



Greetings Calendar 2022 www.bcatml.org

French

The French greet people they know with a cheek to cheek air-kiss, which is called *la bise*. When one enters a *soirée* or meets up with friends, everybody in the group gets *la bise*. French people will literally rearrange tables in a restaurant in order to get their cheeks to the people they need to *faire la bise* with. Simultaneously, people lean towards one another for one kiss per cheek without actually touching the lips to the cheek, all the while making a soft kissing sound.

The number of times people touch cheeks depends on the region. In France, it can be between one and four passes. Another variation is knowing with which cheek to begin. When in doubt, just follow your French-speaking friend's lead. One thing to remember is that the mouth sound should come from your lips instead of your voice.

Legend has it that because Parisians were kissing twice, citizens of other regions of France wanted to show how much warmer they were so they added extra kisses. In Belgium, they kiss once and in Switzerland, it is three times. Either way, it is a very friendly greeting. As always, practice makes perfect!



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| MARCH | MARS | MÄRZ | 3月 | 三月 | ਮਾਰਚ | MARZO |
|---|--------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--|
| Sonntag | Montag | Dienstag | Mittwoch | Donnerstag | Freitag | Samstag |
| | | 1 Mardi Gras; Maha Shivaratri; Lailat al Miraj | 2 Lent begins | 3 Girls' Day | 4 | 5 BC Japanese Speech Contest at UBC |
| 6 | 7 | 8 International Women's Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Metro Vancouver Japan Bowl |
| 13 Semaine de la Francophonie begins | 14 | 15 | 16 Purim | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 Holi |
| 20 International Francophonie Day | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| APRIL | AVRIL | APRIL | 4月 | 四月 | ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ | ABRIL |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--|---|
| Sonntag | Montag | Dienstag | Mittwoch | Donnerstag | Freitag | Samstag |
| | | | | | 1 April Fool's Day; Poisson d'avril | 2 Festival du bois; Ramadan begins |
| 3 Festival du Bois in Mackin Park Coquitlam | 4 | 5 Qingming Festival | 6 National Tartan Day | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Palm Sunday; Ram Navami | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Good Friday; Passover begins | 16 Emancipation Day |
| 17 Easter | 18 Easter Monday | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Orthodox Easter | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | | | | | 31 Lailat al Kadr | |

Japanese

Bowing is an important greeting and gesture in many Asian cultures, and particularly so in Japan. Bows accompany introductions, appreciation, apologies, and greetings. They are done from the waist with a straight back, with hands at the side for men or clasped in front for women. When you start learning Japanese, you will likely learn こんにちは *KONNICHIIWA* (Hello) and おはようございます *OHAYO GOZAIMASU* (Good morning) which are often spoken with a formal bow at a 30-degree angle to a teacher or other superior, or an informal bow at a 15-degree angle.



Most students will learn お元気ですか *OGENKI DESU KA* (How are you?), but later on, when you get to know people, you may want to inquire about how they are doing with 調子はどうですか *CHŌSHI WA DŌ DESU KA* [formal] or 調子はどう? *CHŌSHI WA DŌ?* [informal]. Literally, this expression means How is your condition? and the closest expression in English might be How's it going? Possible responses could be 調子いい *CHŌSHI I* (condition is good) or 調子悪い *CHŌSHI WARUI* (condition is bad).

In addition to someone's health condition, this expression can also be used to ask about the condition of machines, the progress of one's work, and much more! Next time, with someone you know, try to use 調子はどう? *CHŌSHI WA DŌ?* and see what your Japanese-speaking friend will say back!

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| JANUARY | JANVIER | JANUAR | 1月 | 一月 | ਜਨਵਰੀ | ENERO |
|----------|--|--------|----------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| dimanche | lundi | mardi | mercredi | jeudi | vendredi | samedi |
| | | | | | | 1 Kwanzaa ends; New Year's Day |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Epiphany; Día de los Reyes Magos | 7 Orthodox Christmas | 8 |
| 9 | 10 Coming Of Age Day | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Makar Sankranti |
| 16 | 17 Martin Luther King Day; Tu B'Shvat | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

| FEBRUARY | FÉVRIER | FEBRUAR | 2月 | 二月 | ਫਰਵਰੀ | FEBRERO |
|----------|--|----------------------------|------------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| dimanche | lundi | mardi | mercredi | jeudi | vendredi | samedi |
| 30 | 31 | 1 Chinese New Year | 2 Groundhog Day | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Valentine's Day; Family Day (BC); Louis Riel Day | 15 Lantern Festival | 16 Magha Puja | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 International Mother Language Day | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Rosenmontag | | | | | |

German

Greetings generally differ in formality depending on whether you know the other person well or not. The most common greeting is a handshake with direct eye contact, even among acquaintances and friends. Depending on the situation, it is also customary to shake hands when saying goodbye. In the age of the current pandemic, the elbow bump has often replaced the handshake.



Close friends often hug when greeting one another, and younger people may kiss one another on the cheek.

Guten Tag (Good day) or *Hallo* (Hello) are the most common verbal greetings used in Germany. In the south, some people may say *Grüß Gott* (literally translating as 'Greet God'). In Austria, one would say *Servus*, whereas in the German speaking part of Switzerland, one would use the greetings *Grüezi* or *Salü*.

In formal situations, one should address another person with their title and last name, *Herr* (Mr.) for men and *Frau* (Ms. or Mrs.) for women. It is polite to continue to use these titles until the person invites you to move on to a first-name basis. If in doubt, follow the lead of your German-speaking friend!

Background image credit: <https://wallpaperaccess.com/bavaria>

| MAY | MAI | MAI | 5月 | 五月 | ਮਈ | MAYO |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|----|--|----|------|
| 日 | 月 | 火 | 水 | 木 | 金 | 土 |
| 1 International Workers' Day | 2 Eid al-Fitr; Ramadan ends | 3 | 4 | 5 Cinco de Mayo; Children's Day | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Mother's Day; Buddha Day | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Aoi Matsuri Festival | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Victoria Day | 24 | 25 | 26 Ascension Day | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 Vancouver Children's Festival begins | | | | |

| JUNE | JUIN | JUNI | 6月 | 六月 | ਜੂਨ | JUNIO |
|--|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 日 | 月 | 火 | 水 | 木 | 金 | 土 |
| | | | 1 International Children's Day | 2 | 3 Dragon Boat Festival | 4 Shavuot |
| 5 Pentecost; Vancouver Children's Festival ends | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Father's Day | 27 | 28 National Aboriginal Day | 29 | 30 | 31 St. Jean Baptiste Day | |



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| JULY | JUILLET | JULI | 7月 | 七月 | ਜੁਲਾਈ | JULIO |
|------|------------------|------|-----|-----|---|---------------------------|
| 星期日 | 星期一 | 星期二 | 星期三 | 星期四 | 星期五 | 星期六 |
| | | | | | 1 Canada Day; Tour de France begins | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Star Festival; Running of the bulls begins | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Dharma Day | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Marine Day | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Running of the bulls ends | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Tour de France ends |

| AUGUST | AOÛT | AUGUST | 8月 | 八月 | ਅਗਸਤ | AGOSTO |
|--------|---|--------|-----|-----|------|------------------------------------|
| 星期日 | 星期一 | 星期二 | 星期三 | 星期四 | 星期五 | 星期六 |
| 31 | 1 British Columbia Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 El Salvador del Mundo |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Mountain Day; Raksha Bandhan |
| 14 | 15 National Acadian Day; Discovery Day (Yukon) | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Krishna Janmashtami |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Mandarin

Mandarin learners would most likely say *Nǐ hǎo!* (你好! Hello!) or *Nǐ hǎo ma?* (你好吗? How are you?) to greet just about anyone they come into contact with since these are the standard greetings they learn from Mandarin textbooks.

However, not many may realize that Chinese-speaking people do not usually greet each other this way on a daily basis. A common practice of greeting is to ask a question. Chinese-speaking people often ask a neighbour, a co-worker or anyone on familiar or casual terms with a question such as *Nǐ qù nǎr?* (你去哪儿? Where are you going?), *Máng shénme ne?* (忙什么呢? What are you busy with?) or *Zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?* (最近怎么样? How's everything with you lately?).

A most interesting question for greeting is *Chīle ma?* (吃了没? Have you eaten yet?). Don't consider it as an invitation to lunch or dinner nor worry about the timing of saying it at the right moment. It is simply a greeting!



Background image credit: https://wallpaperaccess.com/china/google_vignette

Punjabi

ਸਤਿ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ (Sat Sri Akal). *Sat* means truth, *Sri* means wealth, *Akal* means eternal. It means that truth is the real wealth, which is eternal. When the greeting *Sat Sri Akal* is said, it is said with folded hands. This is done to show respect to the other person while the "name of God is being uttered". Sikhs believe that God resides in all; so one is greeting the "divine spirit" in the other person.

When two Sikhs meet, they say *Sat Sri Akal* with folded hands near their chest with heads slightly bowed in a humbling and respectful posture, all the while bending forwards and downwards keeping the legs straight. This is done to show humility and respect. The greeting therefore has a spoken element while incorporating gestures and body language at the same time.

ਨਮਸਤੇ (Namaste) is a traditional greeting while pressing one's palms together with the fingertips facing upwards, as if clasping the hands together in prayer. This greeting is sometimes accompanied with a slight bow.

It is generally appropriate for men and women to shake hands. However, it is advisable to wait for a woman to extend her hand first. Some men and women may not wish to touch a person of the opposite gender. It is better to avoid greeting someone with a hug or a kiss unless you know the person well.

ਨਮਸਤੇ



Background image credit: https://wallpaperaccess.com/india/google_vignette

| NOVEMBER | NOVEMBRE | NOVEMBER | 11月 | 十一月 | ਨਵੰਬਰ | NOVIEMBRE |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| domingo | lunes | martes | miércoles | jueves | viernes | sábado |
| 30 | 31 Hallowe'en | 1 All Saints' Day | 2 Día de los Muertos | 3 Culture Day | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Remembrance Day; Martin's Day | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Diwali | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

| DECEMBER | DÉCEMBRE | DEZEMBER | 12月 | 十二月 | ਦਸੰਬਰ | DICIEMBRE |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| domingo | lunes | martes | miércoles | jueves | viernes | sábado |
| | | | | 1 World AIDS Day | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Immaculate Conception Feast Day | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe | 13 Nikolaus | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Las Posadas begins | 24 |
| 25 Chanukah begins | 26 Boxing Day; Chanukah ends; Kwanzaa begins | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Christmas Eve; Las Posadas ends |
| Christmas Day | | | | | | New Year's Eve |

Spanish

Customs regarding greeting people vary, sometimes widely, depending on which country and/or region you are in. However, it is always customary to use manners and personal courtesy. For example, upon entering a person's house, guests must greet each person in the room whether they know them or not. If they do not know each other, it is expected that they introduce themselves to each other.

The first greeting that you learn is *¡Hola!*. This simply means Hello. When someone says *mucho gusto* to you, they are saying it is very much a pleasure to meet you. Saying *igualmente* in return says that you feel the same way.

Customarily, women often greet each other by leaning to the left, touching shoulders with their hands, and leaning towards the other person's right cheek. You can then touch cheeks, and then kiss the air. This is known as *un beso* or *un besito*. The same goes for greetings between a woman and a man, and when greeting children. However, two male friends may give each other a quick hug (*un abrazo*), and a friendly back slap. If the two men are not close friends, they will simply shake hands. Practice this friendly greeting with your Spanish-speaking friends!



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