



Introduction

Getting Your Feet Wet

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* Audio Conversation



Formal Spanish

AMANDA ¡Buenos días, señor!
CÉSAR ¡Muy buenos días, señora!
AMANDA Yo soy Amanda Diezcanseco.
CÉSAR Encantado, señora. Yo soy César Acurio.
AMANDA Es un placer.

Formal English

AMANDA Good morning, sir!
CÉSAR And a very good morning to you, ma'am!
AMANDA I'm Amanda Diezcanseco.
CÉSAR I'm delighted, ma'am. I'm César Acurio.
AMANDA It's a pleasure.

Informal Spanish

AMANDA ¡Buenos días!
CÉSAR ¡Muy buenos días!
AMANDA Yo soy Amanda Diezcanseco.
CÉSAR Mucho gusto, Amanda. Yo soy César Acurio.
AMANDA Es un placer.
[Click here for entire dialogue.](#)

Informal English

AMANDA Good morning!
CÉSAR And a very good morning to you!
AMANDA I'm Amanda Diezcanseco.
CÉSAR Nice to meet you, Amanda. I'm César Acurio.
AMANDA It's a pleasure.

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Vocabulary

Spanish	English	Class	Root
bueno, -a	good	adjective, masc. noun, interjection	<i>Latin</i> , bonus (good)
día	day	noun	<i>Latin</i> , diem (day)
gusto	pleasure	masc. noun	<i>Latin</i> , multus (a lot, much) + gustus (pleasure)
placer	pleasure	masc. noun	<i>Latin</i> , placere (to please)

Sample Sentences

¡Buenos días, señora! ¿Cómo está, usted? Good morning, ma'am! How are you?

Es un día bonito. It's a nice day.

Me da mucho gusto conocerte. It gives me great pleasure to meet you.

Es un gran placer conocerte. It's a great pleasure to meet you.

Grammar Points

In the Spanish language, it's very common to greet someone you meet for the first time with some kind of reference to the time of day. For example, we can use the phrase "buenos días", which literally means "good days", though, we usually translate it as "good morning" or "good day". Using a phrase like goes a lot further than simply saying "hola", which means "hi" or "hello".

So, you meet someone for the first time and you say "¡Hola, buenos días!". Now, in Spanish, we also use two other expressions, both of which are just as common as the previous. We say "buenas tardes" and this means "good afternoon" as well as "good evening". Basically, you can use this one any time after 12pm until around 7pm. After that, you would say "buenas noches".

Now, this last phrase is a little curious because it literally means "good nights". And, the thing is, if we translate it as "good night", to an English-speaker's ear, this may sound like a way of saying goodbye; but, in Spanish, it's used to say hello AND goodbye to someone at night.

Cultural Insight

One experience that every newcomer to Spanish-speaking countries can expect to have is the opportunity to meet new people. And, when meeting new people, who doesn't want to make a good im-



pression? So, one thing to be conscious of is that when meeting someone in any Hispanic country, it's very, very important to go through the formality of greeting someone. Many times, a foreigner goes into a little store to ask for directions or help with some logistical matter, and without greeting the man or woman attending the shop, he or she asks for help. Now, while the shopkeeper is probably going to be helpful, it comes off as rude if you do first say hello and even ask them how they're doing. You'd be surprised how helpful people in Spanish-speaking countries can be if you demonstrate that you know some of their customs.

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