

Body language, and especially hand gestures and facial expressions, are a very important part of communicating in Italian. Hand gestures and facial expressions are an informal way of giving emphasis to spoken words. Sometimes, words aren't needed at all! But be warned: some gestures should only be used between friends and in informal situations.

Find out about common Italian physical gestures, and create an oral presentation to your class about them.



Use these websites as a starting point:

<http://italian.about.com/library/handgestures/blgesturesindex.htm>

http://www.ccsf.edu/Departments/Language_Lab/gesti/00Gesti.htm

► Instructions

Select a typical Italian gesture.

Demonstrate it to your classmates.

Explain the meaning behind the gesture and the words, if any, which might accompany it.

Describe a situation in which this gesture might be used.

In your own culture, is a gesture used to convey this meaning?

