

basic greetings and everyday expressions

I. Basic Greetings & Goodbyes

Expression	When to Use It	Example
Hello / Hi	Any time, informal	Hi! We'd like a table for two, please."
Good morning	Before noon.	"Good morning. Is breakfast still being served?"
Good afternoon	From noon until ~5-6 PM	"Good afternoon. Can you tell me where the museum is?"
Good evening	After ~5-6 PM	"Good evening. Do you have any tickets for tonight's show?"
Goodbye / Bye	When leaving	"Bye! Thanks for a great tour!"
Have a good day!	A friendly way to end an interaction.	"Thank you! Have a good day!"
See you later	If you expect to see the person again	(To your hotel concierge) "See you later. I'll need a taxi at 7 AM."

II. Polite Expressions & Manners

Expression When to Use It Tourism Example

- ❖ **Please** When asking for anything. "One coffee, please." / "The bill, please."
- ❖ **Thank you / Thanks** When you receive something or help. "Thanks for your help with the directions."
- ❖ **You're welcome.** Response to "thank you." (As a server) "Your pizza. Enjoy!" "Thank you!" "You're welcome!"
- ❖ **Excuse me.** 1. To get someone's attention. "Excuse me, is this the train to the city center?"
2. To apologize for a small bump. "(Bumping someone on a bus) "Oh, excuse me!"
- ❖ **I'm sorry.** For a more serious mistake. "I'm sorry, I think I have the wrong room."
- ❖ **Pardon me?** If you didn't hear or understand. (The ticket seller speaks too fast) "Pardon me? Could you repeat the price?"

III. Essential Questions

- ❖ **How much is it?** Asking for the price. (At a market) "This is beautiful. How much is it?"
- ❖ **Where is...?** Asking for directions. "Where is the nearest restroom?" / "Where is the Eiffel Tower?"
- ❖ **What time...?** Asking about schedules. "What time does the castle open?" / "What time is the last train?"
- ❖ **Can you help me?** To ask for assistance. (Looking confused at a map) "Can you help me? I'm trying to find this address."
- ❖ **Do you speak English?** To check if you can communicate. "Do you speak English?"
- ❖ **Could I have...?** A polite way to ask for something. "Could I have a bottle of water?" / "Could I have the wifi password?"

IV. Useful Phrases for Getting Around

- ❖ **I would like to go to...** Telling a taxi driver your destination. "Hello, I would like to go to the airport, please."
- ❖ **Is this the right bus for...?** Confirming your route. "Is this the right bus for the Central Market?"
- ❖ **A ticket to..., please.** Buying transportation tickets. "A ticket to Edinburgh, please."
- ❖ **How long does it take?** Asking about travel duration. (To a tour guide) "How long does the boat tour take?"

V. Dining & Shopping

- ❖ **A table for [number], please.** Requesting a table at a restaurant. "Hello! A table for four, please."
- ❖ **Could I see the menu, please?** Asking for the menu. (After sitting down) "Could I see the menu, please?"
- ❖ **I'll have... / We'll have...** Placing your order. "I'll have the grilled fish and a salad, please."
- ❖ **The check / bill, please.** Asking to pay. (Waving to the server) "The bill, please."
- ❖ **Do you take credit cards?** Asking about payment methods. "Do you take credit cards?"
- ❖ **I'm just looking, thank you.** When a shop assistant offers help. "I'm just looking, thank you."
- ❖ **Can I try this on?** Asking to fit clothing. (Holding a shirt) "Can I try this on? Where are the fitting rooms?"

VI. Handling Problems

I need help. In a serious situation. (At the hotel desk) "I need help. I've lost my passport."

I don't understand. When you are confused. (Someone gives you complex directions) "Sorry, I don't understand."

Could you speak more slowly? If someone is speaking too fast. "Could you speak more slowly, please?"

My [language] isn't good. Explaining a language barrier. "Sorry, my Spanish isn't good."

Pro Tip: Even a simple "Hello," "Please," and "Thank you" in the local language will go a very long way and is often appreciated by locals. Always start with a greeting before asking a question!