



ADVANCED ALTERNATIVES TO EVERYDAY PHRASES

VOCABULARY LESSON



[YOUTUBE.COM/ENGLISHWITHLUCY](https://www.youtube.com/englishwithlucy)

Today's lesson is about advanced phrases you can use in daily conversation. These advanced phrases are alternatives for some of the basic phrases that you already know so you can expand your vocabulary.

INTRODUCTIONS

Basic phrase to introduce a colleague:

This is my colleague, Sarah.

Advanced alternatives:

Have you met Sarah? We work together.

Have you been introduced to Sarah?

Basic phrase to introduce yourself:

Hello, I'm Lucy.

Advanced phrase:

I don't think we've been introduced or I

don't think we've met. I'm Lucy.

A phrase to offer to introduce someone to others:

Do you need any introductions?

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU

Basic phrase:

It's nice to meet you

Nice to meet you.


Advanced alternatives:

It's a pleasure to meet you.

This is quite a formal phrase that you might want to use in a work context.

A less formal way to say this is:

Glad to meet you.



Glad means
happy or
pleased

If you've been speaking to someone on the phone or via Zoom for a long time, you might say:

It's great to finally meet you in person.

HOW ARE YOU?

Basic phrase:

How are you?

This phrase works in most contexts: with friends and family, workmates and the CEO of your company.

Advanced alternatives:

In less formal contexts, like with your family or friends, you might want to use some of these phrases instead:

How's it going?

How's everything with you?



You could also ask:

What's going on?

What've you been up to?

Both of these questions invite the person to tell you about what they've been doing since you last saw them.

Finally, you could ask:

How's life?

How's life treating you?

I'M FINE, THANKS

Basic phrase:

I'm fine, thanks.

Advanced alternatives:

I'm good

Ticking along

Can't complain

Same old, same old

These are all quite neutral ways to answer the question **How are you?**

If you're having a really good day, you might say:

Couldn't be better!

Or, if you're not OK, you can reply:

Could be better.



WHERE DO YOU WORK?

Basic phrase:

Where do you work?

Advanced alternatives:

What do you?

What do you do for a living?

If you know someone quite well and you know that they recently changed jobs or that they change jobs often, you could ask a more specific question like:

Where are you working right now?

What are you doing for work at the moment?

Did you end up getting that promotion/job?

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

Basic phrase:

Where are you from?

Advanced alternatives:

Whereabouts are you from?

If you want to ask if the person lives close, say:

Are you local?

Are you from around here?

Are you from this neck of the woods?



Neck of the woods is an idiom that means a particular area.



LOVELY WEATHER TODAY

Basic phrase:

Lovely weather today.

Alternative phrases:

Beautiful out today, isn't it?

Or, if it's not very nice weather:

Bit dreary today.

Dreary means gloomy or dark, so we often use it when the weather's cloudy and rainy.

If you've been watching the weather forecast and you want to talk about what the weather is going to be like, say:

Can you believe it's going to be 27 degrees over the weekend?

Can you believe it's going to rain all day tomorrow?

I heard it's going to snow overnight.

DO YOU WANT TO...?

Basic phrase:

Do you want to...?

Do you want to go for a coffee?

Do you want to have fish and chips tonight?

An informal alternative is:

Do you fancy...?

Do you fancy going for a coffee?

Do you fancy fish and chips tonight?



You could also ask:

What do you think about...?

What do you think about going for a coffee?

If you've already made a decision about something, but you still want to check someone's agreement, you can ask:

Got any objection to fish and chips tonight?

DO YOU AGREE?

Basic phrase:

Do you agree?

Alternative phrases:

What do you think?

What do you reckon?

Both of these are informal ways to ask someone their opinion.

In more formal contexts, you can say:

I'd love to hear your thoughts.

I'm interested to know what you think about the idea.

CHANGING THE TOPIC

Basic phrase:

Can I change the topic?



Advanced alternatives:

I wanted to ask you about...

I wanted to ask you about the new café in town.

Speaking of...

Speaking of lunch, I wanted to ask you about the new café in town.

That reminds me...

Oh, that reminds me! How's Julie?

Before I forget...

Before I forget, there's a carnival on Sunday at the local school.

While I've got you here...

While I've got you here, I wanted to talk to you about the project you're working on.

You'll often hear this phrase used in business contexts.

GOODBYE

Basic phrase:

Goodbye

Advanced alternatives:

See you later!



If you've been stuck chatting to someone for a while and you want to leave, here are some phrases to politely tell someone goodbye.

I must be off!

**I've got to run, but it was great to see you.
It's been lovely chatting, but I need to shoot off.**

These three phrases mean that you have somewhere else to be so you must leave immediately.

Let's catch up properly some time.

This means you want to talk to them more at another time, but you can't right now.

In the office, people will often say:

Right, better get back to it!

This is a polite way to tell someone you want to end the conversation and return to work.