

Gestures that vary by country

Choose one of the gestures below and mime it to your partner until they guess the meaning. Then take turns doing the same.

Stop	Go away	Come here	Okay
Money/ Cash	(I'm) sad	Time out/ Take a break	Time up/ Stop speaking
(You are/ He is) crazy	(Waiter) the bill/ check (please)	Six	You
Me/ I	A drink	(A cup of) tea	Two
Peace	Victory	I don't know	So-so
(I'm) stupid/ Stupid me!	Mind your own business/ Don't interfere/ be nosy	A girl/ woman/ lady/ She	(You're) late
I swear/ I promise	(They are) together	Zero/ Nought/ Nothing	A bribe/ A backhander/ Money under the table
(This is/ That was) delicious/ tasty	One more time/ Repeat	(It's) great/ wonderful	(I) doubt (it)/ (I'm) not sure
Snob/ Superior/ Arrogant	Be quiet/ Shut up	Bad	Hi/ Hello
(Just) talk/ talkative	Yes	No	I hope/ I wish/ Good luck

When your teacher stops you, share one gesture that was easy to guess and see if the class can easily guess it too.

Ask about any which you aren't sure about, can think of two possible gestures for, etc, discussing the best gestures as a class each time.

Discuss how the gestures above (might) vary from vary to country.

Could any of the gestures you use be misunderstood or considered rude in another country?

What might these gestures mean in different countries?

Thumbs up

Thumbs down

Raising your eyebrows

Cutting your palm across your neck

Making a circle with your thumb and index finger

Pointing at someone with your index finger (first finger)

Put your index fingers together side by side

Show your index and middle finger

Point to your nose