i love you this is the download from bbc learning english to find out more visit our website hello im catherine hello im rob we both started with what is probably the best known greeting in english and one of the first words english language students learn and that is hello so today in 6 minutes english were digging a little deeper into the word of greeting and the fascinating history of hello surprisingly the word hello is not as old as you might think but when did it first appear in print in english was it a in the 1890s b the 1950s or c in the 1820s well i think english changes very quickly so im going to say b the 1950s i will say hello again to hello a little later in the program first greetings they can be a little bit of minefield a subject full of unpredictable difficulties while in many places a handshake or a bow is normal that also the tricky question of kisses and hugs awkward should you kiss how many times and should your lips touch their cheek no rob theres definitely an air kiss closer to cheek but dont touch much safer greetings are the subject of a new book by full of british diplomat andy scott called one kiss or two in search of the perfect greeting here it is on the bbc radio show words of mouth why is greeting so important nearly the first moment of interaction we have with people in it in those first moment using them as a verbal and physical rituals that we have to get in a muddle about but we cant recognize each other whenever were reaffirming a bond reason testing a bond in our relationship to each other were signaling our intention toward each other despite that we might not necessary be conscious when were doing them scott said we need to communicate our intension to each other and take knowledge our relationship well thats what greeting do once word he uses to mean relationship or connection is bond we can reaffirm a bond which means we confirm them and make them stronger and we do it through rituals patterns of behaviors that will do for the particular purpose so there are phrases such as hello good afternoon nice to meet you and as well as physical rituals handshakes bows and kisses though he also says we sometimes want to check our bonds we might want to check if our friendship is grown by offering something warmer than usual like a hug instead of a handshake now scott acknowledges how difficult greeting can be using the very pretty slang phrase to get in a muddle if you get in a muddle you become confused or lost you might get in a muddle if one person expects two kisses the other expects only one dr scott does believe that the details dont really matter because another important purpose of greeting is to reduce tension so if you got it wrong just laugh about it ok lets get back to the one word you really shoudnt get in a muddle about hello lets see if the dr laura right a linguist from cambridge university also speaking on the bbc word of mouth radio program where the hello comes from it starts as a distant hailing i see you miles over there and i got to yell at you its not until the invention of telephones we really get to use hello as a greeting to each other means maybe that it was initially used as a greeting it was used more as an attention grabbing device you are miles away the line is about to be cut i need to attract the attention the friend as well so everybody would call hello to each other as the long distant greeting form laura says hello hasnt always meant hello originally it was just a shout to attract someones attention and we call this kind of sounding hailing the sound would very inform they could sound like a hallo or a hallua well continue this kind of hailing when telephone first appeared people would keep repeating hallo or hello while they are waiting to be connected and before long this became actual way to greet somebody on the telephone anyway before we say goodbye to hello let have the answer to todays question i asked when the word hello first appeared in print in english according to the oxford english dictionary it was in 1826 other spellings appeared before that you see i would think english changed very quickly but not that quickly not that quickly so before we go lets have a look at today vocabulary again a minefield is something that full of uncertainty and even danger this sense comes from the literature meaning a field full of explosive landmines and then we have air kiss which is when you kiss the air beside someones face instead of face itself like this mwoa and we had bond a connection theres a close bond between us i think rob which is good because if i get in a muddle you always very understanding to get in a muddle means to become confused ritual was another word rituals are certain behaviors that people perform in certain contexts i have a morning ritual brush my teeth eat breakfast i didnt say it was interesting rob no thats true finally to hail is to greet someone loudly especially from a distance i hail my friend and i saw her at the airport and thats it for this program for more find us on facebook instargram and youtube and of course our website bbclearningenglishcom bye bye i love you