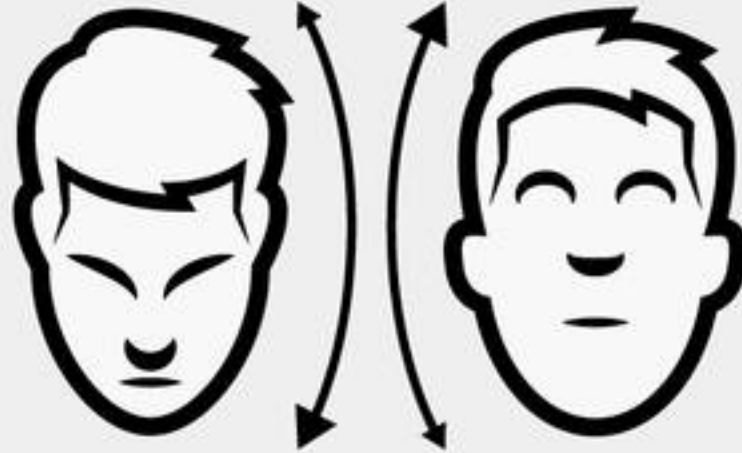


# BODY LANGUAGE AROUND THE WORLD

## HEAD

Nodding your head generally means agreement or approval.



But **Bulgarians** and **Greeks**, for example, are known for their unusual manner of saying yes and no: Nodding up and down signifies a negative.

## EYES



Good eye contact is expected in the **West**. Strong eye contact is most notable in **Spain**, **Greece**, and **Arab** countries.



**Finns** and **Japanese** are embarrassed by another's stare, and seek eye contact only at the beginning of a conversation.

## EARS

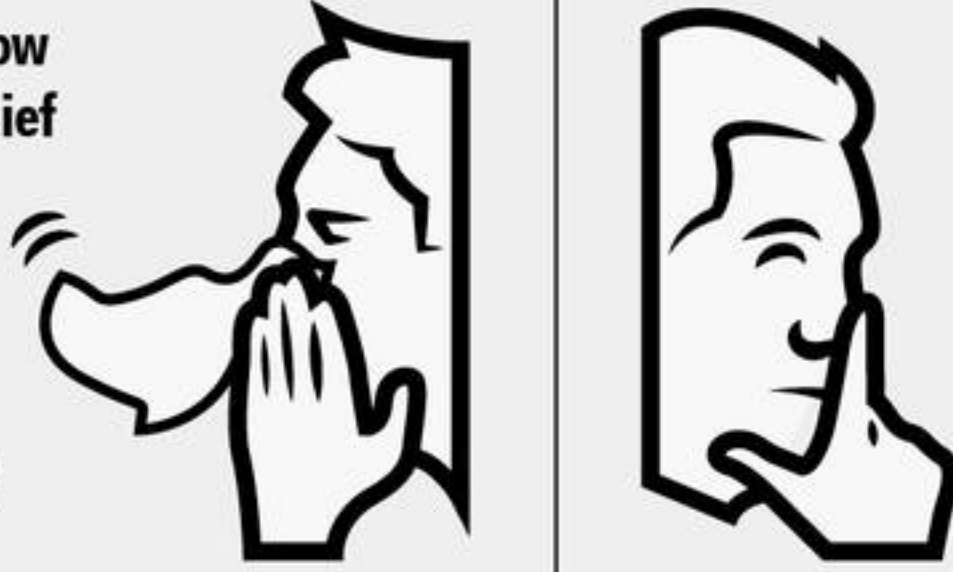
The **Portuguese** tug their earlobes to indicate tasty food, but in **Italy** this gesture has bad connotations,



...and in **Spain** it means someone is not paying for their drinks.

## NOSE

A hearty nose blow into a handkerchief is typical in the **West**, while public nose blowing is frowned upon by the **Japanese**.



Tapping your nose means "confidential" in **England**, but "watch out" in **Italy**.

## LIPS

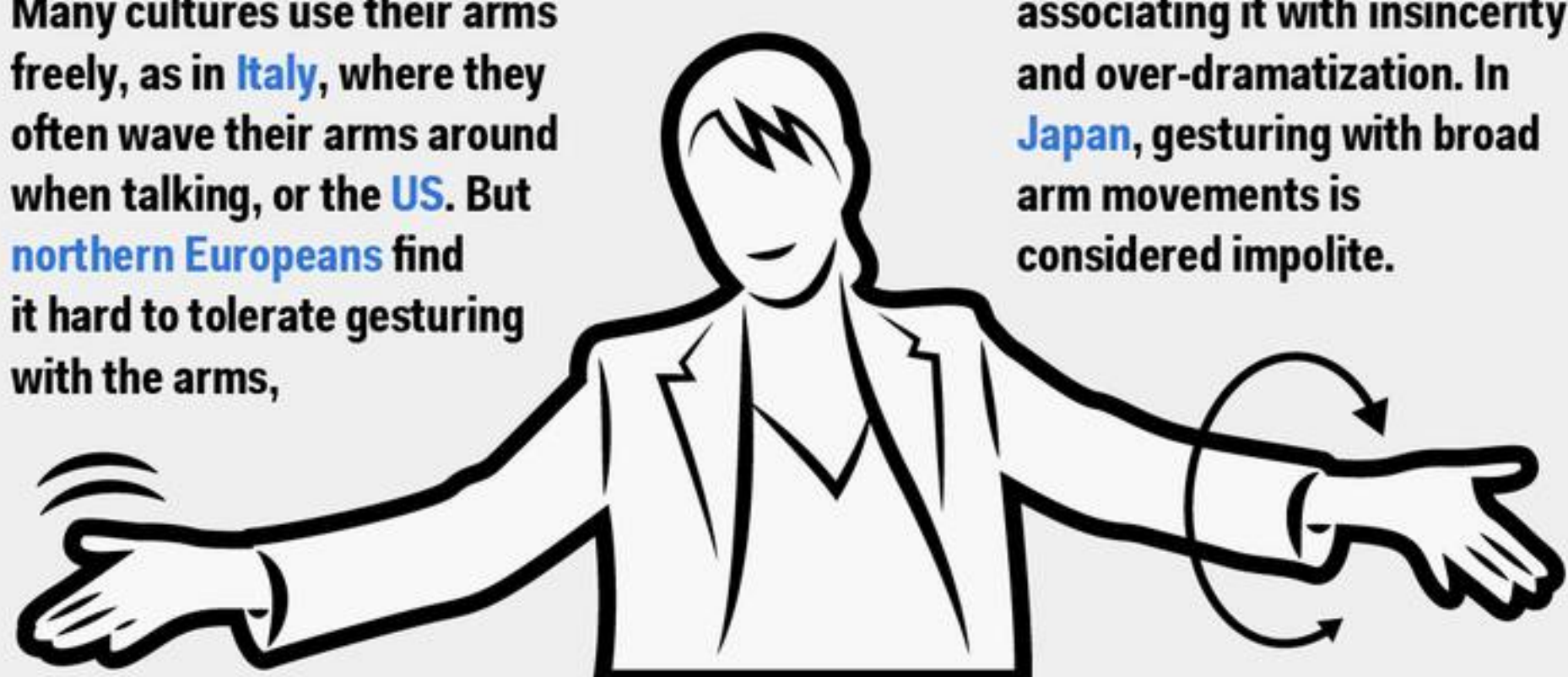


In some cultures – **Filipino**, **Native American**, **Puerto Rican**, and many **Latin American** cultures – people use their lips to point, instead of a finger. In the **West**, people often kiss when they meet or when they say goodbye; in many **Asian** countries, it is considered too intimate of an action to be displayed in public.



## ARMS

Many cultures use their arms freely, as in **Italy**, where they often wave their arms around when talking, or the **US**. But **northern Europeans** find it hard to tolerate gesturing with the arms,



associating it with insincerity and over-dramatization. In **Japan**, gesturing with broad arm movements is considered impolite.

## HANDS

The **American** "goodbye" wave can be interpreted as the signal for "no" in many parts of **Europe** and **Latin America**.



The **Italian** goodbye wave can be interpreted by **Americans** as "come here." The **American** "come here" gesture can be seen as an insult in most **Asian** countries.



In **Malaysia** it is taboo to point with your index finger, but you can point with your thumb. "Thumbs up" is used in many cultures, none more so than **Brazil** however,



...where the signal is used everywhere. However, it's a rude signal in some **Islamic** countries, **Sardinia**, and **Greece**, and can signify the number "1" in **France**.

## LEGS

Sitting crosslegged is common in **North America** and some **European** countries,



...but it's viewed as disrespectful to show the sole of your shoe to another person in **Asia** and the **Middle East**.