

Lesson Notes № 1

Informal Greetings in Ukrainian



Link to audio: ukrainianlessons.com/episode1



“Привіт! Менé звáти Áнна — Hi! My name is Anna. I am a Ukrainian teacher and native speaker. I am happy to introduce you to your first Lesson Notes for the Ukrainian Lessons Podcast.

Episode #1 is about the very basics of any conversation — saying “hello” and “how are you?”. Do you know all the ways to say it in Ukrainian? They are here in these Ukrainian Lessons Podcast lesson notes.



Dialogues

As I mentioned in the podcast, I met with my friends in Shevchenko park in **Київ**; we had some ice cream — **морозиво**. Here is how our conversations started:



Анна: Привіт!
Інна: Привіт!
Анна: Як справи?
Інна: Чудово! Рáда тебе бáчити.
Анна: Я теж.
Інна: А у тебе як спрáви?
Анна: Дóбре.



Анна: Привіт!
Катя: Привіт!
Анна: Як ти?
Катя: Нормáльно. А ти як?
Анна: Теж нормáльно.

Hi! — Привіт!

The basic informal “Hi!” in Ukrainian is:

Привіт!

We use this word very often to greet our friends, close family, and people we work with without any superiority between.

You do not usually say **Привіт!** to your boss or a cashier. We will learn that next time.

It is easy to pronounce /*pryvít*/ — just smile when you say it! :)

How are you? — Як справи?

There are two ways to ask “How are you?” in Ukrainian. You have heard them both in the dialogues:

Як спрáви? = Як ти?

What is **спрáви**? It means something like “things to do”. “Як у тебе спрáви?” means “How are things with you?”



“Як ти?” simply means “How are you?” We do not translate “are” because in Ukrainian, the verb “to be” in the present tense is usually omitted.

The possible answers to the questions above can be:

- **Чудово!** — *Great! Wonderful!*
- **Дуже добре!** — *Very good!*
- **Добре.** — *Fine.*
- **Нормально.** — *Normal, I am okay.*
- **Погано.** — *Bad.*
- **Дуже погано.** — *Very bad.*

This is how to ask **Як справи?** back:

А у тебе?

Literally, it means “And with you?”

And that is how we ask back for **Як ти?**:

А ти як? = А як ти?

The word order does not matter, as in many cases in the Ukrainian language.

Pay attention to a short and common word:

А

It means “and” and is used when we are talking about contrasting things, especially at the beginning of a sentence or between two sentences, for example:

- **Я люблю чай, а він любить каву.**
I like tea, and he likes coffee.
- **Я люблю зелений чай. А ти?**
I like green tea. And you?

I am glad to see you — Рада тебе бачити!

Inna said one sentence that could be very useful to you when you meet Ukrainians, and you are glad to see them.

Pay attention to gender. Men use the first phrase below. Women use the second one:

Радий тебе бачити!

Рада тебе бачити!

These are the basics of Ukrainian adjectives: most of them are masculine and end in **-ий** while some are feminine and end in **-а**.

Also — Також

These are three ways of saying “also/too” in Ukrainian:

також

такóж

теж

The first two are just options for stress.

In the dialogues, we used **теж**, but we could have used **такóж** with no difference in meaning:



– **Рада тебе бачити!**
– **Я теж or Я такóж.**



– **А ти як?**
– **Теж нормально or Такóж нормально.**



Practice

Here is the practice exercise from the podcast.

What do you say if I say to you:

1

Привіт!

2

Як справи?

3

Рада тебе бачити!

The possible answers:

1

Привіт!
Привіт! Радий (рада) тебе бачити!
Привіт! Як справи?

2

Чудово!
Добре.
Дуже добре!
Нормально.
Погано.

3

Я теж.
Я також.
Я також.



Bonus exercise

Ukrainian Lessons Podcast Lesson Notes will always contain a bonus exercise for you to practice.

I will include the answers in the next episode's lesson notes.

Fill in the blanks. Feel free to use the dictionary or the bonus vocabulary below to get some new and useful words:

Олег: ¹ _____

Марічка: Привіт!

Олег: ² _____

Марічка: Все ³ _____

А у тебе?

Олег: Так собі.

Марічка: ⁴ _____ тебе
бачити!

Олег: ⁵ _____

Марічка: Як мама?

Олег: ⁶ _____. А як
⁷ _____?

Марічка: ⁸ _____ добре!





Key Vocabulary 1-01

Менé звáти Áнна.	My name is Anna.
морóзиво	ice cream
Приві́т!	Hi!
– Як спрáви?	– How are you?
– А у тебе? (= А в тебе?)	– And you?
– Як ти?	– How are you?
– А ти як? (= А як ти?)	– And you?
чудóво	great, wonderful (<i>adverb</i>)
дóбре	well, fine (<i>adverb</i>)
погáно	bad (<i>adverb</i>)
дúже	very
нормáльно	normal, okay (<i>adverb</i>)
Рáдий тебе бáчити.	I am glad to see you. (<i>male</i>)
Рáда тебе бáчити.	I am glad to see you. (<i>female</i>)
теж = тáкож	also, too
До побáчення!	Good bye!



Bonus Vocabulary

Як поживáєш?	How are you doing? ("How are you living?")
– Що новóго?	– What's new?
– Нічóго.	– Nothing.
Все дóбре.	Everything is fine.
Все гарáзд.	Everything is alright.
помалéньку	alright ("little by little")
тáк собí	so-so (<i>adverb</i>)
непогáно	not bad (<i>adverb</i>)

