

Jack: Hi there, I'm Jack.

Sarah: And I'm Sarah. Welcome to Everyday English! Today we're talking about making friends!

Jack: Aw... that's nice!

Sarah: Now starting a conversation with someone that you've never met before can be difficult so let's have a look at some useful phrases that you can use to start a conversation.

Jack: When you meet someone new, the first thing you might want to do is introduce yourself and find out what your new friend's name is. But before that you should greet him or her by saying:

Hi, how are you?

Hello, how're you doing?

My name is Jack. What's your name?

Jack: When you say how you doing, you're not really asking a question. It's really just a polite greeting.

Sarah: To respond, you can say:

Hi, my name is Sarah. Nice to meet you.

Nice to meet you. I'm Sarah.

Sarah: If you've already started talking to someone and you don't know the name yet, or if you didn't hear the name properly, then the polite thing to say is:

I'm sorry. I didn't catch your name.

I'm sorry. What did you say your name was?

Jack: If you're with someone else, like a friend or your partner, you should introduce him or her. You could say:

This is my friend Sarah.

Please meet my friend Sarah.

Sarah: Now that you've made your introductions, you might want to ask some questions about the other person.

Jack: If you're coming to Australia to work or study, you'll probably meet people from all over the world. So you might want to ask:

Where are you from?

What is your nationality?

Jack: Let's have a look at how you describe your nationality in English.

Sarah: To describe your nationality, you have to know how to take your country of origin, that's a noun, and turn it into an adjective. So for example, I'm from Australia. Australia's a noun. And I'm Australian. Australian is the adjective which describes my nationality.

Jack: There are some patterns for forming adjectives to describe nationality.

	Country of origin	Nationality
-an group	Australia	Australian
	India	Indian
	Hungary	Hungarian
	Italy	Italian
-ese group	China	Chinese
	Vietnam	Vietnamese
-I group	Bangladesh	Bangladeshi
	Pakistan	Pakistani

Other examples include:

Country	Nationality
The Netherlands	Dutch
The Philippines	Filipino
New Zealand	New Zealander

Sarah: There are even a few countries that can't really be turned into adjectives. For example, if someone's from New Zealand, we say they're a New Zealander. Now that's a noun, not an adjective and it's why you have to add the article 'a'.

Sarah: You might have noticed that nationalities are always spelt with a capital letter, just like countries. And when you describe your country of origin, most of the time you don't use 'the'.

Let's watch some people introducing themselves and talk about their nationalities.

Oscar: (turns and makes eye contact with the other person) Good morning. How're you going?

Ben: Good, thank you. How're you?

Oscar: Not too bad. Haven't seen you around here much before. Are you new in the area?

Ben: I am actually. I've just moved hereabout a month ago from England.

Oscar: Whereabouts in England?

Ben: I'm from the north of England which is pretty cold up there but we've just moved to Australia so hoping for some warmer weather. Where are you from?

Oscar: I'm Australian. I grew up in Sydney.

Ben: Oh cool.

Oscar: I'm Oscar by the way.

Ben: Hi. Ben.

Jack: You might also want to ask someone about their work by saying:

What do you do for a living?

What do you do?

Jack: Or if they're a student, you could say:

Are you studying here?

What are you studying?

Sarah: Notice that if a question starts with are, do or does, the answer is likely to be yes or no. For example:

Sarah: Do you like ice cream?

Jack: Yes I do.

Sarah: Do you go to university?

Jack: No I don't.

Sarah: You might also want to ask your new friend's age by saying:

How old are you?

Sarah: I'd say:

I'm 35.

I'm 35 years old.

Sarah: If I didn't want to be too specific, I could say:

I'm in my 30s.

Sarah: Which means my age is somewhere between 30 and 40.

Sarah: Or

I'm in my mid-thirties.

Jack: Let's listen to some more of our new friends' conversation.

Oscar: So catching the bus to work?

Ben: Yes.

Oscar: What do you do?

Ben: I'm a doctor. What about you?

Oscar: I'm a student.

Ben: What do you study?

Oscar: Marine biology. I'm in third year.

Ben: Excellent.

Ben: I think this is my bus.

Ben: Anyway, nice to meet you.

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Oscar: Nice to meet you.

Sarah: Now to finish your conversation, you could say:

It was great talking to you.

It was really nice to meet you.

I've really enjoyed our conversation.

And if you want to meet or talk again, you could say:

I'd love to meet up again.

I'd love to catch up again.

May I have your phone number?

Can I find you on social media?

Jack: The best thing you can do to make new friends is to get out there and start a conversation so give it a go!

Sarah: I hope that helps you to make some great new friends.

Jack: We'll see you next time. Bye!