

## KGC Newsletter

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## TAKING A TOUR TO VIETNAM



By Tracy

**W**hat is the first thing you think of when you hear the word Vietnam? Is it the war? Well, there is so much more to it. Let me take you on a tour to my native country.

Vietnam is an Asian country which borders Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and China. Its capital is Hanoi, located in North Vietnam. There are 64 provinces in Vietnam. The area of this country is about 337,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and the population is approximately 80 million.

### Religion:

Vietnam is a multi religious country, as many religions exist here, such as Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Cao Dai which is a religion unique of Vietnam. However, one of the most popular religions in Vietnam is Buddhism, as 30% of the country's population is Buddhist.

### Weather:

The weather is different in North and South Vietnam. In North Vietnam, there are 4 seasons in a year: spring, summer, autumn and winter. The average temperature in the winter is about 18°C and in summer about 30°C. In South Vietnam, there are only dry and wet seasons. Although we say it's wet, it does not rain as much as in Vancouver. The average temperature here is between 28°C 34°C despite of rain. Therefore, it's especially hot in South Vietnam.

### Language:

Vietnamese has six different tones, so the same word can have six different meanings. Therefore, it's very difficult for a foreigner to learn and to use Vietnamese. However, there are a lot of other languages which are spoken here, such as French, Chinese, Russian, and English, which is becoming very popular.

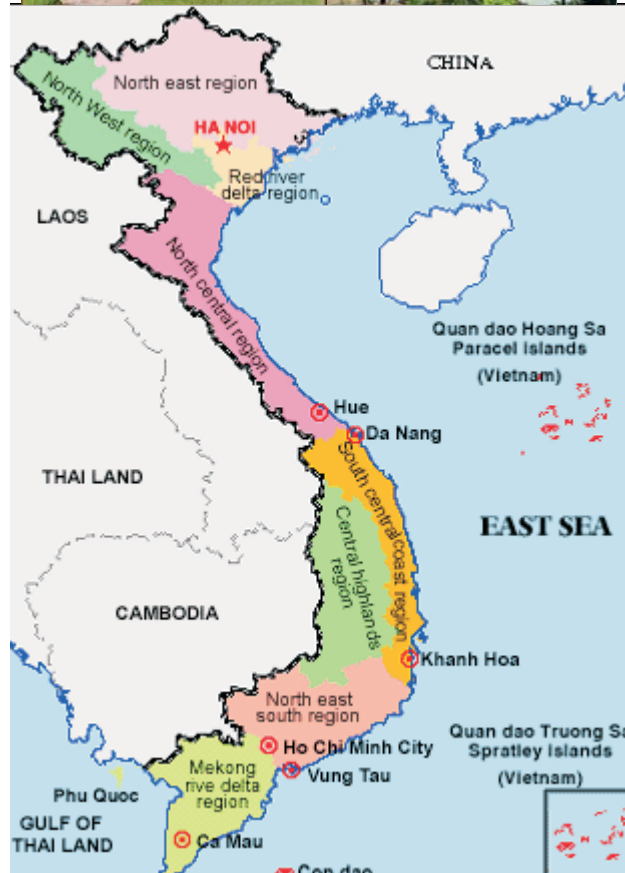
### Food:

Vietnam is a good place for tourists who want to enjoy seafood. The reason is that it's fresh and the prices are low. The most delicious seafood dish which I want to recommend to you is Tamarind roast crab, which is called Cua-rang-me. Moreover, there is also a lot of other tasty food, such as goi-go-sen, ca-tai-tuong-chien-xu, and Pho (rice noodle soup), which is

very popular in Vietnam but also in Vancouver.

### Interesting places to visit:

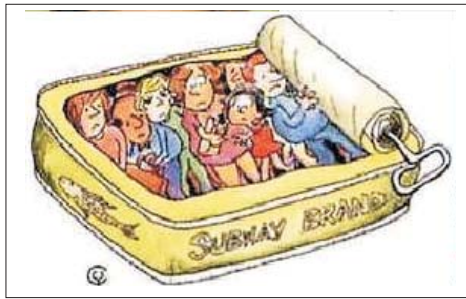
The most interesting place is Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, where there are a lot of historical sites, such as Ho-hoan-kiem, the cottage of Uncle Ho, who was the first president of Vietnam, and Ha-long Bay, where you can enjoy a very nice view while you are cruising on your ship. In addition, there are a lot of other beautiful sights, such as the old capital Hue, Da-lat Mountain, and Da-nang. Moreover, Vietnam is very famous for its beaches, such as Vung-tau, Nha-trang, Long-hai, Catba. It's a good idea for you to visit these beaches because the weather is usually hot in Vietnam. I hope you visit my country one day and see for yourselves how beautiful it is.



Source: <http://www.vietnamtourism.com>



Using idioms can make our language more expressive and fun. Some times idioms may not follow grammar rules, as in “long time, no see!” or the meaning cannot be translated word by word, as in “it is raining cats and dogs!” Therefore they could be a challenge for foreign students. Look at this funny picture and its explanations, and ask yourselves if know the meaning:



1 (picture) “packed in like sardines” Try to imagine that that when we take a subway train during rush hours, it is so crowded that actually we are packed in like sardines. (fish can not turn around in a tiny can.)

### Animal idioms:

Read these questions and try to guess the meaning of the idioms.

1. The weather forecast says that It's raining cats and dogs today! Have you brought your umbrella to school?

- The rain is very strange.
- It's raining heavily.
- Cats and dogs are falling from the sky.

2. When I heard the bad news, I had a cow!

- I bought a baby cow.
- Somebody gave me a cow
- I was really upset.

3. Jean: How did you know my secret? Susan: Oh, a little birdie told me!

- Jean told her secret to Susan.
- An anonymous person told Susan about Jean's secret.
- A person whose name is birdie told Jean's secret to Susan.

4. I am fired and another guy takes place in my position.

It's a dog-eat-dog world.

- the competition is very fury, and it is easy to be eliminated.
- Dogs are eating dogs at the office.
- Dogs like to eat dogs for lunch.

(Answers: b c b a)

### Idioms with body parts: Match sentences on the left with their meanings on the right:

- You did it. You **have to face the music**.
- Yes. You **hit the nail on the head**.
- They don't **see eye to eye**, and argue with each other.
- You have to **learn it by heart**.
- He is **an old hand** at painting.
- Everything goes well if you keep them **under your thumb**.
- Are you crazy? Cheating in BCIT test can **stick your neck out!**

- You have to memorize it.
- He's experienced.
- You have control of the situation.
- You will take the risk if you cheat on the test.
- You have to accept the consequences of your actions.
- You don't agree with each other.
- You're absolutely right.

(Answers: 1e 2g 3f 4a 5b 6c 7d)

### Idioms with numbers:

Find the correct answer:

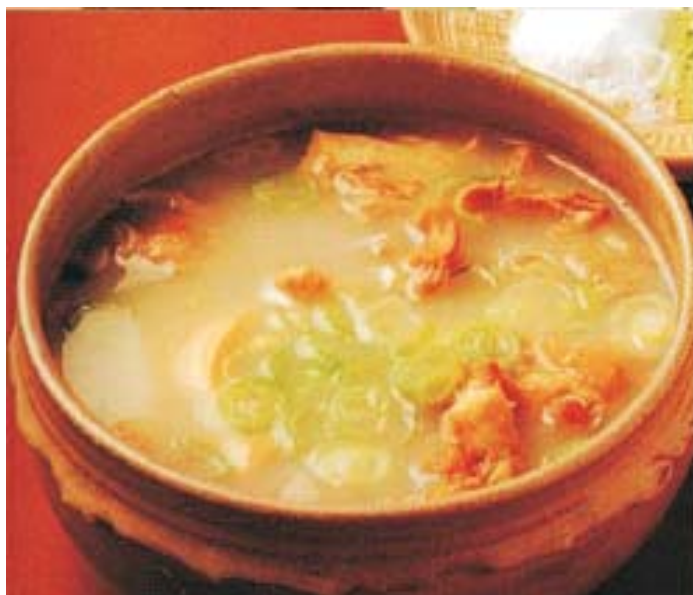
- If you are dressed up to the \_\_\_\_, you are wearing fancy clothes.
- If you are at \_\_\_\_, you are confused and don't know what to do.
- A \_\_\_\_ letter word is one that is considered rude or vulgar.
- If someone talks very fast, they talk \_\_\_\_ to the dozen.
- If you understand immediately what someone is trying to say, they might say to you "Got it in \_\_\_\_."
- If you begin to draw conclusions about something, you put two and \_\_\_\_ together.
- Someone who looks out for number \_\_\_\_ is someone who only thinks about his or her interests.

(Answers: 1 nines, 2 sixes and sevens, 3 four, 4 nineteen, 5 one, 6 two, 7 one)

You may think you know English very well, but when you turn on TV, read magazines, or hear people talking, you realize that there are so many expressions that you don't understand. The reason maybe there are some idioms involved. This means you can learn English idioms from TV programs and magazines. You will be surprised how many idioms are used. When the meanings are not obvious, you can try to understand them by imagining a picture in your mind. For me, although many idioms make no logic sense, they are funny and interesting. I enjoy learning them! I hope you will, too!

# Taste Korea

By Jung-Ho, Park



is also very nice and I have eaten it there many times. You can also try Korean soup which is similar to miso soup, but at the same time different. In the restaurant, all staff are very nice and they are all Korean, but they also speak English. If you want to try Korean food, I highly recommend the restaurant.

Jangmojip is located in downtown, at 1719 Robson St. The word jangmojip means a house of a man's mother-in-law. As the wife's mother is usually very nice to her son-in-law, they chose the name to show that they take good care of customers just like a man's mother-in-law takes care of her son-in-law. They have a lot of kinds of Korean traditional soups, some Korean barbecue, and some fried rice. I recommend you to have kalbitang which is a beef-rib soup. It is a soup with beef and it is boiled with cow's bones. It is very nice and not spicy, and I am sure you will like it. You can also try some Korean traditional alcohol drinks which taste similar to vodka. You should try them even if you are not an alcoholic. I think you should drink them with some soup because we believe that it is better than if you just drink it as it is. You can also try some other food and you will know what it is by looking at the menu because it is both in Korean and in English.

I went to both restaurants and had great food. I hope you go there and try it yourselves. I am sure you will find it a nice experience. Although the menus of these two restaurants are similar, they are differences in tastes. I hope you will have a great time.

[www.koreainfogate.com/taste/food](http://www.koreainfogate.com/taste/food)

**H**ave you ever tried Korean food? I can introduce you to some Korean food and recommend some Korean restaurants. Have you ever heard of bulgogi? It is a barbecue with a special Korean sauce, so it is known as Korean barbecue. Most people who tried it like it very much. Have you also ever heard of japchea? It is known as Korean noodle without soup. It is a noodle with beef and some other vegetables and it is especially popular among Asians, but many others also like it. Here are two restaurants, Arirang and Jangmojip, where you can try delicious Korean food.

Arirang is located on Cambie, just before you get to Cambie Bridge. The address of the restaurant is 2211 Cambie St. There are many kinds of Korean food that you can enjoy there. The word arirang is from a Korean traditional song and it means a Korean restaurant. There is a buffet where you can try all kinds of Korean style meats, such as bulgogi. However, you can also try a lot of various Korean soups and dishes. I recommend a bibimbab, which is rice mixed with beef and vegetables with Korean spicy sauce, so it is a very spicy dish. If you do not like spicy food, you can try Korean fried rice called bbokumbab. It



# Learning from Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and The Sea

By Brian



Expressing your thoughts and putting them into words, in other words writing, is a hard job to do. There have been many great authors in the previous century. Ernest Hemingway is one of them. He lived an interesting life, but his unique writing style is even more interesting. Its simplicity and clearness brought him a Nobel Prize for literature in 1954.

Being a student who wants to learn how to write a well-organized piece of writing, I have read many books written in English. When I read Ernest Hemingway's books, I found them simple and understandable, even though English is my second language. The way he is describing things is unbelievable. Just looking at the sentences makes me think I am in the middle of the scene.

Hemingway always wanted to be a writer. He was a good writer when he was in high school. Even though he did not get good grades, he was good at describing things. When his father wanted him to study at a university, he decided to join the army and later, become a writer. Unfortunately, he did not qualify for the army for WWI because of objections of his parents, and his bad eye sight. Later he became a reporter, and he found Red Cross ad in the newspaper for an ambulance driver. He volunteered to be able to go to war, which he finally did.

Hemingway's life was full of adventures. He was a sportsman, and he loved hunting, bullfighting, and fishing. From my point of view, his experiences made him a great writer. Even though he was a natural writer, I believe his experiences helped him to get inspiration for his writing. Also, he wrote some of his best works based on his experiences and his feelings at that time.

In my opinion, the best book he ever wrote is *'The Old man and The Sea'*. This novel is a story about an old fisherman and what he was going through while he was catching a big fish. Hemingway wrote this novel when he was spending his time in Cuba. It reveals life philosophy. In the novel, the old man struggles to get the big fish; however, he loses it by sharks. The sharks represent the death, but by facing them and giving his best, life triumphs over death.

After I read the novel, I realized that I have to do my best to get through hard times. Winning or losing is not so important to if you give your best and try your hardest. Students who want to have success in studying abroad should always keep this in mind. It might also be a good idea to read the books of Ernest Hemingway, as they can teach them so much. I hope everyone can learn from Hemingway the way I did.

[Source from www.ernest.hemingway.com](http://www.ernest.hemingway.com)

