

The articulate hand

Before you watch

- 1 Read the sentence below and choose the best alternative for the words in *italics*.
It was a difficult subject but luckily she was *an articulate speaker* and explained everything in a way we could understand.
 - a a very fast talker
 - b unable to communicate her ideas well
 - c good at expressing her thoughts and ideas clearly

- 2 The title of this video is 'The Articulate Hand'. What do you think the video is about?

While you watch

- 3 Watch the first part of the video (0:00–0:45) with no sound. Describe what you see.

- 4 Watch the next part of the video (0:45–1:30) with no sound. Which of the stories below is Andrew Dawson telling with his hands?
 - a A day in the life of a seagull
 - b The Apollo 11 moon landing
 - c My summer holiday in Greece

- 5 Now watch the video again (0:00–1:30) with sound to check your answer to exercise 4.

- 6 Put Andrew's story in the correct order then watch the next part of the video (1:30–2:50) to check your answers.
 - a Last year he worked as a choreographer on an opera in New York.
 - b He then got fascinated by the hands and realised how he could tell stories with his hands.
 - c He also occasionally works as a hand model in commercials and photography.
 - d Originally, he was told by his drama teacher that he was a really bad actor.
 - e That led to creating his own theatre show and touring around the planet.
 - f As a result he became interested in dance and more physical theatre.

- 7 Match the sentence halves to make complete sentences.
 - 1 If we go back in evolutionary terms,
 - 2 Then it became something
 - 3 Then little by little we became bipedal
 - 4 They could be a little softer,
 - 5 We end up gaining an enormous amount of dexterity
 - 6 Without that dexterity
 - a the fingers a little longer.
 - b that is unique to us.
 - c that you would walk on.
 - d we wouldn't have any of this around us.
 - e this hand was used for hanging out of a tree.
 - f and these hands were free.

- 8 Watch the video (2:50–3:40) to check your answers to exercise 7.

9 Watch the rest of the video (3:40–4:43) and answer the questions.

- 1 Name two things Andrew says we wouldn't be able to do without our hands.
- 2 What does he describe as 'the most magical thing'?
- 3 Do you notice anything about Andrew's hands?

After you watch

10 We often use our hands to communicate with other people. Can you think of three examples?

11 Choose one of the situations below or one of your own and communicate with another student using only your hands.

I'll phone you at six o'clock.

Can I borrow your pen?

I don't understand what the teacher is saying.

There's a spider on your arm.

Glossary

biped (*noun*) - an animal that walks on two legs

cheek (*noun*) - the soft part on each side of your face below your eyes

choreographer (*noun*) - person who plans dances in the theatre

dexterity (*noun*) - skill in using your hands or mind

evolutionary (*adjective*) - connected with the theory of evolution

fist (*noun*) - your hand when your fingers are closed tightly

landing (*noun*) - arriving on the ground

limbs (*noun*) - arms or legs

seagull (*noun*) - a common seabird

stroke (*verb*) - to move your hand gently over skin

thoughts (*noun*) - things you are thinking