

International Gestures

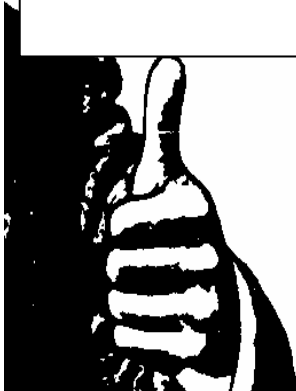


1. These are all communicative gestures in common use within various language systems.
2. Here are what they mean in the United States and in other countries.



1. Head toss
US "Wassup?"
Germany "Come here"
Italy, Greece "No"

2. Nose tap
US "Wise up"
Britain "Watch out"



3. Thumb up
US "Good job"
Britain Obscenity

4. Nose thumb
US "Nyah nyah.."
Almost universal
mockery sign



5. Hand purse
US Of substance (if rub fingers "expensive")
Italy "Good"

6. Fingers circle
US "Good job" "OK"
Germany Obscenity
Brazil Obscenity



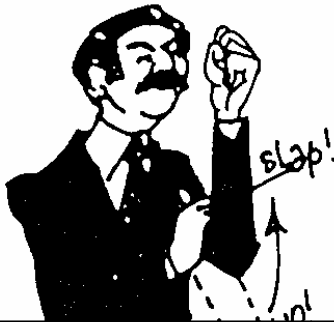
7. Elbow tap
 US Baseball sign
 Spain "Cheat skate"
 Holland "Watch out"



8. Fingertip kiss
 US "Tastes great"
 Italy "Good, great"



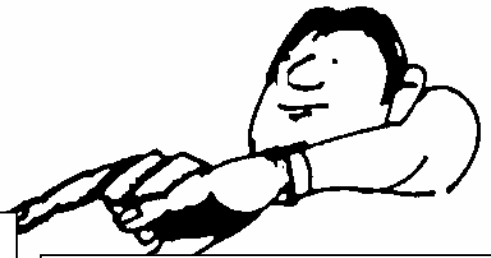
9. Palm smack
 US "I mean it" "I'll smack you if you..."
 Mediterranean area
 Insult



10. Elbow grip, arm flap
 US "Back at you"
 Italy Obscenity

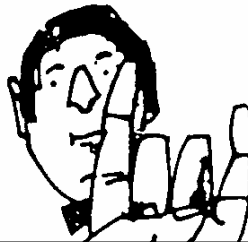


11. Bow, hands at chest level
 US sign of respect
 Thailand Greetings

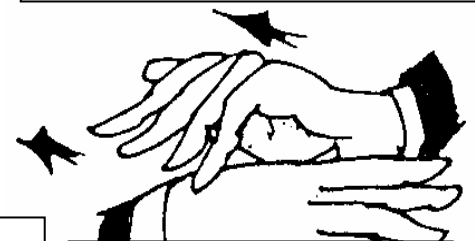
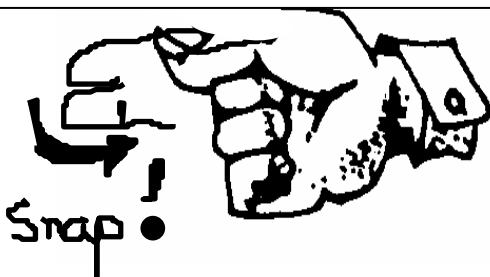


12. Horizontal horns
 US "Rock on"
 Europe "Good luck"
 Eastern Europe the Evil Eye "Curse you"

13. Finger snap
 US "Just like that"
 Eastern Europe "Come Here"



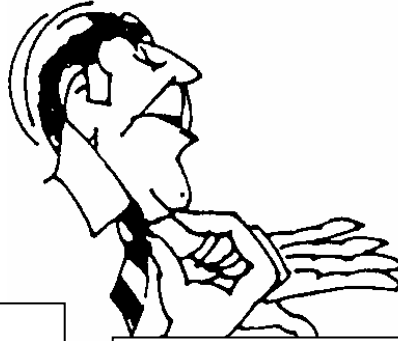
14. Vertical horns
 US "Go Texas Long Horns"
 Brazil "Good Luck"
 Yugoslavia "You are a cuckold!"



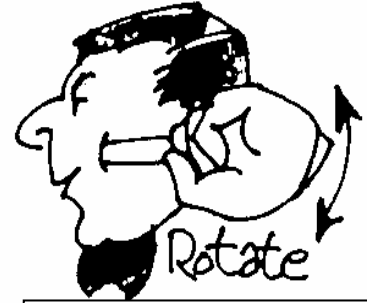
15. Hand stroke
 US "I wash my hands of it"
 Holland Mockery



16. Cheek stroke
 US "I'll think about it"
 Greece "Good"



17. Chin flick
 US "Back at you"
 Italy "No"



18. Cheek screw
 US "Cute"
 Mediterranean area Mockery



19. Ear flick
 US "Listen up"
 Belgium "Watch out"



20. Ear pull
 US "Sounds like..."
 Greece "Watch out"



21. Eyelid pull
 US Insulting Asians
 England "In my eye"
 (expressing doubt)
 Europe "Watch out"



22. Head screw
 US "You're crazy"
 Germany Very rude
 and insulting



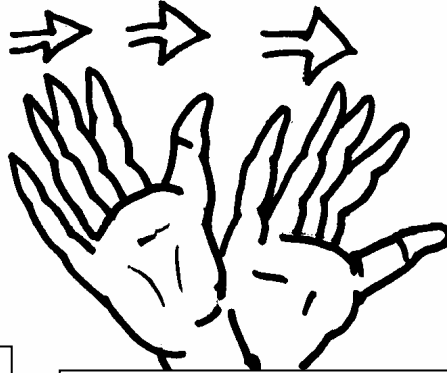
23. Head patting
 US "There, there"
 SE Asia Extremely insulting



24. Head taps
 US "Got the
 smarts" "Think"
 Europe Insult



25. Vertical hand fold
US "Bye Bye"
Europe "Hello"



26. Hand wave
US "Hi" "Bye"
Greece Very rude



27. Fingers cross
US & England
"I promise" "I wish you good luck"



28. Finger bending
US "Come here"
Middle East rude and insulting



29. Finger taps
US Impatience
Egypt Obscenity



30. Vertical closed fist, thumb upward
US Threat
Brazil "Good luck"
Europe Obscenity



31. V-sign
US Victory or Peace
Britain Obscenity