

## English Grammar: 'to meet' vs 'to know' (PT: conhecer)

**1) To meet someone** ("*conhecer*" or "*se encontrar*" or "*se reunir*" in Portuguese)

**(Conjugation: meet / met / met)**

This is used to talk about initial contact with someone, or for an arranged "meeting".

### Examples – Initial Contact

- Nice to **meet** you.
- I **met** him in Miami in 1996.
- I would like to **meet** your girlfriend.
- A: Have you **met** my husband? B: Yes – I **met** him last week.
- A: Did you **meet** my husband yesterday? B: Yes, I did. We had coffee together.

### Examples – Arranged Meeting

- Let's **meet** after lunch in the library.
- We will **meet** at 2pm in the conference room.
- We **meet** every Friday at 3pm.
- We **will meet** the Japanese executives tomorrow.

It can also be used with "with":

- Let's **meet with** Lucy after Lunch to talk about the project.
- I need to **meet with** my boss before Friday.

The phrasal verb "meet up" is common in American English:

- Do you wanna **meet up** later?
- Let's **meet up** after work on Friday and drink a few beers!

**2) To know someone** ("*conhecer*" in Portuguese)

**(Conjugation: know / knew / known)**

This is used **after** initial contact, and means "to be familiar with". It can be used for people or places. It is usually used in the *Present Simple* or *Present Perfect* tenses. If you use this verb in the *Past Simple* tense, then it means that the person is dead.

### Examples:

- A: Do you **know** Peter? B: Yes, I **know** Peter.
- A: How long **have** you **known** Peter? B: I **have known** Peter for a long time.
- A: Did you **know** Peter? B: Yes, I **knew** Peter – he was a nice man. (*This means that Peter is dead!*)

It is wrong to use "know" in the Past Simple tense with a specific time reference:

~~I **knew** Peter last week.~~ (*This doesn't make sense*)

**Exercise.** Complete with 'meet' or 'know' (conjugate if necessary):

1. Who do you \_\_\_\_\_ in my family?
2. I think we should \_\_\_\_\_ after work and discuss the subject in more detail.
3. I have never \_\_\_\_\_ anybody from your company.
4. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ my husband before he died?
5. Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_ an Australian?

Suggested video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=292X1fICZIU>