

# THE POWER OF GESTURES

**DIRECTIONS:** Using information from the reading, answer the following questions.

1. Describe and give an example of each of the three types of gestures mentioned in the reading. Include some additional examples from your own culture.

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2. How may gestures of one culture be misinterpreted by members of another culture? Give specific examples from the reading.

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3. The passage presents numerical data derived from research on gestures and expressions. Describe the findings of each of the following experts mentioned in the article:

- a. Edward T. Hall
- b. Mario Pei
- c. M. H. Krout
- d. G. W. Hewes

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4. Explain the meaning of the terms *proxemics* and *kinesics*. How may these terms be applied to the study of gestures?

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**USE YOUR SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION:** Describe the “rules” of elevator behavior discussed in the passage. Can you think of other situations that are governed by unwritten laws of behavior?

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**TOPIC FOR RESEARCH:** Research the history and background of hand signing, the form of communication used by the deaf. If possible, interview a person who understands hand signing. Is this form of communication difficult to learn or use?

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**Student  
Worksheet**

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