

2024

NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL[®]
TEAM STUDY GUIDE SUPPLEMENT

GESTURES GUIDE



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC

REMEMBER THIS PART OF THE STUDY GUIDE?

The Japan Bowl's Japanese language categories include those covered every year and those covered on a three-year cycle. In this section you will find the following lists to study:

Material covered every year

- Kanji (basic, practical, family names, place names)
- Measurement Terms
- Aisatsu and Body Language (greetings, useful phrases for social interaction, Gestures)



While most languages include the spoken word, communication is nothing without body language. This guide contains a few gestures we would like you to know that may appear during the competition.

こっちこっち **Wave**

Get over here!



If someone wants to **beckon you closer** in Japan , they will always make this way with their palm facing **down**. This gesture kind of looks like the American "Shoo!" wave, but it's a bit different.

To try this one out, take your hand and put your palm towards the floor. Bend at the wrist while keeping your fingers straight. You can light your arm up like Kanji-kun is doing, or you can stick it straight out or even pull it in close.

ちがう、ちがう **Wave**

いえ、いえ



Perhaps when watching anime or dramas, you have heard this word ちがう. It means "to be wrong or different" and is usually used to say "No, that's not the case." Your friend accuses you of having a crush: ちがう! Your mom tells your uncle your favorite color is red when it's actually blue: ちがう!

In conversation you can even use this while saying いえ (or its contracted form いえ) or ちがう. Take your hand, palm facing out and put it right in front of your nose. Wave your arm back and forth kind of like you smell something funky, but don't let your wrist flail around. Keep it nice and straight.

Note:

This gesture can also be used when saying いえいえいえ in response to thank you. It's just like saying "Oh no problem" in English but it's very formal. The next time your friend says ありがとう to you, try waving your hand as you say "いえいえ" to mean "No problem."

Glasses Wiggle

Wiggle Jiggle



This means probably exactly what you think it means. It's a way to indicate that someone is smart, bookish, maybe even kind of a nerd. If you don't wear glasses get some! Just kidding. You can simply use two fingers on the side of your head and wiggle them as if you actually have glasses

Note: This is *not* to be mistaken for the anime glasses push we all know and love. That is generally meant to signify a character who is smart thinking about something or getting ready to absolutely own another character. If you don't know what I'm talking about, please take this as your sign to get into Ouran High School Host Club.

Crowd Hand Chop

Making my way downtown, walking fast, faces pass-



Now that the pandemic is over, we are finally back out in crowded spaces so we felt it necessary to prepare you. Use this gesture when fighting your way through the hordes of tourists at Shibuya Station in Tokyo or just when you're looking for the Takoyaki guy at the Sakura Matsuri.

Keep your arm close to your body and face your palm out (just like in the *ちがう* wave). Instead of swinging side to side you're just going to chop down like you are trying to cut something in half. This is a gesture so it's like of more a signal to people around you that you are trying to move through the crowd than it is an effective weapon to dissolve the crowd.

Challenge Accepted

Nobody puts Kanji-kun in a corner.



Facing a difficult AP Chem test? Getting ready to face off against your soccer rivals? Dared by a friend to lick the flag pole when it is only 25 degrees outside?

Challenge Accepted. Use this gesture to tell them.

Take your left arm and bring it up into a fist with your elbow bent. Place your opposite hand on your bicep and flex to show your strength.

PS: Please please please DO NOT lick a metal flag pole when it is cold outside! You can actually lose your tongue this way. That was purely intended as a mnemonic to help you remember this gesture!

Devil Horns

A Japan Bowl Classic



In America, this gesture is used to signify that someone is a dubious little creature getting up to mischief. But in Japan this gesture is used to refer to someone who is angry. You can use it to also show that you are angry but in more of a playful way.

To make this gesture, take your hands and put them on top of your head. Ball your hands into fists but leave your pointer fingers up. To really hit this one home, don't forget to make a scary *oni* face to frighten and confuse your friends. It's the key to getting across that anger.

How to Bow

In case you forgot



This will always be important so pay attention!

Keep both hands below the waist and the lower body still, and bow the entire upper body from the waist forward. Keep your back straight as you bow. When you bow, your upper body should be at either 15°, 30°, or 45°; the deeper the bow, the more respect you're showing. The shallower bow shown here is for casual interactions.

Hand positioning is different for men and women when bowing. Men leave their hands at their sides as they bow. Women's hands slide across the top of their thighs as they bow, either with the hands side by side, or with the left hand crossed on top of the right hand.

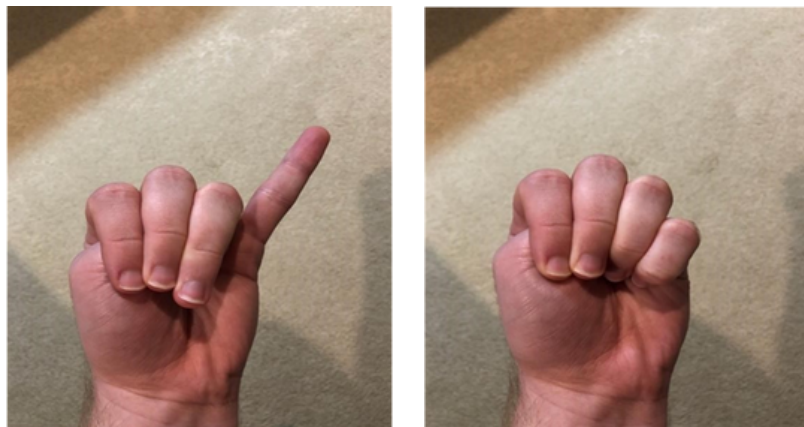
Counting with your Fingers

This one may shock you!



In Japan and throughout most of Asia, people use their hands to count differently than what you might be used to. Use your hand to count to five right now. You start with a closed fist and count up, right?

In Japan they do the opposite, counting the fingers as they put them down. Open your hand and put down your thumb. That's one. Put down your pointer finger. That's two. Middle. That's three. Keep going. When your fist is closed, you've counted all the way to five.



Raising one's hand at a crosswalk

Safety First!



Children in Japan are taught to raise their hand when they walk on the crosswalk. It's a sign which means "Please stop." In Japan, pedestrians always have the right of way on pedestrian crossings. Car drivers have to stop their car when they see a pedestrian at a crossing.

ガッツポーズ **Fist Pump**

がんばって!



This gesture is performed by raising one or two clenched fists up in the air. It is a confident gesture done when celebrating an accomplishment.

ゆびきりげんまん **Pinky Promise/Pinky Swear**

You may already use this gesture?



This gesture is performed by linking one's pinky finger/little finger with another person's. It represents making a mutual promise/promising each other (something).

ピース **Peace Sign**

Say cheese!



This gesture is performed by holding up the pointer/index finger and middle finger in a “V” shape with the other fingers curved down against the palm. Japanese people often do this pose when taking a photo to look cute or to make their face look smaller.