

Warm-Up – I Heard The Big News!

Work with a group and make a big list of reasons for congratulating people.

1. Saying Congratulations

Read the dialogue, and practice with a partner.

A: *Congratulations!* I hear your wife had the baby.

B: Thank you! Yes, Maxwell was born on Saturday.

A: I understand *congratulations are in order.*

B: Thanks. I wasn't expecting this promotion.

A: *Congratulations on your big win!*

B: Thank you. It was a tough match.

2. Responding with Congratulations

Read the dialogue, and practice with a partner.

A: *I got married this weekend.*

B: *Congratulations!* Who is the lucky lady?

A: *We came in first place on Saturday.*

B: *Well done!*

A: *I got an A on my project.*

B: *Good for you!*



3. Congratulations (Informal)

Practice again. Imagine you are talking to a close friend or colleague.

A: *Congrats* on the new wheels.

B: Thanks. I was really surprised to see it in the driveway.

A: *Nice work on getting the sale!*

B: Thanks! I'm really happy about it.

A: *Kudos on the great presentation!*

B: Oh, thanks. I'm so glad it's over.

4. Responding Modestly

Listed below are some ways of responding to congratulations in a modest manner. The word “modest” is similar to “moderate”. A person who is modest doesn’t want to show off. Practice congratulating your classmates on fictional achievements and awards.

Oh, it's nothing special. Thanks. I don't really deserve it. Oh, it's not that big of a deal.
Oh, thanks for saying so. Oh, I didn't think anyone would notice. Oh, you're too kind.

Student A: *You won first place in the cooking contest! Congratulations!*

Student B: Oh, it's no big deal. There were only three contestants.

5. Choose the Best Response

Circle the best response for each question.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>① I won the writing contest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) I understand congratulations are in order.b) That's wonderful! Congratulations.c) Please send my congrats. | <p>④ I understand congratulations are in order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Yes, we had our baby today.b) Congratulations!c) Oh, really? Congrats! |
| <p>② Congratulations on your new job!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Kudos! Thank you.b) No, but thanks anyway.c) Thanks. I wasn't expecting a promotion. | <p>⑤ Kudos on the new house!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Congratulations.b) I will, thank you!c) Thanks, but it's nothing special. |
| <p>③ Let me be the first to congratulate you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Thanks. I appreciate it.b) Nice job!c) Good work. | |

6. Pronunciation Practice

The /t/ in “congratulations” is pronounced like a /d/. The primary stress is on the fourth syllable: /con **gra** du **lA** tions/. The secondary stress is on the second syllable. The short form, “congrats”, is pronounced with the /t/ sound: /con gr**Ats**/.

Listen to your teacher read the following sentences out loud. Repeat the sentence.

- ① Congratulations on your winning lottery ticket!
- ② Let me be the first to congratulate you.
- ③ Congratulations on your graduation.
- ④ Please send your brother my congrats.
- ⑤ I understand congratulations are in order.



7. Role Play – Pair Activity

Choose one of the following prompts and work with a partner to create a short skit. Use at least six sentences in your dialogue. Perform your skit for the class.

- ① Congratulations on getting the promotion.
- ② Congrats on your new baby!
- ③ Congratulations! You won the prize!
- ④ Nice job on coming in first place!
- ⑤ Kudos on the new position.