Hello: names and a first exchange

English Pre-A1 starter

What this topic teaches

Your first English exchange is very short. Two people say hello, and one person gives a name. That is enough to start.

- You will learn four greetings: *Hello*, *Hi*, *Goodbye* and *Bye*.
- You will say your name in two ways: *I'm Mina.* and *My name is Mina.*
- You will ask for a name: *What's your name?*
- All the names here are invented for practice. Use your own name in real life.

Hello and goodbye

A **greeting** starts or ends a meeting. English has a short one and a friendly one for each.

When	English	Chinese
you meet	Hello. / Hi.	
you leave	Goodbye. / Bye.	

- *Hi* and *Bye* are **informal** : use them with friends and classmates.
- *Hello* and *Goodbye* are fine with everyone, including teachers.
- When someone says *Hello*, greet them back: *A: Hello. B: Hi.*

Saying your name

There are two easy ways to give your name.

Short	Full
I'm Mina.	My name is Mina.
I'm Omar.	My name is Omar.

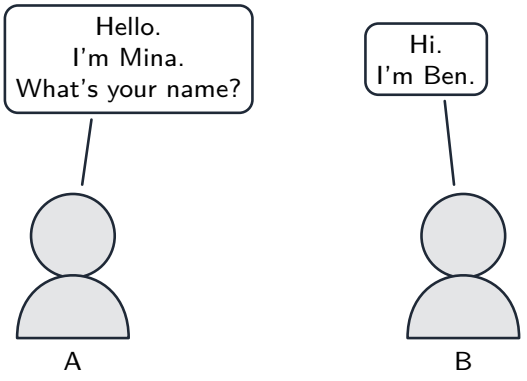
- *I'm* is the short form of *I am* .
- A name always starts with a **capital letter** : *Mina*, not *mina*.
- Memory hook: *I'm* + name. Two words, and the other person knows who you are.

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Asking for a name

To ask for a name, say: **What's your name?**

Question	Answer
What's your name?	I'm Ali.
What's your name?	My name is Ali.



A greets and gives a name; B greets back and gives a name

- *What's* is the short form of *what is*.
- Answer with **your** name, not the other person's name. If you are Ali and you say *I'm Mina*, you have just borrowed Mina's name.

■ A whole exchange

A: Hello. I'm Mina. What's your name?
B: Hi. I'm Ben.
A: Goodbye, Ben.
B: Bye.

Watch out: traps for Chinese speakers

- △ **Do not say "I'm name Mina".** The Chinese way of saying it has no word for *name* in it. English uses *I'm Mina* **or** *My name is Mina*. Pick one; do not mix them.
- △ **Do not say "My name Mina".** The sentence needs *is*: *My name* ***is*** *Mina.*
- △ **Do not answer "What's your name?" with only "Yes".** The question asks for a name, so the answer is a name.
- △ **Hi is not for every place.** It is friendly and informal. For a head teacher or a visitor, *Hello* is the safe choice.

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Say it aloud

Say these lines aloud. Then change the name to your own.

- Hello. I'm _____.
- Hi. My name is _____.
- What's your name?
- Goodbye.

Practise with a partner: one person asks, the other answers. Then swap.

Check yourself

Answer first, then read the explanation.

1. Choose a greeting for meeting a friend: *Hi* or *Bye*? – **Hi**. *Bye* ends a meeting.
2. Make it correct: *My name Lee.* – **My name is Lee.** The sentence needs *is*.
3. You are Tao. Someone asks *What's your name?* – **I'm Tao.** (or *My name is Tao.*)
4. Make it correct: *I'm name Ben.* – **I'm Ben.** or **My name is Ben.** Do not mix the two.
5. Which greeting is safe with a teacher: *Hello* or *Hi*? – **Hello.** *Hi* is informal.

■ Practice: complete the exchange

A: (6) _____. I'm Sara. What's your (7) _____?
B: Hi. (8) _____ Leo.
A: (9) _____, Leo.

Answers. 6 **Hello** (or *Hi*). 7 **name**. 8 **I'm** (or *My name is*). 9 **Goodbye** (or *Bye*) – A is leaving.

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