

¡Hola, Amigos! Greetings in Spanish

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- Informal greetings like '¿Cómo estás?' are used with friends and family, whereas '¿Cómo está usted?' is the formal version used for teachers or strangers.
- Spanish is a phonetic language, which means words are generally pronounced exactly as they are written—a great help for learners!
- The upside-down exclamation mark (¡) and question mark (¿) are unique to Spanish and signal the start of a sentence that ends with a normal mark.
- Using 'Mucho gusto' is a polite way to conclude an introduction, showing respect and friendliness to the person you have just met.
- Greetings in Spanish often change based on the gender of the people involved, though 'Hola' remains the same regardless of who you are speaking to.

Did you know? Did you know? In Spanish-speaking cultures, greetings often reflect the time of day. While 'Buenos días' is used until lunch, 'Buenas tardes' is used from lunch until sunset. Even more fascinating is that in many Spanish-speaking countries, people greet each other with one or two light kisses on the cheek, known as 'dos besos', though a firm handshake is the standard for formal business introductions!

Key vocabulary: ¡Hola! (Hello) · Buenos días (Good morning) · Buenas tardes (Good afternoon) · Buenas noches (Good evening/night) · ¿Cómo estás? (How are you? - informal) · ¿Cómo está usted? (How are you? - formal) · Mucho gusto (Nice to meet you) · Adiós (Goodbye)