2ND EDITION Completely rewritten & expanded

Hello ENGLISH

VOLUME 2 • Everyday English

Speak naturally in every situation — the Ethiopian way!

Nice to meet you!

Nice to meet you, too!

- **40 real-life situations**, from greetings to weddings
- **Ethiopian dialogues** in every unit
- **"Ethiopian English"** mistakes — fixed
- **Phrasal verbs, idioms** & full answer key

Ermias Wedaje Tegbaru

Hello English

Volume 2 · Everyday English

Hello English

VOLUME 2

Everyday English

The phrases, conversations and vocabulary you need for real life — with Ethiopian situations on every page

SECOND EDITION

Ermias W. Tegbaru (Eng.)
Addis Ababa

Hello English — Volume 2: Everyday English
Second Edition

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This edition uses American English spelling. British differences are noted where they matter. The names and situations in the dialogues are fictional.

This book is dedicated to my children, Abem and Yam,
who are just about the best children a father could hope for:
happy, loving, and fun to be with.

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Preface

> *"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."*
>
> — Nelson Mandela

Volume 1 of *Hello English* gave you the grammar. This volume gives you the words people actually say: at the office and at the airport, in a restaurant and at a wedding, on the phone and at a coffee ceremony.

Many of us know English grammar well, yet we freeze when a visitor says "What's up?", or we translate straight from Amharic: *open the light*, *I'm coming*, *I have twenty-five years*. Everyone at home understands us, but the rest of the world does not. This book is about closing that gap.

Every unit is built around a real situation, with Ethiopian names, places, food and holidays, so that you can explain your own life in English. Where a phrase depends on grammar, a **Grammar link** sends you back to the right unit of Volume 1.

As always, your comments and classroom experiences are welcome. They will make the next printing better.

Ermias W. Tegbaru (Eng.)
Addis Ababa, 2026

How to Use This Book

Volume 2 has 40 units in six parts, followed by three reference sections and a complete answer key. Each unit is one situation, so you can go straight to the one you need tomorrow.

Every unit works the same way

1. **In one sentence** — what the unit is about, in a shaded box.
2. **Key phrases** — tables of what to say, often in formal, neutral and informal columns.
3. **Listen in** — a short dialogue set in Ethiopia. Read it aloud with a partner.
4. **Grammar link** — the Volume 1 unit that explains the grammar behind the phrases.
5. **Watch out!** — the mistakes Ethiopian speakers make most, ✗ wrong and ✓ right.
6. **Practice** — exercises to check and use what you have learned.
7. **Answers** — at the back of the book, in the Answer Key.

Where to start

- **Students:** start with Parts A and B, then read R2, *"Ethiopian English": Literal Translations to Avoid*.
- **Teachers:** the dialogues are ready for role-play. Ask students to change the names and situations to their own.
- **Professionals and people who work with visitors:** Units 2, 4, 7, 13, 14, 15 and 16 will help you right away.

PART A

Meeting People

Greetings, introductions, small talk, names and titles, invitations, hosting and socializing.

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UNIT 1

Greetings and Goodbyes

> **In one sentence:** English greetings are short, and the right one depends on **the time of day** and **how well you know the person**.

Saying hello

Formal	Neutral	Informal (friends, family)
Good morning. (until 12:00)	Hello.	Hi! / Hey!
Good afternoon. (12:00–about 18:00)	How are you?	How's it going?
Good evening. (after about 18:00)	Nice to see you again.	What's up? / What's new?
How do you do? (first meeting only)	How have you been?	Long time no see!

Good night is not a greeting. It means *goodbye* at the end of the evening, or before going to bed.

Answering "How are you?"

In English, *How are you?* is usually a friendly greeting, not a real question about your health. Give a short answer, then **ask back**.

Question	Short answers	Ask back
How are you?	Fine, thanks. / Very well, thank you. / Not bad.	And you? / How about you?
How's it going?	Pretty good. / Not too bad. / Can't complain.	You?
How have you been?	Great! / Busy, but good.	And yourself?
What's up?	Not much. / Nothing special.	What about you?

Speakers in Ethiopia greet warmly and at length, asking about the family, the health and the work, one after another. In English, one question and one answer are enough. Ask about the family **after** the greeting, as small talk (Unit 3).

Saying goodbye

Ending politely	Wishing well	Planning to meet again
I'm afraid I have to go now.	Have a nice day!	See you tomorrow.
I must be going.	Have a good weekend.	See you on Monday.

Ending politely	Wishing well	Planning to meet again
It was nice talking to you.	Have a safe trip / journey.	Talk to you soon.
Thanks for everything.	Take care.	I look forward to seeing you again.
Sorry, I have to run. (informal)	Enjoy the rest of your stay.	Let's keep in touch.

Replying to good wishes: *Have a good weekend!* → *Thanks, you too!* / *Same to you!*

Listen in

Selam: Good morning, Ato Bekele! How are you?
Ato Bekele: Good morning, Selam. Very well, thank you. And you?
Selam: Fine, thanks. How was your trip to Bahir Dar?
Ato Bekele: It was wonderful. The lake was beautiful this time of year.
Selam: I'm glad to hear that. Well, I have a class at nine, so I must be going.
Ato Bekele: Of course. Have a good day, Selam.
Selam: You too. See you tomorrow!

Grammar link

> *How have you been?* uses the **present perfect** for a period up to now: it means *How has your life been since I last saw you?* See Volume 1, Unit 16.

! Watch out!

✗ Wrong	✓ Right
Good night! (when you arrive in the evening)	**Good evening!**
How are you? → I am fine, thank you, and you? (every single time)	Vary it: **Very well, thanks. / Not bad. / Pretty good.**
I'm coming. (meaning I'll be back soon)	**I'll be right back.** / **I'll be back in a minute.**
Let me go. (meaning I'm leaving now)	**I'd better go now.** / **I have to go now.**
How is your family? How is your work? How is your health? (as one greeting)	**How are you?** Then, later: **How's the family?**
See you after.	**See you later.**

Practice

A. Choose the best greeting.

1. It is 8:30 a.m. You meet your manager at the office. (Good morning / Good night / Hey!)
2. You meet your best friend at a café. (How do you do? / Hi! How's it going? / Good evening, sir.)
3. You arrive at a wedding reception at 7 p.m. (Good evening / Good night / Good afternoon)
4. You meet a government official for the first time. (What's up? / How do you do? / Long time no see!)
5. You are leaving a friend's house at 10 p.m. (Good evening / Good night / Good morning)

B. Write a reply.

1. Have a good weekend!
2. How have you been?
3. What's up?
4. Have a safe trip back to Hawassa.
5. It was nice talking to you.

C. Correct the mistakes.

1. Good night, everyone! Welcome to tonight's meeting.
2. Wait here — I'm coming.
3. OK, let me go now. See you after.
4. How do you do? I haven't seen you for years!

END OF FREE SAMPLE

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