

GREETINGS

The correct formal greeting is "How do you do?", sometimes abbreviated in friendly fashion to "How d'you do" or even to "D'you do". Whether Mrs. Younger is presented to Mrs. Worldly or whether an ambassador is presented to her, all say the same, or merely bow.

Acknowledging Introductions. Following their introduction, one gentleman says to another, "I'm very glad to meet you", or "Delighted to meet you."

Friends greet each other with "Good morning" or "Good evening" or "How are you?" But "Good afternoon" is a business rather than a social greeting. It is sometimes used as a greeting by public speakers, but its more typical use is as a phrase of dismissal.

"Hello" is today widely accepted among friends. Very often in place of the well-worn "How do you do?" or "Hello!", perhaps more often than not, people skip the words of greeting on informal occasions and say, "I'm so glad to see you!" or "I haven't seen you for ages," or "What have you been doing lately?" The weather, too, fills in with equal faithfulness, "Isn't it a heavenly day!" or "Horrid weather, isn't it?"

The Answer to "How are You?" As a matter of fact, "All right, thank you" is always the correct and conventional answer to "How are you?" Unless there is reason to believe that the person asking really wants to know the state of one's health.

A Gentleman and his Hat in an Elevator. A gentleman takes off his hat and holds it in his hand when a lady enters the elevator in an apartment house or hotel — any building which can be classified as a dwelling. He puts it on again in the corridor. A public corridor is like the street, but an elevator in a hotel or apartment house has the character of a room in a house and there a gentleman does not keep his hat on in the presence of ladies.

But in public buildings, such as offices or stores or buildings which contain neither apartments nor assembly rooms, the elevator is considered a public place as a bus or a trolley car. What is more, the elevators in such business structures are usually so crowded that the only room for a man's hat is on his head!

A Man and his Hat out of Doors. A gentleman in a city street who stops to speak to a lady is to take his hat and his glove off. This constitutes a maneuver that needs considerable practice to be done without effort. If the gentleman and lady walk ahead together, he puts his hat on; but while he is standing in the street talking to her, he must remain hatless. Nor may he smoke. Also every man should stand with his hat off in the presence of a funeral.¹

A Gentleman Lifts his Hat. Lifting or tipping the hat is a conventional gesture of politeness shown to strangers only, not to be confused with bowing, which is a gesture used to acquaintances and friends. In lifting his hat, a gentleman merely lifts it slightly off his forehead — by the brim of a stiff hat or by the crown of a soft one — and replaces it.

When walking with a friend who bows to a lady who is a stranger to him, a gentleman lifts his hat without either bowing or looking directly at the lady.

If a lady who is a stranger drops her glove, a gentleman should pick it up, hurry ahead of her, on no account nudge

¹ When the national anthem is being played too. — *Comp.*