



Meaning of **hello** in English



# hello

**exclamation, noun**

UK /heˈləʊ/ US /heˈloʊ/

(also mainly UK **hallo**); (**hullo**)

Add to word list

A1

**used when meeting or greeting someone:**

- *Hello, Paul. I haven't seen you for ages.*
- *I know her vaguely - we've exchanged hellos a few times.*
- **say hello** *I just thought I'd call by and say hello.*
- **a big hello** *And a big hello (= welcome) to all the parents who've come to see the show.*



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- *She asked me if I'd just arrived and I was like "Hello, I've been here for an hour."*



old-fashioned

## an expression of surprise:

- *Hello, this is very strange - I know that man.*

### — Fewer examples

- *Cathy poked her head round the door to say hello.*
- *When he said hello, I felt my face turn bright red.*
- *Hello - could I speak to Ann, please?*
- *After we'd said our hellos, it all went quiet and nobody knew what to do.*
- *Oh, hello - what are you doing in here?*

### + SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

## Grammar

Greetings and farewells: hello, goodbye, Happy New Year

*When we see someone we know, we usually exchange greetings: ...*





plural **hellos**

Add to word list

### used when meeting or greeting someone:

- *"Hello, Paul," she said, "I haven't seen you for months."*
- *I know her vaguely – we've exchanged hellos a few times.*
- *Come and say hello to my friends (= meet them).*



### Hello is also said at the beginning of a telephone conversation.



### Hello is also used to attract someone's attention:

- *She walked into the shop and called out, "Hello! Is anybody here?"*

(Definition of **hello** from the [Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary](#) © Cambridge University Press)

#### EXAMPLES of **hello**

# hello

Both deal with single-word "primitive" verbal units, such as *hello* and *ouch* and *psst*.

From the Cambridge English Corpus



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We will say *hello* to old friends who love what we have to offer, and with a bit of luck we will make some new friends, too.

From the [Hansard archive](#)



We do so in particular in those shortage areas where, because of the new bursary system and "golden *hello*" payments for those entering the profession, we have seen a turnaround.

From the [Hansard archive](#)



We deserve a chance to reconnect with the fans to say goodbye to the old era and *hello* to the new.

From [Wikipedia](#)



He considered helping people to be a thing as natural as saying *hello* or wishing one good health.

From [Wikipedia](#)



The word has many meanings or uses: *hello*, goodbye, yes.

From [Wikipedia](#)



He said the children had stopped to say *hello* to him, and seemed cheerful.

From [Wikipedia](#)



She finally brings enough courage to say *hello* to him.

From [Wikipedia](#)



As she walks up to him to say *hello*, she suddenly changes before his eyes.

From [Wikipedia](#)





in Chinese (Traditional)

你好, 你好, 你好...

See more

in Chinese (Simplified)

你好, 你好, 你好...

See more

in Spanish

**hola, sí, aló...**

See more

in Portuguese

**alô, olá, oi...**

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in more languages



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## More meanings of *hello*

### – All

[say hello](#)

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[hello stranger](#) *idiom*

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### + Idioms and phrases





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