In the United States and other Anglo-Saxon cultures, people are trained (mostly subconsciously) to communicate as literally and explicitly as possible. Good communication is all about clarity and explicitness, and accountability for accurate transmission of the message is placed firmly on the communicator: 'If you don’t understand, it’s my fault'.

By contrast, in many Asian cultures, including India, China, Japan, and Indonesia, messages are often conveyed implicitly, requiring the listener to read between the lines. Good communication is subtle, layered, and may depend on copious subtext, with responsibility for transmission of the message shared between the one seeing the message and the one receiving it.

The same applies to many African cultures, including those found in Kenya and Zimbabwe, and to a lesser degree Latin American cultures (such as Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina) and Latin European cultures (such as Spain, Italy, Portugal) including Portugal. What is your preferred communication style?

**Saudade**

(Portuguese noun) a sentiment much stronger than simply missing someone or something. **Saudade** has been (and continues to be) the subject of some beautiful, heartbreaking art and literature.

It seems to take on nuances from country to country and from person to person - Brazil even celebrates a day of saudade every January!