

Communication and Body Language

Social Space

Different cultures have different distances between people when they speak. Maybe this is different between a friend and a stranger. What distance is comfortable for you?

Touching

In some cultures it is OK to touch other people, in some cultures this may not be OK. This may be different from men to men, women to women and men to women. Holding hands with people may be OK in some countries and may be not OK in other countries. How do you feel if someone touches your arm or hand?

Speaking loudly or quietly?

In some cultures it might be a little rude to speak loudly. It may show confidence in other cultures. Some cultures think it is more polite to speak quietly. Do you like when people speak loudly? Do you like when people speak softly and quietly?

Eye Contact

In some cultures eye contact is OK and a good thing to do. It shows people that you are listening. In other cultures it may be rude or disrespectful. Do you think eye contact is OK? Do you like when people look in your eyes when you are speaking?

Speaking and Silence

In some cultures it is normal to respond quickly to people speaking to you, like having a busy conversation. If there is silence a person may think that the other person is bored. But in some cultures a little silence can be polite. It shows that you are not rushing the other person. What about your culture?

Gestures

In some cultures pointing is OK, in other cultures it is not. What about in your culture?

Smiling

In some cultures smiling shows friendliness and politeness. In some cultures smiling all the time may be overfriendly. What about in your culture?