

How To Say Goodbye [A2]

Non dire sempre “goodbye”! In inglese, proprio come in italiano, esistono molti modi per salutare una persona, sia in contesti formali che informali.

‘Goodbye’ is a common, simple word but an important part of communication. It’s used when ending or concluding a conversation (in person or on the phone,) when leaving other people (for example at the end of a workday) or when somebody is leaving. The [remark dates back to](#) the second half of the 16th century, and originated as a contraction of [‘God be with ye’](#) (‘ye’ is Old English for ‘you’) that later became ‘godbwye’. [Over time](#), ‘God’ evolved into ‘good’, probably influenced by expressions like ‘good day’ or ‘good evening’. The original meaning of asking for divine protection was [eventually](#) completely lost.

APPROPRIATE USE

The word ‘goodbye’, however, can sound a bit formal, and there are many other ways to say goodbye to someone. The most common, especially in everyday [speech](#), is just ‘bye’, the [shortened](#) form of ‘goodbye’. It works well in both personal and business contexts. ‘Bye-bye’ is the spoken, informal variant of ‘bye’, often used with close friends or children. First recorded in the 18th century, its usage has always been [linked](#) to [nursery](#) settings and baby talk.

AMONG FRIENDS

Alternative expressions like ‘See you later’, ‘See you’, or even just ‘Later’ or ‘Laters’ (popular among teenagers) are perfect examples of the tendency the English have to shorten expressions to sound more casual. You can also use [slang](#) phrases such as [‘Catch you later’](#) or ‘Check you later’, informal, used with friends (but not with your boss!); [‘Cheers’](#), mostly used in the UK, works in [playful](#) contexts, and [carries](#) an [old-fashioned](#) tone;

'Take care', warm and kind, used both in casual and professional contexts; 'See you soon', 'Bye for now', all friendly and polite.

HOW DO YOU SAY...?

A mai più rivederci! Good riddance!

AT WORK

Need more formal and professional alternatives? You could try using 'Have a nice day', 'Have a good day/weekend/vacation...', 'It was a pleasure seeing you', 'It was nice seeing you', 'I look forward to seeing you again'... More options are borrowed from other languages and are rather common in the spoken language. They often sound trendy and informal; for example, the Italian 'Ciao', the Spanish 'Adiós', the French 'Adieu' and 'Au revoir' (the latter two less frequent and sometimes ironic.)

POLITE ENDINGS

What if someone is leaving for a long time, maybe forever? There are plenty of choices: 'Farewell' (although it sounds very formal and literary,) 'Until we meet again', 'Best of luck', So long'.

GET IT RIGHT!

Be careful! In English, expressions like 'Good morning', 'Good afternoon', or 'Good evening' are greetings, used only when you meet someone, not to say goodbye. On the other hand, 'Good night' is used only when leaving, not to say hello.

Glossary

- **speech** = discorso
- **So long** = a presto
- **greetings** = saluti
- **nursery** = scuola materna
- **slang** = colloquiali
- **Cheers** = ciao, saluti
- **Take care** = stammi bene
- **I look forward to** = non vedo l'ora di
- **eventually** = alla fine
- **shortened** = abbreviata
- **old-fashioned** = all'antica, vecchio stampo
- **kind** = premuroso
- **trendy** = di moda
- **carries** = portare, comportare
- **borrowed** = prendere in prestito
- **plenty of** = molte
- **remark** = espressione, frase
- **dates back to** = risalire
- **God be with ye** = Dio sia con voi
- **Over time** = col tempo
- **playful** = giocosi
- **On the other hand** = invece, al contrario
- **Catch you later** = ci becchiamo dopo
- **warm** = caloroso
- **linked** = collegare, fare riferimento
- **polite** = gentili, educati
- **the latter** = gli ultimi
- **rather** = piuttosto