

Grammar: Greetings and Farewells

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- use common informal English greetings and farewells.
- ask questions to learn more about someone new.
- use "well" and "so" during an introductory conversation.

INT

Warm Up

Talk to your teacher and classmates. Ask questions to find out about them.



Find a person in class who:

- greets people as part of their job.
- has a secret greeting or handshake for close friends or family.
- can say "hello" in more than five languages.
- has a standard business greeting that they use over the phone.

Example: Do you greet people as part of your job?

Do you have...?

Can you say...?

Let's Learn 1

Talk about casual greetings in English. Practice the dialogue below.

We greet each other informally in many ways. Look at the examples.

Greetings
Hey / Hi
Heya / Hiya
Hi there / Hey there

Questions
What's up?
How's it going?
How're things?
What's new?

Mark: Hey, Derek. How's it going?

Derek: Pretty good. And you?

Mark: Good.

Let's Practice 1

Create a casual conversation for these characters. Think of as many options as you can.



How do you greet your friends when you see each other?

Let's Learn 2

Talk about casual greetings in English. Practice the dialogue below.

When you first meet someone, you ask questions to get to know them better. This is a part of "small talk." "Small talk" is a conversation about casual topics. Avoid talking about politics or religion when you first get to know someone. These are some common questions to help you learn more about a person.

What do you think of the weather we're having?

How long have you lived in Peru?

How do you know Julia? Do you work together?

Do you enjoy skiing? I just returned from a ski trip in Italy.



Make your own questions with these phrases. Ask your classmates.

Let's Practice 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct phrase. Make an answer for each question.

1. _____ the band? Have you heard them before?
2. _____ been coming to this salsa class?
3. _____ the couple that is getting married?
4. _____ baking? You did a great job on that cake.

Do you enjoy

How do you know

What do you think
about

How long have you

What do you ask a person when you first meet them?

Let's Learn 3

Talk about using "so" and "well" in English. Practice the dialogue below.

Native English speakers often add "so" or "well" to the beginning of their questions and answers. This introduces the sentence and makes it less formal. Look at these examples.

Amanda: *So*, what do you think of the new professor?

Max: *Well*, I don't know a lot about her, to be honest.

Jon: *So*, how long have you lived in Bogota?

Tina: *Well*, I moved here with my family in 2007.

Practice asking and answering introductory questions with "so" and "well." Review the correct intonation with your teacher.

Let's Practice 3

Fill in the blanks with "well" or "so." Match each questions to its answer.

_____ do you enjoy living in Japan?

_____ it is much closer to my house, so I can walk to work now.

_____ I started as a waitress last year, but then I got promoted.

_____ how long have you been working here?

_____ it was difficult at first, but now I love it.

_____ what do you think about our new office building?

How do you think adding "well" or "so" to these sentences changes the meaning?

Let's Learn 4

Read about casual English farewells and practice them with your class.

There are many informal farewells, or ways to say "Goodbye" in English. Look at the examples.

- Later.
- See you soon.
- See you around.
- See you later.
- Have a good one.
- Take care.
- Take it easy.



What other English farewells do you know?

What does the word "one" mean in the phrase "Have a good one?"

How do you say "Goodbye" to your friends in your country?