



Movement Knowledge Organiser



What? (Definition)

In drama, **movement** refers to how an actor uses their **body** to convey **character, emotion, and meaning**. It encompasses all **physical actions** on stage. This can include:

- Facial Expressions
- Gestures
- Body Language
- Physicality



Why? (Purpose)

The purpose of using movement effectively in drama includes:

- **Conveying Emotion:** Shows a character's feelings without words (e.g., slumped posture for sadness)
- **Developing Character:** Reveals who a character is through how they move (e.g., fidgeting for nervous).
- **Communicating Information:** Provides essential non-verbal information (e.g., pointing, shrugging)
- **Enhancing Storytelling:** Keeps the audience engaged and drives the narrative, showing relationships
- **Non-Verbal Communication:** Expresses subtext – the unspoken thoughts or underlying meaning – adding depth to the performance.

How? (Making It Effective)

To make your movement effective in drama:

Observe & Be Specific: Watch how real people move to show emotion or character.

Exaggerate & Be Clear: On stage, movements need to be slightly bigger than in real life so the audience can see them clearly.

Motivate & Be Consistent: Every movement should have a reason related to your character or the story. Once you decide how a character moves, try to keep it consistent.

Use the Space & Vary Pace: Don't just stand still! Use different parts of the stage and vary speed.

Practice & Work Together: Rehearse your movements regularly as a collective.

How? - Key techniques and how to use effectively? (Making It Effective)



Facial Expressions

The use of the muscles in the face to communicate emotions, reactions, and thoughts. This includes changes in the eyes, eyebrows, mouth, and forehead.



Body Language

The non-verbal signals communicated through the overall posture, stance, and arrangement of the body. It can reveal a character's feelings, attitude, status, or relationship with others.



Gestures

Specific movements of the hands, arms, head, or other parts of the body that are used to express or emphasize an idea, feeling, or intention. Often used to punctuate speech or convey unspoken messages.



Physicality

The overall way an actor uses their body to inhabit a character. This includes their posture, walk, habitual movements, and how they carry themselves. It's about embodying the character's physical being.