

# 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?