

American Greetings and Easy Conversation

I. "What" vs. "How" Greetings

"How" Greetings

How are you doing?
How's it going?
How's everything?
How's life?

Responses (Feelings)

I feel wonderful.
I'm great.
Pretty good.
Not so good. Not so bad.

"What" Greetings

What's new?
What's happening?
What's going on?
What's up?*

Responses (Usually Action)

Nothing. I'm just studying.
I'm going to lunch.
I'll go home soon.
Not much. I'm tired.

II. AAA: A Conversation Technique - If you remember three steps, it is easy to have a conversation. When someone asks you a question,

- 1) Answer the question
- 2) Add some comments
- 3) Ask a similar question

Question: What's going on after class today?

Answer: I am going to the computer lab to surf the internet.

Add: I need to look up some information on my favorite band. Oh, and I need to find a recipe for dinner.

Ask: What are you doing tonight?

III. Hints

1. Try not to think too much. Say what comes to your mind.
2. Keep to the same topic to be safe.
3. Start a new topic if you have something interesting to talk ask.