

Topic: Cultural Adjustment

(Original plan developed by June 2010 Community Orientation Skills Development Workshop participants in Jacksonville, FL, and further developed by the Cultural Orientation Resource Center)

Activity: Making Conversation

Objective	Participants will practice interacting with others using basic greetings in the United States.
Lesson Time	1 hour
Introduction	Ask participants to describe how they would greet each other in their home country or country of origin.
Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Model U.S. greetings.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Provide a sample introduction and model appropriate behavior. For instances, ask a participant, "Tadesse, how are you today?" and extend your hand to shake.b. Discuss what is considered polite and impolite, and how these may differ between the U.S. and the home country or country of asylum of participants.c. Discuss cultural nuances such as when it is appropriate to say "hey" versus "hello," and necessary and appropriate eye contact (not too short or too long, etc.).2. Role play greetings<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. In pairs or groups of three, have participants practice greeting each other in the U.S.b. The facilitator should walk around the room and comment on hand shakes, eye contact, and personal space.
Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What greetings did you learn today? Can you use them?• What do you think about appropriate greetings in the U.S.?• Why might it not be appropriate to greet someone in the U.S. in your home language?
Evaluation Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observe role play greetings.
Cultural Notes	Discuss appropriate interactions between men and women, and how this might be different than interactions in the home countries or countries of asylum of participants.
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss what should be done if participants were to meet a stranger.• Discuss formal and informal greetings and when each are appropriate.