



March 2026 newsletter

Casual Greetings

How to greet a friend casually

In modern Hebrew, casual greetings often blend traditional words with borrowed terms from Arabic and English. Here are the most common ways to say "hello" and check in with friends:

Common Casual Greetings

- **Ahalan (אהלן):** Borrowed from Arabic, this is perhaps the most popular way to say "hi" or "hey" in a relaxed setting.
- **Hi / Hey (היי / הי):** Just like in English, these are used frequently among friends.
- **Shalom (שלום):** While it's the standard for both "hello" and "goodbye," saying it twice (**Shalom Shalom**) can make it feel warmer and more informal.

Asking "How's it going?"

Once you've said hello, you can use these common follow-ups:

- **Ma nishma? (מה נשמע):** Literally "What is heard?", this is the standard casual "What's up?" or "How's it going?".
- **Ma koreh? (מה קורה):** Literally "What's happening?", this is slightly more informal and popular with younger people.
- **Ma ha-inyanim? (מה העניינים):** Meaning "How are things?", it's a friendly way to check in.
- **Ma hamatzav? (מה המצב):** Slang for "What's the situation?" or "How's the status?".

Responses

- **Beseder (בסדר):** Meaning "In order," this is the most common reply for "Fine" or "OK".
- **Sababa (סבבה):** A very popular slang word for "Cool," "Great," or "Alright".

Time-Specific Greetings

- **Boker tov (בוקר טוב):** "Good morning". A common response is **Boker or** (Morning light).
- **Tsohorayim tovim (צוקרים טובים):** "Good afternoon".
- **Erev tov (ערב טוב):** "Good evening".