

LIE DETECTION

CALIBRATION

The process of calibration is relatively easy once perfected. It involves the recognition of a set of standard reactions that an individual will establish during the routine of normal conversation. When responding to non-sensitive questions, we automatically establish baseline verbal and non-verbal reactions. Once these have been identified, the conversation may move to address more sensitive questions. A comparison of the individual's reactions to these questions may be made to the reactions to the earlier questions. If there seems to be a large difference in response characteristics to the same type of style of question, it is probably fair to assume that the individual is lying.

Body postures may also be calibrated. Honest body language may be interpreted as upright, open and relaxed, leaning forward and frontally aligned, with dynamic changes in posture. Conversely, deceptive body language may be interpreted as slouching or retreating, rigid and immobile with erratic posture changes, non-frontal alignment and resting of the head against a hand or upright. Individuals placed in high-stress situations where they feel under pressure, often slouch backwards when sitting, tending to signify a retreat from the hostile scenario.

DECEPTIVE GESTURES

Deceptive gestures may be classified into four main groups : personal gestures, grooming gestures, supportive and protective gestures and external gestures.

Personal Gestures	Rubbing and wringing of hands Scratching, picking Pulling of nose or earlobes Pulling, twirling of hair Licking of lips Sighs and yawns Wiping sweat from hands, brow, neck Knuckle popping, drumming of fingers Shuffling, tapping and swinging of feet Leg bouncing
Grooming Gestures	Adjustment of clothing or accessories Dusting, lint picking, thread pulling Fixing or straightening hair Nail inspection, biting, chewing
Supportive and Protective Gestures	Head or chin on hand Covering of mouth or eyes Hiding of hands or feet Crossing arms or legs
External Gestures	Smoking Looking in purse or briefcase Playing with other objects

VERBAL BEHAVIOURAL CUES

Verbal response cues clearly differ drastically between individuals, but listed below is a broad outline of deceptive and non-deceptive verbal behavioural cues. They are by no means definitive so consider these with a health warning.

Truthful Responses	Deceptive Responses
<p>Responds directly Answers question Denies broadly Uses descriptive language (e.g. steal) Confident denials Spontaneous response Less formal denial</p>	<p>Answers evasively Question not answered Denies specifically Avoids descriptive language Bolster credibility of denials with oaths Rehearsed responses More formal denial</p>

PARALINGUISTIC BEHAVIOURAL CUES

Truthful Cues	Deceptive Cues
<p>Answer questions in rate with the conversation - generally within a half second Increasing rate, pitch and volume No erasures</p>	<p>Early responses, or delayed responses Decreasing rate, pitch and volume Erasures</p>

In the category of early or delayed responses, consider stalling tactics i.e.: asking to repeat or change the question.

In the category of erasures, consider behaviour occurring before or after that effectively 'erase' the statement i.e.: coughing, sniffing, laughing, clearing of throat. These usually result from a misplaced sense of lying too conspicuously and the guilt associated with lying.

Research into the language of lying shows that liars, generally, more implausible answers, give shorter responses, make fewer self references and give more indirect replies.

EYE ACCESSING CUES IN LIE DETECTION

"Somebody may maintain eye contact when they're lying because they think that when you're telling the truth you make eye contact, and when you lie you break eye contact, which is of course as I've just said, in order to find information in your head, you have to look away. It's very difficult to do that when you're maintaining eye contact - you don't need to look away when you lie because you don't need to really get that information, so you can afford to keep looking straight at the person. So again you've broken the pattern, you've ironically done the opposite of what you imagine would be the case."

- Derren Brown : Speaking on the Radio 4 documentary "Pants on Fire"