

Each unit has a Life skills lesson that allows students both controlled and freer language practice, using what they have learned in previous lessons in a cumulative way. Gateway to life skills lessons equip students with the necessary **transferable skills for life beyond the classroom.**

The **Life skills** lesson is introduced to students with clear objectives.

Students have many opportunities to give and **share their opinions.**

The Life skills lesson culminates in a **productive Life task** such as giving a presentation, creating a poster or making a plan. It gives students the opportunity to use language in an authentic and collaborative context while practising a useful and transferable Life skill.

Gateway to Life Skills

Gateway to life skills: Social skills

Public SPEAKING

LIFE SKILLS OBJECTIVES

- To consider the importance of body language.
- To learn useful tips for public speaking.
- To practise giving a talk to the class.

KEY CONCEPTS

gesture [gɛ:] He made a gesture with his hand to tell me to stop.
confident [kɒfɪdənt] She was confident about the exam because she studied hard for it. (became [bɛk] I feel secure when I'm speaking in front of my friends. (non-verbal [nɒn-ˈvɜːbəl] Animals use non-verbal language because they don't use words. **audience** [ɔːdiəns] There were 200 people in the audience for the school concert. **sincerity** [sɪnəˈrɪti] An honest way of behaving which shows you really mean what you say.

1 **2** **3**

To Work with a partner. Look at the photos. From this person's "body language", decide if you think the person is:

A secure, confident and in control
B insecure and not very confident

1b Turn to page 147 for an expert's answers.

1c Do you agree with the expert's opinions? Why/Why not? Is any of the body language in the pictures above impolite in your country?

2 **1** Read the text and choose the best title.

- Without words, there's no communication
- Learning to communicate without words
- Body language - it's the same all over the world

3 Read the text again and answer these questions.

- Why can non-verbal communication cause problems?
- What can we learn by doing the TV experiment mentioned in the text?
- Why do people sometimes put their hand in front of their mouth in a conversation?
- Is it good or bad to look at somebody directly in the eyes? Why?
- Why does the writer mention Bulgarians?
- Is it good or bad to stand very close to the person you are speaking to?
- In what way is body language similar to verbal language?

WHAT is more important: WHAT YOU SAY or HOW YOU SAY IT?

Some experts say that up to 70% of decisions made in interviews are based on non-verbal factors. We can communicate a lot just with our body, our face and our gestures. The problem is that we often do this without thinking or realising. Just by the way there are in, more or less we can give an impression, confident or somewhat unconfident. Other people form opinions about us before we open our mouths.

Do a little experiment. The next time you watch TV, turn the volume. Watch how people move their arms and hands. Look at their faces and their eyes. Have to imagine what they are saying and how they feel and turn the volume back up. It's incredible how much we can understand without words.

Look around the room right now. Are people sitting up straight? That usually means they are paying attention. Is anybody fiddling their arms? That's usually a sign that they are being defensive. Is anybody touching their hair? Maybe they're nervous. When somebody speaks, see if they lower their mouth. If they do, perhaps they're lying. On the other hand, when somebody looks straight into your eyes when they speak to you, it's generally a sign of sincerity and confidence.

There can be problems with body language though. Gestures do not mean the same thing in every country. Even gestures for one person can sometimes be different. Bulgarians shake their heads from side to side to mean yes, and they nod towards down to say no. Also, what people believe is correct or impolite can change. Sitting with your hands behind your head is impolite in some countries but not in others. And in some countries it is normal to stand very close to the person you are speaking to. In others, people sometimes feel very uncomfortable when the person speaking to them is very close to them or touching them.

Body language doesn't have grammar or vocabulary, but there are still things we can learn and practise if we want to send the right message!

4 Work with a partner. You are going to speak to a group of people. Think of a good body language in this situation?

5 **1** Watch the video or listen to two students giving advice about how to speak in public. Do they mention any of your ideas in 4?

6 **1** Complete the advice with one word in each space. Listen again if necessary.

ADVICE FOR SPEAKING IN PUBLIC

1. Don't speak too fast.
2. Use your hands - but not too much.
3. Look at the audience.
4. Speak with a very loud or soft voice.
5. Speak slowly, without hesitating.
6. Information when your voice goes up or down and it keeps people interested.
7. Always finish your talk before you begin.

7 What do you think of the advice in 6? Why?

LIFE TASK

You want to speak in public. Follow this plan:

1. Choose one of these statements. Decide if you agree or disagree with the statement and make notes with your ideas.
 - a. It is essential to learn English in today's world.
 - b. Films and TV series are always better in the original version.
 - c. It's best for our language when people start using English words.
 - d. Chinese is the language of the future.
 - e. The whole world should speak just one language.
2. Prepare a one-to-two-minute talk with your notes in 1. Decide the best order for your different points and ideas.
3. Give your talk to the class or a group of students. Remember to follow the advice in 6. Ask for feedback from your classmates. Did you follow? What can you learn?

The engaging videos (A1+ – B2+) present a mixture of real teenagers and subject experts talking about the Life skills topics in the form of interviews, presentations and vlogs.