Conversations are always more fun if everyone knows everybody. Have you ever been in a room where you didn’t know anyone? Did you feel weird because no one introduced you? It’s fun to meet new people, but it’s even better when someone introduces you!

- It is polite to introduce boys to girls or younger people to older people. That means you say the girl’s name or the older person’s name first.

  **For example:** “Jane, this is my friend John, who lives next door.” “Mrs. Smith, this is my sister, Jane.”

- When introducing someone, it is nice to say something to help the people get to know each other better. For example: “Peter, this is Stephen. Stephen is in my homeroom and we play basketball together.”

- If no one introduces you, then it is perfectly okay to introduce yourself. Just remember to smile and say “Hi, my name is __________. What’s your name?”

- When you are talking to someone you don’t know very well, conversation can be hard. Be sure to “break-the-ice” by asking polite questions, such as:

  Where do you go to school?  
  What are your hobbies?  
  Do you have brothers or sisters?  
  Do you like animals?  
  Which 4-H club are you in?  
  What grade are you in?

**Handshaking How-To**

It is always good manners to offer a handshake to someone you meet for the first time, or even someone you already know.

- Hold your hand out with your fingers together and your thumb pointing up.
- The proper way to shake hands is “web to web.” That means the web of your right hand should be touching the web of the other person’s right hand.

  - Grip the other person’s hand and give it a firm squeeze.
  - Don’t make a face if the other person squeezes too hard.
  - Don’t do a “high five” or fancy handshake unless you know the other person really well.
Interesting Introductions

Find a partner and practice the following introductions:
1. Introduce your partner to your grandmother
2. Introduce your best friend to your cousin
3. Introduce your coach to your teacher
4. Introduce your principal to your neighbor
5. Introduce the new kid in school to your soccer team.
6. Introduce yourself to your classmate
7. Introduce your older sister to your teacher
8. Introduce your younger brother to your best friend
9. Introduce your friend to your mom
10. Introduce your aunt to your coach.

First Impressions

Where should you look while you are introducing someone? What gestures or facial expressions should you use?
Why do you think people shake hands when they say hello?
How does introducing people help you to speak in public?
How many different places can you use the skill of introducing people?

Finishing School

Play a round of “Nice or Nosey” to learn which questions are polite and which questions are nosey.