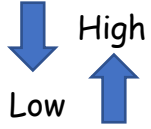




# DRAMA PERFORMANCE SKILLS



## VOCALS



**Pitch:** How high or low your voice is.

**Pace:** The speed that you speak at.



**Tone:** The feeling behind your voice.



**Pause:** A break in speaking; a period of silence.

**Diction:** The clearness of your voice - the audience being able to understand what you are saying.



**Volume:** The loudness or quietness of your voice.



**Power:** The amount of tension in your voice. This is not the same as volume - you can have large vocal power at a low volume.



**Emphasis:** 'Highlighting' a specific word or phrase, by changing at least one aspect of your vocals.



**Accent:** The way words are pronounced in a local area or country. E.g. Liverpudlian, R.P. 'Jordie', Irish, American South.



**Articulation:** The way that you pronounce each letter in a word. If using a high level of articulation, you would pronounce every letter in every word.



## PHYSICALITY



**Direction:** The position you face or move in.

**Pace:** The speed that you move at.



**Gait:** The way that you walk.

**Tension:** How tightly you are holding your muscles.



**Control:** Being able to execute a specific and precise movement.

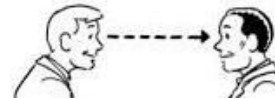


**Gesture:** A movement (of the head, arm, hand, leg or foot) which communicates a specific meaning.

**Facial Expression:** Using your face to show how a character is feeling.



**Eye Contact:** Choosing to look at a specific performer, object, audience member or direction.



**Posture:** The way that you sit or stand; the alignment of your spine. Your physical stance, which conveys information about your character.



## DIG DEEPER QUESTIONS

How could you use vocal skills to communicate subtle changes to a character's emotions?  
How could you use physical skills to communicate subtle changes to a character's emotions?  
Which do you think is the most important vocal skill? Why?  
Why do you need to change your characterisation depending on the style of the play?

How can eye contact change the meaning communicated?  
How might adding a pause change the meaning of a line?  
Which do you think is the most important physical skill? Why?  
What makes a successful performance?