

## Examples of gestures

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRQSRd58XM>

[Desmond Morris, A World Guide to Gestures:](#)

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/e8lxq1clxa3s7p6/Morris-Bodytalk\\_%20A%20World%20Guide%20to%20Gestures-Cape%20%281994%29.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/e8lxq1clxa3s7p6/Morris-Bodytalk_%20A%20World%20Guide%20to%20Gestures-Cape%20%281994%29.pdf?dl=0)

---

### CHEEK BRUSH (I)

**Meaning:** How boring.

**Action:** The backs of the fingers are brushed back and forth against the cheek, as if testing the growth of beard there.

**Background:** The French word for beard – ‘barbe’ – also means boring. This relates back to a time when there was a saying to the effect that ‘I could grow a beard while listening to your interminable droning.’

**Locality:** France.



---

### EAR CUP

**Meaning:** Speak up!

**Action:** The hand is cupped to the ear.

**Background:** This action, employed in a prolonged form when a listener is straining to catch someone's words, aids their hearing by artificially enlarging the 'dish' of the ear-pinna. In addition to this primary function, the action is used as a deliberate gesture to signal that someone is speaking too softly. When it is employed in this way, the hand is only held to the ear momentarily.

**Locality:** Worldwide.



[A Handful of English: An Inventory of Typical American Gestures Margaret L. Clement, School for International Training](#)

# NOSE HOLDING



#5 HOUR GLASS



#7 REPRIMANDING FOREFINGER



#13 HITCHHIKING



#16 PATRIOTISM



#25 CRAZY



#31 FINGER CROSSING



#32 KNOCK ON WOOD



#35 SUSPENDER THUMB-HOOK



#36 BITING FINGERNAILS



#37 TWIDDLING THE THUMBS



#40 GOOD



#45 CRAFTY SNIDELY WHIPLASH



#48 THROAT SLIT

