

**Objective:** An experimental exercise for communication skills that proves the importance of body language to convey messages.

**Time:** 15 minutes

**Demonstration:**

1. Explain to your audience that there is a terrible monster and only one person in this room knows what he looks like: ask for a volunteer to be that person.
2. Show the volunteer the figure without anyone else seeing (figure 1, shown below).
3. Ask audience to get prepared to draw the monster based on the volunteer's verbal description only. He will not be able to make any eye contact gestures or signals. The audience will not be able to ask any questions either (i.e. only one way communication is allowed).
4. Ask the volunteer to turn his back to the audience and start describing the monster using words only – no gestures! Give him 5 minutes and call time.
5. Ask participants to show their drawings of the monster and *then* show the real picture!
6. Repeat the exercise with the same volunteer but with a different picture of a new monster (Figure 2, shown below): Allow the volunteer to face the audience and use gestures, expressions to describe the monster – the audience can participate, ask questions, etc. Give them 10 minutes and call time.
7. Ask participants to show their drawings and then show the 'real' monster.
8. Actively discuss this exercise by posing questions like:
* Where any of the drawings similar to the real 'monster' or even similar to each others?
* Why was the one way communication hard to follow?
* Was anyone confused even when they had two - way communication?
* How could the two- way communication have been more effective?
* Did everyone/many misunderstand the same point? Why?

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**Figure 1**

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**Figure 2**

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