



## Suggested answers

1. You are pointing at yourself – In most countries, pointing with the first finger or thumb at your chest. In Japan, pointing at your nose.
2. You are asking for two of something – Hold up two fingers. The first two fingers in a V shape is rude in the UK if your palm is facing towards yourself.
3. You are asking for six of something – Hold up five fingers of one hand and one finger of the other. In Japan, the one finger goes in front of the other palm. In China, it is just your little finger.
4. You are promising – Crossing your heart or holding your hand against your heart. In Japan, linking little fingers with someone.
5. You are telling the other person to stop talking – Putting one vertical finger in front of your lips, or making a zipping gesture across your lips. In Saudi Arabia, blowing on your finger tips.
6. You are telling someone that they are crazy – Making a circular motion with your first finger by the side of your head, or tapping the side of your head.
7. You are counting from one to ten – Bringing one finger up at a time, starting on your first finger or thumb. In some countries, folding the fingers down instead.
8. You are hoping for good luck – Crossing your fingers, making a cross in front of you or touching wood (UK) or metal (Spain).
9. You are asking for the bill in a restaurant – Putting up one hand and making a signing gesture. In Japan, crossing your first fingers.
10. You are showing that you don't like something – Sticking out your tongue.
11. You are showing that you don't know – Palms up and/ or shoulders raised.
12. You are telling someone not to be nosy/ to mind their own business/ not to ask personal questions – Tapping the side of your nose.
13. You are complaining about someone being late – Tapping your watch or the place where a watch would be.
14. You are saying hello – Raising one palm, raising your eyebrows, bowing or bowing with your palms together (Thailand).
15. You are congratulating someone – Patting them on the shoulder, raising up their arms, shaking their hand or clapping them.
16. You are showing that you think a child is cute – Playing with the child's hair (taboo in some places like Thailand) or pinching his or her cheeks.
17. You are trying to stop someone – Holding out one palm (taboo in Greece).
18. You are hitchhiking – Holding up one thumb (taboo in some parts of Middle East and Latin America) or moving one hand up and down with an open palm facing down.
19. You are trying to get past/ get between 2 people – Turning your body towards or away from the person and making a chopping motion with an open palm (Japanese men)
20. You are complimenting something – Thumbs up, kissing your finger tips (for food), or pressing your fingertips and thumb of one hand together and moving them up and down (Turkey)
21. You are showing that something is not allowed – Clicking your tongue and/ or shaking your head, or holding up crossed arms, hands or index fingers.

22. You are saying “No” – Shaking your head or tipping your head back, raising your eye-brows and/ or clicking your tongue (some Balkan countries)
23. You are saying “Yes” – Nodding your head (once or several times) or wobbling your head from side to side (India)