

# What is Swiss German?

Swiss German isn't a single dialect, it's a **group of regional varieties** spoken across the German-speaking parts of Switzerland. From Zurich to Bern, every region adds its own vocabulary, rhythms, and pronunciation. It's not officially recognized as a language, but that doesn't matter much to the people who speak it.

For most Swiss, **Swiss German is their first language**. It's what they grow up speaking at home, on the playground, and with friends. High German (the official language used in school and writing) isn't formally introduced until they enter primary school, around age six or seven.

This guide includes **12 everyday Swiss German expressions** that you'll likely hear in daily life, in shops, at work, on public transport, or just walking down the street. They're simple, useful, and a great place to start if you want to understand what's really going on around you.

Hello (formal)

Hello everyone (formal)

Hi (informal)

Hi everyone (informal)

Goodbye (formal)

Bye (informal)

How are you?

Thank you (very much)

Take care!

Have a nice meal!

Cheers!

Pleased to meet you

Grüezi (Gruessech) / Salü

Grüezi mitenand

Hoi / Salü

Hoi zäme

Uf Wiederluege / Uf Wiederseh

Ade / Tschau

Wie goht's?

Merci (vilmal)

Machs guet! (singular)

En Guete!

Zum Wohl! / Proscht!

Fröit mi

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