



Polite Ways to Say Hello and Introduce Yourself

KS2 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

Why Saying Hello Matters

When you meet someone new, the first thing you do is say hello. In **English**, we might say "**Hello**" or "**Hi**." But did you know that in other countries, people have different polite ways to greet each other? Learning to say hello in another language shows respect and helps you make friends around the world.

Different languages have special rules about politeness. Some languages have **formal** greetings you use with teachers and adults, and **informal** greetings you use with friends your own age.

Think of it like wearing different clothes: you wear your school uniform to class but comfortable clothes at home. Greetings work the same way!

Common Greetings in Popular Languages

In **Spanish**, you say "**Hola**" (OH-lah) to say hello. A polite way to ask "**How are you?**" is "**¿Cómo estás?**" (KOH-moh ess-TAHS).

In **French**, "**Bonjour**" (bon-ZHOOR) means "**Good day**" and is used all day long, even in the evening. A formal greeting is "**Enchanté**" (on-shan-TAY), which means "**Delighted to meet you.**"

In **German**, "**Guten Tag**" (GOO-ten tahg) means "**Good day,**" and "**Wie geht es dir?**" (vee GATE ess deer) means "**How are you?**"

In **Mandarin Chinese**, "你好" (nee HAO) means "**Hello.**" Adding "吗?" (mah) at the end makes it a question.

Introducing Yourself Politely

After saying hello, the next step is to introduce yourself. In **English**, you might say "**My name is...**" or "**I'm...**"

In **Spanish**, say "**Me llamo...**" (meh YAH-moh), which means "**My name is...**" In **French**, say "**Je m'appelle...**" (juh mah-pell), which also means "**My name is.**"

Think of it like a password you use every time: your name is like your special code that tells people who you are!

Making It Even More Polite

In many languages, adding "**please**" and "**thank you**" makes you sound polite. In **Spanish**, "**Por favor**" (por fah-VOR) means "**please,**" and "**Gracias**" (GRAH-see-ahs) means "**thank you.**"

The most important thing to remember is that trying to speak another language shows you care about connecting with people. Even if you make mistakes, most people will be happy that you tried!