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Technical English Communication

Non-Verbal Communication

As a species that heavily relies on communication, our starts were very simple. Before there were languages, hand signs were probably used extensively to survive. Multiple of these hand signs are in use today, meaning different things in different cultural groups and communities. The five common and popular hand signs these days are the sign of the horns, victory sign, loser sign, raised fist, and the okay sign.

The sign of the horns hand sign has a few meanings across the globe. In India, it serves as the symbol for a gesture part of Hatha Yoga, while serving as the symbol for lion in classical dance forms. In Buddhism it is a gesture to ward off the devil. In the southern European areas, it is considered to rid bad luck, where the sign’s name originates from. In the Latin America countries, it is an offensive hand sign if pointed at someone. In the current times, it has come to be used by heavy metal bands.

The victory sign means victory, peace, the number ‘2’, and sometimes, an insult. Originally it started off as a symbol for victory, but with the rise in hippies in America, this became a symbol for peace too. This symbol means an insult in the English dominions.

The loser means exactly what its name says. Putting this sign on one’s forehead is usually the way people display this gesture, calling the person facing them a loser. This is also used for fun and to taunt others. The raised first sign mostly finds itself being used in places of politics. This is used as a salute in almost every culture and nation. This symbol also doubles as an insult in Northern Europe. The okay sign means okay in many places. This symbol is also used for money, political affiliations and means an insult in Brazil.