

What Are You Going to Learn This Week?



How about saying “hello” in five languages? I’ve put five here that I happen to know, but you go ahead and choose any five you like. Just choose languages you do not know now.

Listen to them on Google Translate or any other translation service to get the pronunciation correct, then practice using them when you greet someone. The idea with this exercise is just to instigate neuroplasticity.

Our brains don’t actually create structural and functional changes just by reading or even pronouncing something once. We have to practice it. That’s why you can’t just learn a language by reading it or even speaking it out loud. You have to practice it to make it part of your brain – creating those changes in the neuronal pathways.

Spanish: You can say “Hello” as “Hola”, (pronounced “oh-la”) but mostly in Ecuador we don’t say hello or hi. We greet according to the time of day

Good Morning: Buenos dias (midnight until noon)

Good Afternoon: Buenas tardes (after noon or 1, depending on the area)

Good Evening: Buenas noches (6 or 7 pm until midnight)

German: You can say “Hello” as “Hallo” – which sounds very much like the English version, but in Germany we would also likely greet someone according to the time of day:

Good Morning: Guten Morgen (until noon)

Good Afternoon: Guten Tag (until 6 pm)

Good Evening: Guten Abend (until 9 pm)

Good Night: Gute Nacht (after 9 or when you’re saying good night before bed)

French: Mostly you would just say, “Bonjour” (bon-zhoor)

Dutch: Hallo (ha-low)

Swedish: Hallå (pronounced haloa)