

“How are you?” is often just a greeting structure



Picture: adapted from Freepik.com

If you go to the United States, and somebody says to you: “How are you?”, or even “How are you doing?”, do not attempt to answer this question honestly saying how you feel. Americans often use this structure when they meet people. It is the way they show kindness and politeness. In this situation, they often expect you to say “I’m good,” or other structures like that in response. So, unless you are talking to your American friend, to whom you should say how you really feel, try to be brief.

Source of the text: <https://pips.partners.org/life-in-the-united-states/american-culture/friendship-and-friendliness.aspx>

Further information: <https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/american-culture/american-culture-greetings>

By Danyelle Moraes Souza da Silva (TEAM member). Dec. 22, 2021

