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| Welcome to EnglishClass101.com’s “English in Three Minutes”. The fastest, easiest, and most fun way to learn English. | |
| Hi, how’s it going? I'm Alisha. Nice to meet you! | |
| In this series, we’re going to learn some easy ways to ask and answer common questions in English. It’s really useful, and it only takes three minutes! | |
| In this lesson, you’re going to learn new, more common ways to answer ask and answer the question: “How are you?” in English. | |
| You’ve probably learned “How are you?” and “I’m fine” in textbooks before, but in the United States, people will usually ask this question and answer it in a different way. | |
| First, let’s first review. If someone says: | |
| “How are you?” | |
| You can say: |  |
| “I’m fine.” - | |
| (slow) I’m fine. | |
| Here are some other ways to answer: |  |
| “Pretty good.” - This means about the same thing as “I’m fine”. | |
| (slow) Pretty good. | |
| We also have: |  |
| “Not bad.” You can use this if you are feeling just okay, or so-so. | |
| (slow) Not bad. | |
| Let’s look at our question again: | How are you? |
| This is the most well-known way of asking how someone is. You could use it when you want to be polite. | |
| But now, let’s look at some different ways to ask how someone is. These ways are more casual, and much more common. | |
| First: |  |
| Hey, how’s it going? (slow version added) | |
| You can answer this in many ways. | |
| If you’re feeling good, you can say: | |
| “Good.” | |
| (slow) Good. | |
| “Pretty good.” | |
| (slow) Pretty good. | |
| “Not bad.” | |
| (slow) Not bad. | |
| Once more: |  |
| “Good.” | |
| “Pretty good.” | |
| “Not bad.” | |
| Here’s a tip! Even though these answers mean the same thing as “I’m fine”, you can’t answer “How’s it going?” with “I’m fine.” It will sound a bit strange. | |
| If you’re \*not\* feeling good, you can say: | |
| “Not so good” | |
| (slow) Not so good | |
| “Not great” | |
| (slow) Not great. | |
| or, | |
| “Not so well”. | |
| (slow) Not so well. | |
| Be careful: | If you say one of these, the other person will usually ask, “Why, what’s wrong?” to be polite. Then, you will have to explain! |
| Another casual, but very common version of “How are you?” is “What’s up?” | |
| To reply, use a cheerful voice as you say: | |
| “Not much!” | |
| (slow) Not Much | |
| OR | |
| “Nothing much! | |
| (slow) Nothing much!” | |
| This means you’re free and able to chat. | |
| Since “What’s up” is just another way of saying “Hello”, you can also reply with: | |
| “Hey!” or | |
| “Hi!” | |
| Now it’s time for Alisha’s Advice! | |
| A lot of the time, when we ask questions that mean “how are you?” in English, we’re not \*actually\* asking about the other person’s health - we’re only asking to be polite! You should think of these kinds of questions as another way of saying “Hello” - a way for the conversation to get started - instead of actual literal questions. | |
| In fact, when someone asks you “what’s up?” you don’t even have to answer! Just say “What’s up?” in reply. | |
| Now, do you know the difference between “What do you do?” and “What are you doing?” It’s a little tricky, but we’ll explain it simply in the next English Questions in 3 Minutes lesson! See you next time! | |