

Para-linguistic features and socio-cultural differences

- Upon visiting Malay homes –All Malaysian will take their shoes off before entering a Malay house

Respect:

- Age – Age takes precedence over almost anything else, i.e. a younger Malay person would very likely make the first move to *salam*(shake) an older Malay person's hand.
- Greetings – Unlike the Western handshake, which is a rather vigorous up and down movement where both parties grip the other's hand firmly, the Malay handshake is a simple palm-to-palm touch.

Body parts:

- Head – The head(from the bottom of the neck up) is considered sacred in Eastern culture. Under no circumstances should you touch the head of your Malaysian friend without permission.

Body parts:

- Sitting – The following are not the correct ways of sitting down in a Malay house:
- With your legs crossed
- With your legs placed straight in front of your body
- Squatting

The proper way of sitting(Malay style) is as follows: you would sit with your two legs neatly tucked against your seated body(left or right side is fine) with the feet facing *away* from people(as much as possible).

Body parts:

- Pointing with a thumb – You would use your thumb and not your forefinger. The correct way of doing so is to make a soft fist with your right hand. Place your thumb directly above this fist hand. Only then do you point.