

DRŽAVNO NATJECANJE IZ ENGLESKOGA JEZIKA
za 4. razrede srednjih škola

SLUŠANJE S RAZUMIJEVANJEM

Good morning. May I have your attention, please? The listening part of the test will start now. Open your tests to page 2. As you can see, the listening task and questions are on this page.

You will hear a recording about Body Language.

You will hear the recording twice, and there will be a short pause between the two listenings.

You can write your answers during both the first and second listening.

Listen to the recording. For each of the questions 1-5, choose ONE answer (A, B, C or D) that fits best according to the recording.

Write the corresponding letter (A, B, C or D) on the Answer Sheet.

The task begins with an example (0).

Remember to write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

While you are listening, write your answers on the task itself. You can cross out your answers, change them, make notes or underline words if you wish.

After the second listening, you will have 1 minute to check your answers.
During this time, you should write your final answers on the Answer Sheet.

Now, let's begin. You have 30 seconds to read through the questions.

[Count silently to 30 – and then say the following:]

Now you will hear the recording.

Body Language

Body language, it seems, could be the key to all sorts of mysteries. Experts believe that our 'silent speech'—the way we move, small changes of appearance, posture and gestures—conveys far more meaning than the words in any conversation. If body language doesn't match words, it makes us feel uncomfortable, even if we can't identify why. These incongruities are called 'non-verbal leakage', and being able to spot them can help us to make much more sense of our interactions. Watching other people's body language can also help your own self-image. The main problem when people are insecure or lack self-esteem is that they imagine everyone else is secure. If you spot the tricks someone is using to intimidate you, they seem less threatening. So body language tactics are not to hide these signs of tension, but to gain mastery and confidence over the environment, to spot when others are being threatening or belittling, and take counter-measures.

Anyone who's ever tried to change the way they move, say from being round-shouldered, knows that it takes a great deal of concentration—at least, for a while. Walking tall with shoulders back increases and creates better posture, and this can soon become as much of a habit as a slouched posture. So, a useful ploy to boost confidence before an awkward encounter is to look up at the sky or ceiling, then put your chin horizontal and lower your gaze, but keep your eyes and eyebrows at the same position as the other person, mirroring her or him. This simple change of facial posture can make you look, and feel, much more confident.

Consider how you feel with true friends. There is a sense of relaxation, of freedom from tension, power plays, and the uncertainty that may be experienced during encounters with strangers. The key here is that you are of equal status. Among friends, there is a similarity of posture and mimicry of movement, known as 'postural echo'. It carries the message 'I am like you' and makes friends 'feel right' together. However, the synchrony is missing in some people, causing them to have poor postural echo. Perhaps, this is because their parents were undemonstrative or unloving while growing up and they never cultivated it, or they seem never to have absorbed the unconscious signals of co-operative movement for various reasons. As the echo goes, so does the sense of rapport, and so they may find it, at times, difficult to make friends.

People signal feeling and intent in body language. Jabbing a raised finger in conversation means power or anger. Turning the head or crossing legs away from someone you're talking to shows you don't want to be involved. Other 'barrier signals', like folded arms, may reveal a person's hostility or insecurity. Submission gestures like nodding and bowing are ritualised socially, and then we all start to edge away slightly or sit forward in our chair when we're too polite to say 'I'd like to stop this discussion and leave'. Most people will take the hint; those who don't are likely to be labelled as monopolising bores.

A whole new world opens up if you're aware of contradictory signals. If a friend who seems to be listening raptly is tapping her toes as well, change the subject—she's bored. In a similar way, the way we dominate space is an extension of body language. The more expansive we are, the more powerful, from the hands-behind-head, feet-on-desk pose, to the positioning of towels on a bench or books on a table. Encroachments into strangers' territory when you meet them, like placing your bag firmly on their desk or putting your coffee cup down near to theirs, makes them alert and increases your feeling of dominance and self-reliance in an encounter.

The first four minutes of any social encounter are critical. When two people meeting make eye contact, they typically raise and lower their eyebrows in a flash greeting, which is known by experts as the 'eyebrow flash'. This may signal 'hello', a query, approval, thanks, agreement, flirtation, emphasis or occasionally disapproval, so it's expected that one is capable of some sort of reciprocal acknowledgement, however miniscule, in the social encounter greeting. Otherwise, this lack of reciprocity is considered unusual. During the initial conversation, a direct gaze is needed for contact and to convey good intent, but it's a natural occurrence and acceptable etiquette to look away now and then. Notably, intense staring occurs at the heights of both intimacy and aggression in conversations; whereas, too short a gaze implies disinterest, so as with all things, striving for a balance of non-threatening or dismissive reactions is the key to socially acceptable body language.

[Count silently to 5 and then say the following:]

Now you will hear the recording again.

[After the second reading, say the following:]

You now have 1 minute to check your answers and copy them onto the Answer Sheet.

[Count silently to 60 – and then say the following:]

This is the end of the listening task. You may now go on to do the other parts of the test.