

Body language

Lesson code: HE3L-CNJB-E17A-V

UPPER INTERMEDIATE +

1 What your body does

Work in pairs. Put the body action verbs below into the correct categories. Use a dictionary.

burp chew cough hiccup rumble shake
shiver snore swallow sweat tremble yawn

The mouth and breathing: _____

Eating and digestion: _____

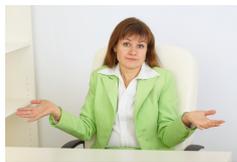
The whole body: _____

Choose four of the verbs above and write a sentence for each one. Compare with the rest of the class.

2 Body language - Collocations 1

Match the verbs from the box with the pictures showing different gestures:

clap clench fold frown shrug snap



_____ your fingers

_____ your shoulders

_____ your fist



_____ your eyebrows

_____ your arms

_____ your hands

Study the sentences below. Replace the underlined parts with a suitable collocation that communicates the underlined message or emotion. Example:

*He told her he was a doctor, but she didn't believe him.
He told her he was a doctor, but she frowned her eyebrows.*

1. He asked me if I had seen his dictionary anywhere, but I didn't know.
2. When he heard that his girlfriend was flirting with another man, he became furious.
3. When their team won the match, the spectators were very pleased.
4. Josh was late for work again. When he finally arrived, his boss was looking very displeased.
5. I wasn't listening to her so she tried to get my immediate attention.

3 Body language - Collocations 2

Study the sentences below. Match the underlined phrases with the messages below.

1. She patted me on the back when I told her that I had passed my driving test.
 2. She nudged me on the arm during the boring lecture.
 3. "Hey you!" he said, and beckoned me over with his finger.
 4. For a second I thought she was being serious, but then she winked at me.
 5. I asked if she wanted to go to the cinema, and she nodded her head in agreement.
 6. When his team lost the match, he just sat there shaking his head.
-
- a. Come here.
 - b. I'm only joking.
 - c. This is bad.
 - d. Wake up!
 - e. Well done!
 - f. Yes.

Demonstrate each collocation with a partner.

4 Talking point

Discuss any of the following questions:

1. Are there any body language movements or gestures that are particular to your country/culture?
2. Is body language the same in every culture? Talk about some differences you have observed.



5 Body language idioms

In pairs, study the underlined idioms below. Match them to the definitions.

1. Don't take her seriously. She's just pulling your leg.
 2. She was out of control but her parents finally decided to put their foot down.
 3. We don't have a plan. We'll just have to play it by ear.
 4. The two cyclists were almost neck and neck at the finish.
 5. Kate needs to go out with some friends and let her hair down. She's been working so hard lately.
 6. I have my final exam tomorrow. Keep your fingers crossed for me!
 7. Tell me what happened - I'm all ears.
 8. Working in an open plan office can really keep you on your toes. You have to keep focussing on the job.
- a. deal with a situation as it develops
 - b. hope that everything will go well
 - c. in the same position
 - d. joking
 - e. make you concentrate
 - f. ready to listen
 - g. relax and have fun
 - h. use authority to control a situation

6 Talking point

Discuss any of the following questions:

1. Do you always plan your holidays or do you like to play them by ear?
2. What kind of environment keeps you on your toes in your work or studies?

7 Vocabulary development

Learn and review over 40 idioms related to parts of the body. Go to <http://linguahouse.com/r/1B> or scan the code on the right with your mobile device.



1 What your body does

Have the students look up the words or go through the verbs demonstrating the actions. Point out that the most of the verbs have an equivalent noun form, e.g. cough (verb) / a cough (noun). Answers:

The mouth and breathing: cough, snore, hiccup, yawn

Eating and digestion: swallow, chew, burp, rumble

The whole body: tremble, shake, perspire, shiver

Provide an example, e.g. 'My stomach was rumbling because I hadn't eaten all day'. Students work alone for 5-7 minutes. Elicit and compare sentences around the class.

2 Body language - Collocations 1

1. snap your fingers
2. shrug your shoulders
3. clench your fist
4. frown your eyebrows
5. fold your arms
6. clap your hands

For the second part, students can work alone and check in pairs. Go through the answers with the class.

1. He asked me if I had seen his dictionary anywhere, but I shrugged my shoulders.
2. When he heard that his girlfriend was flirting with another man, he clenched his fists.
3. When their team won the match, the spectators clapped their hands.
4. Josh was late for work again. His boss was folding his/her arms.
5. I wasn't listening to her so she snapped her fingers.

3 Body language - Collocations 2

Students can work alone and check in pairs. Select pairs to demonstrate the collocations. They should try to work out the meaning of the phrases from the context of each situation.

1. e 2. d 3. a 4. b 5. f 6. c

5 Body language idioms

1. d 2. h 3. a 4. c 5. g 6. b 7. f 8. e

