



## HANDSHAKE ETIQUETTE

The handshake was practiced in ancient **Greece** as far back as the **5<sup>th</sup> century BC**, where it originated as a **gesture of peace** meant to demonstrate that the hand would hold no weapon. It is thought that the shake coming with it would provide proof that neither was any **weapon** hidden up the sleeve, from where the shake would have made it drop, thus uncovering it. The handshake is nowadays one of the most common forms of **greeting** (especially in business contexts) even in places and cultures where it has not always been customary, but has been imported from **Western culture** – such as Asia and Africa, for example. Precisely because this gesture has been adapted to different cultural, hierarchical and gender codes and traditions, **handshake manners** are not identical worldwide. In Australia, for instance, women are expected to offer their hand to a man first, and not to shake hands with other women...



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