

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH FOR ADULTS
ESPAÑOL CONVERSACIONAL PARA ADULTOS
es-pa-NYOL kon-ber-sa-sio-NAL PA-ra a-DUL-tos

SEEING WHAT YOU'RE HEARING!
¡VIENDO LO QUE ESTÁ ESCUCHANDO!
BIEN-do LO KE e-STA es-ku-CHAN-do

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Chapter 2 – Greetings and Goodbyes – Lesson 1

GREETINGS AT ANY TIME OF DAY

This is a basic greeting in Spanish. You may use it when you're striking up a friendly conversation with someone you know:

--¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás?*

(Hi! How are you?)

O-la/ KO-mo e-STAS

In a more formal situation with an acquaintance you've just met you'll ask:

--¡Hola! ¿Cómo está?*

(Hi! How are you?)

O-la/ KO-mo e-STA

We always seem to answer that we're just fine:

--Estoy bien, gracias.

(I am good, thanks, or I am well, thanks.)

e-STOY BIEN/ GRA-si-as

It's good to ask about the other person in a friendly conversation:

-- ¿Y tú ?

(And you?)

Y TU

We also need to ask about the other person in a polite conversation:

-- ¿Y usted?

(And you?)

Y us-TED

We may answer that we're also just fine:

-- Estoy bien también.

(I am good, too, or I am well, too.)

e-STOY BIEN tam-BIEN

Here are some alternate greetings to use with a friend or acquaintance:

--¿Qué tal?*

(How are you?)

KE TAL

--¿Qué pasa?*

(What's going on?)

KE PA-sa

Or we could be funny:

--¿Qué pasa, calabaza?*

(What's going on, squash?)

KE PA-sa/ ka-la-BA-sa

We can greet them back:

-- ¡Hola! ¿Qué tal?

(Hi! How are you?)

O-la/ KE TAL

** In Spanish we use double punctuation marks, one before the thought and one afterward. They tell us to watch for an exclamation or a question.*

***This is an amusing little nonsensical saying in Spanish that is used just because it rhymes. It may be compared to the English sayings, "See you later, alligator," or "After a while, crocodile."*

Example:

¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás? (friendly) or ¡Hola! ¿Cómo está? (formal)

Estoy bien, gracias.

Find a partner to work with in the class and ask how he or she is doing. Practice using both the friendly and the formal forms.

Now join up with another pair of partners and ask how your new partner is doing. Practice using both the friendly and the formal forms.

Toss a ball or bean bag to another classmate and ask how he or she is doing. You may use either the friendly or the formal form.