

A2 HOMEWORK UNIT 1 READING

NAME: CLASS:..... DATE:.....

FROM THE READING U1 lesson 3 pag 8 COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

GET OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT: DON'T LET THE WRONG GESTURE RUIN YOUR DAY

English is the world's international language. But in your book, you've focused on non-verbal communication.

Why is that so important?

Well gestures and other body language can have different meanings in different places. Something that you think is friendly or polite could come across as very rude in another culture. I've described many of these customs and cultural differences so any readers don't get off on the wrong foot when they meet people from places where the culture differs from their own.

Can greeting someone in the wrong way really lead to misunderstanding?

In some cases, yes. The firm handshake a North American expects may seem quite aggressive to other places. And a light handshake which is normal in some countries may seem unfriendly to a North American.

In what ways can hand gestures lead to misunderstanding?

Well, as an example, we assume all people indicate the numbers one to ten with their fingers the same way. But in fact, they don't, while North Americans usually use an index finger for "one" most Europeans use a thumb. North Americans extend all ten fingers for "ten." However, Chinese indicate the numbers one to ten all on one hand. For example, an extended thumb and pinkie means "six" and a fist means "ten." Imagine how confusing this can be when you are trying to communicate quantities and prices with your hands!

What other gestures can cause confusion?

Take the gesture for "come here", for example. In North America people gesture with the palm up. Well, in southern Europe, that gesture means "good bye"! And in many Asian countries, the palm up gesture is considered rude. Instead, people there gesture with the palm down.

I've heard that, in Japan, pointing with the index finger is not polite. Is that right?

Yes, Japanese prefer to point with the palm open and facing up.

Surely there must be some gestures used everywhere, right? What about the thumbs-up sign for "great"?

Sorry. That's extremely rude in Australia and the Middle East. This is why it's so important to be aware of these cultural differences.

a) Comprehension Questions .

1. What is the main topic of the reading?
2. Why is non-verbal communication important?
3. What might a North American think of a light handshake?
4. How do Europeans usually show the number "one" with their fingers?
5. What does a fist mean in Chinese hand gestures?
6. What can happen if someone uses a palm-up gesture in Asia?
7. In Japan, how do people usually point?
8. What does a thumbs-up gesture mean in Australia?
9. Why is it important to understand body language in other cultures?
10. What could happen if you greet someone the wrong way in another country?

b) Grammar Tasks: Find All the Present Perfect Verbs

Instructions: Read the text and underline or list all the verbs in the present perfect tense.

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c) Vocabulary Matching

Column A (Words)

Column B (Definitions)

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. gesture | a. not gentle or kind |
| 2. rude | b. a movement of the body to express an idea |
| 3. custom | c. to meet or say hello to someone |
| 4. handshake | d. typical way of behaving in a particular society |
| 5. culture | e. a group's way of life, including beliefs and values |
| 6. thumb | f. the short, thick finger on your hand |
| 7. fist | g. a hand with the fingers closed tightly |
| 8. polite | h. respectful and well-mannered |
| 9. misunderstanding | i. failure to understand correctly |
| 10. point | j. to show something using your finger |

Vocabulary Matching –

Column A (Words)

Column B (Definitions)

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. international | a. opposite or different from your own |
| 2. aggressive | b. involving two or more countries |
| 3. friendly | c. likely to attack or confront |
| 4. unfriendly | d. kind, helpful, and nice |
| 5. quantity | e. the amount of something |
| 6. confuse | f. to make someone feel unsure or unclear |
| 7. gesture (as a verb) | g. to move part of your body to express something |
| 8. open palm | h. the inner part of your hand that you can show upward |
| 9. differ | i. to be not the same |
| 10. be aware | j. to know or realize something |

d) Sequencing Activities

Put the following events in the correct order (1–10):

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|---|-------|
| 1. The article explains why gestures are important. | _____ |
| 2. The writer describes how a handshake can cause confusion. | _____ |
| 3. Differences in counting with fingers are explained. | _____ |
| 4. The meaning of hand gestures in Asia is discussed. | _____ |
| 5. The “come here” gesture is described. | _____ |
| 6. The article mentions that pointing with the index finger is rude in Japan. | _____ |
| 7. It talks about how the thumbs-up sign can be offensive. | _____ |
| 8. The writer gives examples of gestures in different cultures. | _____ |
| 9. The article advises readers to be aware of cultural differences. | _____ |
| 10. The article ends by explaining why gestures can be misunderstood. | _____ |