

**Introduction:**

For this activity, participants will learn how to build rapport, make introductions, create connections, review names, and become more comfortable with each other.

**Objectives:**

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Use reflective or get-to-know-you questions.
2. Build rapport by using familiar non-touch greeting gestures.
3. Make introductions by using alternative handshake gestures from around the world.
4. Increase verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

**Time:**

30 minutes.

**Group Size:**

Small group.

**Materials:**

See Participant Instructions (in [Downloads](#)).

**Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:**

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

**AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:**

Verbal and non-verbal communication skills

**Other Skills:**

Friendship

**Activity Instructions:**

1. Practice different non-touch greetings with your partner. Use verbal greetings with the non-touch greetings, e.g., "Hello," "Nice to meet you," "How are you?" etc. (5 minutes).
  - Greet your partner with a wave.
  - Give a nod.
  - Make a peace sign.
  - Do an air high five.

- Mime a fist bump.
  - Do a salute.
2. Now practice alternative handshake gestures from around the world with a different partner. Use verbal greetings with the non-touch greetings, e.g., "Hello," "Nice to meet you," "How are you?" etc. (5 minutes).
- Do a Namaste greeting by bowing slightly, pressing your palms together toward your chest, with your fingertips pointing up.
  - Do a Wai bow by pressing in your palms together near your chest, lowering your head and raising your hands until your thumb touches your nose, and your index finger touches your head between your eyebrows. Bring your hands to your head while you bow.
  - Do a Two Claps greeting: When two people meet, the first person asks, "Mhoroi Makadini?" (This means "Greetings, how are you?" in Shona, the dominant language in Zimbabwe). Then, this person claps. The other person responds (usually with "Ndinofara," which means "I am fine" in Shona) and claps in return.
  - Do a Hand-over-Heart greeting.
  - Do an American Sign Language (ASL) wave by bringing one hand to the top of your forehead as though you're about to salute, then flick your wrist away from your head like a small wave.
  - Do a Shaka sign by curling your three middle fingers and extending your thumb and pinky finger. You can shake your hand back and forth, knuckles facing out, for emphasis.
3. Small group discussion (10 minutes). Divide the participants into groups of 2-4 and ask them to discuss the following points:
- What non-touch greetings do you regularly use, and which ones were new for you?
  - What did it feel like to do the alternative handshake gestures from around the world? Did some feel more familiar to you than others. Why?
  - Can you see yourself adapting any of these non-touch gestures in your daily life? Which ones? Why?
4. Whole group debrief (10 minutes).
- Ask:
- What are your favorite non-touch greeting gestures? In what contexts would you use them? In what contexts would you not use them? Explain.
  - Will you continue using non-touch gestures after the pandemic? Which ones will you retain? Explain.

#### Related Tools:

- Icebreaker Grab Bag
- COVID-19 & Intersectionality