

GESTURES- LOUDER THAN WORDS



 Module IV  Interpersonal skills  Communicate with others  Body language

Activity: Gestures are louder than words

- **Short Description:** Students will be engaged in an improvised dialogue where they have at the same time to deal with an open situation while expressing hidden message through their gesture. They will have to be subtle, but make others understand what their real feeling is.
- **Methodology:** role playing
- **Duration:** 5 minutes per scenario + time for discussions
- **Difficulty (high - medium - low):** Any
- **Individual / Team:** Team: Two persons will be onstage, and the rest of the group will evaluate their performance
- **Classroom / House:** This activity is to be developed in the classroom
- **What do we need to do this activity?** (Indicate what resources we need to be able to carry out the proposed activity)
 - **Hardware:** eventually, camera to record the role play and screen to see the videos.
 - **Software:** none
 - **Other resources:** 3 boxes with instructions for the scenarios (see annex)

Description

- **Text description:** In this activity, students will practice body language and how to express different emotions with gestures and body. They will be asked to pick up different elements from 3 different boxes:



- Characters - one each
- Open situation / dialogue - one for the 2 students
- Hidden situation (body language) – one each

Based on the instructions received, they will need to engage in an improvisation where they will need to make others understand the hidden situation without using any word or oral sound, sticking on the open situation for their dialogue. They will have 5 minutes to communicate. Then, the role playing will stop. All the group of students will then make suppositions about the hidden situations that students had to express, providing feedback about the gestures they used and how those can be interpreted.

- **Illustration:**



<https://unsplash.com/photos/Ri90j6NHQ3Q>

Instructions

1. STEP 1 – Students should pick up one paper per box and read it individually. The 2 students can only read together about the open situation. Their character and hidden situation are secret.
2. STEP 2 – The 2 students have 1 minute to prepare and agree on their position regarding the open situation.
3. STEP 3 – The 2 students must go onstage and start discussion over the open situation. They are not allowed to pronounce or make any verbal reference to their hidden situation, but need the other to understand it through their gesture / behaviour.
4. STEP 4 – The communication exercise should last for 5 minutes
5. STEP 5 – The rest of students – Classroom will make suppositions about the hidden situation of each character
6. STEP 6 – Students will reveal what they had on their papers
7. STEP 7 – General feedback about their performance.

Expected outcomes



- Students should get, through this exercise, a direct practice of body language. The exercise is intended in forcing them using gestures and facial expression that do not match with the words, so they become aware of the importance of nonverbal expression.
- Loosing “shame” of talking in front of an audience
- Awareness raising about importance of behaviours and body language
- Work on open and hidden communication
- Improvement of gestures
- Improvement of communication ability while making presentations

This activity can be used in other (module, course, topic, lesson):

- **Module III, Business Pitch, Topic 4 Message Vs Audience, Lesson 2 Adapt your Speech to the Audience**
- **Module IV, Interpersonal Skills**

ENTRECOMP (Competences developed): Creativity – Self-awareness – Learning through experience – Working with others

Example:

Student 1 pick-up Director of a multinational company, who just got fired.

Student 2 pick-up Crazy Scientist, who has a rendez-vous in 10 minutes with someone he / she really like.

They are engaged in a dialogue about the best way to get money.

For the director of a company, this shouldn't be a real concern, he should be satisfied with the money he gets, but it might be a problem soon. While the crazy scientist might have highly creative formula and interesting thoughts, however, he doesn't really want to spend time on this right now.

ANNEX:

Text to be written on each paper for each box. This text can be adapted, completed or modified according to other topics that teachers might want to address at the same time.

BOX 1 – Role of characters

- Director of multinational company
- Student
- Father / Mother of 5 children
- Famous Actor
- Teacher
- Delivery man/woman
- President of the European Commission
- Environmental activist
- Crazy scientist



- Journalist
- Stripper

BOX 2 – Open situation

- You engage a debate about the importance of circular economy
- You pay an homage to Mikael Jackson (one of you is a big fan, the other not so much)
- You are discussing about the weather in a lift
- You are discussing about the best way to get money
- You are discussing about the good of altruist actions and charity
- You are planning your future Xmas holidays together
- You discuss about the importance of healthy habits and diet (one of you is engaged in this, the other one prefers eating chocolate)
- You discuss about the importance of making good selfies for your social networks publication (one is addict to social networks, the other don't want to spend time on this)
- You discuss about the last series that you have seen on TV
- You discuss about the labour market and jobs flexibility

BOX 3 – Hidden situation

- You are in a hurry, you have a rendez-vous in 10 minutes with someone you really like and intend to seduce since several months. You can't be late.
- Your only interest is to demonstrate how brilliant you are to get a promotion in your job
- You just got fired
- Your girlfriend is leaving you to get married with your best friend
- You worry that your partner in this dialogue has COVID
- You just hate the person who you are talking to, he stole you your teddy bear as a child
- You are secretly in love with the person you are talking to
- Your only concern is profit, philanthropy is for others
- You have a terrible hangover from last night
- You are a Russian Spy and need to know everything about the true feelings of your interlocutor.

