

SOME FEATURES OF GREETING IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

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Abstract: *This article deals with some peculiarities of greetings in different cultures. Their way of usage and the types of greeting are tried to reveal in the Uzbek and English languages.*

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Language is a system that consists of the development, acquisition, maintenance and use of complex systems of communication, particularly the human ability to do so and a language is any specific example of such a system. Communication by means of language may be referred to as linguistic communication, the other ways mentioned above – laughing, smiling, shrieking, and so on – are types of non-linguistic communication.

Greetings are a part of Social Culture in which human beings intentionally make their presence known to each other. They also show attention to, and to suggest a type of relationship or social status as formal or informal between people or groups of people communicating with each other. Greetings sometimes are used just prior to a conversation or to greet in passing, such as on a sidewalk or trail. So customs are greetings are highly culture and situation-specific, they may change within a culture depending on social status and relationship, while they exist in all known human cultures.

All culture groups have formulas for greeting that is why greeting patterns are not universal, but different with the culture. We know that the way individuals relate to each other is determined by very complex rules of behavior. Forms of greeting vary extensively; there are a different form for each type or status of person. Every culture has an appropriate range of words and gestures

for each type of social event. There are a number of greetings we use when meeting people. They depend on whether we are meeting people, leaving people or talking with people for the first time. The words or word combinations said when greeting people can express respect or be just a normal polite expression. These social interactions in terms of greetings and parting show joyous moment for both the greeter and greeted. Non-verbal gestures and greetings different across countries, cultures, and religions. *Bowing, kissing, saluting, touching fingers, tapping shoulders, clasping hands together, shaking fists, and pounding the chest* are gestures used to greet people both formally and informally in various countries around the world. The form of greeting is determined by social etiquette, as well as by the relationship of the people. Many different gestures are used throughout the world as simple greetings. In Western cultures, the handshake is very common. It has numerous subtle variations in the strength of grip. The vigor of the shake, the dominant position of one hand over the other, and whether or not the left hand is used.

The extended family and neighborhood play extremely important roles in the lives of the Uzbek nation. Senior family members, elders of the neighborhood, and older people in general are shown great respect. Even women in this culture have their own way of greeting than men: 1. When Uzbek women meet they often use a different form of greeting than do men. 2. When adult women greet each other or youths they place their right hand on the left shoulder of the other person. 3. When a woman greets a man, she places her right hand on her chest and generally maintains a distance from him. 4. Upon greeting a woman, an Uzbek man does not extend his hand to her. 5. If the woman reaches out to the man in such encounters, he may respond by extending his hand for a handshake. Men will always shake hands with other men. Even if you are not introduced to everyone, a simple handshake substitutes for a formal introduction. A woman visitor may not receive a handshake unless she herself extends her hand. For the woman traveler, do not feel offended that you do not

receive the same attention as the males in your group. As odd as it may seem to us in the West, it is only out of respect that you are not included in the hand shaking ritual. Women will often greet you with a big hug, and definitely with a handshake. The greeting *Assalomu Alaykum!* is a very common expression throughout the Muslim world, among Uzbek people. It is from an Arabic greeting meaning *peace be upon you!* The invariable response must be *Vaalaykum Assalom!* which is also from an Arabic greeting meaning *I also wish you peace!*

English speakers don't always say "hello" and "how are you?" They also use many other English greetings and expressions to say slightly different things. You can also use such English greetings to sound more natural, and to express yourself more clearly and precisely. English-speaking people usually greet each other in an informal way, so you can use these common conversational greetings for friends, family, as well as people you meet in casual settings: *Formal greetings: "How do you do?"*. The phrase featured in the heading above is formal, a bit outdated, and not often used today. However, certain greetings are appropriate for use in more formal situations or when respect and courtesy are called for. These instances include business meetings, formal classroom or workplace presentations, or meeting a friend's parents. You may encounter such greetings when doing business in restaurants and shops.

Greetings play the main role in our social life. There are many different kinds of greetings, which are used in various situations depending on how well we know a particular person, on time of the day, or some situations. The words said when greeting people could express respect or be just a normal polite expression.

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