

This image depicts the high context-low context continuum with four examples. The continuum begins in the upper left-hand corner with the high context level. This continuum slides down to the bottom right-hand corner to the low context level. An arrow with arrowheads on both ends points both to the two levels to signal how a person might slide both up and down the high context-low context continuum. There are two examples of high-context communication on the continuum. The first one is using that secret handshake between two close friends. This might be a handshake that only those two people share. The second example is hesitating and saying maybe instead of saying no directly. The hesitation would be a clue that the speaker is really saying no without saying the word no. There are two examples of low-context communication in the bottom right-hand corner of the image. One example is pointing directly at the object you are talking about. The second example is giving detailed directions. The closer that a person gets to the low context side of the continuum, the more explicit the communication is. The closer that a person goes to the high context level of the continuum, the more implicit the communication is.