

X-ray specs & badges

Language

Vocabulary connected with interacting with other people, vocabulary extension

Level

Intermediate to upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2/C1 and above)

Comment

This eLesson is about two new devices for monitoring our interaction with other people.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Set the context of the reading 'How good are they at reading people's expressions?' and check that students understand *emotional intelligence*. Before handing out the text, you could bring in photos of different people's expressions and ask students to guess what they are, using some of the six expressions used in the text: *thinking, agreeing, concentrating, interested, confused, disagreeing*.
- 2 In exercise 1 students read quickly for gist. Give a brief time limit, eg 1–2 minutes depending on students' level, to encourage fast reading. When the time limit is up, students can discuss their answers in pairs if appropriate. Take feedback; accept variations as long as they have shown they understand the basic purpose of the devices.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives students practice in reading for more detailed comprehension. If you feel your students might have problems with any of the words, you can refer them to the Glossary. Students could compare their answers in pairs. In class feedback ask students to justify their answers with reference to the text.
- 4 Exercise 3 focuses on vocabulary from the text. Students try to complete the sentences using the definitions in brackets. They can then look back at the text to check their answers. Take feedback.
- 5 Exercise 4 helps the students develop their vocabulary. Students could work in pairs to match the vocabulary to the definitions if appropriate. During feedback, check the pronunciation of the vowel /aʊ/ in *frown* and *bow*, and /ɔː/ in *yawn*.
- 6 Exercise 5 gives practice of these verbs and relates to the students' country / culture or other countries they know. Students could work in pairs for this. Take class feedback. Answers will depend on the students' country / culture or the country they choose to describe. For example 10 different types of smiles have been identified for Japanese faces, including *bakushu* (happy smile), *shisho* (inappropriate giggle), and *terawari* (acutely embarrassed smile).
- 7 Exercise 6 gives students personalised speaking practice about the text. Set the discussion task for small groups if appropriate. Take class feedback. If appropriate, students could write a guide for teachers coming to their country to let them know what the physical signals mean, eg a teacher going to work in Turkey needs to know that when students raise their eyebrows it means 'yes'.

Answer key

1 x-ray specs show you the listener's reaction to what you're saying
sociometric badges show how often people speak to each other, for how long and who they speak to most / least

2

- 1 x-ray glasses
- 2 no (we give off unconscious signals)
- 3 nodding and squinting
- 4 thinking, agreeing, concentrating, interested, confused, disagreeing
- 5 with a traffic light system (displayed on the lens) with green for 'interested', amber for 'moderately interested' and red for 'not interested'
- 6 how often you're speaking, for how long and who with
- 7 people
- 8 the interaction between people (a thick line if two people speak a lot to each other and a very thin if they barely speak)
- 9 although some of the speakers started with very different dots, by the end of the experiment all the dots were more or less the same size and colour, which showed that people had changed their behaviour and made the interaction more even

3

- 1 emotional intelligence
- 2 device
- 3 give off
- 4 interpret
- 5 novelty
- 6 barely
- 7 transform

4

- | | |
|-----|------|
| 1 f | 6 a |
| 2 b | 7 i |
| 3 g | 8 d |
| 4 e | 9 c |
| 5 h | 10 j |

5 Students' own answers / ideas.

6 Students' own answers / ideas.

Related websites

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21128191.600-specs-that-see-right-through-you.html?page=3>

http://www.iq.harvard.edu/news/studying_human_behavior_sociometric_badge