

## Clip: Pas de deux Episode 4: Minefield

### Activity: Communication

#### Theme: Dance skills

#### Elements of dance: body, space, relationships

The communication involved with partner work is often centred on sending and receiving verbal and non-verbal communications and signals.

1. As a class, view the clip, *Pas de deux*. Discuss and list the non-verbal signals evident in the clip on the whiteboard.
2. Divide the class into pairs. One partner will think of what they would like the other person to do - for instance, to pick up the pen I just dropped, or tie up my shoelaces. Within a time frame of three minutes, that person must try, non-verbally to make their partner do the activity without actually telling or showing them what to do. Swap roles and discuss what makes the communication clearer, or more difficult.
3. In order to help students with this communication game, you may wish to do the following: write out very simple instructions and print them on a piece of paper. Cut the instructions into small strips that can be handed out to each student. The instructions could include, take off my shoes, pull up my socks, sharpen my pencil, straighten my collar, etc.
4. Ask students to observe how partners hold each other for ballroom dancing. Generally, the male will place one hand around the waist of his partner and one hand underneath the opposite hand. He uses his hands and feet to indicate direction and change.
5. In pairs, have students try a number of different holds and experiment with different ways they can signal to their partner. Rock 'n Roll music is appropriate for this activity; salsa music is equally as good.
6. Have students create a short dance phrase with their partner based on non-verbal communication skills.
7. Each partner will be asked to present the phrases to the rest of the class and elaborate on some of the signals they have invented.

8. Have the students complete **Student Activity Sheet 4.3: Signals and Actions** to evaluate their partner work.

### Download

- [Student Activity Sheet 4.3: Signals and Actions](#)

### Useful resources

- [Ballroom Dancers](#)
- [Club Salsa - What is Salsa?](#)



NAME: .....

Student Activity Sheet: E4.3      Episode: Minefield  
Activity: Communication      Clip: Pas de deux

## Signals and Actions

SSSSSSHHHHHHH... silently complete the following reflection using your own unique thoughts.

My partner was really good at...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

I was really good at...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

It was challenging when...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.