Greetings

Hello!

Hi!

What's up?

How are you?

When signing to a friend, sign Hi!, but with adults or people you don't know well, use the more formal Hello. Whether you want to be formal or casual, accompanying the sign with a smile means a lot to both Deaf and hearing people! What’s up? is an informal way to ask How are you? in both American Sign Language and English. You can also sign What's up? one-handed, but both signs must include raising your chin.
**Classroom Exercise A**

1. **Hello!** Exchange greetings with a classmate and ask how he or she is doing.
2. **How are you?** Ask a partner to tell you how another classmate is doing.

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**Greetings.** Look at the list of people in italics. Would you use *What’s up?* or *How are you?* to greet them?

1. an acquaintance
2. parents
3. an ASL student
4. your partner
5. your ASL teacher
6. grandmother
7. buddy
8. younger brother
9. teacher
10. school administrator

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**Vocabulary**

**How are you? & What’s up?**

- To be busy
- Confused
- Fine
- To be good, well
- To be happy
- Nothing, not much
- Same old, the usual
- Sleepy
- So-so
- To be tired
Vocabulary

More Greetings

Classroom Exercise

1. Greetings. Greet your classmates and ask how they are doing.
2. Dialogue. Work with a partner to make a dialogue using vocabulary you've learned.
3. What time of day is it? Is it afternoon, evening, or morning in each illustration?
I Want to Know . . .

Why do I have to point twice?

Pointing back to yourself or the person you’re talking about shows completion of a train of thought. This allows somebody else to begin signing without interrupting you. Using deixis at the end of a sentence is called a closing signal. Closing signals are especially important when asking questions using the Question Maker (page 15) or the WH-Face (page 42). Remember to use a closing signal when:

- Making a statement or comment about yourself or somebody else.
- Asking a question.

Names

What is your name?

My name is Kelly Boyd.
Deixis

Pointing is a logical feature of a signed, non-spoken language. It is not considered rude or impolite. If a person or object is not visible, point to an empty space and continue signing. Using the index finger to point is called deixis.

Conjugating Verbs: To Be

I am, me
You are
He, she, it is
We are, us
You are (plural)
They are

Classroom Exercise

How is everybody? Sign each sentence in ASL following the example. Use deixis as needed.

1. They are busy.
2. She is happy.
3. I am confused.
4. We are happy.
5. She's good.
6. I'm sleepy.
7. It's so-so.
8. He's fine.

I'm not too bad

FYI Don’t forget to point back to the person.

"American Sign Language is of great value to the deaf, but could also be of great benefit to the hearing as well. It is superior to spoken language in its beauty and emotional expressiveness. It brings kindred souls into a much more close and conscious communion than mere speech can possibly do." — Thomas H. Gallaudet, 1848