

# Diversity Activities

## Exchanging Greetings

### Objectives

To build rapport among coworkers or customers by learning common greetings in other languages.

### Time

5 minutes

### Materials

None

### Introduction

Learning even a few words in another language is a powerful demonstration to its native speakers that you value them and what they bring to the table. A good time to use this activity is International Mother Tongue Day on February 21.

### Instructions

1. **Before you meet:** If you have any employees whose first language is something besides English, ask one of them if he or she would mind teaching the other staff a few words in their mother tongue.
2. At a staff meeting, take a few minutes to learn two or three common phrases such as hello, goodbye, and thank you. Have everyone repeat the phrases aloud to practice pronunciation.
3. Encourage employees to use these phrases in communicating with each other and with customers who speak that language. Your Hmong customers' faces will light up when you thank them for coming in Hmong!
4. Review the vocabulary at the next meeting.
5. If you have multiple languages represented on your staff, repeat the exercise at following staff meetings.