How to greet someone in Spanish?

Here are the common ways to greet someone in Spanish. Always remember that when you go into a store or meet a person, use a greeting to be polite.

Saludar	To greet
Hola	Hi / Hello
Buenos días	Good morning
Buenas tardes	Good afternoon / Good evening
Buenas noches	Good evening / Good night
¿Cómo estás?	How are you?
¿Cómo están?	How are you? (plural)
¿Qué tal?	Hi. How are you? / How's it going?
¿Cómo te va?	How's it going?
¿Cómo has estado?	How have you been?
¿Cómo está (usted)?	How are you? (formal)

BUENOS DÍAS is used in the morning until noon. **BUENAS TARDES** is used after midday usually until the sun goes down. **BUENAS NOCHES** is used in the evening and at night, usually when it gets dark, but, unlike English, we also use it to greet people and not only to say goodbye or when we're going to bed.

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How to say goodbye in Spanish?

Despedirse	To say goodbye
Despedidas	**Saying Goodbye**
Adiós	Goodbye
Nos vemos (pronto)	See you (soon)
Nos vemos el lunes	See you on Monday
Hasta mañana	See you tomorrow
Hasta pronto	See you soon
Buenas noches	Good night
Que tengas un buen día	Have a nice day
Que tenga (usted) un buen día	Have a nice day (formal)
Que tengas un buen fin de semana	Have a nice weekend
Que tenga (usted) un buen fin de semana	Have a nice weekend (formal)

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Informal Greetings in Spanish

For the most part, you can use **informal greetings** when you know the person you're speaking with, or when this person is younger than yourself. Here are some examples of informal greetings in Spanish:

En contexto	In context
EXAMPLES	
Informal	
–Hola, Raquel, ¿cómo estás?	–Hi Raquel. How are you?
–Bien, Juan, ¿y tú? ¿Qué tal?	–Good, Juan. And you? How are you doing?
–Bien también. Gracias.	–I'm good too. Thanks.
–¡Hola, Ramón! ¿Cómo has estado?	–Hello Ramón! How have you been?
–¡Hola, Pedro! Muy bien, ¿y tú?	–Hi, Pedro! Pretty good. And you?
–Bien. Muchas gracias.	–Good. Thank you very much.

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Formal Greetings in Spanish

For the most part, **formal greetings** are used when you're speaking with someone older than yourself, someone you don't know, or someone of higher status. It is seen as a more respectful way to address someone.

En contexto	In context
EXAMPLES	
Formal	
–Hola. Buenas tardes, señor García. ¿Cómo está usted?	–Hello. Good afternoon, Mr. García. How are you?
–Bien. Gracias. ¿Y usted?	–I'm good. Thank you. And you?
–Muy bien. Gracias.	–Very good. Thanks.

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