



Lesson 2: You're Welcome!

Không có gì.

LESSON NOTES

In Vietnam, the concept of society as an extension of the family is evident in the social usage of language. The principal attitude of social groups is respect. Respect is expressed in the form of courtesy. The Vietnamese are exceptionally hospitable, and phrases of gratitude and those related are used at an extremely high frequency. During your travels in Vietnam, it is more probable you will hear, rather than use, the phrase "You're welcome."

The most common way to express "You're welcome" is "Không có gì." The words không and có is the flat tone and the word gì falls gradually. The literal translation of Không có gì is "Not have at all" but we translate it as "No problem." In most social situations "Không có gì" is an appropriate phrase to use.

In very formal situations or to address elders and superiors the phrase

"Không có gì đâu" is used. Please take note, the first three words are the same as the previous phrase, except the word đâu is added at the end. Notice that đâu is the flat tone.

A more casual expression of "You're welcome" is "Không sao đâu." It is the English equivalent of "Do not worry" and is most appropriate in situations among good friends.

PHRASES

Vietnamese	English
Không có gì.	You're welcome.
Không có gì đâu.	You're welcome (formal/polite).
Không sao đâu.	Do not worry.

QUICK TIP

There are various mutually spoken dialects. The three mainly dialects are:

Northern Vietnamese

Hanoi dialect, Other Northern dialects: Haiphong, and various provincial forms

Central Vietnamese

Huế dialect, Nghệ An dialect, Quảng Nam dialect

Southern Vietnamese

Saigon dialect, Mekong (Far West) dialect

Dialects differ slightly in tone, pronunciation, and sometimes vocabulary. In the north you will usually hear “Không có gì.” While traveling in central and south Vietnam you will hear “Không có chi.” Both phrases have the same meanings and connotations.

QUICK TIP 2

Most people are able to understand different dialects, so you don't have to worry about learning how to say one phrase in all the various dialects. However, I do suggest familiarizing yourself so that you are not caught off guard.