

A35 Dennis / Germany / Romance Studies

Interaction partner(s): English student

Moment of enquiry: SS 07

Experience of difference: Meaning of facial expressions and gestures

Dennis, who is studying Romance Languages & Literature, is dating an English exchange student. When he gets a test back in one of his seminars, Dennis wants to communicate to his English girlfriend, who is seated farther back, that he got grade 2 on his test. He puts two fingers up in the air, pointing the outside of his hand towards the English student. She is obviously shocked by the gesture.

1. What does the gesture mean from the German student's point of view?
2. How does the English student interpret the gesture?