**John’s Vietnamese Phrases App — Record & Compare Addon**

**1. Purpose**

This document defines Phase 1.5 (optional enhancement) for the John’s Vietnamese Phrases App. Before adding Record & Compare, we’ll apply quick UI polish to improve clarity and feedback.

**2. Feature Description**

**UI Polish — do first (easiest → harder)**

* Change the “John’s Vietnamese Phrases” title to a more handwritten-style font (less formal, more personal).
* Remove the redundant info button showing tones (tones are already listed).
* Button feedback improvements:
  + Phrase buttons change colour while audio plays, then reset.
  + Category buttons also change colour when selected.

**Core Feature — Record & Compare**

* The user can press a **Record** button on any phrase screen.
* The app records the user’s voice via the microphone.
* The recording is temporary: not saved to disk or cloud.
* After recording, the user can press **Play My Recording** to hear their attempt.
* The user can toggle between **Play App Audio** and **Play My Recording** as many times as they want.
* If the user records again, the previous attempt is overwritten.

**UI Polish — later (structural)**

* App opens to **categories only**.
* Selecting a category hides the list and shows that category’s phrases, with a centred **Categories** button above to go back.

**3. Constraints**

* Client-side only: implemented in browser JavaScript.
* No permanent storage of user recordings.
* Must not break existing MVP phrase playback.
* UI additions should be minimal and consistent with current design.

**4. Acceptance Criteria**

**UI Polish (first)**

* Title font updated to handwritten style.
* Info button removed without layout issues.
* Phrase buttons visibly change colour during playback, then reset.
* Category buttons visibly change colour when selected.

**Record & Compare**

* User can record their voice for any phrase.
* Playback of both app audio and user recording works reliably.
* Switching between app audio and recording is immediate and intuitive.
* Recording again replaces the previous attempt.
* Works on desktop and iPhone (Safari).

**UI Polish (later)**

* App opens on category list only.
* Phrases display correctly after selecting a category.
* Centred **Categories** button returns to the category list.

**5. Step Order (for Build Thread)**

1. Change title font to handwritten style.
2. Remove redundant info/tones button.
3. Implement colour feedback for phrase buttons (during playback) and category buttons (on selection).
4. Add **Record** and **Play My Recording** under each phrase.
5. Capture mic input and hold in memory (temporary).
6. Implement playback for the temporary recording.
7. Ensure smooth toggle between app audio and recording.
8. Test on desktop and iPhone (Safari).
9. Switch to **categories-only** start screen.
10. Add centred **Categories** button above phrases to go back.
11. Final test on desktop and iPhone (Safari), then commit and redeploy.