Nonverbal Language: Body Language

B4L10 New Far East English Reader

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Content



- What and why body language
- Proximity and a variety of body language
  - ☑ Interpersonal space
  - ☑ Cross-cultural interpretation
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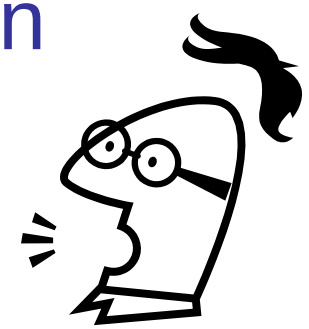
What Body Language

- A form of non-verbal communication (60-70%)
- One thing that we cannot help doing (sub-consciousness)
- Categories: gestures, facial expressions, eye movements, etc.



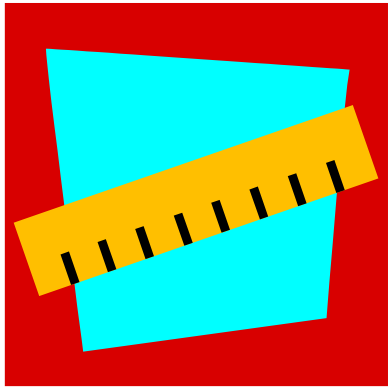
Why Body Language

- To convey certain messages
- To show one's attitude
- To avoid miscommunication
- To survive culture shock



Proximity and Variety

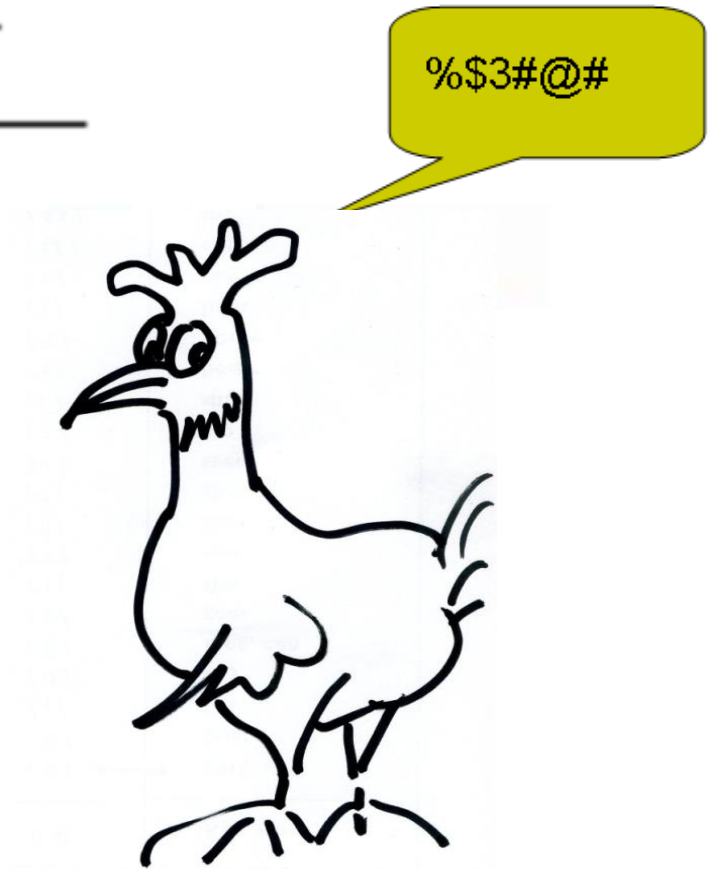
Interpersonal space



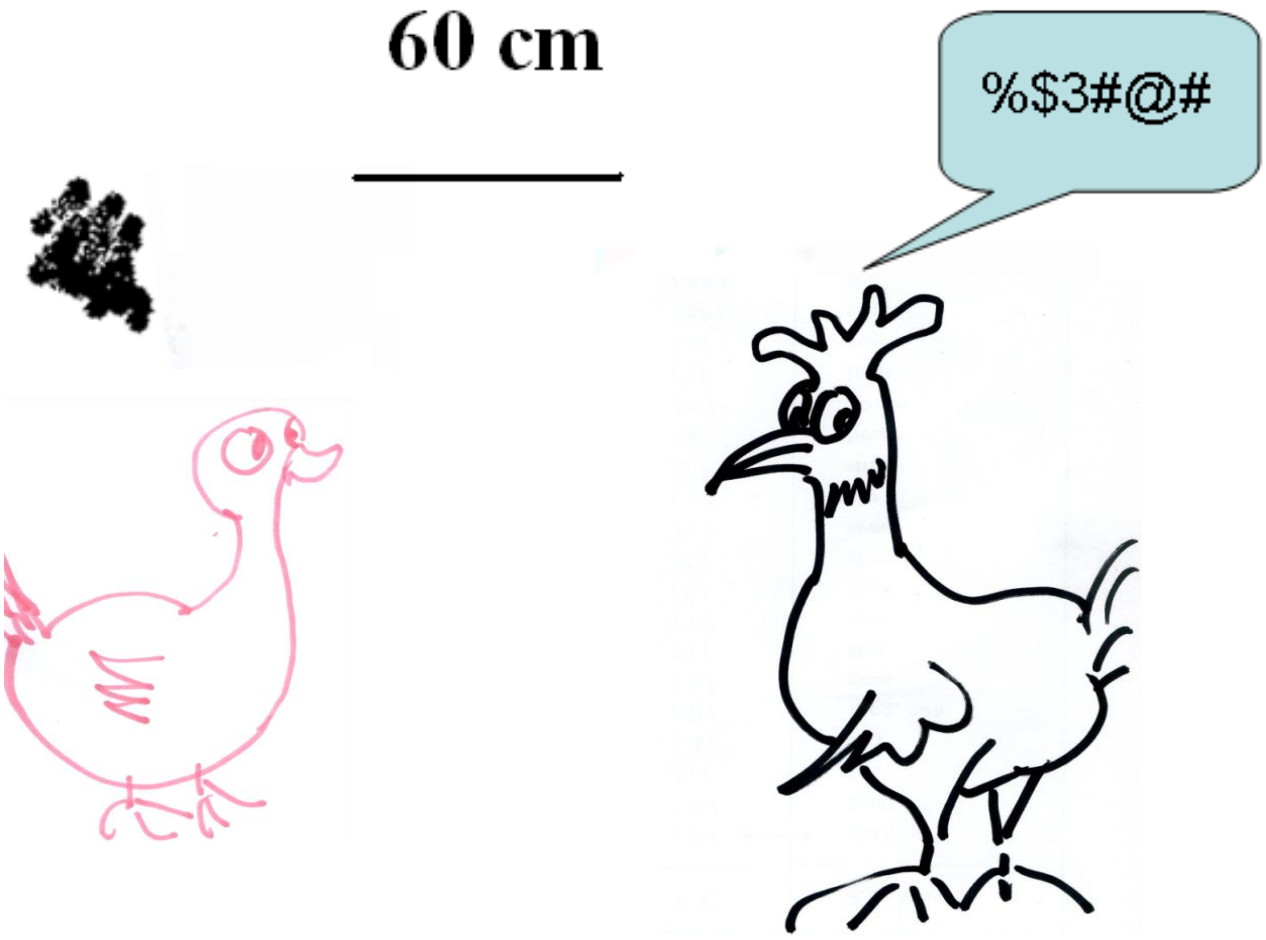
Japan

90 cm

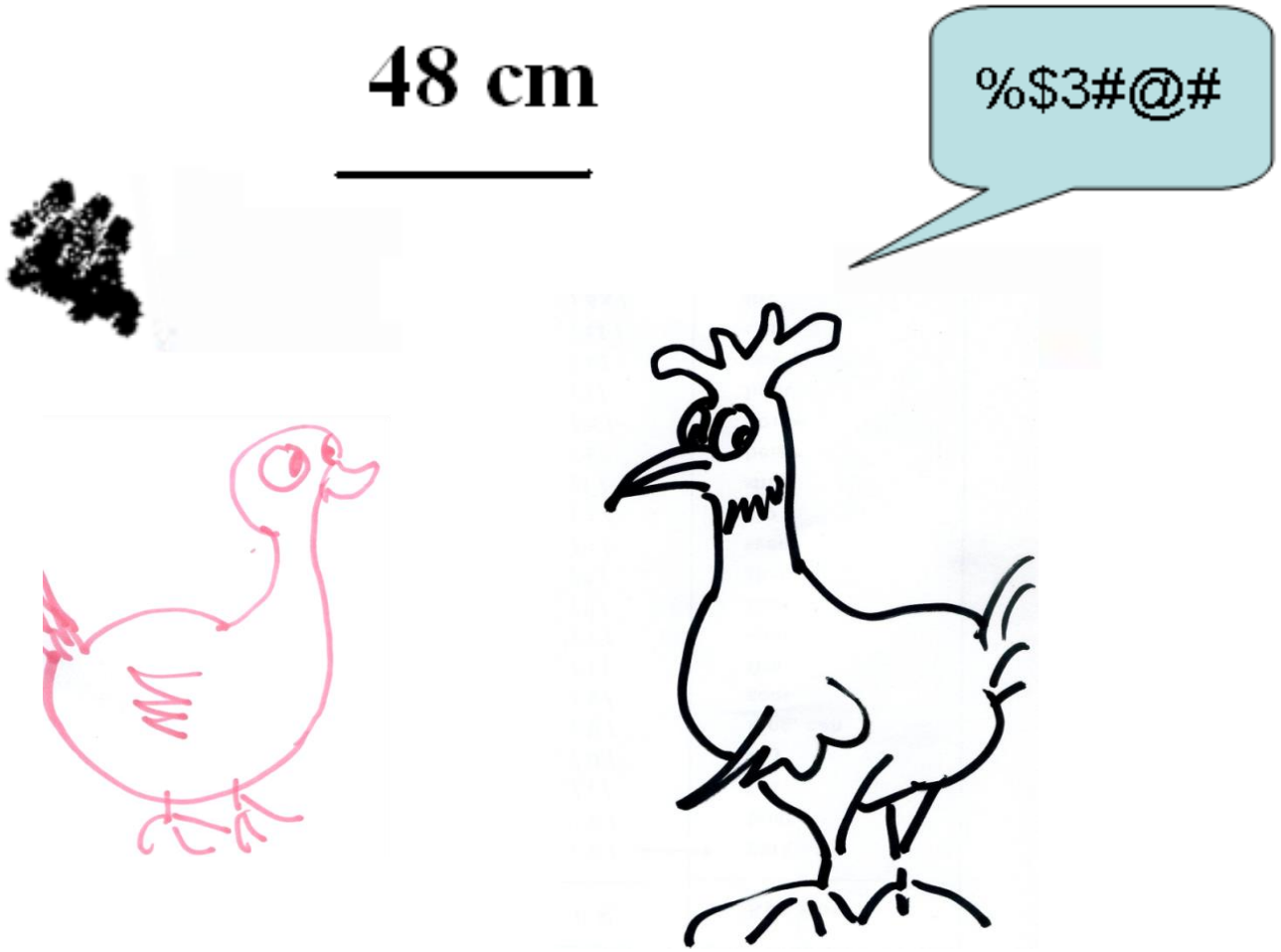




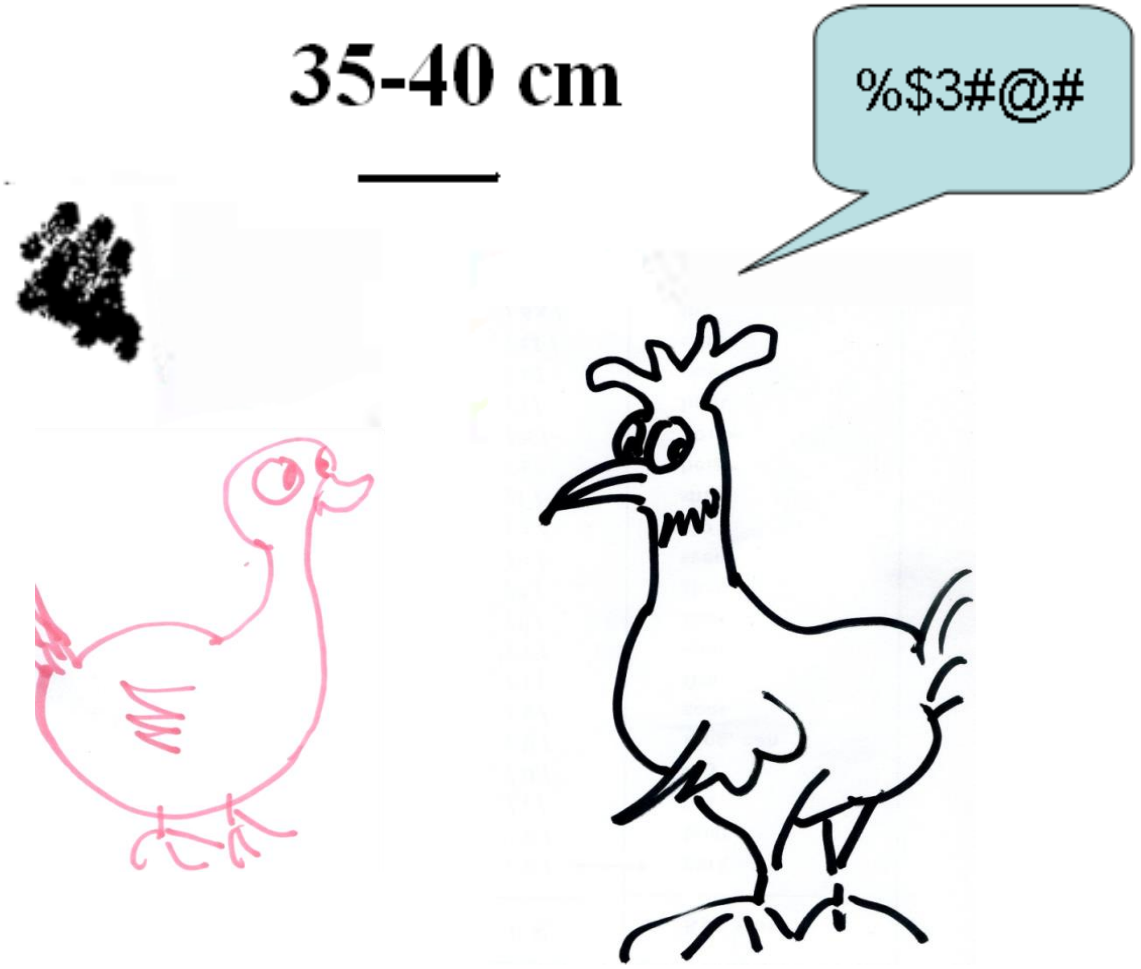
United Kingdom



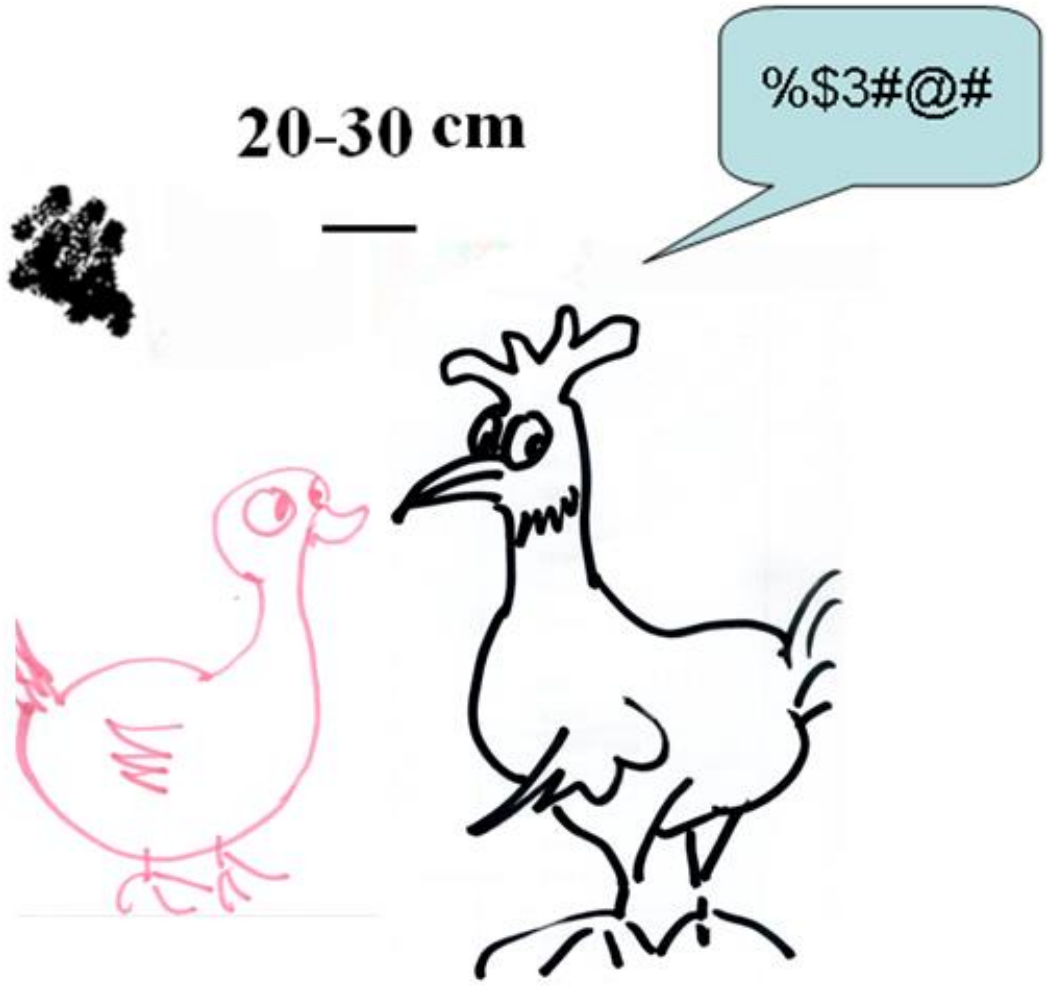
North America



Europe

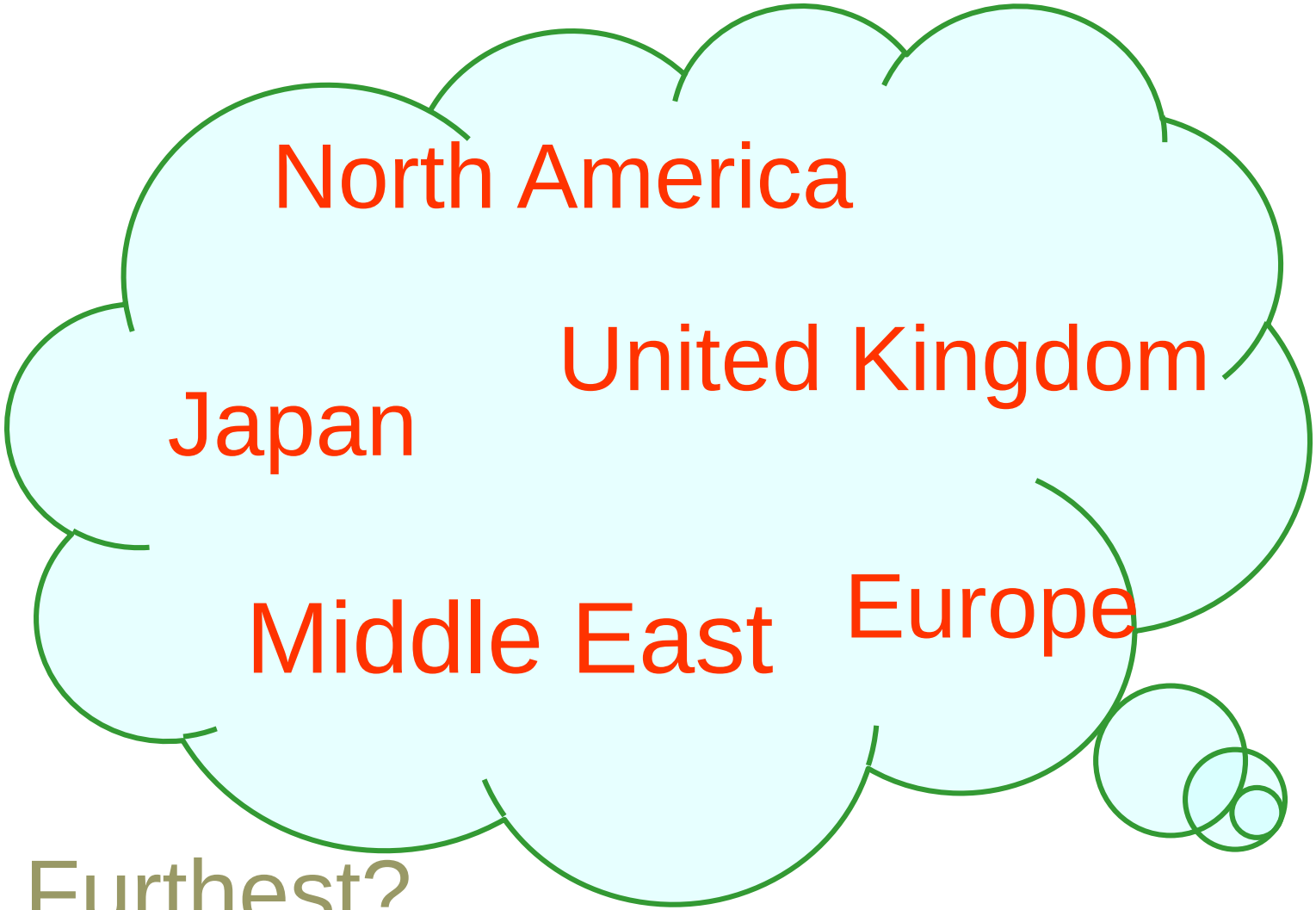


Middle East



Test Yourself

Nearest?



Furthest?

Answer: Furthest→ nearest

Japan

United Kingdom

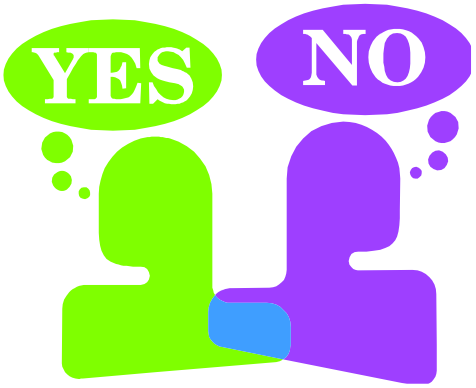
North America

Europe

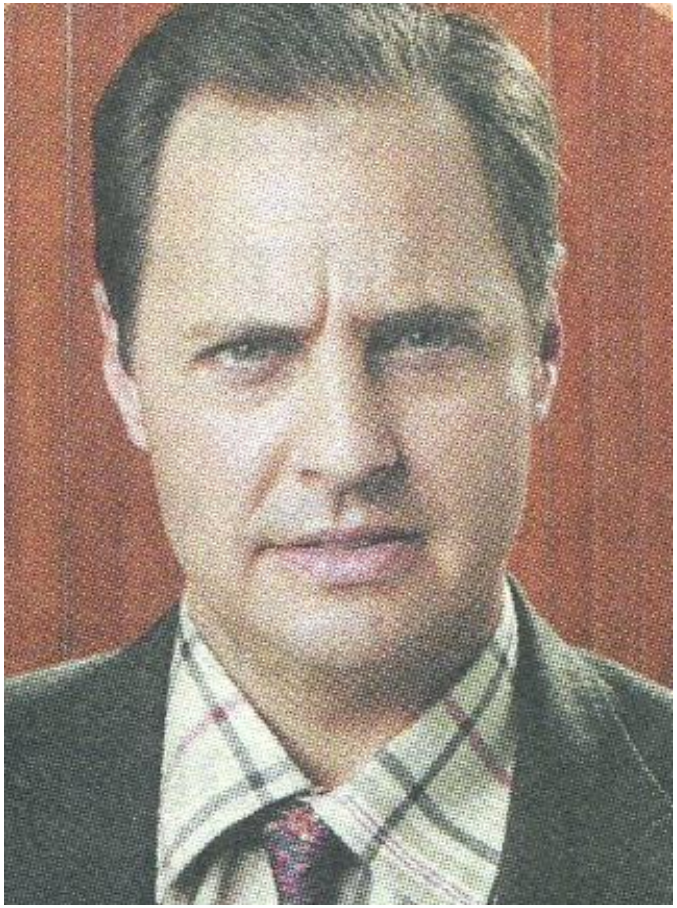
Middle East

Proximity and Variety

Cross-cultural Interpretation



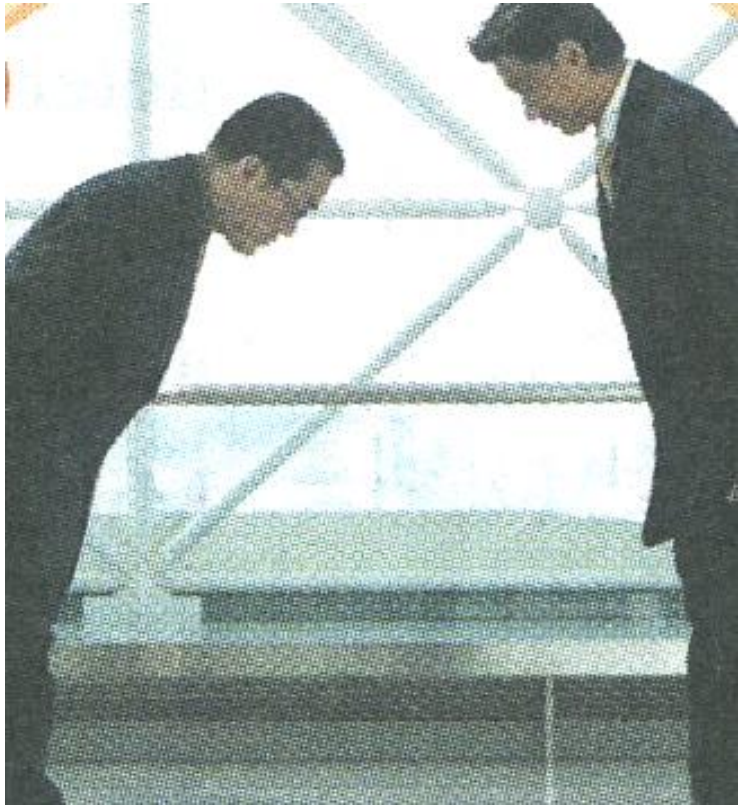
Q1: Frowning



angry

worried

Q2: Bowing



showing respect

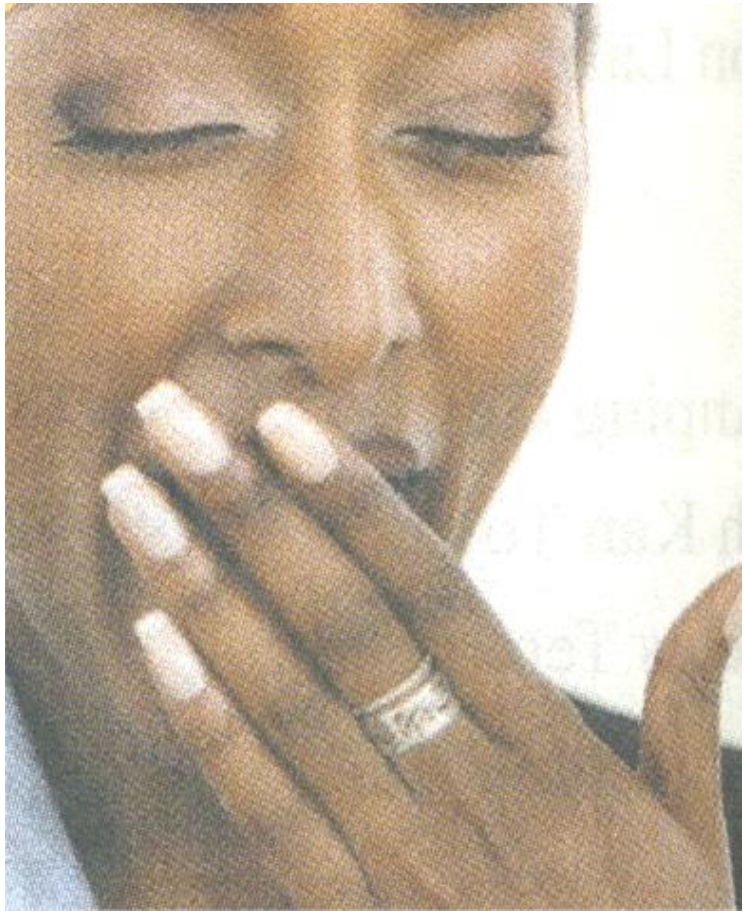
Q3: Biting Nails



nervous

anxious

Q4: Yawning



tired

exhausted

Q5: Shrugging (his shoulders)



Know nothing

Q6: Waving One's Hand

Saying goodbye



Test Yourself!





Proximity and Variety



Q1: In Brazil, pulling down the lower lid of the right eye means _____.



A. You have something in your eye.

B. You have something secret in mind.

C. You can understand completely.

D. Listeners doubt what you are saying.

Q2: In India, grasping your ear means ___.



A. Your friends looks like an elephant.

B. You are itchy in year ear.

C. Either “Honestly” or “I am sorry.”

D. You can’t hear.

Q3: In Indonesia, placing your hands on your hips while talking means _____.



A. your hips are itchy.

B. you are angry.

C. you would like to dance.

D. the listener is putting on weight

Q4: In Spain, snapping the thumb and first finger together a few times means ___ .

In India



A. you are calling a waiter or waitress.

B. you want faster restaurant service.

C. you want some money.

D. you like what you hear or see.

Q5: In France, the North American okay hand gesture means ____.

In Brazil

A. something very rude

B. good luck.

C. zero

D. you know a good place to eat cheese.



Q6: In Sri Lanka, moving your head from side to side means ____.

For Westerners

A. No.

In India

B. Yes.

C. you have a headache.

D. a warning to look everywher



Gesture commonly by Americans



Gesture commonly by Americans



A. I swear.

B. I am good.

C. I am innocent.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. I need a ride.

B. You are good.

C. Call me.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. Shame on you.

B. No-no.

C. Keep a secret.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. Shame on you.

B. No good.

C. Keep a secret.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. Wish me luck.

B. No-no.

C. I'm too excited.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. Be quiet.

B. No-no.

C. Good taste.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. Being crazy.

B. I am listening.

C. Shut up.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. Fat.

B. No-no.

C. Who knows?

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



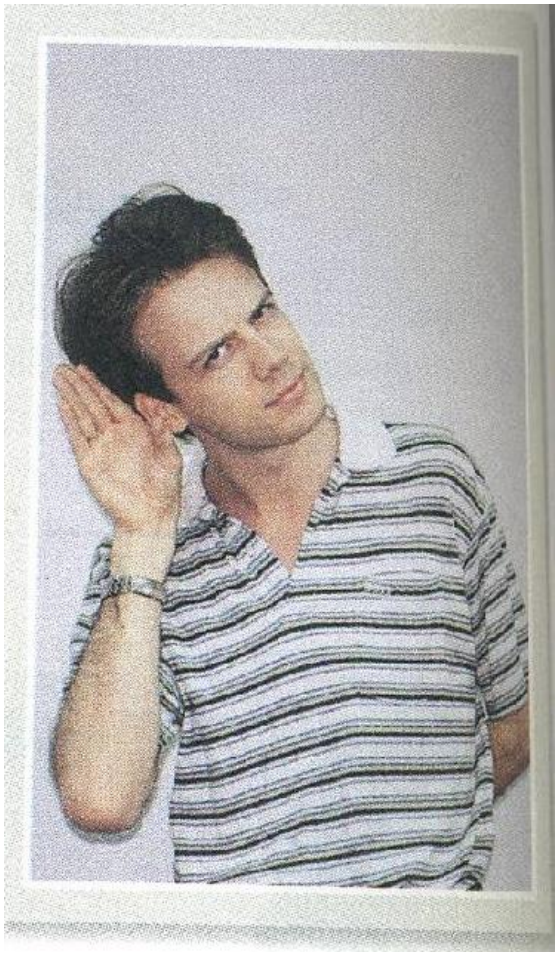
A. Getting impatient.

B. No-no.

C. Keep a secret.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. I cannot hear you.

B. No-no.

C. Keep a secret.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. Very good.

B. Let's go.

C. Keep a secret.

D. Go away.

Gesture commonly by Americans



A. I'm hungry.

B. I'm full.

C. I'm in pain.

D. Go away.

How about Taiwan?

Group work:

Choose one of the typical Taiwanese gestures, draw it on the paper, and report (guess)

References

- Photos from Fareast English Reader, B4L10 & Microsoft image bank
- More information: http://www.unsolvedmysteries.com/usm364930.html?t=Interesting
- More information: http://www.culture-4-travel.com/india-customs.html
- More information: *Gestures, The Do's and Taboos of Body Language Around the World* by Roger E. Axtell