

As the French culture is very polite and courteous, going through the ritual of greeting another person is an important way of showing respect. When you meet a French, you can greet them in three ways:

Shake hands- done with strangers,

Kiss on the cheek - used with friends and family members

Bonjour – can be used with anyone throughout the day.

Les Salutations – Greeting

Comment Saluer ? How to greet in French?

There are **two** ways of greeting in French – Formal and Informal. Formal way is used when we are talking to people who are elder to us or are mere acquaintances whereas the informal conversation is used when we are talking to people younger to us or are of our age.

Salut! Mes amis/amies

I. Conversation Informelle :

Pierre: Salut Marc! Comment Ça va?

Marc: Salut Pierre! Ça va bien, merci

Translations:

Pierre: Hi Marc! How are you?

Marc: Hi Peter! I am fine, thank you.

Une blague:

A: Ça va?

B: Ça va. Ça va?

A: Ça va.

II. Conversation Formelle:

A: Bonjour Monsieur! Comment –allez vous?

B: Bonjour Madame! Je vais bien, merci beaucoup.

Translation:

A: Good day sir! How are you?

B: Good day ma'am! I am fine. Thanks a lot

Tips:

Ça va can be replied in many ways on depending how are you feeling

If you are feeling great- Ça va très bien!

If you are feeling just fine- Ça va!

If you are feeling same ole same ole- Comment çï, comment ça!

If you are feeling bad- Ça va mal.

Pour prendre congé, nous disons : When we take leave of someone , we say

A: Au revoir/ À bientôt, À demain!

B: Au revoir, À bientôt,À demain!(Bye, See You soon!, See you tomorrow)

Les Mots Magiques: The Magical Words

Enchanté/e!- Pleased to meet you

Merci! – Thank You!

De rien! You are welcome!

Bonne Chance!- All the best!

Désolé/e- Sorry!

Excusez-moi- Excuse me

À Vous!

Écrivez en français:

Hello-

See you Soon-

Thank you-

Madam

Sorry

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About the author:

Ms. Sheetal Dawra- I have spent 11 years teaching French and it has been a joy ride since then. I am a polyglot as I have a sound knowledge of German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Japanese and Hindi. I am a positive person who has an enthusiastic outlook on life. If I can have a positive impact on my students' future, I feel I am doing my job well. I am an effective communicator with good interpersonal skills. I do not believe only in imparting knowledge but also accumulating it as there are times when teaching becomes an occasion for learning about subject knowledge, children , novel things and self.