

[http://www.essortment.com/all/culturesociety\\_rcjp.htm](http://www.essortment.com/all/culturesociety_rcjp.htm)

In Indonesia it is considered extremely rude to point with the forefinger. It is especially rude if the pointing is towards a person. When pointing the Indonesian uses his thumb.

<http://www.faqs.org/shareranks/2131,Top-20-unusual-customs-from-around-the-world>

A traditional Christmas Day meal in Latvia consists of cooked brown peas with pork sauce and cabbage

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_gestures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_gestures)

Beckoning sign. In North America or Northern Europe a beckoning sign is made with the index finger sticking out of the clenched fist, palm facing the gesturer. The finger moves repeatedly towards the gesturer (in a hook) as to draw something nearer. It has the general meaning of "come here."<sup>[4]</sup> In Northern Africa (Maghreb), calling someone is done using the full hand.<sup>[5]</sup> In several Asian and European countries, a beckoning sign is made with a scratching motion with all four fingers and with the palm down.<sup>[6]</sup> In [Japan](#) the palm faces the recipient with the hand at head's height.<sup>[7]</sup>

<http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/ucce50/ag-labor/7article/article01.htm>

In Chile, women often greet both other women and men with a kiss on the cheek. In Russia women often walk arm in arm with their female friends.

<http://www.enchantedspirit.org/ReadingRoom/475.php>

2. Be aware that most of the world does not greet by shaking hands.

3. People from Asian cultures bow in greeting, but the bows are different.

People from Cambodia and Laos bow with both hands together in front of the chest as if praying. In Japan, the depth of the bow signifies the level of respect for the other party.

Many Koreans prefer bowing and if they shake hands, the right hand is supported at the wrist by the left hand to show respect. Thais bow with palms together about chest-high with their fingers outstretched. And, there are exceptions. The Taiwanese usually nod the head in recognition rather than bow.

4. Some cultures naturally greet by hugging.

Native Hawaiians hug each other, exchanging breaths. The custom is called "aha." Ancient Hawaiians, incidentally, actually bumped heads together. Mexicans use the abrazo. Greeks and Italians often hug with or without shaking hands first.

5. Some cultures kiss!

If your Cuban male client kisses you on the cheek, you know you've made the short list. Immigrant men from the Middle East often shake hands with a slight nod or bow and then exchange kisses on both cheeks. Men from the Middle East usually don't shake hands with women, nor do they introduce the woman with them.

Do not attempt to shake hands with a Middle Eastern woman unless -- and here's where the EQ comes in -- she extends her hand to you. Men in Eastern Europe, Portugal, Spain and Italy will often kiss male friends on the cheek.

6. Pakistanis (largely Muslims) greet with salaam which is the equivalent of our "hello."

The salaam is done by bowing with the palm of the right hand on the forehead. Salaam means "peace" or "Peace be with you."

7. Postures also have meaning.

Ready to settle in with your Middle Eastern client? As an American, you're likely most comfortable sitting back in your chair and crossing your legs. Well, don't! In the Middle East, one of the most insulting things you can do is sit with your legs crossed so the bottoms of the feet are pointed in the other person's direction.

The foot is the dirtiest part of the body and the sole of the shoe is the dirtiest of the low. To show someone the bottom of your foot or shoe means you're looking for a fight!

8. Even handshaking cultures such as England, France, Germany, Italy and the US do it differently.

Brits prefer a brief but firm handshake. The French prefer a light grip while sharing a single gentle shake that's quickly withdrawn. Germans will give a very firm handshake -- just one "pump" then quick withdrawal.

More than one shake with Germans or French is considered aggressive. Italians will shake hands and then hug friends or kiss them on both cheeks.