

# How To Say Welcome Globally

By George Matyjewicz, PhD

*Every wonder how to say "Welcome" in other languages?*

We asked members of an E-Tail forum to tell us how to say welcome in their native tongue. Here are the results. Now, you can print this list, tape it to the door of your store as customers enter, and on the back side, tape the "Thank You" list as they leave. Or, you could simply help us roll out the welcome mat worldwide.

- Albanian - Mire se vini
- Arabic - Ahlan Wa Sahlan
- Aruba(Dutch Carribean) - Bon Bini (Bong Be-knee)
- Australia - Cooee Cobber
- Australia - G'day Mate
- Australia - Welcome
- Catalan Countries - Benvinguts
- China - huan ying
- Cyprus - Kalosorisate
- Czech Republic - Vitame Vas
- Czech Republic - Vitejte
- Danish - Velkommen
- Dutch (Netherlands) - Welkom
- Esperanto - Bonvenon
- Ewe (pronounced "EVÉ" spoken in Ghana, Togo and Benin) - Woezor (pronounced WOÉZON)
- Flemish (Belgium) - Welkom
- French (France, et.al.) - Bienvenue (the first 'n' is nasal)
- German - Willkommen
- Ghana - Akwaaba
- Greek - and Kalos ilthes (singular)
- Greek - Kalos ilthate(plural)
- Hawaiian - E komo mai (pronounced "eh como my" - literally, "come in")
- Hindi - Swaa-gat hai
- Indonesian - Selamat Datang
- Irish - Cead Mile Failte ("One Hundred Thousand Welcomes")
- Irish - Failte romhat
- Italian - Benvenuto
- Japanese - Irasshaimase (weclome to our store, often shortened to Irasshai)
- Japanese - Yookoso (welcome to our city)
- Korean - Oh so, Osay-o (welcome to our store)
- Korean - Chun-manay-oh (your welcome)



*Bridging the Gap Between  
Success and Failure*

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**Show your customers  
that you care -  
welcome them in their  
native tongue.**

- Malaysia - Selamat Datang
- Netherlands - Welkom
- New Zealand - Kia Ora - Hello ("Key or ra")
- Norway - Velkommen ("Welkommen")
- Polish - Dzień dobry (daytime)
- Polish - Dobry wieczór (evening time)
- Portuguese - Bem Vinda- Female
- Portuguese - Bem Vindo- Male (Bem vindos, plural "bain - same as in pain "VEEN-doe" Plural: "bain VEENdoes")
- Portuguese (Be Very Welcome) - Muito Bem Vindo ("MOO EEN toe bain VEENdoe")
- Romania - Multumesc
- Spanish - Bienvenido
- Schwiizer Duetsch (Swiss German) - Greuzi ("GREW-tzih")
- Tagalog (Pilipino) - Mabuhay
- Twi (Ghana) - Akwaaba
- Ukraine - Laskavo prosymo
- United States (South) - How Y'all Doin'?
- Urdu - Tash-reef Laa-i-ye
- Uzbekistan (Uzbek) - Hush kelibsiz (Welcome)
- (Wales/Cymru - Croeso ("Croyso"))
- Yugoslavia (Serbia) - Dobrodosli

If your country is not listed, send us a note. Include the country and how to say welcome. If there are different words for gender or for more formal expressions, please let us know. The phonetic pronunciation would also help.

Thank you.

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**About the author.** George Matyjewicz, PhD is Global Strategist and Managing Principal at GAP Enterprises, LLC. His dissertation "Just In Time Payments And The New Global Currency For Conducting Business In A Global Economy" was compiled from 3+ decades experience in the business world. He was formerly President/General Manager of a global digital currency company with customers in 120 countries and Chief E-Commerce Officer for a global giftware company where he experienced Strategic Planning issues first hand. He was a Principal/Partner at a top 50 U.S. CPA/Consulting firm. He is regularly published as an expert on global business, finance, technology and implementation.

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