

She Sat, He Stood
What Do Your Characters Do While They Talk?
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Emotions Revealed Thru Expressions and Actions

<p>Comfort actions: tapping on a desk, pacing, stroking a mustache, rocking or swaying</p> <p>Facial expressions:</p> <p>Aggression: face pulls forward, eyebrows forward in a frown, forehead smooth, mouth corners held forward, lips—tight, pursed line. A direct stare shows out right aggression.</p> <p>Threat actions: sticking out tongue, puffing up body</p> <p>Fear: face pulls back, eyebrows raised, forehead wrinkles, mouth corners pulled back, lips parted with teeth exposed</p> <p>Fear actions: crouching, groveling, kneeling, bowing, curtsying, bringing body down. Lowing of the eyes implies submission.</p> <p>Eye masking actions: Covering the eyes with hands, some people repeatedly shut their eyes briefly while facing and talking to strangers, but they don't do this when talking</p>	<p>to family or friends in a less stressful situation. In face-to-face conversation, we typically look away when we talk, then glance back at the end of each sentence to check the response to what we have said.</p> <p>Displacement grooming actions: (Grooming actions used in stressful or tense moments, carried out in a ritual fashion.)</p> <p>scratching head, biting nails, rearranging knickknacks that are in perfect order, cleaning glasses that aren't dirty, nibbling on food when not hungry, adjusting coiffure, rubbing nose, stroking earlobe, rubbing chin, "washing" face with hands, licking lips, rubbing hands together in a rinsing action.</p> <p>Note: A truly dominant individual (hero or heroine) can be recognized by the almost complete absence of such actions. If the dominant member of the group performs these actions it means his or her official dominance is being threatened in some way.</p>
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The above information was taken from *The Naked Ape* by Desmond Morris, Random House, 1999.