

Worked examples 401-402

IC feature(s) in focus	
Concise checklist	4. Use body language appropriately l) Body language m) Eye contact Feedback: show that you are interested in what your partner is saying... Keep eye contact with your partner. Don't just look at the examiner or at the pictures all the time.
Full checklist	7. Use body language

Example 401: P04

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPepPA6KJ0Q> (01:21)

Task: Imagine that some new houses have been built. The people living there want to get to know each other, so they are organizing a special event. Discuss how these ideas would help people to get to know each other, then decide which idea would be the most successful.

1. D: So and, maybe the barbeque?
2. I think the barbeque would be an interesting, yeah,
3. an interesting task or, interesting thing to do because,
4. people can bring their meat, or meal with them,
5. and then you can barbeque,
6. and you can talk together to each other,
7. and it's a familiar situation [I think
8. S: [yeah food are always k- people
9. to get together
10. D: Yes, of course.
11. And yeah, what do you think about uhm the orchestra or,
12. just like, to do a concert?

Guiding questions

- As D introduces the idea of having a barbeque and explain why he thinks is a good idea (lines 1-7), what kinds of body language do you notice S is using?
 - *(S leans in to look at the picture as D points to it;*
 - *she turns to look at D (when D says 'would be an interesting...');*
 - *she nods as she whispers 'yes' in response to D saying 'interesting thing to do'*
 - *she makes eye contact with D again as D explains his view 'people can bring their meat'*
 - *she nods and smiles as D continues to explain 'talk together to each other, and it's a familiar situation')*
- What function(s) do you think these kinds of body language have in the interaction?
 - *(The body language used by S (1) provides ample listener support to the current speaker D and (2) shows agreement – building up a verbal agreeing response at lines 8-9. Specifically:*
 - *(1) Her body posture (leaning in), nodding, smiling, and making eye contact with D from time to time – all show that she is paying attention and is interested in what D has to say.*
 - *(2) The way she is nodding and smiling as she listens to D explains why he thinks having a barbeque is a good idea also communicates non-verbally (while in listener role) how her view*

aligns with D's, leading up to her expression of agreement verbally (as she takes on the speaker role at lines 8-9).)

- At lines 11-12, D invites S to talk about her view on another idea (a concert). What aspect(s) of body language can you notice that helps D do this?
 - *(D gestures to the picture he is referring to in the question, and he looks up at her towards the end of his turn 'to do a concert?', signaling how he is now ready to pass the turn to S and listen to her talk. Thus, we can see how D uses a combination of verbal and non-verbal devices for turn-taking. An examiner praised how D had a good way of asking his partner's opinion.)*

#BodyLanguage
#InteractiveListening
#ShowYouAreListening

Example 402: P06

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDMAnYt7BKA> (07:50)

(Best to watch the whole video and ask students to focus on the use of body language)

Task: Here are some pictures of things that can make living in a city enjoyable. (1) Talk to each other about how these things can help people to enjoy life in a city, (2) then decide which two things you think are the most important.

1. P: Uh ok Nektaria, uhmmm how do you think that these things
2. help people to enjoy life in the city?
3. ((sharply turns her head to look at N))
4. N: (..) ((makes momentary eye contact with P))
5. ((whispers)) yes.
6. Uh yes Panagiotia I think ehthhhh ehthhh these things help
7. people to enjoy life in the city because ehthhhh ehthhh.....

Guiding questions

- Compared to Example 401, what do you think about P and N's use of body language to coordinate who is speaking next?
 - *(P and N have perhaps over-used body language to coordinate turn-taking: passing the turn to or taking over the turn from the partner.)*
 - *(After P asks the question to N at the beginning of the discussion, she turns her head sharply to look at N. N 'catches' her eye contact, but as she opens her mouth just about to speak, she looks at P momentarily again, and they nod to each other to confirm that this is N's turn to speak. Only then, N starts to speak and answer the question. This way of turn-taking makes it look very unnatural and suspicious of being a rehearsed interaction.)*
 - *(Later on, P tries to pass the turn to N by simply looking at her and saying 'You?'. This was commented by examiners as an abrupt and not very communicative way of turn-taking and inviting your partner to speak.)*
- If you were the examiner, how would you evaluate P and N in terms of providing listener support through body language? (Hint: compare with D and S in Example 401)

- *(As N takes the turn to talk about the different things that helps people enjoy life in the city, P gives very little (if any) listener support to N by using body language. Throughout N's turn, P does not look at N but at the booklet, and occasionally glances at the examiner. No smiling or nodding to display interest or understanding.*
- *Correspondingly, N as the speaker does not make much eye contact with P, and only looks at her briefly as she is finishing her turn and about to pass over (i.e. again, using body language only for turn-taking purposes).)*
- Watch the rest of the interaction. Are there any other aspects of body language use you think can be improved?
 - *(An open question to encourage students to notice features themselves. One possible aspect for discussion is how P, on several occasions, looks at the examiner – while she makes minimal eye contact with her partner except for turn-taking and towards the end of the discussion.)*

#LooksRehearsed

#Unnatural

#LookAtPartnerNotExaminer

Lesson learned

In the examples above, we have seen how body language can do different things in interaction. You can (1) give listener support to your partner while they are talking (e.g. nodding, smiling, making eye contact), showing that you are paying attention and are interested in what they have to say (and see what impression it gives when you don't do any of those! – Example 402). Nodding, smiling, and making eye contact can also (2) help express your agreement while your partner is still speaking, before you express it in words when it's your turn to speak. Furthermore, you can (3) use body language to help signaling change of speaker (e.g. gesturing, looking at them) as you finish your talk.

Note that it is best not to over-use body language or using it alone for (2) expressing agreement and (3) signal change of speakers (see Example 402). Body language is most effective when used in combination with spoken language to communicate meaning and to interact with each other.