

Lesson 6 — Facial Expressions

Subject 4 — Non-Verbal Communication: Facial Expressions

Objective: Students will name the feeling behind a facial expression, identify the clues that gave it away, and match their own face to what they mean.

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials:

- Facial expression poster (happy, sad, angry, worried, surprised, confused, not interested)
- Expression photo cards
- Hand mirrors
- Read the Face worksheet
- Whiteboard

LESSON SEQUENCE

Phase	What Happens
Warm-Up / Hook 5 min	Say the sentence “We are having a test today” three times with three different faces — excited, worried, angry. Ask the group what changed. The words were identical each time. Explain that the face carries the message, and today they are learning to read it.
Direct Instruction / Modelling 10 min	Teach the three places to look: the eyebrows, the eyes, and the mouth. Go through each expression on the poster and name the clues out loud: “Angry — eyebrows down and together, mouth tight, eyes narrow.” Include worried and confused, which students often miss, and not interested, which matters most in conversation. Demonstrate each expression on your own face and let the students copy it while looking in the mirrors.
Guided Practice 12 min	Hold up expression photo cards. Students name the feeling and then name the clue that told them. Push past the first answer every time: “How do you know? What are the eyebrows doing?” Then give a situation and ask what face fits: “Your friend just found out he is moving away. What does his face look like?”
Independent Practice 12 min	Students complete the Read the Face worksheet — label the expression and circle the clue. Second half: partners take turns making an expression while the other names it and the clue. Circulate and note which expressions students are consistently missing.



Phase	What Happens
Wrap-Up & Review <i>6 min</i>	Rapid review — you make a face, the group names it and the clue. Ask each student which expression is hardest for him to read. Set the goal: look at one person's face today and figure out how he is feeling before he tells you.

GAMES

Face Match

Deal expression cards face down. Students take turns flipping one, making that face, and having the group guess. Match the guess to the card to score.

Mirror Me

Partners sit facing each other with mirrors. One makes an expression, the other copies it exactly and names it. Swap after each round.

Emotion Detective

Show a photo of a person in a situation. Students read the face and build a story — what happened just before this photo? Compare answers and discuss the clues used.

WHAT THE TEACHER CAN SAY

- “Look at his eyebrows. What are they doing?”
- “How do you know he is upset?”
- “Your face is saying something different from your words.”
- “Check his face before you keep talking.”
- “You read that face correctly — nice.”

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Student names the common expressions correctly
- Student can point to the clue, not just the feeling
- Student looks at faces during conversation rather than past them
- Student's own face matches what he is saying
- Student notices a not interested face and adjusts

SUPPORTS AND ADAPTATIONS

- Start with three expressions and add more once those are secure
- Use real photographs rather than cartoons for students who need it concrete
- Do not force eye contact — teach looking at the whole face or the bridge of the nose
- Give a small card with the expressions and clues to keep at the desk
- Name feelings out loud during the yeshiva day so the student hears the vocabulary in real use

