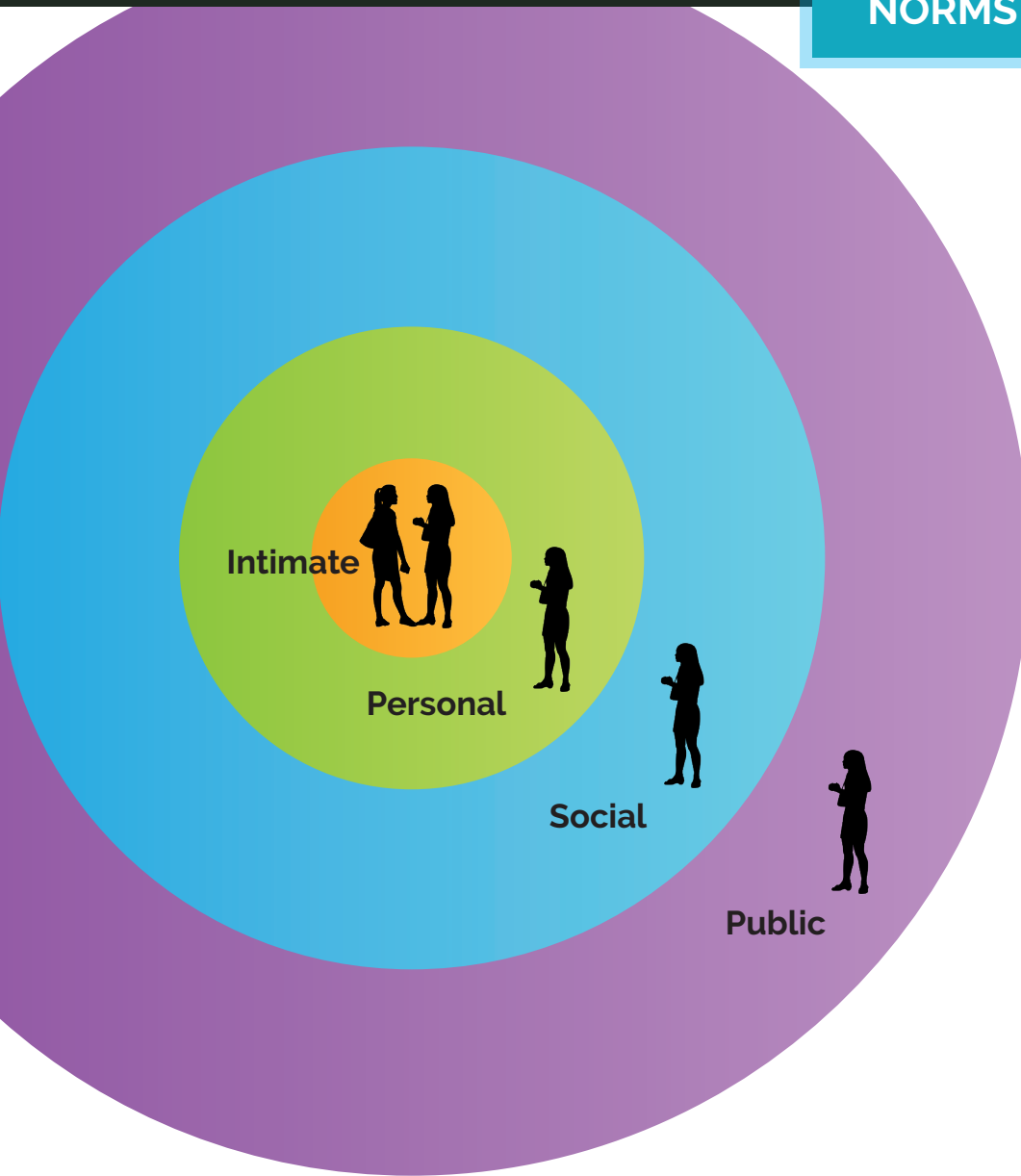






## NORMS IN THE UNITED STATES



Circles and corresponding colors represent preferences for personal space while communicating with others in the United States.

One cultural difference you are likely to notice around the world is how close or far apart people stand when they communicate with one another. These are the personal space norms for people in the United States.

### Personal Space Ranges

	Used for embracing, touching, or whispering <i>Close phase</i> – less than 6 inches (15 cm) <i>Far phase</i> – 6 to 18 inches (15 to 46 cm)
<b>Intimate</b>	
	Used for interactions among good friends or family <i>Close phase</i> – 1.5 to 2.5 feet (46 to 76 cm) <i>Far phase</i> – 2.5 to 4 feet (76 to 122 cm)
<b>Personal</b>	
	Used for interactions among acquaintances <i>Close phase</i> – 4 to 7 feet (1.2 to 2.1 m) <i>Far phase</i> – 7 to 12 feet (2.1 to 3.7 m)
<b>Social</b>	
	Used for public speaking <i>Close phase</i> – 12 to 25 feet (3.7 to 7.6 m) <i>Far phase</i> – 25 feet (7.6 m) or more
<b>Public</b>	

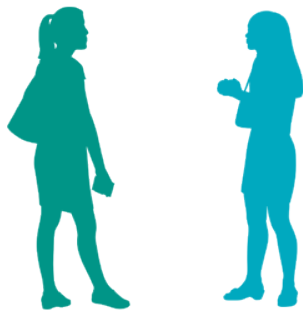
## NORMS IN OTHER CULTURES

Keep in mind that these are generalities and different relationships will often alter the expectations around what defines comfortable personal and public space for different individuals.

Below are some general norms for personal space in other cultures.

### Arm's Length

Southeast Asia  
Central Asia  
Japan, China, South Korea  
Middle East/Arab cultures  
(different gender)



### Moderately Close

United States  
Canada  
Australia and New Zealand  
Zealand  
Northern Europe  
Russia



### Very Close

Latin America and the Caribbean  
Africa  
Middle East/Arab cultures  
(same gender)  
Southern Europe

