Expressing yourself: ways of saying hello and goodbye

Overview: In this lesson learners develop their awareness of ways of saying hello and goodbye.

Total time for activities: 30 – 35 minutes

Level: upper intermediate to advanced

1. Before class, cut up the Student’s Copy so that you have four individual worksheets for each learner.

2. On the board, display these questions:
   a. What expressions do you and other people use to say hello and goodbye in your L1 and in English?
   b. In what situations do you and other people use these expressions?
   c. What factors influence people’s choice of words when they say hello and goodbye?

Learners discuss the questions in pairs or small groups and then report to the class. Possible answers to question c.: the relationship between the people, the formality of the situation, the time of day.

3. Distribute Worksheet A. Learners work on the task in pairs. Check answers in plenary.
   **Answers**
   1d 2a 3e 4h 5f 6g 7b 8c

4. Distribute Worksheet B. Learners work on the task in pairs. Check answers in plenary.
   **Answers**
   1g 2h 3f 4d 5b 6e 7a 8c

5. Distribute Worksheet C, which summarises different ways of saying hello and goodbye. Learners may suggest other expressions to be added.

6. Distribute Worksheet D. Learners work on the task in pairs, and can use worksheet C for additional support. Check answers in plenary.
   **Answers**
   1. A: Hi, Maria. All right?
      B: All right. And you?
   2. A: Hello, Ivan. This is my colleague Lin.
      B: Pleased to meet you, Lin. I’ve heard a lot about you.
   3. A: Can I introduce you to Mr. Frankovsky, the project manager?
      B: How do you do, Mr. Frankovsky?
      B: Hiya, Ed. No, it hasn’t been too bad so far.
   5. A: Jan! What a surprise! Long time no see!
      B: Yeah, it’s been a while, hasn’t it? Nice to see you!
   6. A: Bye! I should be back around about eleven o’clock.
      B: See you later! Have a good time!
   7. A: So long, and have a safe journey! Let us know when you get home.
      B: Cheers! Thanks for the hospitality. I’ll let you know when I’m in town again.
   8. A: Good night, folks! If I set off now I’ll be able to get the last bus home.
      B: Bye! Mind how you go!
   9. A: So, take care!
      B: Yeah, you too. See you around. Bye.
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7. Display these questions on the board, and ask learners to discuss them in small groups:
   a. Which of these expressions for saying hello and goodbye do you use already, and in what situations?
   b. Which of the other expressions could you use, and in what situations?
   c. Which of the expressions do you think you would have no opportunity to use in your current circumstances? Why?

Follow-up

► Ask learners to notice and report back on the ways people say hello and goodbye in English in films, TV, etc. (and, if relevant, in the community they live in). How are the expressions people use related to the relationship between them, and to the situation in which they are used?
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Worksheet A

Saying hello

Which of the phrases to the right is:

1. used in formal situations as a polite way of greeting someone when you meet them for the first time?
   a. Morning. / Afternoon. / Evening.
2. an informal way of saying hello to someone in the morning/afternoon/ evening?
   b. Hi. / Hi there. / Hiya.
3. used when you meet a close friend that you have not seen for a long time?
   c. Nice to see you.
4. an informal way of saying hello to someone and asking if they are well?
   d. How do you do?
5. the usual polite way of greeting someone when you meet them for the first time?
   e. Long time no see.
6. used for saying hello to someone in the morning/afternoon/evening (often used when addressing an audience)?
   f. Pleased to meet you. / Nice to meet you.
7. an informal way of saying hello?
   g. Good morning. / Good afternoon. / Good evening.
8. used for saying hello to someone you already know?
   h. All right?

Worksheet B

Saying goodbye

Which of the phrases to the right is:

1. the most common way of saying goodbye to a friend or someone you know well?
   a. Take care. / Mind how you go.
2. an informal way of saying goodbye to someone when you expect to see them again soon?
   b. Cheerio. / Cheers.
3. used for saying goodbye when you leave someone at night or before they go to bed?
   c. Safe journey.
4. used for saying goodbye to someone when you have just met them for the first time?
   d. It was nice to meet you. / Nice to meet you.
5. an informal way of saying goodbye?
   e. So long. / See you around. / (I'll) be seeing you.
6. used for saying goodbye to someone you know well, when you are not sure when you will see them again?
   f. Good night. / Night.
7. used for saying goodbye to someone you know well when they are leaving, in order to show that you care about them?
   g. Bye.
8. used for saying goodbye to someone you know well when they are leaving to go on a journey?
   h. See you. / See you later. / Catch you later.
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Worksheet C

Ways of saying hello

Hi. / Hi there. / Hiya.
All right?
Pleased to meet you. / Nice to meet you.
How do you do?
Good morning. / Good afternoon. / Good evening.
Morning. / Afternoon. / Evening.
Nice to see you.
Long time no see.

Ways of saying goodbye

Bye.
Cheerio. / Cheers.
See you. / See you later. / Catch you later.
So long. / See you around. / (I’ll) be seeing you.
Good night. / Night.
Take care. / Mind how you go.
Safe journey.
It was nice to meet you. / Nice to meet you.

Worksheet D

Complete the dialogues.

1. A: Hi, Maria. ________ right?
   B: ________ right. ________ you?

2. A: Hello, Ivan. This is my colleague Lin.
   B: Pleased to ________ you, Lin. I’ve heard a lot about you.

3. A: Can I introduce you ________ Mr. Frankovsky, the project manager?
   B: ________ do you do, Mr. Frankovsky?

4. A: Morning, Klara. ________ things? Busy?
   B: Hiya, Ed. No, it hasn’t been too bad so far.

5. A: Jan! What a surprise! Long time no ________!
   B: Yeah, it’s been a ________, hasn’t it? Nice to see you!

6. A: Bye! I should be back around about eleven o’clock.
   B: See you ________! ________ a good time!

7. A: So long, and have a ________ journey! Let us know when you get home.
   B: Cheers! Thanks for the hospitality. I’ll let you know when I’m in town again.

8. A: Good ________, folks! If I set off now I’ll be able to get the last bus home.
   B: Bye! Mind ________ you go!

9. A: So, ________ care!
   B: Yeah, you too. See you around. Bye.