

Body language and gestures for presentations

What could the possible gestures be to show these things?

- “Come here” (e.g. when showing people where to sit)
- “Hi” (e.g. greeting people as they come in or acknowledging someone who arrives late)
- “You” (used by the presenter to indicate whose question they will hear next)
- Emphasizing something strongly
- Saying something is wrong or isn’t allowed
- Getting people’s attention (e.g. when you want to start the presentation)
- “That’s a difficult question”
- “I doubt whether that will work/ whether that is true”
- “I”/ “Me”
- “Okay”
- “Great”
- “Two”
- “I hope so”
- “So so”
- “It’s a secret/ Mind your own business”
- “Remember!”
- “Think about it!”
- “Slow down/ Calm down”
- “I’m trying to see...”/ “I can’t see... very well”
- “Oh my goodness (not again!)” (e.g. when the equipment goes wrong)
- “Silly me” (e.g. when the presenter makes a mistake)
- “Time out” (used by someone hosting the presentation to the presenter to show that they should take a break)
- Stop speaking/ Time’s up (used by someone hosting the presentation to show the presenter they should wrap the presentation up)
- Continue (used by someone at the back of the room to show the presenter that they should continue speaking, perhaps to fill time until the next person arrives)

Can you think of any other gestures you could use in presentations?

Of the possible gestures you’ve thought of, which are best? Are there any which are better avoided, e.g. in one country?