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LANGUAGE

IMAGE: © LAUREN MANNING

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UNDERSTANDING BODY
LANGUAGE IS BENEFICIAL IN THE
WORKPLACE AS UP TO 93% OF
OUR COMMUNICATION IS
NONVERBAL.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT!

YOUR BODY LANGUAGE IMPACTS FIRST IMPRESSIONS BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN INTRODUCED YOURSELF. IT REVEALS A LOT ABOUT YOUR OWN AND OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.

EYE CONTACT



EYE CONTACT SMILING



EYE CONTACT
SMILING
BODY POSITION



EYE CONTACT
SMILING
BODY POSITION
GESTURES/MOVEMENTS



HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON HOW TO COMMUNICATE WELL THROUGH BODY LANGUAGE:



IMAGE: (CC) BRITT-KNEE



DIFFERENT SITUATIONS REQUIRE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EYE CONTACT.





IF YOU ARE IN AN INTERVIEW SITUATION, MAKE SURE THAT YOU LOOK AT THE PERSON TALKING TO YOU, BUT GLANCE AWAY OCCASIONALLY.





THIS WILL SHOW THAT THEY HAVE YOUR FULL ATTENTION AND YOU ARE INTERESTED TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.

IF YOU FEEL NERVOUS



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DON'T BE TEMPTED TO LOOK TO THE SIDE OR THE GROUND FOR PROLONGED PERIODS OF TIME, AS THIS IS A TELL TALE SIGN OF BEING NERVOUS.



IF YOU DO FEEL NERVOUS,
REMIND YOURSELF THAT THE
PERSON YOU'RE TALKING TO HAS
BEEN IN THE SAME POSITION AS
YOU BEFORE.



TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND LOOK STRAIGHT AT THEM, LISTEN TO WHAT THEY ARE SAYING OR ASKING AND YOU'LL SOON FORGET ABOUT YOUR NERVES.

SMILING

SMILING REVEALS A LOT ABOUT A PERSON.



IF YOU WANT TO LOOK FRIENDLY AND GENUINE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN YOU SMILE YOU "SMILE WITH YOUR EYES".



THIS MEANS THAT YOUR EYES WILL CRINKLE SLIGHTLY WHEN YOU SMILE...





THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS DURING A GENUINE SMILE. PRACTISE IN THE MIRROR AND YOU WILL SEE THAT YOUR WHOLE FACE LIFTS.



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SMILING WITH YOUR MOUTH TIGHTLY SHUT WON'T COME ACROSS AS GENUINE, SO TRY TO AVOID THIS.



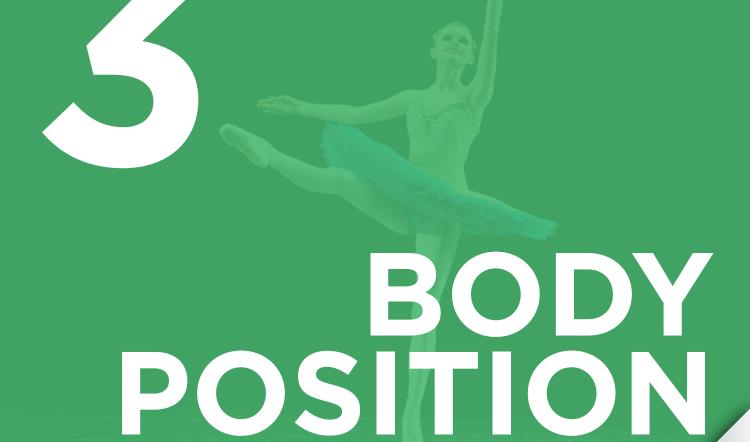


IMAGE: © HARCLAD

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WHEN INDIVIDUALS ARE TIMID OR NERVOUS,

WHEN INDIVIDUALS ARE TIMID OR NERVOUS,

THEY TEND TO MAKE THEMSELVES LOOK SMALL BY TUCKING THEIR FEET UNDER THEIR CHAIR AND KEPING THEIR ARMS CLOSE TO THEIR BODIES.



IN A SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT IT IS IMPORTANT TO APPEAR CONFIDENT AND ORGANISED.

TO DO THIS YOU SHOULD CLAIM YOUR SPACE BY PLACING YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND WHEN SEATED, LEAN BACK AND LET YOUR ARMS RELAX.

THE MORE COMFORTABLE YOU LOOK, THE MORE COMFORTABLE YOU'LL FEEL...



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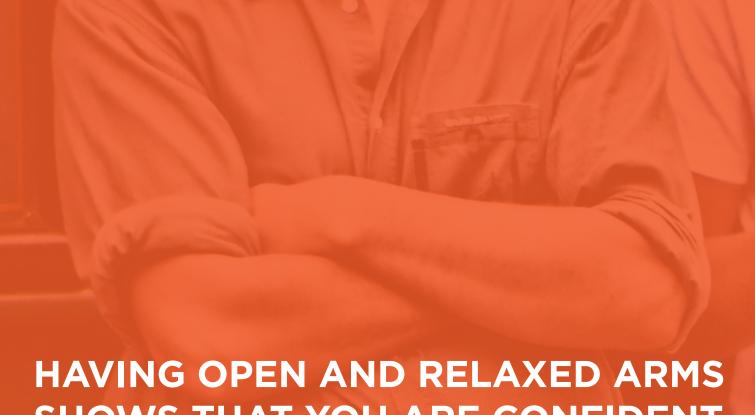
BUT DON'T BE TOO LAID BACK ...



...CLOSED ARMS MEAN THAT YOU ARE CLOSING THE WORLD OFF AND PROTECTING YOURSELF.



HOWEVER, IT CAN ALSO MEAN THAT YOU ARE PHYSICALLY CHOOSING TO BLOCK YOURSELF FROM THE OTHER PERSON AND NOT OPENLY LISTEN TO WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.



HAVING OPEN AND RELAXED ARMS SHOWS THAT YOU ARE CONFIDENT AND IS INVITING FOR PEOPLE.



GESTURES/ MOVEMENTS

GESTURES SUCH AS HANDSHAKES CAN CONVEY A NUMBER OF EMOTIONS DEPENDING ON HOW THEY ARE CARRIED OUT.



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IN MOST CASES IT IS BEST TO HAVE AN EQUAL AND VERTICAL HANDSHAKE AS THIS WILL MAKE YOU APPEAR RELAXED AND NON-THREATENING.

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TRY TO AVOID FACING YOUR PALM DOWN AS THIS IS A DOMINANT SIGN.



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FACING YOUR PALM UPWARDS
WILL APPEAR SUBMISSIVE; BOTH
OF THESE TYPES OF
HANDSHAKES SHOULD BE
AVOIDED, ESPECIALLY IN A
WORKING ENVIRONMENT.



UNDERSTANDING THE ART OF BODY LANGUAGE IS ALL ABOUT CONTEXT.

BODY LANGUAGE IN GENERAL IS BESPOKE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL, BUT HAVING A BROAD OVERVIEW AND UNDERSTANDING OF IT WILL ALLOW YOU TO SEE PATTERNS WITHIN YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

AND DO WHAT FEELS RIGHT FOR YOU. EVEN THOUGH THE WORK PLACE IS PROFESSIONAL, YOU ARE JUST TALKING TO OTHER PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF.

FOR MORE TIPS ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TO SEE ALL OF OUR LATEST OPPORTUNITIES, CONNECT WITH THE INTERQUEST GROUP

