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## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE

Explore some interesting facts about Vietnamese; a language ranked as the sixth most spoken in the United States.

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### History

Vietnamese language known today was recognized only 150 years ago.

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### Speakers

There are 68M speakers.

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### Alphabet

The Vietnamese alphabet uses the Latin script. There are 29 letters but no F, J, W, and Z.

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### Vowels and Consonants

There are 12 simple vowels and a variety of diphthongs and triphthongs along with 17 simple consonants. And one consonant with 3 letters – ngh, 9 consonants with 2 letters.

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### The tone

There are 6 different tones. A change of tone will not only change the meaning of the word but the different tones could reflect different intentions such as a plain informative sentence, a rhetorical question, an ironic statement and etc.

6



### Phonetic pairs

There are 3 phonetic pairs with different writing: ia – yê – iê, ua – uô, ư – ơ.

7



### Diphthongs and triphthongs

like: ai[ai̯] ; au[au̯] ; iêu[iəu̯] ; oai[waɪ̯] ; ươi[ɯəi̯].

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### The mix

Vietnamese is influenced by both English and Chinese, making it a language that has a wide range of loan words. However, the choice and use of these words seem to be determined by the context and the speaker's personal interest.