

# 4

## VOLUNTEER WORK AND LITERACY PROGRAMS



### READING

#### Before You Read

Look at the pictures below. In these pictures you can see some students doing volunteer work. Work with your partners, and match the pictures with suitable volunteer work.



#### Volunteer Work

1. Repairing a country road \_\_\_\_\_
2. Playing games with children in the countryside \_\_\_\_\_
3. Teaching street children \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Text

Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

*Khanh and his friends joined the volunteer programs during the summer vacation. Below is part of his report.*

We were based at Hiep Phuoc Village, Nha Be District, Ho Chi Minh City. We did such volunteer work as organizing games and activities for local children, conducting literacy classes for adults and remedial classes for weak students, and rebuilding damaged roads as well.

Both Vietnamese and foreign volunteers were divided into groups of three. We stayed with the families around the village, doing various volunteer tasks.

Our main task was to teach beginners and false beginners how to read and write. Based on their different levels, we set them into groupings. Every morning, we conducted remedial courses for weak schoolboys and schoolgirls from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. In the afternoon, we taught teenagers to read and write again from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Then we set off for our evening classes, where we taught adult beginners. These evening classes usually started at 5:00 p.m. and lasted two hours. It was not an easy task at all to teach the adults who came after a day's hard work; some even brought along their children and looked after them during class. Besides our main tasks, we organized games for children and often spent the rest of the evening making friends with local young people.

When evaluating our one-month work in such a different environment, we came to an agreement that it was really a good opportunity for us to have valuable firsthand experience. Despite hardship, we benefited a lot from our volunteer programs. Indeed, helping the community enables us to develop our interpersonal skills, attain mutual understanding, promote friendship, and discover our own talents.

a) Check (✓) the boxes next to the activities done by the student volunteers at Hiep Phuoc Village.

1. Preparing food for the homeless
2. Conducting remedial classes for weak students
3. Rebuilding damaged roads

Unit 4. Volunteer work and literacy programs

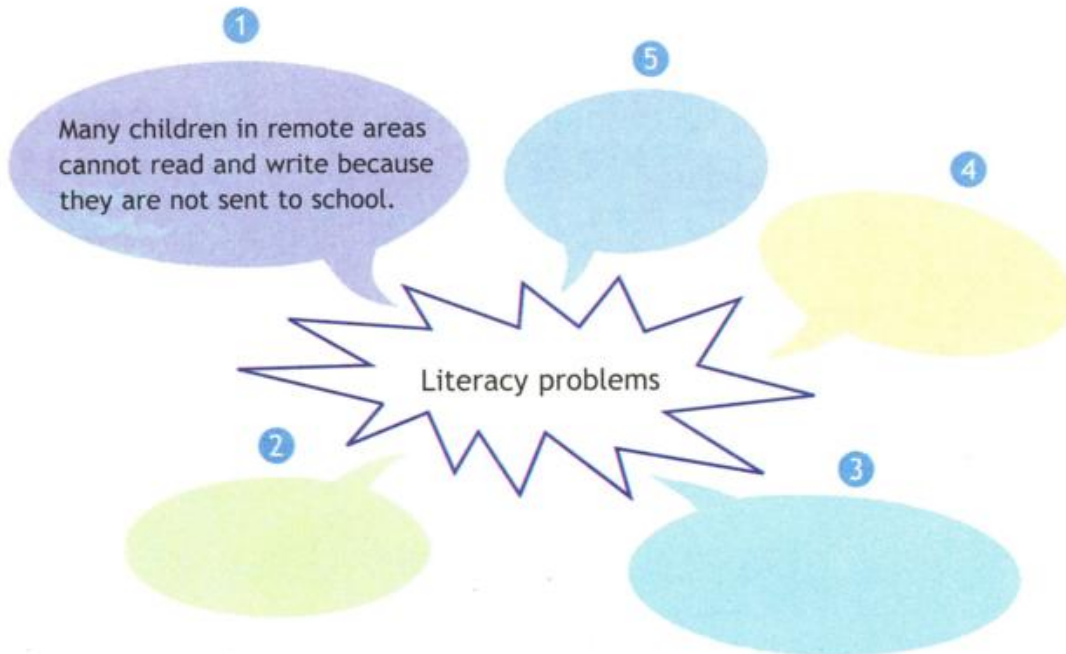
- 4. Playing games with local children
- 5. Conducting literacy classes for teenagers and adults
- 6. Building houses for poor people

b) List the benefits gained by the student volunteers. The first one has been done for you.

- 1. Volunteer work helps them gain experience in life.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

c) Work in groups. Do the following tasks as directed.

- 1. This diagram shows some main causes leading to literacy problems. Find more causes and fill them in the blank bubbles. The first one has been done for you.



- 2. Discuss these causes and offer some solutions.



## LISTENING

a) Work in pairs. Check (✓) the volunteer work that might be mentioned in the recording.

- Raising funds
- Teaching literacy classes
- Cooking meals for the homeless
- Collecting glass, paper, and empty cans
- Planting trees in the parks

b) Listen to part A and part B. In part A you will hear Chinh, the leader of a volunteer group, telling what they have done. In part B you will hear about the main task Ba and his volunteer group have done. While you listen, check (✓) the appropriate boxes.

Part A	Part B
The main task of Chinh's group is <input type="checkbox"/> serving poor people. <input type="checkbox"/> saving the environment. <input type="checkbox"/> conducting a literacy class for adults.	The main task of Ba's group is <input type="checkbox"/> serving poor people. <input type="checkbox"/> saving the environment. <input type="checkbox"/> conducting a literacy class for adults.

c) Listen to part A and part B again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

1. Chinh's group and the local people have raised \_\_\_\_\_ for the poor, taught the street \_\_\_\_\_, and prepared \_\_\_\_\_ for the homeless.
2. Ba's group has collected rubbish, then sent it for \_\_\_\_\_, planted trees and \_\_\_\_\_, and tidied the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Chinh and Ba think that volunteer work helps develop a sense of community \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_ as well.



**SPEAKING**


**Expressing Gratitude and Responding to Thanks**



a) *Work in pairs. Find more expressions used to express gratitude and to respond to thanks. Some expressions have been provided.*

Expressions of Gratitude	Responses to Thanks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you very much for...</li> <li>• I'm very much obliged to you for...</li> <li>• It is extremely good of you to...</li> <li>• I'm really grateful to you.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (It's) my pleasure.</li> <li>• Delighted I was able to help.</li> <li>• It was the least we could do.</li> <li>• You're welcome.</li> </ul>

- b) Work in groups. Take turns expressing gratitude and responding to thanks. You may use the suggested expressions in a) and the situations below.

 Example

**Situation**

A: A representative of the local people expresses thanks for the volunteers' planting trees in the parks.

B: A representative of the volunteers responds to thanks.

A: *Thank you very much for planting trees in the parks.*

B: *Our pleasure.*

**Situation 1**



Building a house for poor people

**Situation 2**



Preparing food for the homeless

**Situation 3**



Helping villagers protect the environment

**Situation 4**



Teaching a literacy class

- c) Work in pairs. Think of some situations where you have to thank people and the responses you have to give when people thank you.



## WRITING

### Writing a Thank-You Letter

- a) A number of Vietnamese and foreign Green Summer volunteers rebuilt some classrooms (mending roofs, windows, tables, desks, benches, etc.) in your school. Now write a letter to thank them.



- The format of the letter might be like this:

Format	Example
Date	<i>August 25, 20__</i>
Salutation	<i>Dear Jim and Chinh</i>
Express thanks and appreciation for what has been done for the village.	<i>I'm writing to thank you for what you have done to our school during your stay in this remote village. We really appreciate your precious help.</i>
Say how the work will be useful.	<i>The classrooms now look clean and tidy. Thanks to this, children can study in those spacious classrooms with convenient facilities.</i>
Express thanks / gratitude again.	<i>Once again we're extremely thankful for your special help and care.</i>
Write a social note.	<i>We wish you good health and great success and look forward to seeing you again next year.</i>
Closing	<i>Sincerely yours</i>
Signature	<i>Nguyen Tam</i>

- b) *Imagine you are an American student volunteer, who stayed in Mrs. Nam's house during your one-month volunteer campaign in a remote village. Now you have just returned to Ho Chi Minh City. Write a letter to thank her for her special help and care to you and your friends during the time you stayed there.*



## LANGUAGE FOCUS

### Word Study

#### Adjectives Derived from Nouns

Below are some suffixes that can be added to some nouns to form adjectives.

-ful	-al
-ous	-able

- a) *Match the suffix that goes with the noun. Write the correct word in each blank. The first one has been done for you.*

	-ful	-ous	-al	-able
1. use	<i>useful</i>			
2. study				
3. value				
4. parent				
5. thought				

- b) *Fill in the blanks with suitable adjectives in a) to complete the following sentences.*

- Many Americans believe that family volunteering is \_\_\_\_\_ for their lives.
- Many Vietnamese students find volunteer programs \_\_\_\_\_.
- Volunteer teachers felt happy because their adult learners were very \_\_\_\_\_.



4. Finding out solutions to literacy problems must be a \_\_\_\_\_ approach to eradicating illiteracy.
5. It is believed that in remote areas sending children to school is \_\_\_\_\_ responsibility.

## Grammar

### Reported Speech

#### Indirect Orders with *to* + Base Form of Verbs

a) Change the following sentences into reported speech.



#### Examples

##### Direct Order

- "Write a letter to thank the student volunteers for their help," said one of the local people.
- "Don't hesitate if you want to ask for help," said a volunteer.

##### Indirect Order

- *One of the local people told his son to write a letter to thank the student volunteers for their help.*
- *A volunteer told me not to hesitate if I wanted to ask for help.*

1. The teacher said to his students, "Do all the homework before you come to class."

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2. "Go and see the game tomorrow," said Trung to Hoang.

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3. Father said, "Don't waste your time playing games all day, son."

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4. "Go ahead with your presentation," said the interviewer.

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5. "Please do not touch any of the material here," said the employer to his assistant.

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6. The coach said, "Be fast and concentrate hard."

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7. "Don't hesitate to ask if you have a question," said the instructor to the students.

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b) Change the following sentences into reported speech. Use the reporting verbs given in the box.

advise	ask	beg
order	remind	request



### Examples

#### Direct Speech

#### Reported Speech with to + Base Form of Verbs

"Will you lend me your book?"  
said John. (*This is a request, not a question.*)

→ *John asked me to lend him my book.*

"Why not buy another bicycle?"  
Henry said. (*This is a piece of advice.*)

→ *Henry advised me to buy another bicycle.*

1. Nam said, "Can you do it for me, Mai?"

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2. "You must do it right now," said the teacher.

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3. "Smoking is not allowed, sir," the flight attendant said.

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4. Mother said, "I wouldn't lose hope if I were you."

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5. "You have to do it for me, David," said Peter.

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6. "Some more soup, please," said the little boy to the lady.

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### Reported Speech with Gerunds

Change the following sentences into reported speech. Use the reporting verbs given in the box.

suggest

insist

propose

apologize

request

ask



### Examples

#### Direct Speech

- "Shall we prepare food for the homeless this weekend?" said our group leader.
- "Thank you for your help," said an old villager.

#### Indirect Speech

- *Our group leader suggested preparing food for the homeless that weekend.*
- *An old villager thanked me for helping him.*

1. "Let's exchange our notes," said Ba.

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2. "I'll offer you a position in the company," said the manager.

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3. "Let's stop now and finish it later," said the teacher.

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4. "Don't go out alone late at night," she said.

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5. "Why don't we sit down and take a rest?" said the team leader.

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6. "Let's eat out tonight," said my father.

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7. "Shall we go to the beach to collect some shells?" said my sister.

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8. "Sorry I'm late," said the supervisor.

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9. "Let's go for a walk," said Mai.

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10. "Please turn down your radio," said Minh.

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