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gesture

[**jes**-cher]

Examples Word Origin

See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com (<http://www.thesaurus.com/browse/gesture>)

noun

1. a movement or position of the hand, arm, body, head, or face that is expressive of an idea, opinion, emotion, etc.:
the gestures of an orator; a threatening gesture.
2. the use of such movements to express thought, emotion, etc.
3. any action, courtesy, communication, etc., intended for effect or as a formality; considered expression; demonstration:
a gesture of friendship.
4. *Digital Technology.* a particular movement of the body, typically the fingers or hand, used to control or interact with a digital device (often used attributively): *a gesture command; Use a two-finger pinching gesture on your touchscreen to zoom in or out.*

verb (used without object), **gestured**, **gesturing**.

5. to make or use a gesture or gestures.

verb (used with object), **gestured**, **gesturing**.

6. to express by a gesture or gestures.

Origin of gesture

late Middle English

Medieval Latin

(<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/medieval-latin>)

1375-1425

1375-1425; late Middle English < Medieval Latin *gestūra* mode of action, manner, bearing, equivalent to Latin *gest* (*us*) past participle of *gerere* to bear, carry on, perform + *ūra* -ure (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/-ure>)

Related forms

gestural, adjective

gesturer, noun

ungestural, adjective

ungesturing, adjective

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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Examples from the Web for gesture

Contemporary Examples

The *gesture* nearly moved Polanski to tears, even though not everyone approved. (<http://www.dictionary.com/shows/usage-tips>)

King of the Hollywood Hedonists (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2010/02/27/hollywoods-king-of-the-hedonists.html?source=dictionary>)

Robert Hofler (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/robert-hofler.html?source=dictionary>)

February 26, 2010

At Slate, Matthew Yglesias called the *gesture* simply “absurd.”

Four Reasons Why Obama's Week Totally Sucked (and One Reason It Didn't) (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/04/06/four-reasons-why-obama-s-week-totally-sucked-and-one-reason-it-didn-t.html?source=dictionary>)

Melissa Leon (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/melissa-leon.html?source=dictionary>)

April 5, 2013

Simply tap on your own screen, and haptic feedback mechanisms in the watch will transfer the *gesture* to the wrist of your friend.

Bigger, Bolder, and Better Than Ever: Steve Jobs Would Be Proud of Today's Apple (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/09/09/bigger-bolder-and-better-than-ever-steve-jobs-would-be-proud-of-today-s-apple.html?source=dictionary>)

Kyle Chayka (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/contributors/kyle-chayka.html?source=dictionary>)

September 8, 2014

British Dictionary definitions for gesture

gesture

/ˈdʒɛstʃə/

noun

1. a motion of the hands, head, or body to emphasize an idea or emotion, esp while speaking
2. something said or done as a formality or as an indication of intention: *a political gesture*
3. (**obsolete**) the manner in which a person bears himself; posture

verb

4. to express by or make gestures; gesticulate

(<http://www.dictionary.com/slideshows/usage-tips>)

Is irregardless a word?

Derived Forms

gestural, adjective

gesturer, noun

Word Origin

C15: from Medieval Latin *gestūra* bearing, from Latin *gestus*, past participle of *gerere* to bear

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Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

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Word Origin and History for gesture

n.

early 15c., "manner of carrying the body," from Medieval Latin *gestura* "bearing, behavior," from Latin *gestus* "gesture, carriage, posture" (see *gest* (/browse/gest)). Restricted sense of "a movement of the body or a part of it" is from 1550s; figurative sense of "action undertaken in good will to express feeling" is from 1916.

v.

1540s, from gesture (/browse/gesture) (n.). Related: *Gestured*; *gesturing*.

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