

Worksheet 2: Body Language Body Language in Action

Body Language is an incredibly complex set of signs...

Most of our communication is conveyed not by words, but by our face and gestures.

Body language such as facial expressions, gestures and posture are examples of non-verbal communication that just come naturally. Other forms of body language however, have been developed to facilitate communication in certain circumstances for specific reasons and purposes.

Task 1: Study a specific use of how body language can be used to facilitate communication. Ideas to choose from include:

- AUSLAN (Australian sign language for the hearing impaired)
- Sports umpiring
- Dog training
- Scuba diving
- Military signalling
- Makaton (gestures used by people with disabilities)

Task 2: Create an informative text explaining how the gestures and/or signals are used as a form of non-verbal communication.

Task 3: Transfer your information into a slide show presentation OR onto a large poster, using pictures and diagrams to support your facts.

Task 4: Present your work to an appropriate audience. Try to use body language to help engage your audience, for example:

- Look as though you are really interested in what you are saying.
- Keep your face animated.
- Initiate eye contact with the audience as much as possible.
- Try to stand still without moving your feet or shuffling them around.
- Use hand gestures to complement or emphasise certain points.

Extension Activity:

- Identify specific examples of the body language used by particular animals by answering the following questions:
 1. How do some animals use specific gestures (such as displaying a certain body part) to communicate with other animals?
 2. What types of facial expressions are used by some animals to express how they are feeling?
 3. How do some animals act when they are feeling threatened?
 4. What do some animals do when they want to demonstrate superiority or show that they are protecting their territory?
 5. How do some animals use gestures to indicate a food source?