

Decoding Human Interaction

Collection of Greetings – a worksheet

Full resource: <https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/resources/online/all/?id=20831>



The following set of greetings (see links below) go from simple to more complex. Tackle each example one by one, paying attention to the following:

A. Format and presentation

1. All lines numbered
2. Courier New or similar non-proportional font
3. Names and spaces
4. Appropriate heading

B. Basic features

1. Capture the words that were said accurately
2. Represent any alternative pronunciations
3. Names assigned to the correct speaker throughout
4. Capital letters for turn beginnings (see 'common problems' below)
5. Correct use of parenthesis

C. Speech delivery

1. Capture turn and unit-final endings accurately
2. Represent changes in pitch, contours, volume, and emphasis
3. Represent stretching or compression of individual or multiple words

D. Timing

1. Represent timings between turns and TCUs
2. Represent gaps and pauses accurately (see 'common problems' below)
3. Represent onset and offset of overlapping talk

E. Non-verbal/vocal

1. Represent non-verbal elements such as laughter, breathiness, sighing, tutting

Links to the set of greetings (individual fragments audio recordings):

1. [Hyla and Nancy](#)
2. [Marsha and Erma](#)
3. [Hyla and Rich](#)
4. [Dana and Gordon](#)
5. [Lesley and Moira](#)

6. [Kate and Jan](#)

Find the answers below, in the following pages.

Typical problems:

1. Capitalizing to show new units of talk: Jeffersonian transcribers pay attention to units of talk (called 'turn constructional units' or TCUs in conversation analysis). These can be single words (Line 7), phrases (like 13) or sentences (line 6). The reason they pay attention to this is that each new unit of talk is given a capital letter (e.g. see line 16, which contains two separate units, one responding and the other seeking information).
2. Timing of gaps: Jeffersonian transcribers attend to the distinctions between normal or unmarked, compressed (e.g. latched as in lines 13-14 or line 17), and extended transitions between units of talk (e.g. line 5). While timing of pauses within a unit is straightforward (if you have software that gives you a sound wave), transcribing gaps is a little trickier. As you will remember, each unit of talk ordinarily comes after a 'beat of silence' – typically 0.1-0.2 seconds. So if you have a silence with absolute timing of 0.4 seconds between turns (i.e. it is a gap), this would be shown as 0.2. Hence for gaps (not pauses), you subtract the beat of silence that would have made this an unmarked or 'no problem' transition.
3. Overuse of pitch changes: sometimes a bit of emphasis is enough. Remember you can show up-to-down and down-to-up contours within words using combinations of underlining and colon. You may find this hard, but further practice will help.

Answers to the set of greetings.

Each answer is provided on a separate page. Scroll down for each answer:

1. HG:IIa

01 ((ring))
02 Nancy: H'llo:?
03 Hyla: Hi,
04 Nan: ↑HI::.

The next answer on the next page...

2. MDE:MTRAC:60-1:5

01 Marsha: Hello:?
02 Erma: Good morning.
03 Mar: Hi..

The next answer on the next page...

3. Hyla Rich

01 ((phone rings))
02 RIC: Hull (h)o(hh)
03 HYL: Hull::o
04 RIC: Hello(h)
05 HYL: Hi:: .hh
06 (0.2)
07 RIC: Hi:
08 HYL: Hi hehuhuhuh .hh

The next answer on the next page...

4. Field: 1988 Undated: Side I: Call 4

01 Gordon: Hello:,
02 (0.4)
03 Gor: [.sk.kl
04 Dana: [Hello,=Where've you been all morning.=
05 Gor: =.hh HELLO! .h Uh:m (0.3) .tk I've been: (.) at a
06 music workshop.

The next answer on the next page...

5. Field:X(Christmas)2: Side 1: Call 9

01 Lesley: hHello:?
02 (0.3)
03 Les: .tk.hh [hhhh
04 Moira: [Hello Is Mummy there,
05 (0.9)
06 Les: Sorry?
07 (0.4)
08 Les: .p[k
09 Moi: [Oh who is it speaking.

The next answer on the next page...

6. Texas Corpus A35a.8: 0:00

01 KAT: Hello:,
02 JAN: Hell↑o::
03 KAT: [Well how are ↑you] doing.
04 JAN: [()]
05 (0.2)
06 JAN: Oh I'm doin' ↑fi::ne,
07 KAT: .H We:ll- guess what I got fer my anni↑versary:.
08 JAN: Wha::t.
09 KAT: A diamond ri:ng.
10 JAN: My gra↑::ciou[::s.]
11 KAT: [I:] kn↑o:↓:[w.]
12 JAN: [Ha]ppy anniversary.
13 KAT: Ye'w'll ↑thank you:.=
14 JAN: =My goo:dn[e:ss:.]
15 KAT: [Yes it's so] pretty=I'll have te show
16 you.=
17 JAN: =e--You wi::ll.=Is idda:: (0.2) cocktail ri:ng?=er:

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