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## **Meanings of Hand Gestures in Different Cultures of the World**

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**The relevance of the problem** of my research is in an important difference in the cultures of different peoples, which few people study before traveling - this is the difference in gestures.

**The aim of my report** is to study the differences in the most popular gestures in different countries. This work will be useful in the future for the correct understanding of people in a foreign country and in order to be correctly understood.

**The fact** from which all communication begins and which is directly related to the difference in hand gestures is the difference in **the ways of greeting**.

1.1. **Handshake.** Handshakes are most common in Europe, although they are also common in India and some Asian countries.

1.2. **Kisses.** In some countries, handshakes are not accepted at all. In such countries, people are used to greeting kisses. These countries include Italy, France, Holland, Belgium, Arab countries, some Asian countries and others.

1.3. Japan can be considered a separate country in terms of communication. There is **no physical contact at all** when communicating, so instead of shaking hands or kissing, the Japanese greet each other with a bow.

**The most popular gestures** and their meaning in different countries:

**The Ring gesture** "all correct", or "O.K." for short.

Meanings: In most English-speaking countries, it means "everything is fine".

In France and Belgium, it means "zero", "nothing", "nothing".

In Japan, this gesture means "money", namely "bribe".

In Turkey, this gesture is one of the most offensive.

In all Mediterranean countries, the OK gesture is deadly offensive.

### **The Thumb up gesture.**

History: The gesture originates from the gladiator fights in ancient Rome. If the loser evoked sympathy for himself, then a thumbs up was shown, meaning pardon. And in contrast - the thumb went down, which was tantamount to a death sentence for the loser.

Meanings: Firstly, those who hitchhike stop cars with such a gesture. Secondly, this gesture is in some way similar to the OK gesture and means "everything is in order."

In some European countries, on the contrary, it denotes the number one.

In the Mediterranean countries, this gesture should be used very carefully, because it means "leave me alone".

In Japan, this gesture denotes a man.

In many countries, such a gesture is regarded as a symbol of superiority and strength.

### **The V Gesture.**

History: This sign was first used by British archers after the victory at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. The captured English and Welsh archers, who were the enemies, were cut off by the French soldiers precisely these two fingers on their right hand, so that they could not use their bows in the future. Shown intact fingers meant - "be afraid, enemies!"

Meanings: This gesture can be shown in two ways, the first way is when the palm is turned towards the speaker, the second is when the palm is turned away from the speaker.

The first way: victory or peace. This meaning is accepted throughout Europe.

The second meaning of such a gesture in Europe: this figure is two. Moreover, it is necessary to be sure to turn your palm to the speaker. Otherwise, this gesture is an insult, in almost all European countries except France, and means "Get off me"

In France, it doesn't matter how the palm is turned, in any case, this gesture means "everything is in order" (analogue of OK) or the number two.

### **The "Koza" gesture.**

History: Such a gesture became popular after the rock concert of singer Ronnie James Dio. Previously, only one meaning was common: protection from the evil eye and the devil.

Meanings: This gesture also has several options. The first way: when the fingers are pointing forward, the second - when the fingers are pointing up.

The first method is very common in Russia, among crime bosses and gangs. It is threatening: literal meaning "I'll gouge out your eyes."

The second option was used by superstitious people, both in Europe and in Asia, as an analogue of the modern spit over the shoulder.

The modern, most popular meaning is "cool".

In southern countries (especially in Italy, Spain), such a gesture is offensive and means "you are stupid"

In America, such a gesture in some situations is regarded as a declaration of love. In the American language of the deaf and dumb, the gesture replaces the Latin letter "Y". Used in the phrase I love you.

### **The Shaka gesture.**

History: The gesture was spread from the Hawaiian Islands among divers and surfers - there it was the most common greeting.

Meanings: In the same Hawaii, a slightly modified shaka gesture is an insult, and the most serious one. The difference is that the little finger is pointing up, and the thumb, respectively, to the side.

A similar gesture, only with the little finger pointing down, can mean talking on the phone (with attachment to the ear). In this form, the gesture is common in Western countries, especially in the business sphere.

In Holland, Belgium, such a gesture means an offer to drink (with a characteristic tipping over) or an offer / request to smoke (with an offering to the mouth).

In European countries, such a gesture is quite common among young people, this gesture means "Let's go down", which means to use drugs by smoking.

So, at the end of my research, I came to the following conclusions:

1. The gestural system is a very complex sign system with its own characteristics. These features have led to differences in the sign languages of different countries.

2. Sign languages in different countries have significant differences, which often causes conflicts in interpersonal communication between representatives of different cultures. It should be noted the influence of American culture (television, cinema, etc.), thanks to which, many widely known gestures around the world began to take on one or more commonly accepted meanings.