

USING MIME AND GESTURE [9a/ii]

Language equivalents

The numbers in brackets are suggestions only

miam-miam! (1)
parfait! / excellent! (2)
voyons... (3)
c'est difficile! (3)
je ne sais pas (4)
bonne chance! (5)
ça pue! (6)
j'ai sommeil (7)
monsieur, s'il vous plaît! (8)
je peux...? (8)
j'ai mal au cœur ... (9)

yum, yum! / yummy!
perfect! / excellent!
let's see now...
that's hard! / this is difficult!
I don't know
good luck
that stinks!
I'm sleepy
please, sir!
can I ...?
I'm feeling sick ...

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doucement! (1)
attendez! (2)
fais attention! / faites attention! (2)
continue ... (3)
chut! (4)
asseyez-vous (5)
bravo! (6)
parle plus fort / je n'entends pas (7)
tu commences à m'énerver! (8)
ça y est! / c'est fini! (9)

quietly ! / gently now!
wait (a minute)!
pay attention!
go on ... / explain...
shh!
sit down
well done!
speak up / I can't hear
you are beginning to get on my nerves
that's it! / all done!

TEACHING NOTES

French speakers frequently make use of gesture to convey or to amplify meaning, or to indicate that the speaker needs time to think. Younger learners, in particular, enjoy using mime and gesture and can be encouraged to use this skill when they get stuck.

The visuals on the following pages should be used without reference to the foreign language, as a stimulus for discussion about language and communication in general. Discuss the visuals (in English). Ask the pupils to say what message might be intended in each case. Is this what they would do? What other gestures might they make? What would they mean? Take turns to 'act a message'. Can the others guess what it is? Add drawings.

Pupils should be able to pick out in the pages of this book more examples of gestures which convey meaning even if no words are spoken.

Encourage pupils to use their eyes as well as their ears for clues to meaning. If you have a hearing impaired child in the class, s/he will be very good at this. If you use signing with your pupils, don't deprive them of it now. Continue to use it in the same way, to support meaning.

NEXT STAGE

If these people were speaking French, what might they be saying? Don't puzzle over each one, pick out a few obvious ones, or let the pupils suggest them. Find suitable phrases from the bank below. Some are more obvious than others. The numbers in brackets are intended only as suggestions.

Some of the pictures may be used as prompts for phrases you wish your pupils to learn and use. Teach pupils a phrase to accompany a gesture, so that the gesture becomes a kinetic support for the language item.

Teacher's use of mime and gesture

Of course, mime and gesture as well as demonstration, facial expression and intonation are also used by teachers to convey meaning to their pupils. They often transcend verbal meaning and always illuminate it. They are part of every teacher's tool kit — multi-sensory resources which cost nothing and which are constantly available. Their importance should not be underestimated.

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