

Skill Area(s):
 Perspective Taking
 Feelings/Emotions



Mr. Bean DVDs

Level: beginner, intermediate, advanced

Goal: to identify feelings/emotions through body language

Materials needed: Mr. Bean DVDs* (DVDs work better than VHS as you can freeze the picture more easily)

Activity: He rarely speaks but the man with no common sense whatsoever still manages to get himself into plenty of trouble! There are 3 DVDs from the Mr. Bean TV series. There are many episodes to use for this activity. Whether he is in THE EXAM, for which he doesn't know the answer to a single question, or ON THE BEACH where he is trying to change into swimming trunks without taking off his trousers, or in THE CHURCH where he desperately needs to stay awake. Mr. Bean always finds a way that no normal person would even contemplate.

- Watch the chosen episode in its entirety first. The students need to enjoy and view the storyline before you can break it down. Each skit is short and run approximately six minutes.
- Watch the opening credits- Mr. Bean appears to be beamed down onto a road and lost. Ask students what they think is happening and how they can tell. Possible responses may be he's an alien being sent to earth (the light beam). He doesn't know where he is (runs across the screen several times).
- Watch the episode again and pause or freeze frames as necessary.
- Ask students to observe the cars and drivers- how are they different from ours and why? (The show is from the UK).
- Talk about the body language in the scenes and what it means. Make predictions on what the actor(s) emotions/feelings. Note details in their faces and body-eyebrows, mouth, body position, etc.
- Talk about what other options the actor might have chosen. Relate situations to the students' lives.

Follow up suggestions:

- Students can role play an episode and have the others can guess the situation. Have the student actor freeze so others can analyze the facial expressions and body language.
- Students can role play a situation from school in Mr. Bean style- exaggerated facial expressions and body language and w/o talking.
- Video tape your own Mr. Bean type episode.
- See Skit Scenario Options

*We bought The Whole Bean for 23.00 through eBay ~ be sure to buy one that is from the USA and not from another country as it probably won't play on USA DVD players. This can also be found on other web sites, Best Buy, video stores, etc. You might be able to check it out from the library or the video store.

Skit Scenario Options

1. You come up with a great awesome idea, but it gets sabotaged by another co-worker/student, who steals the idea and claims the credit for himself.
2. While walking on the street, you encounter someone whom you might have met. By the time he finishes analyzing the facial features to determine the identity of the person, you can no longer respond because the person had passed you by.
3. Talking to yourself during test and laughing
4. talking inappropriately in an otherwise normal conversation, like science formulas in a discussion about sports
5. You try to participate in a conversation but you stand or sit too close, touch the others face, comb their hair, etc.
6. You are being interviewed for a job, by your teacher/principal (choose an age appropriate situation) and can't stay in your chair, can't look at the other person, etc.