

Improving Hand Gestures

1. Look at the following sentences. Demonstrate how you would use your hands if you were saying these sentences.

1. Today, I'd like to introduce you to Samantha Parker.
2. Janet first majored in art but later switched to architecture.
3. Pong studied in Britain twice – in 2003 and again in 2009.
4. I'll answer that question in just a minute.
5. Let me write the word on the blackboard.
6. I'm going to describe a receipt from top to bottom.
7. So what's an action potential?
8. Injury can be defined in two ways: physical injury and injury to someone's dignity.
9. This step in the process is very, very dangerous because it must be done quickly.
10. The process has become simpler, cheaper and safer.

2. Look at the following extract. Think of how you would highlight your ideas using concept-related gestures. Then watch the extract and compare.

Follow-up: watch the extract again, paying attention to stress, intonation and pauses and practice reading the extract out loud.

How the brain works - Rebecca Saxe

Talking about this balance, between, on the one hand the emotion and on the other hand the inhibition... One thing, I think, is a really interesting discovery about the brain is that, er, basically, one of the major ways that it works is by generating all the possible responses to a situation and then inhibiting the ones that you don't want. We sort of think of it as that we only generate the one, we only ever generate the one right answer. And so we don't have to worry about the wrong answers to a situation and so here's a mundane example...