



Beginner Lesson S1

How's It Going?

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English

Mike Hey, Vicky!
Vicky Hi, Mike! How's it going?
Mike Great! How about you? How are you doing?
Vicky Not so good.
Mike Oh no! What's wrong?
Vicky Oh, classes start tomorrow.
Mike Ha ha. Yeah, I know what you mean.

Vocabulary

English	Definition	Class
How's it going?	a question to ask about someone's health or situation	phrase
How are you doing?	a question to find out about someone's health or situation	phrase
great	very good	adjective
not so good	an expression meaning that one's health or situation is bad	phrase
summer vacation	a break from school or work during the summer months	phrase
pretty good	phrase to show that you are fairly healthy and your situation is good	phrase
not bad	a phrase to show you are fairly healthy and your situation is good	phrase
all right	okay; to one's liking; acceptable	adjective

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

How's it going these days? > Well, actually I've been pretty busy.

How's it going? > Great! How about you?

How are you doing? > Not bad.

That shirt looks great on you!

How's it going? > Great! How about you?

How are you doing? > Not so good. I have a cold.



I want to go camping during summer vacation.

My friend is doing pretty good these days; he's looking healthy.

How are you doing? > Pretty good!

How are you doing? > Not bad.

Is everything all right?

Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Let's look at the questions, "How's it going?" and "How are you doing?" Both of these phrases mean the same thing and are similar to "How are you?" The difference is simply that they are more casual expressions. The next phrase is "not bad." This could mean that things are just okay, but with a positive intonation, it can actually mean "good." The intonation is very important with phrases such as, "not bad."

Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking About the Health or General Situation of Someone.

"How are you doing? / How's it going?"

We often ask people we know about their health or situation the first time we see them on a given day. You may be more familiar with the formal conversation that goes like this:

A: "How are you?"

B: "Fine, thanks. And you?"

A: "Fine, thanks."

Although the above conversation is useful in formal situations, most of our interactions are in less formal situations. We are more likely to hear questions such as "How are you doing?" and "How's it going?" between friends. We are also likely to hear answers other than "fine."

Here are some examples of other answers we might hear:

1. "pretty good"
2. "not bad"
3. "all right"
4. "okay"
5. "not so good"

Be sure to try some of these words in your own conversations.

Sample Sentences

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1. "How's it going, Jessi?"
"Pretty good. How about you?"
"Not bad."
 2. "How are you doing, Daniel?"
"Great. How about you?"
"Not so good."

Pronunciation Tip

In casual speech, we often push sounds together. Listen to how we push the sounds together in these questions:

1. "How's it going?"

- "How is it" sounds like "howzit" when spoken casually.
- "How are you doing?"
- "How are you doing?" sounds more like "Howya doin?"

Cultural Insight

American Greetings

Americans often greet each other without asking about their health or situation, especially when speaking to someone we see often. We often greet each other by asking "What's up?" The most common answer is "Not much." Sometimes, we don't even answer the question, but reply to "What's up?" with "What's up?" In this case, we ignore the meaning of "What's up?" and we use the phrase as "Hello."