**Familiar vs. Formal Greetings**

Until now we have only used familiar greetings, but there are two different ways to speak to someone in Spanish based on how familiar you are with that person…

**Familiar**:

Mr. Estrada greets Alma b saying:

- ¡Alma! ¿Cómo estás hoy?

*Alma! How are you today?*

¿Cómo estás? is a familiar greeting.

Use it with:

* A friend
* A family member
* Someone younger

Another familiar greeting: ¿Qué tal?

Tú is a familiar way to say *you*.

**Formal:**

If Alma had spoken first she might have said:

- ¡Señor Estrada! ¿Cómo está usted?

*Mr. Estrada! How are you?*

¿Cómo está usted? is a formal greeting.

Use it with:

* A person you don’t know
* Someone older
* Someone for whom you want to show respect

Usted is a formal way to say *you*.

At this school you are allowed to call your teachers by their first names and we are all very familiar with each other, BUT for the purposes of practicing with “usted” I am going to ask you to speak to me formally.