Los saludos en español.
Greetings in Spanish
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The_Language_Tutors

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Hi

Hola
¡Buenos días! or in some places ¡Buen día!

Good morning!
Good day!
¡Buenas tardes!

Good afternoon! or

Good evening!(for early evening)
¡Buenas noches!

Good night!

This can be used as a greeting or a farewell.
¿Cómo estás?

How are you?

(to one person that you’re on a first name basis with)
¿Cómo está?

How are you?

(to a person who you’d refer to as Mr or Mrs)
¿Cómo están?

How are you? (to 2 or more people)
In Spain you may also hear the ‘vosotros’ or ‘informal, plural’ form.

¿Cómo estáis? How are you?
But how do you respond when someone asks how you are?
The most common response is ...

Muy bien, gracias.

Very well, thank you.

Excelente, gracias.

Excellent, thanks.
No me puedo quejar. or Bien, no puedo quejarme.

I can’t complain.
If you’re unwell you can say ...

‘No estoy bien.’

Or if you want to say ‘I’m not feeling well’ you can say ...

‘No me siento bien.’
If you’re feeling really bad you can say ...

¡Me siento fatal!    I feel terrible!
If you’re just ‘so, so’ you can say

‘más o menos’ or ‘regular’, in Spain you may also hear ‘así así’.
¡Fenomenal! ¡Estupendo/a! ¡Maravilloso/a!

These ones are along the lines of awesome, fantastic and wonderful!
Respond by asking someone how they are with these phrases ...

¿Y tú?

And you?

(to someone you’re on first name terms with)

¿Y usted?

And you?

(to someone you’d refer to as Mr or Mrs)
When you’re really pleased to see someone you can say ....

¡Qué gusto verte!

It’s great to see you!

(to someone you’re on first name terms with)

¡Qué gusto verle!

It’s great to see you!

(to someone you’d refer to as Mr or Mrs)
¿Cómo te llamas?
What’s your name?
(to someone you’d be on first name terms with)

¿Cómo se llama?
What’s your name?
(to someone you’d refer to as Mr or Mrs)
Me llamo María.   or   Mi nombre es María.

My name’s María.
Mucho gusto.

Nice to meet you.

Rather than repeat ‘mucho gusto’ the way to respond is to say ...

‘Igual’

which is like a short way of saying ‘nice to meet you too’. 
A slightly longer version is ...

Mucho gusto en conocerle.

Nice to meet you.

(to someone whose first name you’d use)

Mucho gusto en conocerle.

Nice to meet you.

(to someone you’d refer to as Mr or Mrs)
Yet another option that means ‘nice to meet you’ is ‘encantada’ (said by girls) and ‘encantado’ (said by boys).

Literally this means ‘enchanted’ but don’t worry it doesn’t sound old fashioned like it does in English.
Now what about some ways to say goodbye?

Let’s learn some ‘despedidas’!

(farewells)
¡Hasta luego!
See you later!

¡Hasta pronto!
See you soon!
Hasta mañana.

See you tomorrow.
¡Nos vemos!

See ya!
¡Cuídate!
Take care! (informal)

¡Cuídese!
Take care! (formal)

¡Cuídense!
Take care! (plural)
Me voy.

I’m leaving.

or

I’m off.
¡Que tenga un buen día!
Have a good day!

¡Que 10 pase(s) bien!
Have a good one!
¡Hasta pronto, mi amor!

See you soon, my love!
¡Adiós!

Goodbye!
Some greetings are a little more informal!

They often can’t be translated literally but a lot are along the lines of ‘what’s up?’ or ‘how’s it going?’ etc.
¿Qué tal?

What’s up?   How’s things?
¿Qué pasa?

What’s happening?
It’s interesting to note that greetings such as ‘¿qué pasa?’ and ‘¿qué tal?’ are often rhetorical (no answer expected).

A bit like we say ‘how do you do?’ when we don’t really want to know how they ‘do’ anything at all.

You can often just answer with ‘¿qué tal?’ or ‘¿qué pasa?’ yourself.
¿Qué hay de nuevo?

What’s new?
Some other options for replies to ‘how are you’ etc could be ....

¡Aquí pasándola!   Just chillin’!

No pasa nada.   Nothing’s happening.
¿Cómo te va?   How’s it going?   (to someone you’re on first name terms with)

¿Cómo le va?   How’s it going?   (to someone you’d refer to as Mr or Mrs)
And then there are greetings that are common in some countries but not so much in others.

If you’re not sure where to use each one just listen to how the local native speakers greet each other and copy them.

Let’s learn a few just for fun!
¿Qué hubo?

(often said and written as ‘¿q’hubo?’)

¿Qué onda?

Common in Mexico as informal greetings a bit like ....

How’s it going?

What’s up?
In Venezuela a very informal greeting would be ¡Epa! or ¡Épale! which is a bit like ‘Hey!’ or ‘Howzit!’
¿Qué es la que hay?

or just

¿Qué es la que?

Common in Puerto Rico for an informal greeting.

How’s it going?

What’s up?
¿Qué onda vos?

Hey, what’s up?

A favourite
Guatemalan
informal greeting!

(Lit. What’s your vibe?)
Me piro.

Me largo.

Me abro.

Me marcho.

These are all informal ways to say ‘I’m off” or ‘I’m outta here’.
If you’re leaving in a hurry here are some fun, informal sayings that you may hear in Spain.

Salgo pitando.  (I’m off whistling.)

Me voy zumbando.  (I’m buzzing off.)

¡Ya me he ido!  (I’m gone already!)
So now you should be well prepared to meet and greet in Spanish!

¡Hasta la próxima!

¡Chau!

or ¡Chao!

Until next time!

Bye!