

Classroom language gestures body language and miming game

Choose one of the actions below and mime it to your partner (without speaking or making noises) until they guess which one you are thinking of.

“(In the past)”	“(In the future)”	“Write on the whiteboard/ blackboard”	“Just look at the picture in the book, don’t read the text”
“Cover the right hand page”	“Cover the left hand page”	“Read”	“Listen to your partner”
“Don’t show your roleplay card to anyone/ It’s a secret”	“Come here”	“Stop”	“Listen to me”
“Come a little bit closer (and then stop)”	“Take one step forward” <i>(gesture using only your hands and without standing up)</i>	“Shake hands”	“Everyone stand up (please)”
“Stand up and come here.” <i>(to one student)</i>	“(Can you be) quiet please(?)”	“Stand up and make/ form a circle”	“Hold hands”
“(That was) excellent/ fantastic/ superb/ great”	“Not bad”	“Take a rest/ Time out/ 5 minute break/ You can relax for 5 minutes”	“Calm down (everyone)”
“Listen to the CD”	“Pronounce the two words together” <i>(e.g. I’m rather than I am)</i>	“Everyone repeat together”	“Everyone repeat individually”
“Repeat with a regular beat”	“Stress the third/ last syllable”	“Everyone repeat more loudly”	“Everyone repeat more quickly”
“You and you, swap seats”	“Everyone swap chairs with their neighbour”	“(Pick up your chair and) move it over there”	“Turn your chairs to face your partner”
“Everyone stand up and mingle”	“Good” <i>(using face only!)</i>	“Nearly right” <i>(only using your head and face)</i>	“Good” <i>(only using your hands)</i>
Nearly right (using hand only)	“That’s incorrect” <i>(only using your hand)</i>	The game is finished	(Only) one minute left
“Read quickly”	“Close your books”	“Open your books”	“Students on the left, open your books. Students on the right, keep them closed”



“Open your books for one minute, read the text quickly, and then close them”	“Read (more) carefully/ slowly”	“Phew! That was close/ That was hard work”	“Pass the ball under your legs”
“Work in pairs”	“Work in groups of three/ in threes”	“From here going right is one team, and from here left is the other”	“Can I have a volunteer?/ Does anyone want to volunteer?”
“No writing”	“Put your books back in your bags”	“Put your pens down”	“Turn to the back of your books”
“Look at the picture and (try to) remember (what is there)”	“Big is the opposite of little. Hot is the opposite of cold.”	“Fold the piece of paper”	“Take six cards”
“Spread the cards across the table”	“Turn the cards face up”	“Shuffle (the pack of cards)”	“Deal seven cards each”
“Roll/ throw the dice”	“Toss/ flip the coin”	“Heads or tails”	“You won/ you are the champion(s)”
“Spit your gum in the bin please”	“If you throw a six, have another go”	“If you have no more cards left, (you can) sit down”	“If you have no more cards left, you are the champion”
“Stand in line/ Make a line”	“Pay attention”	“Throw it away”	“That’s not allowed”
“I don’t approve/ That’s/ you are being naughty”	“Not yet/ Wait for it”	“In front of”	“Behind”
“No points/ zero”	“(That’s) okay”	“I don’t know/ I don’t understand”	“Speak (to your partner)”
“Speak louder/ shout”	“Wakey wakey”	“Get yourself ready (for the challenge)”	“Ready, steady,…”
“Good luck/ I hope (you pass)”	“Stop speaking/ The time for your presentation is up”		

Do the same, but without your partner looking at the worksheet.



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Worksheet 2

With your partner, read the descriptions of the gestures, do them, and guess what they mean. Do the same again, but saying the accompanying classroom language as you do the gesture.

1. Hold one hand out open in front of you with your palm down and twist it from side to side
2. Hold a fist up in front of you with two fingers raised in a V shape (like the victory or peace sign), then bring the two fingers together until they touch each other.
3. Hold one open hand out in front of you with your palm up. Bring your four fingers towards you three or four times whilst keeping the rest of the hand in the same position.
4. Make circle with your index finger and your thumb and hold up the other three fingers (not touching each other)
5. Put both hands out in front of you but quite far from each other, palms up, and lift both hands up towards the sky. Repeat if necessary.
6. Put both hands out in front of you but quite far from each other, palms up, and lift both hands up towards the sky. Then move your hands in curves in front of you, crossing over each other like fish or waves in the sea
7. Cup your hand around your ear
8. Cup your hand around your ear and point to your chest
9. Put one fist out in front of you with one finger pointing parallel to your chest, then make a circle with that finger going closer to and further away from your body
10. Put one hand out in front of you with an open palm pointing towards the person you are talking to
11. Point to one person with your right hand and another person with your left hand, and then cross your hands over each other
12. Hold out one thumb in front of you
13. Hold out two thumbs in front of you, maybe lifting the thumbs higher or moving them backwards and forwards a few times
14. Put your hands out in front of you with the palms touching (like you are praying, but with the fingers pointing forward), then open your palms so that the little fingers are still touching each other but the palms are facing upwards
15. Put your palms together and point them between two people, then sweep your right arm over the heads of the people on the right, and then sweep your left arm over the heads of the people on the left



16. Put your hands out in front of you with the palm of the hand further away from your body covering the back of the hand that is closer to your body. Bring those cupped hands closer to your chest, maybe while bringing your head down so you can look inside them.
17. Shrug (= lift your shoulders up), maybe with your open palms facing up
18. Hold an open hand in front of you with the palm up and the fingers parallel to your body, then chop down on that hand with the other hand, like a karate chop on a piece of wood.
19. Cup your hands around your mouth and open your mouth very wide
20. Put your index finger in front of your closed lips with the finger pointing up
21. Wipe your forehead with one hand and then flick the fingers of that hand in front of you
22. Put one hand up while bobbing your body up and down and looking at the students with a questioning face
23. Hold your right fist out in front of you and flip the thumb of that hand up, then quickly open that hand and slap the top of your left hand with it.
24. Make a circle with your left arm with your hand on your hip. Move your right hand into that circle and then onto the desk several times, pretending to pick things up off the desk.
25. Shake your fist in front of you, and then quickly open it
26. Move your index fingers from your eyes to a book (or the desk if there's no book) a few times, then tap the side of your head with your right index finger with a look of concentration on your face
27. Hold your two fist up high in the air and then shake them around
28. Put your index fingers and thumbs on your eyelids and stretch them open, or pretend to slap yourself on the cheeks several times
29. Take a deep breath and put your fists about 15 cms in front of your belly whilst tensing your muscles
30. From the position above, move one foot slightly further forward and crouch down a little
31. Hold your fist in front of you with the palm facing forward and the index finger pointing up, then wag the finger about 3cms from side to side
32. Hold out your cupped right palm out and look at it, then move your sight to your cupped left palm as you hold that out. Repeat a few times.

Choose one of the actions from worksheet 1 and explain the accompanying gesture to your partner without looking at the descriptions above. They should do the gesture and then guess the (exact) accompanying classroom language.