. Would you rather live in a city, a suburb, a small town, or the countryside? Why?
13. Can you suggest some places to find interior design ideas?
14. What would your dream residence be like? Can you describe it in detail?
15. What modern appliances would your dream house have?
16. Do you see homes as a good investment? Why?
17. Would you rather put money in a home or in a bank? Why?
18. What makes a house a home for you?

DISCUSSING QUOTATIONS

Take turns reading these quotations out loud, and discuss them with your partner. Do you agree with the quotation? Disagree? Why? Mark your answer.

1. "He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home."
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832), German playwright
 Agree Disagree Why?
2. "A man's home is his castle."
—Sir Edward Coke (1552–1634), English lord/statesman
 Agree Disagree Why?
3. "Home: The place where when you have to go there, they have to take you in."
—Robert Frost (1875–1963), American poet
 Agree Disagree Why?
4. "A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body."
—Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790), American statesman
 Agree Disagree Why?
5. "Determine what sort of a house will be fit for you; determine to work for it, and to get one that you can entirely enjoy and manage."
—John Ruskin (1819–1900), English critic
 Agree Disagree Why?
6. "No matter under what circumstances you leave it, home does not cease to be home. No matter how you lived there—well or poorly."
—Joseph Brodsky (1940–1996), Russian-American writer/poet, Nobel Prize winner (1987)
 Agree Disagree Why?
7. "Home is the girl's prison and the woman's workhouse."
—George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950), Irish writer/playwright, Nobel Prize winner (1925)
 Agree Disagree Why?
8. "The best way to keep children at home is make the home atmosphere pleasant, and let the air out of the tires."
—Dorothy Parker (1893–1967), American writer
 Agree Disagree Why?
9. "Modern apartments are built on the principle that half as much room should cost twice as much money."
—Evan Esar (1899–1995), American humorist
 Agree Disagree Why?
10. "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful."
—William Morris (1834–1896), English artist and writer
 Agree Disagree Why?

★ ON YOUR OWN

Select five adjectives (spacious, cozy) for your dream home:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Let's expand your dream. Use the worksheet "My Dream Home" (on the next page.) Share your dream with your classmates in the next class.

My Dream Home

Student Name Class

Teacher: Date

What is your dream home? Please use your knowledge and research to describe your dream home that you would like to live in. Use the vocabulary learned in this lesson. Use your imagination. Dream big!

Location

1. What does the outside look like?
.....
.....

2. How many rooms are there?.....

3. Describe the kitchen:
.....
.....

4. Describe your room:
.....
.....

5. Describe the living room:
.....
.....

6. Describe another room:
.....
.....

7. What else makes this home special?
.....
.....

8. What other information or details can you share?
.....
.....

Be prepared to share your dream with your classmates!

About this Book and the Series

Compelling Conversations: Questions and Quotations for Advanced Vietnamese English Language Learners is based on our original and highly successful English as a Second Language (ESL) textbook, *Compelling Conversations*. The difference is this unique textbook was created for Vietnamese English Language Learners. Like the original, this English as a Foreign Language (EFL) textbook includes thematic chapters to create quality conversations with conversation starters, interview questions, classic quotations, paraphrasing exercises, and traditional proverbs to create hours of English conversation and class discussions.

This culturally sensitive text encourages students to speak about their experiences, their families, and their lives in Vietnam. With dozens of practical speaking exercises, *Compelling Conversations* helps advanced Vietnamese English Language Learners develop greater fluency, develop and express their opinions, give reasons to support their opinions, build critical thinking skills, prepare for standardized tests with speaking sections (TOEFL, IELTS), and create authentic conversations.

Fluency also requires practice. *Compelling Conversations* encourages students to learn by doing and continually practice speaking English. As a result, students gain greater confidence, fluency, and vocabulary. They also create better conversations in English—in and beyond their English classes.

Originally designed for community college students (ages 18-87!), the textbook has been adopted

by American adult schools, international high schools, English language schools and intensive English language programs, university ESL programs, and conversation clubs. Recommended by *English Teaching Professional* magazine, the original, *Compelling Conversations: Questions & Quotations on Timeless Topics* is used by English Language Learners in over 40 countries.

Compelling Conversations: Questions and Quotations for Advanced Vietnamese English Language Learners includes:

- 15 thematic chapters.
- Over 75 communicative activities.
- Partner, group, and class discussion activities to develop fluency.
- 15 targeted vocabulary lists to expand working vocabulary in social, professional, and academic contexts.
- 15 paraphrasing exercises.
- Over 125 global proverbs to build intercultural understanding.
- 15 question writing exercises.
- 150 classic quotations to display eloquent language and develop critical thinking skills.
- 27 black-and-white photographs.
- Versatile material than can be adapted to multi-level listening and speaking classes.
- Critical thinking activities that develop vital academic skills for mainstream college courses.
- Discussion activities to build fluency and classroom speaking skills.
- 18 reproducible out-of-classroom and online assignments for homework.
- An alphabetized academic word list.
- Bibliography.
- 108 pages.

This communicative, oral skills EFL/ESL textbook has been primarily designed for international high schools, community college/university English language programs, and adult education programs. The book combines focused communicative activities and the natural language approach.

We are Chimayo Press, an independent educational publishing company based in Los Angeles since 2005. We're committed to publishing educational and specialty books that create compelling conversations, deepen relationships, and celebrate the human spirit. *Compelling Conversations: Questions & Quotations for Advanced Vietnamese English Language Learners* is the second title in our Compelling Conversations series.

Chimayo Press plans to release additional specialized editions of *Compelling Conversations* for Japan, Korea, Israel, Mexico, and Business Professionals. We will also publish *Lively ESL Lessons: American Idioms and More* in 2011.

We're interested in your feedback and suggestions. Visit us at www.CompellingConversations.com. To discuss special orders, please call +1(310)390-0131 or email eric@compellingconversations.com.

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Chimayo Press
3766 Redwood Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90066-3506
United States of America

+1.310.390.0131
www.CompellingConversations.com

EFL EXPERTS PRAISE THE VIETNAM VERSION :

"Compelling Conversations is a great book to get my students to talk beyond the usual topics they find in ESL textbooks in Vietnam. The topics encourage students to think, discuss, and exchange ideas and their own personal interpretations of idioms, quotes and proverbs. If you want to have your students talking and conversing, this book is a must-have!"

Leah Montano, ELD Program Coordinator
APU International School
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

"I have taught ESL conversation classes for all levels in the United States and Vietnam, and Compelling Conversations is one of my favorite resources. As a collection of interesting and thoughtful conversation starters, it never fails to help me engage students in meaningful conversational interaction."

Nathan Crandall, Lecturer
USC Language Academy

"Compelling Conversations is an unexpected treasure. I have been teaching ESL in Vietnam for a few years, and this is the first textbook that is not Euro-centric. The perfect mix of east meets west, it provides lively, thought provoking topics with vocabulary and proverbs that my Vietnamese students can relate to and connect with."

Emily Borden, English teacher/tutor
Hanoi, Vietnam

"Compelling Conversations is the first book I turn to when teaching an advanced level ESL class. It has become integral to my lesson planning as a way to foster meaningful conversations and improve my student's vocabulary. The proverbs and quotes included with each lesson let every student think critically and I've heard some amazing insights coming from all types of students."

David Robinson, English Teacher
Los Angeles High School

REVIEWS FOR THE ORIGINAL BOOK:

"Compelling Conversations is a recommended resource for teachers who want to make their conversation classes more learner-centered. It should be especially appealing to those who wish to escape the confines of the Presentation-Practice-Production approach and do without a formal grammatical or functional syllabus. It reflects both authors' considerable professional experience, and would be a notable addition to any English teacher's bookshelf."

Hall Houston
English Teaching Professional magazine

"This outstanding resource allows teachers to confidently walk into an advanced ESL classroom with self-contained, engaging conversation lessons... I wish I had this book in my old adult/university classes. A great book for adult education teachers, university instructors, and private tutors!"

Eric Busch, Founder of ESLHQ.com



"Compelling Conversations topics are timely, meaningful, and presented in such a way as to stimulate immediate class participation."

MARC YABLONKA, Author & ESL Teacher, LAUSD Adult Education



ERIC H. ROTH teaches international students the pleasures of writing and speaking English at the University of Southern California. For the last 20 years, he has taught English, academic writing, and speech to high school, adult, community college and university students. Roth has co-taught university writing courses in France and Spain, trained ESL and EFL teachers in communicative methods, and given many CATESOL presentations. He has also directed the APU International High School summer program in Vietnam.

TONI ABERSON taught English to adult, university, and high school students for 35 years. She also supervised high school English teachers for 15 years, and believes that a lively classroom is the optimal learning environment. In 2011, Aberson authored another book for ESL students. *Lively ESL Lessons: American Idioms and More* focuses on real life expressions and situations.

Compelling Conversations is perfect for conversation clubs, private tutors, and conversation courses!

Visit us at www.CompellingConversations.com.

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