

International gestures pairwork Student A

Choose one of the actions below that you think your partner(s) can guess and read the description out to them without doing the action yourself. They must do the action you describe and then try to guess its meaning and what country or countries it is used in. If they can't guess, give them more descriptions of the gesture and other hints. When they have guessed one, swap roles.

1. Point your **first finger** towards your **chest** (I/ me- most places)
2. Hold up your first two **fingers** in a V shape, with your **palm** facing the other person (two or peace or victory)
3. Put the **palm** of your open **hand** on your **heart** (I promise or I am touched= I feel moved)
4. Hold your **thumb** and **first finger** at the edge of your **mouth** and pull it across your lips as if you are zipping it shut (Shut up! = be quiet- UK etc.)
5. Put your **index finger** near the side of your head and twist it round in circles (crazy- Europe and the Americas)
6. Hold up ten **fingers** and fold the fingers down one by one (10, 9, 8 etc- most places/ 1, 2, 3 etc- Japan)
7. Tap something wooden with your **knuckles** (I hope- Britain)
8. Make a cutting gesture with an open hand across your **throat**, with your palm facing down (Dead- most places; stop (talking), for example when giving a presentation- US etc/ fired from your job- Japan and Korea)
9. With your first finger, pretend you are drawing a cross on your **ribs** more or less where your **heart** is (cross my heart= I promise- UK etc.)
10. Hold out your first two fingers and your **thumb** and rub them together (money- many places)
11. Point your **thumb** to the floor with your other fingers folded into your palm (bad- most places/ go to hell- Japan)
12. Touch the end of your **nose** with the end of your **thumb**, open your hand and move your **fingers** up and down like you are playing a trumpet (a childish insult- Europe and America)
13. Hold out the **index fingers** of both hands and then touch the length of the two index fingers together (they are a couple- Turkey etc.)
14. Tip your **head** to the left side and draw air into your **mouth** through your **teeth**, making a hissing sound (I'm not sure- Japan)
15. Make an L shape with your **thumb** and **first finger** and put it on your **forehead** (you are or he is or she is a loser- America)
16. Put both hands around your **throat**, open your **mouth** and stick out your **tongue** (choking or you choked= you failed badly, maybe because of being nervous- USA)
17. Put your **index finger** along the side of your **nose**, pointing up, and then tap the side of your nose three times (Don't be nosy= Mind your own business= It's my private business- UK)
18. Pull down the bottom **eyelid** of your left eye with your left index finger. (Be careful- France)
19. Roll your **eyes** around (Oh my god= Not again! = I can't believe it-America etc.)
20. Put an open hand under your **chin** with the tops of your fingers touching your chin and your fingers pointing towards your **throat**. Pull your hand out away from your **neck** and towards the person you are speaking to (I don't care- Italian)

International gestures pairwork Student B

Choose one of the actions below that you think your partner(s) can guess and read the description out to them without doing the action yourself. They must do the action you describe and then try to guess its meaning and what country or countries it is used in. If they can't guess, give them more descriptions of the gesture and other hints. When they have guessed one, swap roles.

1. Look at someone and raise your **eyebrows** (Hello- almost all countries/ No- Turkey/ I fancy you- Japan)
2. Hold up your **thumb** with the rest of your **hand** closed (Okay- USA etc/ very bad insult- many other places)
3. Put your **palms** together and bow towards someone (Hello- Thailand/ I'm sorry- many places, especially in Asia)
4. Put your **first finger** on the **side of your head** and tap your head a few times (Mad/ you should think about it/ remember)
5. Hold up your right hand vertically and put your open left hand over the top horizontally to make a T sign (Time out= let's take a break- USA and now many other places)
6. Move both hands as if they are **mouths** (You are talking a lot about nothing- UK and USA)
7. Hold up an open hand and make a circle from your first finger and **thumb** (Okay- USA and now many other places/ you are gay- Turkey etc.)
8. Hold up only your thumb and **little finger** and point your thumb towards your mouth (Drinking= drunk- Australia etc.)
9. Hold out your hand in front of you with your palm facing down. Twist your hand from the **wrist** from side to side like you are screwing something (So-so= not bad- many countries)
10. Hold up only your **thumb** and **little finger** (6- China)
11. Point your **index finger** towards your **nose** (I/ me- Japan/ nose- most other places)
12. Touch your **finger tips** with your **thumb** and kiss the ends of your thumb and fingers (Delicious- Italy and now other places)
13. Flick back your head and raise your **eyebrows** (No- Turkey, Greece etc)
14. Hold up only your **little finger** (Woman- Japan)
15. Hold up your fingers and thumb with them all touching, then move your fingers and thumb in and out (It's very crowded in here= There are many people= It's full- Spain and most of Latin America)
16. Breathe on the end of your fingers (Be quiet- Saudi Arabia)
17. Clap your hands very slowly (Sarcastic applause= That was very bad- UK and USA etc.)
18. Cross your first two fingers, so that your **middle finger** is over your index finger. (I hope= I wish- UK etc.)
19. With the **thumbs** and **first fingers** of both hands pointing up in V shapes, join the thumbs to make a the shape of the letter W towards the person you are speaking to ('Whatever!'= I don't care- America and now young people in UK)
20. Breathe on your **fingertips** and then polish your **fingernails** on your shirt (I did a very good job= congratulations to me= I am proud of myself- UK)