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## Saying 'Hello' & 'Goodbye'

### 🔗 **Guten Tag.**

*good day*

'Good day', yes, except that, unless you're Australian ('G'day!'), you probably never say this. A more accurate translation, then, would probably just be 'Hello!'. There are no such problems with the following:

### 🔗 **Guten Abend.**

Good evening.

### 🔗 **Gute Nacht.**

Good night.

By the way, **guten** not **guter**, since **Abend** and **Tag** are regarded as being in the accusative, direct object case.

The German for 'Goodbye' you almost certainly know already but, just for the record, here it is: **Auf Wiedersehen!** meaning, literally: 'to (our) again-seeing'. But what you'll hear at least as often, if not more so, is the little word **Tschüs!** or **Tschüss!** which is sometimes pronounced without 's' and an elongated 'ö' – **Tschööö!** It is a less formal way of saying goodbye which is not only used by young people anymore. A lot of people even say **Tschau!** which is just the German spelling for the Italian **Ciao!**

Also used is **Mach's gut!**, meaning 'all the best', etc. It literally means 'do it well', and you might get the humorous response **Mach's besser!**, 'do it better'. Incidentally, you'll also occasionally hear **Bye!** or **Bye-bye!** in Germany – probably as all over the world – especially if the person you're talking to knows you're an English-speaker. Here are some other useful phrases:

### 🔗 **Wie geht's?**

*how goes it*

How are you? / How's things?

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**Wie geht's!** = short for **Wie geht es dir?**, polite form **Wie geht es Ihnen?**  
(both literally: 'how goes it to-you'). Like the French 'Comment ça va?'

👉 **Bis nachher!**  
*till afterwards*

👉 **Bis später.**  
*till later*

👉 **Bis gleich.**  
*till right-away*  
See you in a minute.

👉 **Gleich!**  
*immediately*  
Right away, coming.

**Gleich!** is often said by a waiter who then promptly disappears.

👉 **Bis bald!**  
*till soon*  
See you soon.

## Introductions

Germans don't always say 'the' Gabi, but it is a commonly used colloquial expression.

👉 **Das ist (die) Gabi.**  
*that is (the) Gabi*  
This is Gabi.

👉 **Freut mich, ich bin / heiße Bob.**  
*pleases me, I am / called Bob*  
Pleased to meet you, my name is Bob.

👉 **Mein Name ist Jürgen.**  
*my name is Jürgen*

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My name is Jürgen.

👂 **Ich bin (die) Monika.**

*I am (the) Monika*

I'm Monika.

👂 **Ich darf bekannt machen.**

*I may known-make*

Let me introduce you.

👂 **Angenehm.**

*pleasant*

Delighted.

👂 **Es freut mich, Sie kennen zu lernen.**

*it pleases me, you know-to-learn*

I'm pleased to meet you.

### Comprehension

👂 **Sprechen Sie Deutsch?**

*to-speak you German*

Do you speak German?

👂 **... Englisch?**

*... English*

... English?

👂 **... Französisch?**

*... French*

... Französisch?

You will also hear:

👂 **Können Sie Deutsch?**

*to-be-able you German*

Can you speak German?

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👂 **Spricht / Kann er Spanisch?**

*speaks / can he Spanish*

Does / Can he speak Spanish?

👂 **Ich verstehe.**

*I understand*

I understand.

👂 **Ich verstehe nicht.**

*I understand not*

I don't understand.

Note the following idiom:

👂 **Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof.**

*I understand only train-station*

I don't understand a word.

👂 **Würden Sie bitte langsamer sprechen?**

*would you please slower speak*

Would you speak more slowly, please?

👂 **Was heißt 'car' auf Deutsch?**

*what calls 'car' in German*

What's the German word for 'car'?

## **A small conversation**

*In order to listen to the phrases and expressions of this chapter marked by the ear symbol 👂 go to our website and click on the link <https://www.reise-know-how.de/kauderwelsch/german/track-06>*

👂 **Sind Sie zum ersten Mal hier?**

*are you to-the first time here*

Is this your first visit?

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