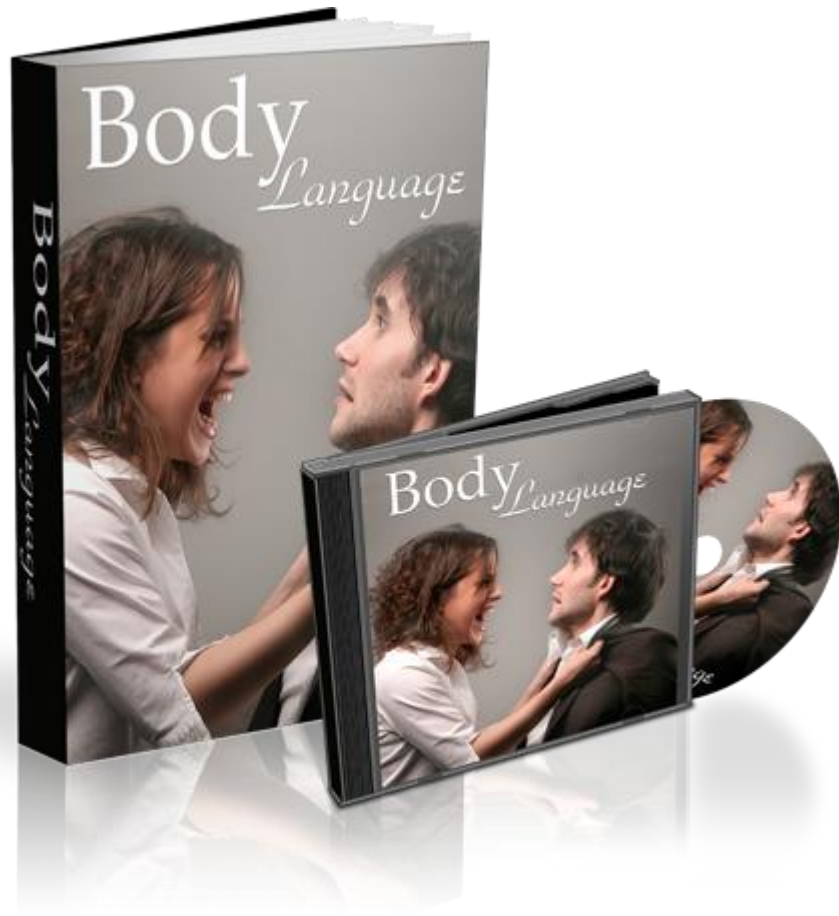


Body Language



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Introduction

From infancy, we begin to use body language to express our needs and feelings - it is how we learn to get our needs met. While learning to talk, we continue to use a series of body language signals to entertain, have a need met or show an emotion we are feeling that we are not yet able to express verbally. If, while we are young, our caretakers pick up our body language signals easily, as we age we are more apt to continue to refine the skill of using body language. However, when our body language signals go unnoticed as an infant or throughout childhood, in adulthood the use of body language often goes to the wayside. Those are the adults you hear people refer to as “hard to read”. Although they can make great poker players, it does little for the art of subtle communication. Like the saying goes, if you don’t use it, you lose it, or in the least, get real rusty at it. Communication through all forms is detrimental in life. It can make the difference between landing a dream job or that dream mate and many other factors. People use on an average 50% body language to 50% verbal language when communicating.

If you cannot pick up the subtle nuances of the body language someone is giving, the message you may be receiving verbally could be quite different than what they intended on it being. The more you try to use and learn how to pick up on body language signals, the better you will get at it. If you don’t get it the first time, then continue to try and keep trying. People-watching is a great way to brush up on your ability to read body language - go to a mall and just sit on a bench and try.

There are several main types of body language and two of the most common types that people can pick up on easily are romantic and greeting body language. Other forms of body language are aggressive, attentive, bored, closed, deceptive, defensive, dominant, emotional, evaluating, open, power, ready, relaxed and submissive. We will look at each category and explain the signals used in each.

Chapter 1

Aggressive Body Language

Aggressive body language is way more than simply punching someone. There are many types of aggressive signals that if picked up on early can save you from being a receiver of a physical attack or give you time to turn the aggression down. Aggressive body language is a signal to a possible physical threat or a verbal threat at the least. As we were taught early on, physical confrontations can never lead to any good so learning to pick up the threat signals early on is extremely beneficial. If you work in a setting where there are volatile people, in a prison setting for example, knowing signals of aggressiveness could even save your life. Aggressive threat body language can come from facial, attack and exposing. Facial signals that can alert you to a possible threat are frowns, pursed lips, reddening of face, sneers, clinched jaw, stare downs with a squint and jerking of head towards you, much like one would jerk their body towards you in an aggressive advancement. Another common facial threat signal is a person getting right up in your face with their face. With all of these gestures, it is best you step back a couple of feet to put a bit of distance between you and the aggressive person to give you a chance to possibly defuse the situation. The attack stance of body language is typically the positioning of feet for stability and clenching of fist and muscles. There are however some that rarely show little outward physical cues that indicate they are about to punch you. This is when body language alone can put one in a risky situation and it is important to listen to word cues as well.

Another form of aggressive body language is crossing personal space, mental or emotional boundaries. Fake friendships are an example of crossing all three of these boundaries. By pretending to be a friend to another with intent of harm, aggressive body language takes on a chameleon effect; they will use smiles and friendly gestures to gain closeness. Everyone has a comfort zone called his or her personal space and when that is crossed physically (e.g. getting up in someone's face, bumping chest, physically touching another without permission etc), that invasion of space is an aggressive body language move. People generally do this to get into close proximity of their prey so they can have

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power over another by making them feel uncomfortable and to make it easier for them to make the first physical strike.

Physical aggressive body language gestures are another indicator that you may be at risk of becoming a victim. Hand gestures are often used to incite another into a physical confrontation, from the use of “flipping someone off” with the flagging of the middle finger, to gang hand signs, thrusting of arms to the ever popular head roll/thrust generally followed with verbal insults. Another obvious great indicator is the mock attacks such as shadow boxing, slamming fist on table (wall, door, etc.), head butting gesture, kicking, etc without actually making physical contact with you.

Chapter 2

Attentive Body Language

Attentive body language is the act of showing through body language that you are listening and hearing what another is saying. Yawning or nodding off would be an example of inattentive body language. Being able to properly exhibit attentive body language can make a huge impact if you are applying for a job or are in any field of employment that requires verbal contact with people.

Another situation where having great skills in attentive body language is in personal relationships and intimate situations. Strong attentive body language shows that you have a sincere interest in what another is saying, is flattering, and will most likely result in mutual attention. One way to appear to be actively listening to another through body language is by leaning into the person who is talking, however, respect personal boundaries when doing so. You will be able to tell if a person is listening to you attentively if their gaze is on you and does not reflect away sporadically during the conversation. They will also blink less than normal. Quite often, when a person is attentively listening to another, their frown line will be indented showing that they are concentrating on what you are saying. You will also notice a nodding of the head in agreement or disagreement of things you are saying along with verbal utterances such as “hmmm, uh huh, etc”. The person listening may also mimic your body language.

Chapter 3

Closed Body Language

Have you ever wondered if your spouse, friend, co-worker or boss was bored with everything that you say but you were not quite able to tell by their body language? Well now, you will be able to tell if what you are saying is falling upon deaf ears. One of the first cues that someone is totally tuning you out is their gaze level. If they are constantly distracted by every little noise or movement, you can bet they are not truly paying attention to you, regardless of how many times they tell you they are listening. A huge clue is when a person begins to yawn or slouch. Granted, yawning can be an indicator that a person is lacking oxygen or is tired however, a person will also yawn when bored. If someone straight up falls asleep on you, then you have a real problem with your presentation skills and should consider taking some speech or affective communication classes. Some reasons people may choose to tune out is that the topic you are discussing with them is something they do not want to listen to or they have heard repeatedly from you before. If a person has no stake in what you are discussing, it is very easy for them to lose interest and become bored quickly. When speaking to a group or on a one to one basis, it is important to use body language while you speak. Facial and hand movements can help to emphasize what you are trying to get across as well as stimulate both the visual and audio senses in your audience. Long drawn out explanations is another quick way to lose your audience attention. Keep it short and to the point - you do not need to re-explain the same thing 50 different ways to get your point across. A good indicator of interest level is to ask questions when speaking with anyone.

Often, if a person is bored you may also see closed body language. Closed body language tells you that your audience has totally shut down on you and as far as they are concerned, you are not even in the same room with them. Teens are excellent examples in using closed body language. This type of body language can also present a defensive action for people as well. If you are confronting a person and they exhibit closed body language, it may be because you are scaring them and in order for you to get across what you are trying to say effectively, you should change your approach. Examples of closed body language are curling up in a ball, rocking, tightly folded arms almost in a self hug

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formation, legs tightly crossed or even twisted/intertwined with one another or with a chair or table leg, and a downward gaze or fixated gaze at an object, wall or even feet. There may be many reasons why you receive closed body language from an individual so do not automatically assume it is all about you or what you are saying. The person may have just had an extremely difficult day. When you experience someone who appears to close up during a discussion, note what was being said at the time that the body language changed. It can be a good indicator as to what is possibly going on with them.

When a person feels threatened, even verbally, their body will react. They will get into either a defensive mode or an aggressive mode. In the defensive mode, it is self-preservation. Curling up in a ball protects vulnerable organs and body parts in case of an attack and it can also act as a self-nurturing affect to soothe a person. Another reason people may exhibit closed body language is that they are trying to hide something from the other person such as tears or facial expressions. Ways to move a person from a closed body language to a more open and accepting body language is to offer them something to hold such as a drink, or with a child, a toy. Another way is to mimic their body language, however not in a demeaning manner. Move in closer while still respecting personal space and gradually work into copying their closed body language as this can build a non-verbal bond. As the person begins to relax their closed body position, you also begin to relax at their rate and comfort level.

Chapter 4

Deceptive Body Language

Deceptive body language should be necessary for everyone to learn. It can help you to distinguish if someone is being honest with you or trying to pull a fast one. Mind you, there are those that are quite good at covering deceptive body language, such as sales people, psychopaths and criminally minded individuals. One common way to tell if a person is being deceptive by their body language is to watch for anxiety cues. Some common anxiety cues are sweating, tension, rubbing the back of the neck or other body parts, sudden movements, body twitches, voice change and increase in speed of speech, chewing on the inside of ones mouth, and shoving hands in pockets or high fidgety. A person when lying will often try to hide their deception by attempting to gain control over their body language through forced smiles and exaggerated hand gestures. This may present as odd, clumsy or jerking movements. Their speech may be hesitated in their attempts to slow it down and thinking intensively as to what to say next. They will often speak looking distracted and avoid eye contact. If standing, they may shift their weight from one foot to another more often then normal as well.

Law enforcement is trained to read body language. As part of that training, they learn about how the brain works and how the body reacts when using different parts of the brain when thinking, such as eye movement. It is believed that the direction one looks when responding to a question can help in determining if the person is lying. This is not always a good indicator to be used in truth finding, however if a person looks to the right while answering a question, you should at least pay close attention to what they are saying. It is thought to be an instinctive action to look to the right when one is utilizing the left side of their brain, the logic and analytic side and to look to the left when using the right side of your brain, the emotional and creative side. It is thought that when a person is lying they utilize the left part of their brain to create the lie which causes their eyes to gaze to the right. There is documentation that states differing views on lying and eye gaze, some say a person is lying when they look to the right whereas others say the left. So do not be judge and jury just because of the direction a person looks when they

Body Language

respond to a question you ask or are telling you a story. Pay close attention to all their body language as well as their words before throwing the book at someone.

Here are a few more interesting things about eye gaze when trying to recall a memory or store data. When we are trying to recall a memory, we use the right side of our brain, making our eyes gaze to the left. When you are seeking visual memories your eyes gaze upward and when a person gazes downward, they are trying to recall emotional memories. However, the shifty eye, gazing right to left does not mean the person is a shyster, it only means they are trying to recall or process auditory memories.

Chapter 5

Defensive Body Language

Defensive body language expresses a person's feeling of physical or emotional threat or personal space being invaded. Automatically when a person feels like they are at risk of physical attack, they cower to protect vital body organs such as curling up in a ball and tucking their head in. Men when faced with an attack by a female almost always aim to protect their groin first. If you even pretend like you are going to strike a man, watch how fast they protect the family jewels by either lifting a leg for protection, or their hands drop to cross in front of their crotch. When face up against another man however, men will generally post in a fending off stance with arms drawn out and jaw/nose region protected. They will harden their muscles in order to withstand an attack better. A common body language signal that will tell you if a woman is uneasy is, if carrying a purse or a bag, the grip will become tighter and it will be drawn in close to their body.

Some people, when uneasy, will display defensive body language by putting a barrier between them and the person or situation that is making them feel uncomfortable. This could be a chair, table, or even holding a package out in front of them making an obstacle between them and the perceived threat. They may grip their keys in between their fingers to use as a weapon if a situation were to arise. Another defensive body language cue is when someone becomes stiff or rigid. They will attempt to not make a single move with their body to draw attention to themselves while at the opposite side of the spectrum, a person in a defensive mode will scan a room or location for an escape route, or may even flee the room if they perceive the threat level too high. Some individuals, when faced in a possible threatening situation, may never exhibit signs of defensive body language and instead present themselves with either submissive or aggressive body language.

Chapter 6

Dominant Body Language

Dominant body language is closely related to aggressive body language but at a lesser emotional level. The ultimate goal of dominant body language is to impress power over another but not necessarily in an aggressive manner, more so in an authoritative manner.

A person demonstrating dominant body language will often try to make their body appear bigger than what it really is, especially men. Often they will cross their arms with their hands under their biceps in an attempt to push them out more to give a larger appearance. Men and women will hold their hands on their hips with elbows out wide while standing, chest out and chin up. You will see many mothers in this position when disciplining their children.

A great example of using dominant body language over another is a detective over a suspect in an interrogation room. In interrogation rooms, you will often see the detective standing making the suspect sit to give them a dominating height over the suspect in an attempt to intimidate them. The detective may stance the room, much like marking territory designating where exactly the suspect is to sit also while walking around or coming up behind the suspect, leaning over the suspects shoulder to talk rather than sitting at the table with them. By invading the personal space of the suspect they make the suspect feel uncomfortable with the added height and being talked down to, the detective achieves a dominant stance as well as dominance over his territory. The detective makes a point to make sure the suspect knows they are on the detectives' territory and working from the detectives' rules. They will dominate the suspect in other fashions as well, such as cussing and name-calling and having a folder in front of them, leaving the suspect to wonder what type of evidence the detective actually has against them.

Tape recorders, although used in the line of any interrogation, is also another way to non-verbally or non body language dominate another by leaving the suspect knowing that anything they say is being recorded. You will also see a detective using facial

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expressions to taunt, control, and dominate the situation. It can be in the form of stare downs, rolling of eyes every time the suspect says something, yawning, squinting at the suspect while holding a stare down, as well as smirking at the suspects' responses.

Chapter 7

Emotional Body Language

Emotional body language is a very broad area as a person feels many different emotions. Anger for example displays differently from happy body language, however some body language signals of happy can be mixed up with sad body language. There are many non-verbal signs that can help you to determine what another person is feeling emotionally, however they are not exclusive and no two people necessarily react the same way to the same stimuli. What you would think should make a person sad, may actually not have any effect on another.

Anger can be present in a person for many reasons, such as getting a bad test score, having a bad day at work or a bounced check to numerous other situations. Some things may anger one person deeper than another and/or quicker. Common body language signals of anger are a flushed, red face and/or neck, clenched jaw and/or fist, pacing, invasion of personal space of another with no regards, and the use of aggressive or power body language.

Fear, anxiety and/or nervousness can all present very similar common characteristics in body language. Knowing a bit about the situation while reading the persons body language can help you get a better idea of exactly which of the three emotions they are experiencing. Learning emotional body language is very beneficial in helping a child express in words what their body is feeling. Fear, anxiety and/or nervousness are hard ones for a child to distinguish and can show in a person through their body by breaking out in a cold sweat, pale face, dry mouth, diverting from eye contact or they can appear as they are on the verge of tears. They may exhibit trembling lip, twitching eye, voice tremors, stuttering, cracks in voice, sweating, heightened pulse, clenched fist, muscles and/or jaw and extended periods of holding their breath. Some may present as fidgety while others may take on a defensive or ready body language stance. As you can see, many of these body language signals are also present under other emotions other than fear, anxiety and/or nervousness.

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However, as stated before, if you know a little about what is going on, you can generally determine the exact emotion the person is feeling and exhibiting through their body language before even having to speak to them. This is helpful to know if the person fears you or if they are just nervous about the situation or having anxiety about it. It will help you to put the person at ease better in order to come to some sort of resolution.

Sadness body language generally presents with slouching or drooping of the shoulders or body, almost limp like, possible trembling lip, tears, and a flat speech tone.

Embarrassment can present with a red face, avoidance of eye contact, grimaced face or a meek smile and can also cause withdrawal in some people.

Surprised body language will present with the widening of the eyes and raised eyebrows. Emotional body language expressing happiness can present in tears of joy, smiling mouth and eyes and an overall relaxed demeanor. Extreme happiness may present with a person doing what is known as the happy dance where they are jumping around. Although all of these are very common types of body language used to express emotion, a person with a flat affect may not show any of these. They could be extremely happy and only show it with a slight smile, if that.

Chapter 8

Evaluating Body Language

Evaluating body language is how a person uses their body when evaluating a situation. This could present in hand movements when discussing how a back yard deck design should go, or on a determination of which direction one should turn while driving. People who generally do a lot of talking with hand gestures will exhibit a large amount of body language when evaluating or thinking about something as well.

Another form of evaluating body language is the formation of sorts similar to that of praying hands while thinking. They may tap a finger on their chin or even rub their chin; their lips may purse and for those you encounter that wear eyeglasses, you may notice that while evaluating a situation that they peer over the top of them when in discussion rather than through them. Professors, teachers, and doctors who wear eyeglasses are known for this. Generally, their body will present relaxed and comfortable although they are concentrating intensely.

Chapter 9

Greeting Body Language

Everyone knows waving at another person or shaking their hand is a way of greeting however, there are many other forms of greeting body language used that you may not be aware of. Greeting body language can be used as a secret signal passed between individuals to indicate a type of unity. For example, many gangs have a secret handshake ritual or hand gesture that they use to show their commonality. Grade school children often have their secret little club hand shakes as well. Depending on the culture you were raised under, some forms of greeting body language may not be acceptable or may even be considered as an insult.

It is said that you can tell a lot about a person through their handshake however, this is questionable as it all depends on the type of day the person is having and several other factors. A firm handgrip in a handshake is meant to show confidence where as a limp wrist with a light grip is thought to show timidity. However, elderly women especially can lose their grip and have a light grasp so this reasoning is not always the case. The double grip hand shake where not only is the extender shaking the hand but with their other hand gripping the persons elbow or encompassing the others hands between both of theirs is meant to show dominance. However, there are several people who, while shaking the hand of someone to whom they are truly grateful will encompass the persons hand in both of theirs to show sincerity.

Other body language greeting signs thought to be a gesture of dominance are shaking anothers hand with the palm down, whereas the palm up shows submission and palms sideways show equality. Extended handshakes where one person makes it difficult for another to end the greeting is also a sign of dominance. If you pay attention to photographs of politicians or of people in authority positions, handshake photos will be taken with the individuals standing shoulder to shoulder with their arm/hand stretched out across their front to greet the others hand. The dominant person will stand to the left of the other person, shaking with the right hand, so that when the picture is taken it is their back of the hand that appears visible in the picture.

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Other forms of greeting through hand body language is the “high five” where two people slap hands in the air, tapping fronts of fists or a touch as a person walks by another at a party to show acknowledgement. Other forms of greeting body language are in the form of honor, such as the salute where the hand is brought up towards the forehead or a brim of a hat and back down to the side again. The military use salutes to show respect to those in higher ranks. The boy scouts also have their own special salute. The raising of the hand to the heart when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is another form of honor salute. Bowing can also show honor or it can show appreciation or thanks such as at the end of a performance. In Japan, if you do not bow at a greeting it is a form of disrespect.

Hugging and kissing are also other forms of greeting body language but should be used under advisement. Greeting a person you do not know with a hug or a kiss could wind you up in a world of trouble. Society is more accepting of women hugging other women in a greeting than they are men hugging one another unless closely related. When a hug becomes more of a body grind, it has gone way past that of a greeting and can border on sexual harassment or even assault if one is not a willing recipient. In some cultures, it is expected to greet another with a kiss, such as the cheek-to-cheek kiss done in France and it can be socially acceptable and expected to be done by either gender to either gender. Greeting kisses are short like a peck on the lips or the cheek of another individual. Greeting a friend may involve a hug while at the same time administering a kiss to the lips or the cheek. Any kiss of any length and on the lips, with open or closed mouth is considered more of a romantic kiss, no longer a greeting.

One can read a persons greeting approach by their facial expressions as well. A frown would be a good indicator that something is wrong, whereas a tensed face with clenched jaw should indicate to you that the person is quite upset or angry at you. A smiling face will indicate that the person is happy to see you whereas a blank facial affect can indicate that the person couldn't care less about you or that you are present. When you see another person squeezing their eyebrows together, more than likely they are trying to recall your name before approaching you. This is a great time to go up, remind them politely what your name is and greet them with a friendly handshake. Other forms of

Body Language

body language greetings are tipping the hat as a form of acknowledgement and rubbing noses as in an Eskimo kiss.

Chapter 10

Open Body Language

Open body language generally expresses relaxation or higher comfort form. Open arms and hands express the persons desire not to hide anything from another as they are relaxed in their current situation. However, if a person is exhibiting a closed body language and then quickly changes to an open presentation, it exhibits an extreme change in emotion.

If you are talking to a person and they are in a curled up fetal position exhibiting closed body language and then all of a sudden they are sitting up, feet planted on the ground, or spring up to an upright stance, you more then likely said something that triggered an extreme mood change. At this time, the open body language may not be presenting as relaxed at all but more of an aggressive or defensive body language. Determine quickly what was said that possibly caused the sudden mood swing so that you can direct the conversation in a fashion that does not lead to physical attack.

Chapter 11
Relaxed Body Language

Relaxed body language is when a persons breathing is slower then normal and overall body affect is relaxed without tense muscle tone. Even skin tone color will be normal. Hands, feet and arms are not fidgety or twitching and are laid loosely in their lap or rested. Facial expression is relaxed with a possible slight smile or relaxed mouth. Voice tone is steady with no exaggerated high or low tone fluctuations. The face will be without exaggerated frown lines, the eyes will mimic the mouth; if a slight smile is on the mouth, there will be a slight smile in the eyes and the eyebrows will be at their natural level without tension.

Chapter 12

Power Body Language

Power body language is a form of dominant body language but also has a rescue/hero aspect to it as well. People who use power body language on a regular basis are those who are in a position of authority or like to act as if they are. It can be a spouse or partner that tries to remain the power center in a relationship that uses power body language. If a person appears to always have control over your time and space, they are more than likely exhibiting a lot of power play body language and this is one way they have achieved this power over you.

In the business world power is exhibited and acknowledged by the employees starting from the company parking lot. Those in positions of power always have the reserved and best parking spots. This is the beginning of dominating space and exhibiting ones status over another. They display their position and status from the car they drive to the size of the office they sit in, with a door that they can close to allow them the power to select when they want to deal with the hired help. They will take extended lunches but have the hired help punch in and out to ensure they do not over extend the designated time given for lunch breaks.

Power handshakes are one way a person will demonstrate their power over another. Upon greeting, if someone they feel is of lesser status than they are, the power player will give a firm handshake, draw the person in physically, grip the elbow of the arm they are shaking with opposite hand and hold the shake longer than a normal shake. If you want to counteract a power handshake, offer a limp, weak grip. As an extended handshake can make one feel uncomfortable, when exerting a power handshake and receiving a weak limp grip in return, the uncomfortable feeling is turned back on the power player. Power players will hold a gaze longer than normal, another way of making the receiver feel uneasy. Although the gaze is not threatening, it is just enough to make the receiver squirm a bit. The counteraction for a power gaze is to just look away - do not fall for the power play and get into a stare down as breaking the gaze yourself gives you back your personal power. Power players will also dictate where another will sit, gesturing with

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their hand towards a seat when offering you a chair. Whenever possible, if you want to counteract the power play, choose where and how you will sit before being directed.

If you are meeting a person who is known for power plays, go early and get your seat first. Power players are great at making another wait on them. If there is a planned meeting, you can bet the power player will make everyone wait on them. Other common traits of power body language are invasion of personal space by standing close to another, touching while speaking such as putting a hand on another's shoulder, and an aggressive walk.

Chapter 13

Ready Body Language

Ready body language is just what it reads. Think of a baseball player in the outfield, their body poised for action – this is ready body language. The body will be turned towards the direction of where the action is taking place or where the perceived action will come from. A teenage girl waiting by the phone to pounce on it when it rings because she is waiting for her boyfriend to call is ready body language. A person's eyes will be directed towards where the action is or will come from as well. Their body will be tensed up and ready for action and they may be fidgeting with their hands or twisting on a piece of clothing or another object while waiting in anticipation for the action.

Children show their anxious ready body language when you tell them you will soon be ready to leave to take them to the park or beach. Even if nervous about the action, such as a fight or a student getting ready to do their first solo performance will present with ready body language. Brides waiting to walk down the aisle and grooms waiting for the bride to walk down the aisle are also exhibiting ready body language.

Chapter 14

Romantic Body Language

Romantic body language is not just what a couple do when they are close and personal but from afar as well and incorporates everything between flirting to marriage and even break ups and divorce.

Body language from afar incorporates all the different forms of flirting one does with their body, from batting eyelashes to how one holds their body to how one even preens and preps to get ready for the occasion of flirting.

Romantic body language from afar can even include sexual gestures. In flirting, looking for a possible long term serious relationship, sexual gestures are not a good idea, however if you are looking to put a little spice back into a marriage, some sexual gesturing body language can be a lot of fun. From afar, romantic body language can be seen from how one display themselves as well. Men and women may wear clothing that accentuates certain parts of their body they find more attractive. Men are notorious for displaying acts of body language when it comes to pumping out certain muscles to make them appear bigger than what they are such as when they cross their arms with their hands under their biceps. If they see someone they are interested in, they can hold a tightened flex forever! Some women tend to hold in their tummy to make it look smaller than what it is and sticking the chest out to make it look larger than what it is.

When using romantic body language from afar, a person will position himself or herself to be in the eye-view of their target of interest by turning their full body or head directly towards them. A person may dance seductively on the dance floor while looking occasionally over to the person they are interested in to make eye contact.

Up close and personal body language should only be done if you are already in a personal relationship with the other party. If you are not in a personal relationship with the other party, you risk having a sexual harassment lawsuit filed against you. Close romantic body language is more intimate than from afar.

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A mutual comfort level allows the other to enter into ones personal space without the other feeling threatened. Close romantic body language can exhibit in a couple copying each others moves or body positions, gazing lovingly into one another's eyes, touching toes while watching TV, holding hands, massages, caressing, kissing, intimate encounters and sexual exploration. Romantic body language when a relationship goes wrong can be a vast mixture between numerous types of body language and is far too complex to cover in this e-book.

Chapter 15

Submissive Body Language

Submissive body language should not be mistaken for passive body language and exhibits conquered as well as being used to signal fear. Think of a lion taking a lioness; at first the lioness will fight the lions attempt to subdue her and eventually the lioness submits. She cowers to his aggression and allows the lion to take her. That is submissive body language in the form of conquered.

In the form of signaling fear, a person may cower into a fetal position or exhibit closed body language until the perceived threat has passed. Some specific submissive body language signals one may notice are the holding of the head down avoiding eye contact with others while in public, widening of eyes to appear more innocent, much like the bright wide eyes of an infant and attentively looking into the eyes of someone who is speaking to them that is their dominant. A submissive person will exchange in conversation of someone more dominant than themselves but generally they will always agree with them. They will make eye contact with a dominant and smile; however, their smile will be subdued.

Women tend to exhibit more submissive body language than men. Men, however have a misplaced train of thought when they think that some cultures of women are submissive by nature such as Asian women. Asian women are not any more submissive than any other women; their culture is different and they value their family and pride themselves in being a great wife and mother. This by no means makes her submissive.

Body Language

Conclusion

Every part of one's body is used in body language, each movement or lack of movement can mean something. Not everyone exhibits the exact same body language as another to express something, such as in greetings. For one it may be customary to kiss another on both sides of the cheek, but for another a simple wave of the hand is sufficient.

Some people use less emphasis with their body language where others can over exaggerate the same gesture. Some people require larger personal space where others are quite comfortable with others moving in close.

There are so many different facets to body language and one can never stop learning – it will help you in all aspects of your life.