

1. How do you do?

If you are looking for a VERY formal phrase for someone you meet for the first time, this one will be the most suitable. While this salutation is quite uncommon today, you can still hear it from older people.

“Hello. How do you do?” is perfect for a business dinner or a formal event, such as a conference. As per professional speech in every language, the most appropriate response is neutral or positive “I’m doing well thank you / Fine, thank you” to keep some distance, even if you are actually having a very bad day!

If used as a formal greeting, sometimes “How do you do” is, strangely, used as a statement rather than a question. This most often happens when shaking hands with someone for the first time. It is easy to hear if this is the case: there will be no inflection at the end of the sentence. In this instance, the correct response is to repeat the question back to the asker in the same flat tone, “How do you do?”

2. Nice to meet you / Pleased to meet you

This is one of the respectful greeting examples you can use replying to someone you meet for the very first time. For example:

- A: Good morning. I’m Alex White from [Company].
- B: Nice to meet you, Mr. White.

When people meet, it is a common practice to shake hands. A handshake generally lasts for a few seconds, which gives enough time to say “Pleased to meet you”.

3. How have you been?

This is a polite way to ask “*How are you?*” when you have not seen a person for a long time. Ask this question only if you have met someone before.

- A: How have you been?
- B: I’ve been busy working a lot. How about you?

4. Good Morning / Good Afternoon / Good Evening

These ways of greeting people are used at different times of the day. Whether you speak with a regular customer, colleagues or new neighbors, these phrases are effective to start the ball rolling.

The greetings change depending on the time of the day. For example, “Good morning” is generally used from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. whereas “Good afternoon” time is from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. “Good evening” is often used after 6 p.m. or when the sun goes down.

Keep in mind that “**Goodnight**” is not a salutation. In formal communication, it is used to say goodbye. For example:

- It was nice to meet you. Goodnight!
- Goodnight! See you tomorrow.

To show your respect, you can also add the person’s last name to your greeting words. Usually, native English speakers tend to be more informal even in business communication and use the person’s first name after the salutation:

- Good morning, Mr. Houston
- Good afternoon, Ms. Partridge
- Good morning, Tom
- Good evening, Kelly

It is also common to say “Good morning, sir/madam” when greeting someone in a formal situation whose name is unknown. This is often heard by staff talking to customers in shops, restaurants and hotels.

Informal greetings



When it comes to a conversation with a neighbor or a chit-chat with colleagues during a coffee break, you can opt for these informal greetings. Situations where these fit naturally include:

- a casual meeting with colleagues
- having a conversation with your team at work
- networking events
- greeting neighbors
- chatting to a friend

9. Hello / Hi / Hey

As you almost certainly know already, “*Hello*” and “*Hi*” are the most popular greetings for informal situations. Generally, they are followed by the person’s name:

- Hello, Michel. How are you?
- Hi, Monica. Nice to see you!

As a rule, use “hey” with people you know well. It is perfectly okay to start a conversation with a stranger in an informal situation with “hey” too, but do not pronounce it too harshly in this case, or it can come across as rude or confrontational.

10. Morning / Afternoon / Evening

This is a friendly and warm way to greet someone in most informal situations. It sounds particularly natural if you are just walking past someone who you relate to informally but do not have time for a long chat with, such as a postman, or a neighbor, or a cafe assistant. This said, it works just as well to start a longer conversation.

11. How are you doing? / How’s it going?

This is a casual way of asking “How are you?” People prefer to ask one of these questions after the main greeting. Usually, it is followed by a brief, positive answer. For instance:

- A: Hello, Amanda! How are you doing?
- B: Fine, thanks. And you?

12. Nice to see you / It’s great to see you / Good to see you

When you have not seen a person for a while or meet somebody unexpectedly, use one of these friendly greetings. You can use them at the beginning of a conversation, or just after the initial “hello”.

- Hello, Veronica. Nice to see you there.

13. Long-time no see / It’s been a while

These common phrases are used to greet an old friend or begin a conversation with a person you haven’t seen for a very long time. These expressions are often followed by questions like “How are you?” or “What’s new?” And it is a great way to start small talk about what has happened since your last meeting.

- A: Hey, John! Long-time no see. How are you?
- B: I'm fine, thanks! What's new?
- A: Hi, Taya. How's it going?
- B: Good thanks.
- A: I haven't seen you for ages.
- B: Yes, it's been a while.

What are some activities you like to do?

What are some good habits that you have?

What are some things you do every day?

Do you have any bad habits?

What is something you should do every day but don't?

What is something you eat almost every day?

What do you do at your job?

What is your morning routine? How about your evening routine?

Is there anything you do only once a year?

What is something you do about once every month?

What is the strangest fact you know?

What do you do in your free time?

Simple Present Questions: At Work

These are some simple questions that you can make at work

1. Do you work?
2. Where do you work?
3. What do you do for a living?
4. Do you work on Sundays?
5. Do you usually work on the weekend?
6. Do you work at night?
7. Do you like your job?
8. Do you have a part-time job?

Simple Present Questions: Music & Podcasts

These are some simple questions that you can make to learn more about Music.

1. Do you listen to podcasts?
2. What kind of music do you like?
3. What kind of music do you dislike?
4. Do you listen to electronic music?
5. What music streaming services do you use?
6. Do you pay for a music streaming service?

Simple Present Questions: Sports

These are some simple questions that you can make to learn more about music.

1. Do you play any sports?
2. Do you watch sports?
3. What sports do you like to play?
4. How often do you watch sports?
5. Do you watch soccer games?
6. Do you watch basketball games?
7. Do you ever go to soccer games?
8. Do you ever go to basketball games?

Simple Present Questions: Anime/Films/TV shows/Soap operas

These are some simple questions that you can make to learn more about anime preferences

1. Do you watch anime?
2. How often do you watch anime?
3. What type of anime do you like to watch?
4. Do you like psychological anime?
5. What anime series do you like to recommend?
6. What type of animes series do you dislike?

Simple Present Questions: Youtube and Twitch/Facebook

These are some examples of simple present questions about YouTube and Twitch

1. Do you have a YouTube channel?
2. Do you have a Facebook/Instagram account?
3. Do you usually subscribe to YouTube channels you like?
4. What streamers do you follow on Twitch?
5. How often do you watch a stream on Twitch?