

Greeting

The most common greeting you will hear in Thailand is "swat dee". Following with the polite words (Krab/Kup for a Male speaker or Ka for a female speaker)

Swat dee Kup/Ka or Wat dee (short form)

This is quite often used for both hello and goodbye.

How Thai's greet each other is different from English speakers. You may find lots of learning resources showing many different types of greetings in Thai. This is because English speakers try to translate from English to Thai.

Such as: hello, how are you? | I am fine thank you | And you?

Here you should understand how Thai people greet each other.

Swat dee, is used for the first time you meet during the day. But it is not necessary to say every time or everyday. Thais are more interested in food and where you are going more so than health, so they would ask:

Pbai nai (Kup/Ka) = (English to Thai syntax: Go where?) English Translation: Where are you going?

Sbai dee mai (Kup/Ka) = (English to Thai syntax: Well ? English Translation: Are you well? (How are you?))

This is still asked, but not always. It will be asked if they haven't seen each other for while or if they are really interested to know.

Examples of how Thais greet

Dialog 1 (Both people haven't seen each other for a while)

A (female) : **Wat dee ka Sbai dee mai ka**

B (male) : **Sbai dee kup**

Dialogue 2 (they may see each other often)

A: **Wat dee** (Hello), pben ngai bung (How's going?)

B: **Sbai dee** (Well, good) I am well

A: **One knee ja pbai nai** (Today will go where?) Where are you going today?

Dialogue 3 (Formal, see each other for the first time)

A (male) : **Swat dee kup** (Hello) **Chue Suwat na kup** (Name Suwat) =My name is Suwat

B (female) : **Swat dee ka** (Hello)

Chue Supanee ka (Name Supanee) = My name is Supanee

A (male) : **Yindee tee dai roo juk na kup** = Nice to meet you

B (female) : **Ka chen gun ka** (same to you)