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**Non-Verbal Communication: U.S. vs. Japan**

Hand gestures vary throughout nations. Since each country has a unique culture and history, not every gesture has the same meaning. I believe that the first gesture they discuss, in which a thumb indicates a male and a pinky indicates a girl, is exclusive to or more common in Japan. This is typically said, according to Ryo, when someone is on the phone and someone asks, "Is that your girlfriend on the phone?" This is something that I have personally never heard of or seen in America. Since I'm not from Japan, I have no idea what other motions are "uniquely American," and the only thing I've seen on the subject is this video. In the video, there were a lot of similar movements. But I discovered that compared to American gestures, Japanese motions are a little more precise. Ryo uses the example of pointing to your nose when asking, "Are you talking to/about me?" as an illustration of this. People in America also gesture or point at themselves, but they can do it with any part of their body—the chest is most frequently used instead of the nose, for example. One thing about Japanese gestures that astonished me is that when they are expressing something that is hidden or inappropriate to question, they usually cup their palm over the other hand. Although I have observed this in America, it is not as frequent as it is in Japan. Gaining an understanding of Japanese gestures can improve your communication skills in Japan. It is crucial for a variety of reasons, including the fact that it will facilitate your travels, prevent unintentional offense, and demonstrate respect. It's important to comprehend the languages and customs of the nation you are going to.