

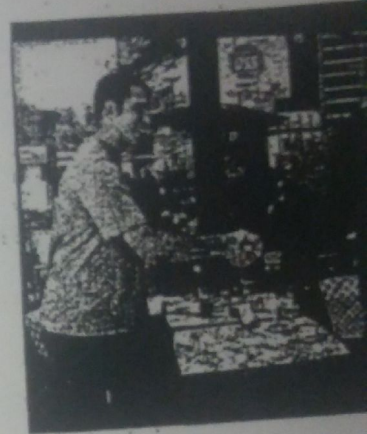
Saludos y besos en los países hispanos



In Spanish-speaking countries, kissing on the cheek is a customary way to greet friends and family members. It is common to kiss someone upon introduction, particularly in a non-business setting. Whereas North Americans maintain considerable personal space when greeting, Spaniards and Latin Americans tend to decrease interpersonal space and give one or two kisses (besos) on the cheek, sometimes accompanied by a handshake or a hug. In formal business settings, where associates do

not know one another on a personal level, greetings entail a simple handshake.

Greeting someone with a beso varies according to region, gender, and context. With the exception of Argentina—where male friends and relatives lightly kiss on the cheek—men generally greet each other with a hug or warm handshake. Greetings between men and women, and between women, can differ depending on the country and context, but generally include kissing. In Spain, it is customary to give dos besos, starting with the right cheek first. In Latin American



countries, including Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Chile, a greeting consists of a single "air kiss" on the right cheek. Peruvians also "air kiss," but strangers will simply shake hands. In Colombia, female acquaintances tend to simply pat each other on the right forearm or shoulder.

Tendencias

País	Beso	País	Beso
Argentina	☺	España	☺☺
Bolivia	☺	México	☺
Chile	☺	Paraguay	☺☺
Colombia	☺	Puerto Rico	☺
El Salvador	☺	Venezuela	☺/☺☺

Read "Saludos y Besos en los Países Hispanos." Then complete Actividad 1. Indicate whether the statements are true (cierto) or false (falso). Correct the false statements.

1. _____ Hispanic cultures leave less interpersonal space when greeting than in the U.S.

2. _____ Men never greet with a kiss in Spanish-speaking countries.

3. _____ Shaking hands is not appropriate for a business setting in Latin America.

4. _____ Spaniards greet with one kiss on the right cheek.

5. _____ In Mexico, people greet with an "air kiss".

6. _____ Gender can play a role in the type of greeting given.

7. _____ If two women acquaintances meet in Colombia, they should exchange two kisses on the cheek.

8. _____ In Peru, a man and woman meeting for the first time would probably greet each other with an "air kiss."
