

# WORLD WIDE CELL PHONE ETIQUETTE

What is proper phone etiquette? We all know what the common rules of using a phone are in America, such as don't talk loudly in public, answer your phone during an important meeting or interview, and always set your phone to silent while out, such as at the movies, a restaurant or a play.

With that said, we here at RepairLabs were curious what the rules of using the phone are in other countries. Just like being aware of their customs and beliefs, it also makes sense that we should be aware of the proper greetings and some of the common forms of phone etiquette in their country.



## U.S.A.

Greeting:

*Hello, Hey*

Parting Remark:

*Goodbye*



It is proper etiquette in the US to silence, or turn off your cell phone while in public places, like movie theaters, churches, and restaurants.



A common unwritten rule of phone etiquette is to not speak too loudly while talking on a cell phone in public. This is to avoid disturbing people around you.



Unless you have permission it is common courtesy to call someone no later than 9pm, unless there is an emergency.

Greeting:

*Allo* (Hello)

Parting Remark:

*Il a al'likaa* (Hope to see you soon)

## EGYPT



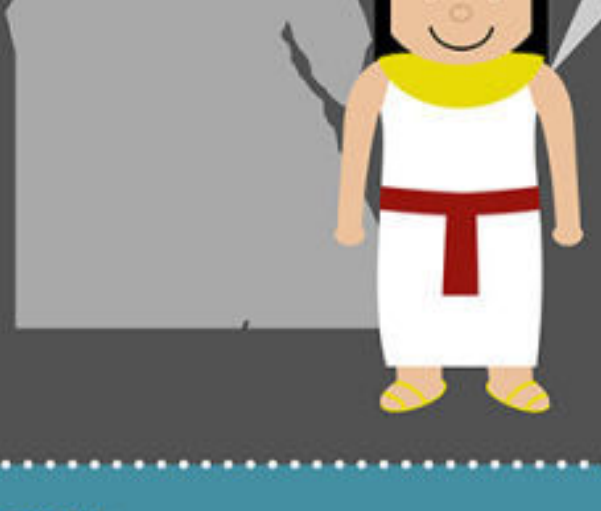
It is customary in Egypt to exchange pleasantries for up to five minutes prior to starting the actual conversation.



After the conversation has started, they make sure to give full attention to the person on the phone.



It is common for Egyptians to give their phone number out to complete strangers they meet on the street or in a train.



## RUSSIA

Greeting:

*Allo* (Hello)

Parting Remark:

*Do Svidaniya* (Till [the next] meeting)



When you call a Russian they might not say anything when they pick up the phone, or they will ask "who is it?" Russians are leery of talking on the phone.



A lot of Russians with cell phones use ringback tones, so when you call your friend expect to listen to some loud music until they answer.



The usage of voicemail is not as common in Russia as it is in some other countries. You'll have better luck calling back at a later time.

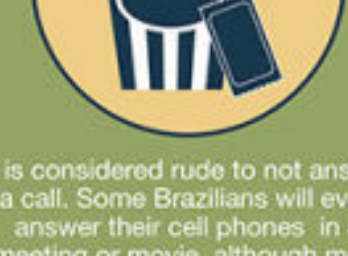
Greeting:

*Alô* (Hello)

Parting Remark:

*Tchau* (Goodbye)

## BRAZIL



It is considered rude to not answer a call. Some Brazilians will even answer their cell phones in a meeting or movie, although most will step out.



It is common for Brazilians to constantly say "uh" while you are talking. This is proof to the speaker that they are still on the line, due to poor phone lines.



Also when they call someone they will ask "Who are you?" even though they have made the call.



## FRANCE

Greeting:

*Allô* (Hello)

Parting Remark:

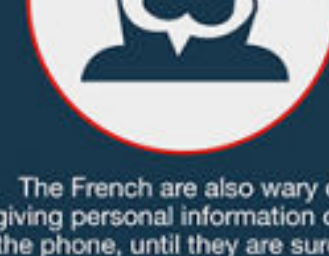
*Au revoir* (Goodbye)



The French tend to speak softer than most so it is considered rude to speak too loudly into the phone.



Like in America, it is polite to not answer your cell phone while in public places, or on public transportation. Most even silence them while dining.



The French are also wary of giving personal information over the phone, until they are sure of who is on the other end.

Greeting:

*wéi* (Hello)

Parting Remark:

*wǒ guāi* (I have to hang up now)

## CHINA



China is known for large crowds of phone users who talk whenever and wherever they want. They will interrupt a face-to-face conversation to answer a call.



They are also known as notorious callers, letting the phone ring 10-15 times before hanging up and calling you right back.



The Chinese are not known to utilize messaging or voice mail, and most don't even have an answering machine.



## INDIA

Greeting in Hindi:

*Raam Raam* (Informal Greeting)

Parting Remark in Hindi:

*Alavídha* (Goodbye)



In India, it is perfectly normal and accepted to call someone well after 10pm.



Don't be surprised to hear obnoxiously loud ringtones in public, and people talking on the phone while in a library.



Indians use text messaging often, however it is more expensive than placing a phone call.

Greeting (only on phone):

*Moshi, Moshi* (Hello)

Parting Remark:

*Ja, ne* (then [I'll see you later])

## JAPAN



It's considered rude to talk on your phone when around strangers in public places. In fact there are signs posted asking you to stay off your phone.



It's common in Japan for the parents/elder of the house to answer the phone, with their typical phone greeting being "hello, this is \_\_\_ residence".



It's prohibited to talk on your phone or text/message while driving or riding a bicycle, but most do it anyways.



## U. K.

Greeting:

*Hello, Hiya*

Parting Remark:

*Bye, Laters*



The UK, like the US, has had cell phones for a while and has developed proper phone etiquette. They will answer the phone with a polite Hello.



It's not uncommon for a phone to ring 6-10 times before going to the answering machine, which is about twice as many as common in the US.



Eating or snacking while on the phone is considered extremely rude and will usually be met negatively by whoever you're talking to.

Greeting:

*Ha aloh* (Hello)

Parting Remark:

*Sa wat dee* (Goodbye)

## THAILAND



People in Thailand are known to answer the phone at the craziest times, including during a job interview or business meeting.



They also call people and allow the phone to ring until somebody answers, no four ring politeness like in the US.



It's considered rude not to answer your phone at work, and even if you don't want to, it's possible it will ring all day if you don't.



## ITALY

Greeting:

*Pronto* (Ready/Promptly)

Parting Remark:

*Ciao* (Goodbye)



Italians answer the phone with the word "Pronto", depending on the context, means to speak promptly or "ready".



It's acceptable during a sales meeting to keep your phone on and answer it as a client, but the salesmen absolutely has to turn their phone off.



Most don't use voicemail, but if you do leave a message keep it short and to the point, 30 seconds max.

## WORLD WIDE RULE!!

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SO REMEMBER TO PUT DOWN THE PHONE WHILE ON THE ROAD.

Sources:

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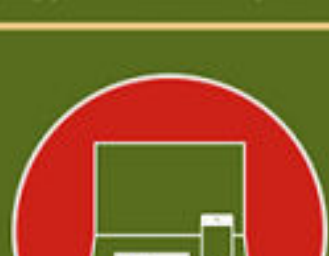


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