Everyday English Conversations

PRESENTED BY



Click on any of the sayings through out this presentation to listen to it. You may click as many times as you like.

Listen to each saying and / or sentence and then repeat each of them. You may want to do this several times so you get the right pronunciation.

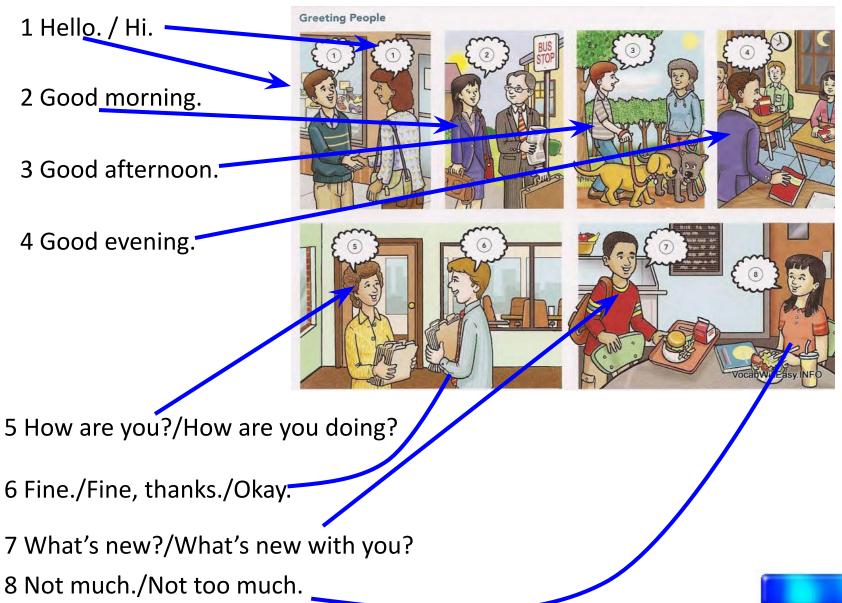


The dialogues are all one conversation and are not broken into sentences for listening.





Phrases



Greeting someone you never met:



"Hi, my name is Steve. It's nice to meet you."

You can respond to this by saying,



"It's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Jack."



Another common question to ask is "What do you do for a living?"

You can respond to this by saying,



"I work at a restaurant."



"I work at a bank."



"I work in a software company."



"I'm a dentist."



Usually, you will not need to ask for a name. It is implied that each person should say their name. But in case they don't, you can ask,



"What is your name?"

Many times, I don't hear the name. If you would like for them to repeat their name, you can say,



"What was that again?"



"Excuse me?"



"Pardon me?"



Sample Dialogues

Who are you?

() =

A. What's your name?
B. My name is Bobby. What's yours?
A. Mine is Tom.
B. Where do you live?
A. I live in Boston, and you?
B. I live in New York.
A. It's nice to meet you.

B. It's nice to meet you too.

Person A: "Hi, my name is Steve. It's nice to meet you." Person B: "I'm Cathy. It's a pleasure to meet you, Steve."

Person A: "What do you do for a living Jack?" Person B: "I work at the bank."

Person A: "What is your name?" Person B: "Jackson." Person A: "What was that again?"



Greeting Someone you Know











PHRASES

- "Hey John, how have you been?"
 - "Hi Bob, how are you?"



- Hi Nancy, what have you been up to?"
- "Andy, it's been a long time, how are you man?"
- If you meet someone unexpectedly, you can say,



"Hey Jack, it's good to see you. What are you doing here?"

or



"What a surprise. I haven't seen you in a long time. How have you been?"





If you see the person at a restaurant, you can say,



"Do you come to this restaurant often?"

Or at the movie theatre,



"What movie did you come to see?"

Appropriate responses:



- "Hi Steve, my name is Mike. It is nice to meet you as well."
- "I heard a lot about you from John. He had a lot of good things to say."



"Wow. How long has it been? It seems like more than a year. I'm doing pretty well. How about you?"

A typical response to this type of greeting is simple.



"Not too bad."



If asked what you have been up to, you can respond with,



"Same ole same ole." Or, "The same as usual."

Here are some other example responses.

- "I'm pretty busy at work these days, but otherwise, everything is great."
- "I'm doing very well."



Restaurant Responses



- "I've been here a couple of times, but I don't come on a regular basis."
- "I come pretty often. This is my favorite restaurant."
- "I can't believe we haven't seen each other before. I come here at least twice a week."

Movie Response

"I came here to see Matrix Revolution. How about you?"



DIALOGUES

Person A: "Hey John, how have you been?"
Person B: "What a surprise. I haven't seen you in a long time. How have you been?"
Person A: "I'm doing very well. How about you?"
Person B: "I finally have some free time. I just finished taking a big examination, and I'm so relieved that I'm done with it."



Person A: "Hi Nancy, what have you been up to?" Person B: "The same ole same ole." Or, "The same as usual. How about you?" Person A: "I'm pretty busy at work these days, but otherwise, everything is great."

Person A: "Andy, it's been a long time, how are you man?" Person B: "What a surprise. I haven't seen you in a long time. How have you been?" Person A: "Do you come to this restaurant often?" Person B: "I've been here a couple of times, but I don't come on a regular basis."



- A: "Hi, how are you doing?"
- **B:** "I'm doing great. How about you?"
- A: "Not too bad."



- B: "Do you come to this restaurant often?"
- A: "I've been here a couple of times, but I don't come on a regular basis. What have you been up to?"
- **B:** "I'm pretty busy at work these days, but otherwise, everything is great."
- A: "Well, have a good evening."
- B: "You too."
- A: "Hey Jack, it's good to see you."
- **B:** "Wow. How long has it been? It seems like more than a year. I'm doing pretty well. How about you?"



- A: "Not too bad."
- B: "What movie did you come to see?"
- A: "I came here to see Matrix Revolution. How about you?"
- B: "I'm going to watch Finding Nemo."

Formal Greetings



Dialogue 1-1

James: Good morning, Professor Austin. How are you doing? Professor Austin: Good morning, James. I am doing well. And you? James: I'm great, thank you. This is my friend Emma. She is thinking about applying to this college. She has a few questions. Would you mind telling us about the process, please? Professor Austin: Hello, Emma! It's a pleasure to meet you. I'm more

than happy to speak with you. Please stop by my office next week. **Emma:** It's a pleasure to meet you, professor. Thank you so much for helping us.

Professor Austin: Don't mention it. Hopefully, I will be able to answer your questions!



Language Notes

• The greetings *good morning*/good afternoon/good evening are used at different times of the day to greet people. "Good evening" is often used after 6 p.m. or generally when the sun has set.

• "Good night" is not a greeting: It is used when leaving a place or group of people. *Thank you and good night!/Good night, and see you tomorrow.*

• When people meet in the United States, it is customary for them to shake hands. A handshake should be firm and usually lasts for about two to three seconds — which allows enough time to say "Nice to meet you."

• "Don't mention it" is another way of saying "You're welcome." The phrase "You are welcome" is more formal. However, responses such as *Don't mention it./No problem./Happy to help.* are informal ways of responding to a thank you



Informal Greetings and Farewells



Dialogue 1-2:

Jane: Hi, Helen! How's it going? Helen: Fine, thanks — and you? Jane: Just fine. Where are you off to? Helen: To the library. I've got a history exam next week and need to start studying. Ugh. Jane: Oh, no. Well, I'll see you later then. Good luck! Helen: Thanks. See you later.



Language Notes

• "**Hi**" is an informal way of saying "hello." Notice that the "i" sound in "hi" is extended, to show that Jane is very pleased to see Helen.

• "How's it going?" is an informal way of saying "How are you?"

• "Fine, thanks — and you?" Notice the rising intonation on "and you?" This shows that Helen is interested in what Jane has to say.

• "Where are you off to?" is an informal way of saying "Where are you going?" Notice the falling intonation since this is an information question, not a "yes/no" question.

• "To the library." Notice that Helen does not say "I'm going" here because that information was already established in the question "Where are you off to?"

• "Oh, no" is a way of saying "I sympathize with you" or "I understand you are not happy."

• "See you later" is an informal way of saying "goodbye."



Greeting someone new

Introducing Yourself



I'm John.



I'm Jackie. (Use first name in informal situations)





I'm John Kennedy.

I'm Jackie O'Neill. (Use full name in business and formal situations)



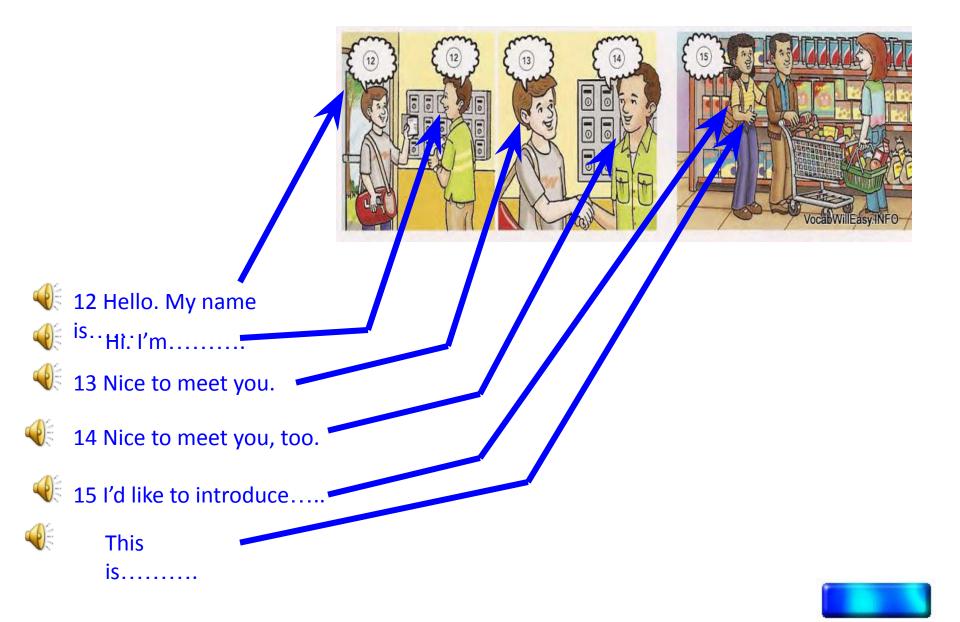
- (It's) nice to meet you.
- (It's) nice meeting you.
- (It's) good to meet you.



Nice to meet you too.



Introducing Yourself and Others



Introducing Other People



- my brother, Bob.
- my sister, Cindy
- my father, Mr. Harris.
- my mother, Mrs. Harris.
- my teacher, Ms. Watson.
- my student, Carrie.
- my friend, Mary Jones.
- my boss, Mr. Ritter.
- my co-worker, Penny Pitcher



- Nice to meet you.
- Nice to meet you too.







Dialogue 1: Formal Introductions

Margaret: Mr. Wilson, I'd like you to meet Dr. Edward Smith.

Mr. Wilson: It's nice to meet you, Dr. Smith.

Dr. Smith: Pleasure to meet you, too.



Margaret: Dr. Smith is an economist. He just finished writing a book on international trade.

Mr. Wilson: Oh? That's my field, too. I work for the United Nations.

Dr. Smith: In the Development Program, by any chance?

Mr. Wilson: Yes. How did you guess?

Dr. Smith: I've read your articles on technical assistance. They're excellent.



Language Notes

• **Mr. Wilson, I'd like you ...** Notice the rising intonation on "Mr. Wilson," which is used to address someone. Listen for the "d" in "I'd like." This means I would like, which is very different from I like. ("I'd like" means the same as "I would like" or "I want.")

• **Dr. Smith is an economist.** Notice the stress on "economist." This content word has new information, so it is emphasized. There are four syllables in "economist," with the stress on the second syllable (e-CON-o-mist).

• He just finished writing ... "just" means the very recent past. "Just" is usually used with a simple past verb because the action is complete. However, it can also be used with the present perfect (He's just finished writing ...).

• **Development program**. Since these two words make a compound noun, the main stress falls on "development."

• By any chance? Means the same as "possibly." Notice the rising intonation, which is used in yes/no questions to confirm that something is true.



Dialogue 2: Informal Introductions



Jim: Who's the tall woman next to Barbara?

Charles: That's her friend Mary. Didn't you meet her at Steve's party?

Jim: No, I wasn't at Steve's party.

Charles: Oh! Then let me introduce you to her now. Mary, this is my friend Jim.

Mary: Hi, Jim. Nice to meet you.

Jim: You, too. Would you like a drink?

Mary: Sure, let's go get one.



Language Notes

• "Who's" is the contracted form of who is. It is pronounced the same way as "whose" (/huwz/), but the meaning is different.

• **Didn't you meet her ...?** Notice that this is a negative question. Charles thought that Jim had met Mary before. He is now surprised that Jim does not know Mary, and so he uses a negative question to show his surprise.

• I wasn't at Steve's party. Notice that the emphasis here is on "at" although prepositions normally have weak stress. In this case, "at" means "there" (I wasn't there).

• Mary, this is my friend Jim. This is a friendly way to introduce two people. It's common to follow this with "Jim, this is Mary." In this case, Mary says "Hi, Jim" first.

• Nice to meet you. This is a typical response after you've been introduced to someone.

• "Sure" is often used in informal conversation to mean "yes."



This is part 1 of "Daily Bonversations for Life". More will be coming soon. So please be patient.