**Greetings in English**

There are many ways to say ***hello*** in English. Sometimes you say a quick *hello* as you are passing somebody. At other times a greeting leads to a conversation. Friends and family members greet each other in a casual way. Business greetings are more formal.

# 1. Greetings in Passing

# It is polite to greet a person you know. However, you don't always have time to stop and have a conversation. Just remember to smile as you say hello. A small wave is also polite. Sometimes you pass the same person a second time on the same day. You can say "hello again" or just smile.

# Some phrases:

* Hello
* Hi
* Good morning
* Good afternoon
* Good evening \*
* Hey, *John*
* How's it goin'?

# 2. Greetings with Conversation

Sometimes you stop and talk for a moment as you say hello. This type of greeting is followed by a conversation. Close friends often **hug** when they greet each other, especially after a long time without seeing one other. Men sometimes give each other a **hand shake** or a **high-five** (touch palms above the head).

## Useful Phrases:

* Nice to see you.
* Long time no see. (*I haven't seen you in a while*.)
* What have you been up to?
* How are things?
* It's been a while. (*It's been a while since I've seen you*.)
* What's new?
* Not much. (answer to *What's new?*)

## Pair Practice (use video)

A: **Hi Corey.**

B: **Hey, Jennifer. Good to see you.** (hug)

A: **You too. How've you been?**

B: **Busy. You?**

A: **Pretty good. How's your new job?**

B: **It's okay. There's a lot to learn. What's new with you?**

A: **Not much. The kids are back at school.**

Note: Between very close friends it's uncommon to use names in a casual greeting. Sometimes nicknames or short forms are used (Cor and Jen instead of Corey and Jennifer).

# 3. [Greetings in the Classroom](https://www.englishclub.com/speaking/greetings-classroom.htm)

It is polite to greet a new student that joins your class. Introductions immediately follow this type of greeting.

## Tips

* Say hello and exchange names.
* Exchange nationalities.
* Engage in one line of [small talk](https://www.englishclub.com/speaking/small-talk.htm) (weather, surroundings, news).

## Useful Phrases

* I'm from...(city or country)\*
* I hear it's beautiful/hot/expensive there.
* How do you like it here?
* How long have you been here?

\*Learners often say "I come from..." instead of "I'm from...". Native speakers use "come from" for things or animals, not people: The toys come from China. Milk comes from cows.

**(Listen to an audio file)**

* A: **Hello. I'm Sasha.**
* B: **Hi Sasha. I'm Brent.** (hold out hand to shake)
* A: **Nice to meet you Brent. Where are you from?**
* B: **Chicago, Illinois. And you?**
* A: **I'm from Australia. I live in a small town near Sydney.**
* B: **Australia. Wow. I've always wanted to go there. How long have you been in Canada?**
* A: **I just arrived this week. It's my first day of school.**
* B: **Really? I think you'll love Vancouver. It's very beautiful here.**

# 4. Greetings in Business

Proper etiquette is important in business greetings. Make sure to use polite language such as "please" and "thank you". Appropriate titles and gestures should also be used. Shaking hands is common in most English speaking countries. It is also important to smile.

## Useful Phrases

* Please have a seat.
* Thanks for agreeing to meet with me.
* He'll be right with you.
* Can I offer you something to drink?
* My pleasure.

## Pair Practice

A: **Hello. I'm Mia Conners.**

B: **Hi Mia. I'm David Sinclair, and this is my partner Gina Evans.** (hold out hand to shake)

A: **Nice to meet you Mr. Sinclair, Ms Evans. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today.**

B: **It's our pleasure. And please, call us David and Gina. Can I take your coat?**

A: **Thank you.**

B: **No problem. Please take a seat and we'll be right with you.**

# 5. [Greetings at a Party](https://www.englishclub.com/speaking/greetings-social.htm)

It is polite to greet many people at a social event. This is called "mingling". After you greet people you know look for people you haven't met before. Introduce yourself and start a conversation.

## Tips

* Say hello and introduce yourself to a person who is not in a conversation.
* Talk about your relationship to the host.
* Discuss one party related item (food, theme, length of stay).

## Useful Phrases:

* Who are you here with?
* How do you know *Jane*? (party host)
* I don't think we've met.
* Have you been here long?
* Have you tried the cheese dip/dessert/punch?
* Where did you get your costume?
* The food looks great. I can't wait to try the dip.
* I love your dress/shirt/hat. It really suits you. (looks good on you)
* These decorations are wonderful. I love the table cloth /balloons/ flowers.

**(AUDIO practice)**

* A: **I don't think we've met. I'm Stacey.** (hold out hand to shake)
* B: **Hi Stacey. I'm Carl.**
* A: **Hi Carl. So, how do you know Jane?**
* B: **Oh, Jane and I used to work together at a coffee shop.**
* A: **Oh, you mean when you were working in Japan?**
* B: **That's right. And how do you know her?**
* A: **Actually, Jane is my cousin. Our moms are sisters.**
* B: **No way! You two don't look anything alike.**