IS RUDE?

It's usually rude to point at a person. But pointing at an object, usually done with the index finger, directs attention to it. Be respectful in the Middle East however, where any use of the index finger to point is deemed offensive.

This sign is an iconic image of either victory or peace. But in the UK and Ireland be sure your palm is pointing outwards - otherwise it's very rude!

In most cultures, the sign for "peace" is a V shape, with your fingers outstretched. But in the UK and Ireland, it means "loser!"

When gesturing to take a photo, we used to pull an imaginary camera to our faces and press a pretend button to mock capturing an image. Some people now do this by holding out an arm as if using a device to take the picture with, which do you do?

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THE "LOSER"

An inquiry in Italy, this hand gesture means "I want a cracker!". Yet in many it can mean "give me a rubber". In Turkey it affirms something is beautiful or good!

The clenched fist, held aloft, can be a sign of solidarity. But be careful how you point your fist and who you point it at - it can also be a threat of violence in some countries.

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WHICH DO YOU DO?

A 'HANDY' GUIDE TO GESTURING

Visual media has taken the "thumbs-up" gesture and turned it into a way to 'like' something online. Although don't forget that in Turkey this signifies the number one when you are ordering something.

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