

Table 4.1 Implications of Various Nonverbal Behaviors in Different Cultures

Nonverbal Behavior	Country	Meaning
Thumbs up	United States	An approval gesture/O.K./Good job!
	Middle East	A gesture of insult
	Japan	A sign indicating "male"
	Germany	A sign for count of "one"
A finger circulating next to the ear	Argentina	A telephone
	United States	That is crazy!
A raised arm and wagging hand	United States	Good-bye
	India, S. America	Beckoning
	Some Africans	Beckoning
	Much of Europe	A signal for "no"
Showing the back of the hand in a V-sign	England	A rude sign
	Greece, Middle East	A sign for count of "two"
Showing a circle formed with index finger and thumb	United States	Very good!
	Turkey	Insult gesture/accusation of homosexuality
Crossing first two fingers	United States	Good luck!
	Taiwan	No smoking!
Touching a person's head	United States	Affection
	Thailand	A major social transgression
Eye contact, gazing	United States	A sign of attentiveness
	Japan	A rude behavior/invasion of privacy
	Most Asian countries	Sign of disrespect to senior people
Widening eye	United States	An indication of surprise
	Chinese	An indication of anger
	Hispanic	Request for help
	French	Issuance of challenge
Shaking the head side to side	Western countries	A sign for disagreement/no
	Bulgaria	A sign for agreement/yes
Nodding the head up and down	Western countries	A sign for agreement/yes
	Greece, Bulgaria	A sign for disagreement/no
A handshake	Western countries	A greeting action
Bowing	Japanese	A greeting action
Hands placed together in front of the face	India	A greeting action