

Discussion:

Demonstrate a gesture for: surrender, time out, hurry up, I understand, definitely not, maybe, defiance, I'm such an idiot, money, I don't know, peace, just a little bit, think about it

Show some other gestures used in your country that are not used in the U.S.

Do people in your country use their hands a lot when they talk? Do you?

TOEFL VOCABULARY PRACTICE-Read the three sentences and using context, guess the meaning of the vocabulary word. Find the matching definition for each work in the table below.

anomaly: The genetic anomaly caused the mouse to grow a third leg. The astronauts couldn't explain the anomaly in the gravitational field. A politician who is not greedy and corrupt is something of an anomaly in my country.

Which words are similar in meaning to anomaly?
conformity, normality, aberration, peculiarity, deviation, uniformity

Idiom: Some people deviate from the norm. These people might be said to be anomalies. A person who is different and non-conforming can be said to be, "marching to a different drummer" or "dancing to their own tune".

Discuss: To what extent do you march to a different drummer? Is it important in your culture to conform to the norm? Are people who are outside the norm shunned?

antagonize: He had no reason to antagonize the teacher, as she is very kind to him. My boss is in a bad mood today, so we are trying not to antagonize him. I don't try to antagonize my neighbor but he seems to get angry with me a lot.

Which words are similar in meaning to antagonize?
alienate, calm, anger, annoy, soothe, please

Idiom: If you "ruffle someone's feathers", you antagonize them. EX: His direct, sometimes rude, approach to things sometime's ruffles people's feathers.
If you "rub salt in the wound, you make a bad situation worse. EX: It was bad enough to lose to our rivals, but when we had to watch them receive the huge trophy it was like rubbing salt into the wound.

Discuss: What is the quickest way for someone to ruffle your feathers?

ambiguous: The law is very ambiguous which leaves it up for interpretation by the courts. His driving directions were so ambiguous we had to rely on our map. The senator's stance on guns was so ambiguous some people thought she was against gun control and others that she was for it.

Which words mean the opposite of ambiguous?
obscure, clear, vague, lucid, plain, puzzling

Idiom: If something is "up in the air" it is uncertain. EX: Becky and I were going hiking this weekend, but with the weather forecast everything is up in the air. If something is "in doubt" it is uncertain or unclear. EX: If you keep missing work, your future here is in doubt.

Discuss: Are you a person who deals with uncertainty well or do you like everything planned out in advance? Do you get perturbed when plans suddenly change?

augment: She augments her regular salary by babysitting in the evening. For the bike to work well on the rocky paths, it must be augmented by adding fat tires with a nubby tread. This cream has ingredients that augment your skin's natural healing processes.

Which words are the opposite of the meaning of augment?
abbreviate, enhance, curtail, shorten, maximize, enlarge

Idioms: If you “add fuel to the fire” you augment the problem. In other words you make the problem grow. EX: The candidate was losing the debate, but his use of pejorative (insulting) terms for homosexuals added fuel to the fire. If something doesn't “add up”, it doesn't make sense. EX: The police arrested her because her statements about a man entering their home and kidnapping the kids didn't add up.

Discuss: Financial experts tell us that saving even small amounts each month can really add up over time. Do you have a plan for saving money? What are some things you are saving for?

Definitions: Match one of the vocabulary words above with the definition below.

make something greater by adding to it	unclear, having more than one meaning	something that deviates from the standard	alienate, arouse anger
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