



Facial Expressions

Five lessons on everything that carries a conversation before anyone speaks.

EVERYTHING IN THIS PACK

1	Lesson 6 Lesson Plan (PDF) · The same lesson, ready to read on a phone or tablet	one copy	2p
2	Read the Face · Seven expressions with the clue to look for, and space to draw	one copy	1p
3	Do / Not Yet Poster · Looking at his face beside looking at the floor — photo poster	one for the wall	1p
4	Emotion Cards · 10 cards, each with the facial clues to look for	one set per student	2p



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Printing. This is one file, so it prints in one go. The pages marked “one set per student” are the ones to run multiple copies of — either set the copies for those page numbers in the print box, or print this once and photocopy them. **The lesson plan is also available as a Word file** on the site if you want to change the wording before you teach it.

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



Read the Face

Look at three places: the eyebrows, the eyes, the mouth



Happy

Clue to look for: Mouth turns up, eyes crinkle

When have you seen this face? _____



Sad

Clue to look for: Mouth turns down, eyes look down

When have you seen this face? _____



Angry

Clue to look for: Eyebrows down and together, mouth tight

When have you seen this face? _____



Worried

Clue to look for: Eyebrows up in the middle, mouth small

When have you seen this face? _____



Surprised

Clue to look for: Eyebrows high, eyes wide, mouth open

When have you seen this face? _____



Confused

Clue to look for: One eyebrow up, mouth to one side

When have you seen this face? _____



Not interested

Clue to look for: Eyes looking away, face flat

When have you seen this face? _____



Looking at the Face

Which one can see how he feels?

✓ GOOD



- ✓ Looking at his face
- ✓ Comfortable eye contact
- ✓ Can see the clues
- ✓ Knows how he is feeling

✗ NOT YET



- ✗ Looking down at the floor
- ✗ Face turned away
- ✗ Missing all the clues
- ✗ Cannot tell how he feels

Remember:

Faces give us clues about feelings.

Emotion Cards — What Is the Face Saying?

Show a card. Students name the feeling and the clue that told them.

HAPPY

Smiling mouth • Bright eyes

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

SAD

Mouth turned down • Looking down

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

ANGRY

Tight mouth • Eyebrows down

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

CONFUSED

Head tilted • Eyebrows together

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

EXCITED

Big smile • Wide eyes

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

TIRED

Half-closed eyes • Yawning

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

Social Skills Program • Week 2: Reading Facial Expressions • 10 cards



Emotion Cards — What Is the Face Saying?

Show a card. Students name the feeling and the clue that told them.

NERVOUS

Biting lip • Looking around

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

SURPRISED

Eyebrows up • Mouth open

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

INTERESTED

Looking at you • Nodding

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

BORED

Looking away • No expression

Look at: eyes • mouth • eyebrows

