

FUMC ESL 4-11-2013 ADVANCED LESSON

Practicing Gestures: Using only gestures, make the class understand your meaning:

1. rolling down a hill
2. stop here and sit down
3. follow me and be quiet
4. she talks a lot
5. I love you
6. listen
7. no more please, I'm full
8. call me
9. could we have the check please
10. you did a great job
11. please help me
12. she hit me
13. watch out
14. duck!
15. stay quiet, no talking
16. I can't hear you.
17. I pray I will get the job
18. I don't understand
19. I feel for you (I feel sorry about your trouble)
20. Naughty, naughty.
21. high five
22. give me ten

Are gestures different from one country to another?

Are there any gestures that are OK here, but rude in your country?

Discuss these cultural issues. Read the statement, then tell if this is the same as or different from your country. Teachers, encourage a response from everyone in the group. Talk about the differences. And teachers, feel free to expand or disagree with any of these statements. You can talk about that where we grew up, what socio-economic group we belong to, et al can effect what we view as rude or not.

1. In the US, when I have finished, I will align my knife and fork at the top of the plate.
2. It is considered rude for a man to wolf whistle at a woman on the street.
3. People who don't know each other well, or who are being introduced, greet each other with a firm handshake. A soft handshake could be seen as a sign of weakness.
4. Women sometimes hug on greeting. Usually men don't hug women they don't know well.
5. Two women would rarely if ever hold hands in public. Two men would NEVER hold hands in public unless they were gay.
6. Americans toast saying, "cheers". You participate even if you are not drinking alcohol. Water or tea is acceptable to toast with.
7. It is not acceptable to let small children get down and run around in a restaurant. (This is beginning to change slowly, but is still frowned upon by most.)
8. In Texas and the southern U.S. it is polite to say hello to total strangers when you see them on the street. This is not true in big northern cities.
9. Americans like their space. Someone standing too close makes us very uncomfortable.
10. Yawning in public is somewhat rude. Especially if you don't cover your mouth.
11. Etiquette for coughing has recently changed. We used to cover our mouth with our hands. Now the correct etiquette is to cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow. This keeps the hands germ free.
12. Americans don't usually kiss cheeks. A few women might do this.

13. Nodding your head side to side means NO, up and down means YES.

14. A deal is frequently sealed with a handshake.

15. Two men who meet generally don't hug. This is changing with younger men who will frequently give a brief one arm hug which might include a strong pat on the back. Men will not stand very close while hugging.

16. Not maintaining eye contact during a conversation is considered rude or dishonest. "Look me in the eye" is what children are taught.

17. If you are invited to my house, there is no need to bring a gift. If you are invited for dinner it is common, but not at all necessary to bring wine or flowers.

18. You don't need to take your shoes off when you visit us. You'll need to politely ask us to take ours off if this is your custom.

19. Americans don't usually bow when being introduced. Obama caused a huge scandal when he bowed to a Saudi leader.

20. Discussing politics or religion can cause trouble. People feel strongly about these issues.