

# Bonjour

## Always shake hands

The French are not as quick as we are in the UK to call people by their first names. They stick to surnames and titles (**Madame**, **Monsieur**) until they feel they know the person. That said in international business the French are quicker to use first names.

A handshake is the norm when you see someone, and when you leave them. It's not normal to shake hands with everyone you come across, e.g. a customs official, a waiter, receptionist or taxi-driver – unless you know them. With anyone you know or may come to know, shake their hands.

People who know each other often kiss. It's more a brush of the face than a full lips how-do-you-do.

RECEPTION **Bonsoir Monsieur.**

VOYAGEUR **Bonsoir madame. J'ai une réservation.**

RECEPTION **Comment vous appelez-vous ?**

VOYAGEUR **Je m'appelle Trusseau.**

RECEPTION **TRUSSEAU ?**

VOYAGEUR **C'est ça.**

**bonjour** good morning, hello (*at any time*)  
**bonsoir** good evening (*after work or once it gets dark*)  
**salut** hi (*familiar and casual*)  
**comment ça va ?** how are things ?  
**ça va bien** things are going well  
**c'est ça** that's right

SYLVIE **Salut Henri.**

HENRI **Bonjour Sylvie ! Comment ça va ?**

SYLVIE **Oui, ça va bien, et toi ?**

HENRI **Euh ... Pas trop mal.**

SYLVIE **Et la nouvelle maison ?**

HENRI **Ça avance bien.**



Bonjour Madame Legrand

Bonjour Monsieur

Bonjour Dominique !

Bonjour Monsieur Blanchard

Bonjour Mesdames

Bonjour Messieurs

Mesdames, Messieurs

Bonjour à tous

Bonjour tout le monde



Less formal, to friends ...

Salut Julien !

Bonjour Eloïse !

Salut, Ça va ?

Ça va bien, merci

*Practise greeting:*

- a stranger (male) arriving in the morning
- your teacher in the evening
- your wife/husband/partner/best friend in the morning
- a group of colleagues, male and female
- your boss in the evening