

Greeting People



- What to say
- In what situations
- How to reply



How to Greet People

- UK English doesn't use a fixed form of greeting.
- Some greetings are suitable for **formal** use
 - Greeting the headmaster at your kids' school
- Some greetings are suitable for **semi-formal** use
 - Greeting the bus driver or a shop manager
- Some greetings are suitable for **informal** use
 - Greeting a friend at Conversation Club
- Some greetings are suitable for **all** of these

Semi-Formal Greetings

- “Hello” – suitable for most situations

Depending on time of day (1st meeting)

- “[Good] morning” (before 12:00 / before lunch)
- “[Good] afternoon” (after 12:00 / after lunch)
- “[Good] evening” (after 18:00 / when dark)

“Goodnight” is a departure statement, not a greeting

Depending on time of day (2nd, 3rd, etc. meeting)

- “Good morning/... , how are you today?”

Formal Greetings

1st time

- “Good morning, it’s a pleasure to meet you”
- “Good evening, I’m pleased to meet you”

[also suitable for your replies to important people who greet you for the 1st time]

If you’ve met before (*but not recently*)

- “Hello, it’s nice to see you again”

If you’ve met before (*recently*)

- “Hello again”

Informal Greetings

- Simple greeting – “Hey” / “Hi” / “Hello”

Greetings also asking about the person’s ‘condition’

- “How’s it going?” / “How [are] y[ou] doing?” / “How’s life?” / “How are things?”

Especially in Nottingham

- “Alright?” / “Yu’righ’?” = “Are you alright?”

How to Reply!

Simple informal greeting – reply the same

- “Hey” / “Hi” / “Hello”

Good morning/etc. – reply the same or

- “And good morning/etc. to you”

Replies to questions about your ‘condition!’

- “OK, thanks” / “Good” / “I’m pretty good, thanks” / “I’m feeling a bit tired, today” (*and be sure to ask about their ‘condition’*)