69 Greetings, farewells and special expressions

A Greetings*

When we are **introduced to** a **stranger** [told the name of someone we have never met] in a formal **situation**, we usually **shake hands** and *say hello*, or perhaps **hello, nice to meet you**. In an informal situation, we usually just say *hello* or *hi*.

When we **greet** friends, there are no real rules in Britain. Men may kiss **female** friends [girls/women] on one **cheek** [side of the face], on both cheeks, or not at all. Women may kiss **male** friends and female friends **once**, **twice**, or not at all. We usually say things like this:

A: Hello. How are you? B: Fine, thanks. **How about** you?
A: Hi. **How's it going?** / **How are things?** (*infml*) B: **Not** (**so**) **bad**, thanks. And you?

* saying hello

B Farewells*

To someone we have just met for the first time we can say **Goodbye. Nice to meet you**.

With friends we can say **bye, cheers** (*infml*), **take care** (*infml*), or **see you** (soon/later/tomorrow, etc.).

When we say goodbye to a school or work friend on Friday afternoon we usually say:
A: Have a nice weekend.
B: Yeah, **same to you**. (NOT same ~~for~~ you)

* saying goodbye

C Expressions for special situations



Language help

We use **Thank goodness** when we are happy that something bad did not happen. A synonym is **Thank God** (*infml*), but there are some people who may not like the use of this expression. We can use *Goodness* on its own to express surprise, e.g. *Goodness, is it ten o'clock already?*

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Exercises

69.1 **Find five more phrases.**

~~good~~	take	excuse	bless	~~luck~~	you
thank	me	goodness	not	care	bad

good luck ....

....

69.2 **Complete the dialogues.**

1 A: How are you?
B: Fine. How *about* ..... you?

2 A: How's it ..... ?
B: Not ..... . And you?

3 A: Have a nice weekend.
B: Yeah, ... you.

4 A: Nobody was hurt in the accident.
B: Oh, ... for that.

5 A: I'll see you tomorrow.
B: Yeah, ... care.

6 A: I've just passed my exam.
B: ..... !

7 A: I'm fine, thanks.
B: Good. And ..... Sarah?

69.3 **What could you say in these situations?**

1 A friend says, 'Have a good weekend'. What do you reply? *Yeah, same to you.*
2 You met a new business client for the first time fifteen minutes ago, and now you are leaving. What do you say? .....
3 You are on a crowded bus. It is your stop and you want to get off. What do you say to other passengers as you move past them? .....
4 A friend tells you they have just won some money. What do you say? .....
5 A friend is going for a job interview this afternoon. What do you say? .....
6 You are having a drink with friends. What do you say when you hold up your glasses to drink? .....
7 Someone sneezes next to you. What do you say? .....

69.4 **Complete the sentences.**

1 When you meet someone for the first time in a formal *situation* , what do you say?
2 When you are ..... to someone in a formal situation, do you normally ..... hands?
3 What do you do and say when you ..... friends?
4 Do you usually kiss friends? If so, is it on one ..... or both ..... ?
5 When you say goodbye to friends, do you use informal expressions like *Cheers,* or *Take* ..... ? If so, what are they?

69.5 **Over to you**

Answer the questions in Exercise 69.4 about your country. If possible, ask someone from a different country the same questions.

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