



# SurvivalPhrases.com

A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



## Lesson 1: Thank You!

Cảm ơn!

### LESSON NOTES

The people of Vietnam are extremely hospitable, and there will likely be situations in which you will want to express your gratitude for something done for you. So in our first lesson, we'll look at phrases for expressing appreciation. In Vietnamese the most generic way to say thank you is Cảm ơn. The components of this word are cảm (to feel) and ơn (obligation), so literally the phrase means to feel obliged.

As Vietnamese is a tonal language, it is important to correctly pronounce the tones, as an incorrect pronunciation of a tone can change the meaning of a word and in turn, the meaning of the phrase. In the case of Cảm ơn.(Thank you.) the first tone is the dipping-rising tone. When said quickly, the dipping-rising tone is closer to the rising tone. Cảm ơn. -> Cám ơn.

The phrase Cảm ơn.(Thank you.), for practical purposes and at this point, can be used in most situations; however, if you want to emphasize the degree of thankfulness, you can follow Cảm ơn with nhiều lần to form the phrase Cảm ơn nhiều lần.(Thank you very much.)

If you want to emphasize the degree of politeness you can follow "Cảm ơn" with the corresponding personal pronoun of the person you are addressing.

ông: Sir or Mr. – males 50 years and older

bà: Madam or Mrs. – females 50 years and older

anh: he or young man

chi – Mrs., Misses or young woman

cô – Miss or young girl

In addition, one can further increase the politeness level by inserting the word xin (to ask, to beg) before the phrase Cảm ơn./Cảm ơn ông.

(Xin) cảm ơn. - Thank you. (formal)

(Xin) cảm ơn ông nhiều. Thank you very much. (formal)

## PHRASES

<b>Vietnamese</b>	<b>English</b>
Cảm ơn.	Thank you.
Cảm ơn nhiều lắm.	Thank you very much.
(Xin) cảm ơn.	Thank you. (formal)
(Xin) cảm ơn ông nhiều.	Thank you very much. (formal)

## VOCABULARY

<b>Vietnamese</b>	<b>English</b>
cảm	to feel
ơn	obligation
xin	to ask, to please

## QUICK TIP

During your trip, there will be a multitude of situations in which you will be likely to use Cảm ơn. The following are some of these situations:

- when the receptionist welcomes you to the hotel
- when the waiter brings your food or drinks
- when an old friend says how well you look
- when someone gives you directions
- when someone complements you on your Vietnamese

## QUICK TIP 2

If you are unsure how old someone is, it is best to just stick with Cảm ơn nhiều. (Thank you very much.)