

Body and mind

9.1 The rise and fall of the handshake

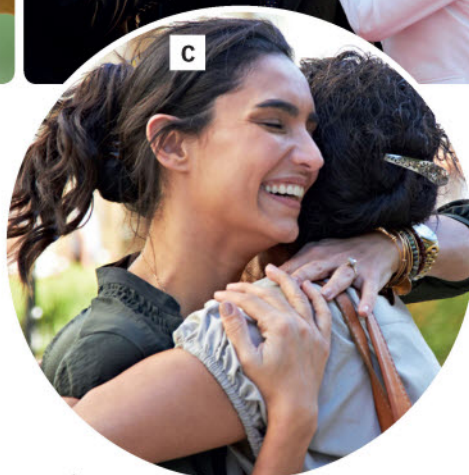
GOALS ■ Talk about greetings ■ Talk about possible situations and the results

Vocabulary & Speaking body and actions

- 1 Work with a partner. How much do you know about international greetings? Match the countries to the greetings 1–9. Which greetings can you see in photos a–c?

Greetings around the world

1 They hug each other when they greet good friends, both male and female.	Mozambique
2 They nod their heads and smile .	the UAE
3 They shake hands for a very long time.	Maoris (in New Zealand)
4 They sometimes bump fists in informal situations.	China
5 They put both hands together at chest level, without touching the body.	Germany
6 They stick their tongues out at each other.	Tibet
7 They clap their hands three times before saying hello.	Cambodia
8 They kiss three times, starting with the right cheek.	Argentina
9 They press their noses and foreheads together while closing their eyes.	the USA



- 2 Work with a partner. Test each other on the words in **bold** in exercise 1.
- A *You do this with your hands at the end of a concert or play.*
B *Clap.*
- 3 Work in a group and discuss the questions.
- In your country, how do people greet their friends, parents, grandparents, work colleagues?
 - Are the rules different between men and women?

Grammar & Reading *if* + present simple + *will/won't/might*

- 4 Read this article about the handshake and match the headings to the paragraphs. There is one heading you don't need.
- A health risk?
 - Men and women
 - 'I come in peace'
 - Not all handshakes are the same
 - Reasons for shaking hands

The handshake

1

The handshake goes right back to the 5th century BC. A common theory is that it started as a sign of peace. Men put their right hand forward towards another man and opened it to show they were not holding a knife or other weapon. The men then joined hands and shook them up and down to prove that there were no weapons hiding in their sleeves.

2

This action, which began as a simple message of peace, is now used in many situations: we do it when we meet new people and, when we greet friends and colleagues. We do it when we congratulate people – at a graduation ceremony, for example – or when we make friends again after an argument. We do it when we make a business deal. Sports people do it before and after matches. But the message of a handshake is always the same: 'I trust and respect you and we are equal.'

- 5 Read the article again and answer the questions.
- 1 In ancient times, what was the purpose of a handshake?
 - 2 What is the basic meaning of a handshake now?
 - 3 How is a handshake in China different from in the US?
 - 4 Why do some people prefer to bump fists rather than shake hands?
- 6 Look at the sentence below from the article and answer the questions.

if clause

main clause

If you plan to do business abroad, you will need to learn the right way to shake hands.

- 1 What tense is the verb after *if*? What tense is the verb in the main clause?
- 2 Which part of the sentence is about a possible action? Which part describes the result of the action?

d

3

Handshakes are different around the world. If you plan to do business abroad, you will need to learn the right way to shake hands. If you get it wrong, you might give a bad impression. In most western cultures, a strong handshake shows you are confident. If you shake another person's hand lightly and loosely, they will think you are weak, shy or just not interested. Other cultures, however, prefer a gentle handshake. In China or Turkey, for example, if your handshake is too tight and strong, you will seem rude.

4

In recent years, the handshake has become less popular in some countries because people worry they might catch germs if they shake somebody's hand. A recent study in the USA showed that 40% of the population preferred not to shake hands. Many are choosing a 'safe shake' like touching elbows or bumping fists.

e

- **impression** feelings or thoughts you have about somebody or something
- **germ** a very small living thing that can make you ill

- 7 Read the Grammar focus box and complete the rules with the words *might*, *present simple*, *first* and *result*.

GRAMMAR FOCUS *if* + present simple + *will/won't/might*

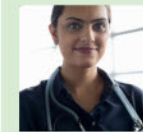
- We use *if* + ¹ _____ tense to talk about a possible action or situation and we use *will*, *won't* or *might* to talk about the ² _____ of the action or situation.
If your handshake is too strong, you will seem rude.
... they might catch an illness if they shake someone's hand.
- The *if* clause can come first or second. If it comes ³ _____, we put a comma after it.
- If we are not certain about the result, we can use ⁴ _____ instead of *will/won't*.

→ Grammar Reference page 150

- 8 Complete listeners' tweet responses to a radio programme with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use contractions (*'ll*, *won't*) where possible.

Thursday 28th November

To shake or not to shake ...?



On today's programme, health expert Dr Klaus talks about the health risks of shaking hands and recommends that we greet each other with a fist bump instead.

Tweets All / No replies

I've got a better solution. Wash your hands! If you

¹ _____ (keep) your hands clean, you ² _____ (not pass) on germs. Reply Retweet Favourite

How ridiculous! People ³ _____ (think) you are unfriendly if you ⁴ _____ (refuse) a handshake. Anyway, what's so terrible about getting a cold? If you ⁵ _____ (get) a cold, it ⁶ _____ (not be) the end of the world. Reply Retweet Favourite

Handshaking is fine. (Trust me, I'm a doctor ...) If you ⁷ _____ (not touch) your eyes and nose after a handshake, you very probably ⁸ _____ (not get) ill. Reply Retweet Favourite

Bumping fists! Seriously? In my country, you ⁹ _____ (look) very silly if you ¹⁰ _____ (do) this. Reply Retweet Favourite

Show more

- 9 Which of the tweets do you agree with? Why?
- 10 **TASK** Work with a partner. You are going to practise giving advice. Turn to page 129.

▶ VOX POPS VIDEO 9