

## Basic Greetings In Spanish

How to say “Hello” and “Goodbye”

Hello = **Hola**

Good morning = **Buenos días**

*You say this until you have eaten lunch (around 3 pm)*

Good afternoon/evening = **Buenas tardes**

*You say this until it gets dark*

Good evening/night = **Buenas noches**

*From sunset onwards*

**Note:** Unlike the U.K. the Spanish are not as rigid with their references to the times of day.

When in doubt, you can say: “**Hola, buenas.**”

This covers the entire day.

How are you? = ¿**Qué tal?**

How are you? = ¿**Cómo estás?**

How are you? = ¿**Qué tal estás?**

You can answer the same thing to each of these questions:

Very well = **Muy bien** or **Bien**

The full version is:

I'm very well, thank you. = **Estoy muy bien, gracias.**

(This is not as common as “**Muy bien**”)

There are many options, however, dependent on how you are feeling. Here are some of them:

When you are feeling positive

Wonderful = **De maravilla / Maravilloso/a**

Fantastic = **Fantástico/a**

Really well = **Súper bien**

Phenomenal = **Fenomenal**

Great = **Genial**

**Note:** Men say they are maravilloso and women, maravillosa.

When you are feeling under the weather

Not good = **Mal**

Very bad = **Muy mal**

Struggling on = **Aquí, tirando** (*literally: "Here, pulling"*)

Terrible = **Fatal / Terrible**

Ill = **Enfermo/a**

Ill = **Pachucho/a** (*colloquial*)

When you are neither one thing nor the other

Okayish = **Más o menos** (*literally: "More or less"*)

Normal = **Regular** (*This actually has a negative connotation. It means you are not good.*)

To reply to someone's question...

And you? = **¿Y tú?**

I'm very well, too. = **Estoy muy bien, también.**

or just

**Muy bien, también.**

## Transcription

It's morning time and we haven't had our lunch...

- G** *Hola, buenos días.*  
**C** *Hola, buenos días, Gordon.*  
**G** *¿Qué tal?*  
**C** *Muy bien. ¿Y tú?*  
**G** *Muy bien, también, gracias.*

It's afternoon time and we've had our lunch...

- C** *Hola, Gordon. Buenas tardes.*  
**G** *Hola, buenas tardes.*  
**C** *¿Cómo estás?*  
**G** *Pues, muy bien. ¿Y tú?*  
**C** *Fenomenal.*  
**G** *Me alegro. (That makes me happy.)*

It's evening time and it's dark...

- G** *Hola, buenas noches.*  
**C** *Hola, Gordon. Buenas noches.*  
**G** *¿Qué tal estás?*  
**C** *Estoy fenomenal. ¿Y tú?*  
**G** *También. Estoy súper bien, sí.*  
**C** *Me alegro, Gordon.*

**Note:** If you want to greet someone in the street without stopping to speak you can simply say, "**Hasta luego.**"

Further examples of greetings

What's new? = **¿Qué hay?**

What's happening = **¿Qué pasa?**

Typically, you respond to these two greetings with:

Nothing, here (just here) = **Nada, aquí.**

Saying goodbye

Goodbye or bye bye = **Adiós**

See you later = **Hasta luego**

## Transcription

- G** *Hola, Buenos días.*  
**C** *Hola, buenos días.*  
**G** *¿Qué tal estás?*  
**C** *Muy bien, ¿y tú?*  
**G** *También. Estoy fenomenal hoy.*  
**C** *Oh, me alegro.*  
**G** *Pues, adiós.*  
**C** *Hasta luego, Gordon.*  
**G** *Hasta luego.*

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- C** *¡Gordon! ¿Qué hay?*  
**G** *Nada, aquí. ¿Y tú?*  
**C** *Nada, aquí también.*

When meeting someone in the street with no time to stop and talk...

- G** *Hasta luego.*  
**C** *Hasta luego, Gordon.*

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- G** *Hola, buenas tardes, Cynthia.*  
**C** *Hola, Gordon. Buenas tardes.*  
**G** *¿Qué tal estás?*  
**C** *Fenomenal, ¿y tú?*  
**G** *¡Fantástico!*  
**C** *Muy bien. Me alegro.*  
**G** *Pues, hasta luego.*  
**C** *Hasta luego.*

**Note:** The Spanish do not normally use: "**Hasta la vista** (baby)." Leave that for Arnold. Funny enough, in the Spanish version of Terminator that line is: Sayonara, baby (Japanese).

- G** *Hola, buenas noches, Cynthia.*  
**C** *Hola, buenas noches, Gordon. ¿Cómo estás?*  
**G** *Muy bien, muy bien y ¿qué pasa?*  
**C** *Pues, aquí. Aquí estamos. Y tú ¿cómo estás?*  
**G** *Oh, muy bien, muy bien. Vale, pues adiós, Cynthia.*  
**C** *Adiós, Gordon. Hasta luego.*  
**G** *Hasta luego.*

### Para terminar

So there we have the range of more popular greetings in Spain. If it seems a little overwhelming, then don't worry. Our advice to you is to choose a couple of greetings that you like and use them. You will hear many others but you don't need to use them all. However, now you will be able to recognize them when you hear them.

**Note:** When greeting someone for the first time it is very common for men to shake hands. However, unlike the U.K., for example, men will kiss women on the cheek and women will kiss other women on the cheek. This is typically done with two kisses, one on each cheek, from left to right. The greetings we have covered in this podcast are for greeting people you know. We will be dealing with first time greetings in the following podcasts.

Buena Suerte!  
Gordon y Cynthia