

Greeting Gestures Around the World

	In North America, the UK, Australia and Africa, shaking hands is the most common form of greeting. However, there are some differences between these handshakes. For example, Americans usually prefer a long, firm handshake. In Africa, people often hold their elbows when they shake hands, or snap their thumbs together.
	When you travel to a new country, it helps to learn the correct gesture to greet someone. Let's look at some common greeting gestures around the world.
	In Japan, they bow when they greet someone. Usually, the person who is younger will bow lower. At work, employees should bow lower than their boss. The Japanese believe that bowing lower shows respect to the other person.

	In parts of Europe, it is common for people to kiss each other when they are greeting. In some countries, such as France and Italy, they kiss twice, once on each cheek. In other countries, such as Belgium, they kiss just one cheek. In Russia, close friends kiss three times because they believe that three is a lucky number.
	As you can see, greeting gestures are much different all over the world. When you arrive in a new place, the best thing to do is to ask a local person to show you the best way to say hello!
	In Thailand, India and Cambodia the greeting gesture is very similar. The gesture is done by bowing slightly and pressing the palms of the hands together. In India, it is known as a namaste. In Cambodia it is called the sampeah. In Thailand, it is known as the wai. Thai people also do the wai gesture when they are entering someone's house for the first time or when they want to say "thank you" or apologize.