

# German For Gringos Lesson 1 Greetings Introductions 2026 10 04

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**Maya:** Welcome to German for Gringos, the show where English speakers learn travel German without any pain. I'm Maya.

**Devon:** And I'm Devon. Today is lesson one, greetings and introductions. By the end of this episode, you will be able to say hello, introduce yourself, and say goodbye in German.

**Maya:** Let's start with the simplest one. Say "HAH-lo". That means hello. Exactly like it looks, just with a little more energy than English.

**Devon:** "HAH-lo" is your everyday casual hello. Friends, shops, hostels, anytime. Germans also shake hands a lot, so pair it with a smile and you're in.

**Maya:** Now for good morning. Say "GOO-ten MOR-gen". That means good morning. Literally "good morrow" if you go way back.

**Devon:** After noon it becomes "GOO-ten TAHK". Good afternoon, or good day. Pronunciation tip: that K at the end is sharp. Not "tag" like the game, more like "tahk" with a crisp ending.

**Maya:** And in the evening, "GOO-ten AH-bent". Good evening. These three are your polite daytime greetings, perfect for hotel staff, shopkeepers, and anyone older than you.

**Devon:** Now introduce yourself. Say "ish HIGH-suh DRIFF-ter". That means "I am called Drifter", which is how Germans say "my name is". You can swap in your own name, of course.

**Maya:** Pronunciation tip: "ish" rhymes with fish, and "HIGH-suh" rhymes with "high" plus a soft ending. So, "ish HIGH-suh" and then your name.

**Devon:** When someone tells you their name, ask how they are. Say "vee GATES". That means "how's it going", casual and friendly.

**Maya:** "vee GATES". The W in German always sounds like an English V, so "wie" comes out as "vee". This is one of the most important rules in German, so burn it into your brain now.

**Devon:** And the all-purpose friendly reply: "FROYT mih". That means "nice to meet you". Use it right after someone introduces themselves and you will instantly look like a thoughtful traveler.

**Maya:** Finally, goodbye. The classic is "CHOOss". Spelled tschuess, said like "chooss" but shorter, like you are shooing a cat. Casual and perfect.

**Devon:** Quick recap, you now know "HAH-lo", "GOO-ten MOR-gen", "GOO-ten TAHK", "GOO-ten AH-bent", "ish HIGH-suh" plus your name, "vee GATES", "FROYT mih", and "CHOOss".

**Maya:** Time for a demo. Devon's playing a hotel receptionist. I'm checking in.

**Devon:** GOO-ten TAHK.

**Maya:** GOO-ten TAHK. ish HIGH-suh Maya.

**Devon:** FROYT mih. Maya. vee GATES?

your own hello.

**Devon:** Recap drill. Say each one out loud before I say the meaning. Number one: how do you say good morning?

**Maya:** "GOO-ten MOR-gen". Number two: my name is.

**Devon:** "ish HIGH-suh" plus your name. And number three: goodbye.

**Maya:** "CHOOss". You nailed lesson one. Tomorrow, courtesy essentials. CHOOss!