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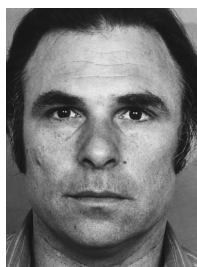
## ***Action Unit Combinations – 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23***

### **A. Appearance Changes due to AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23**

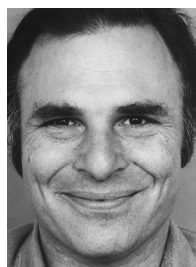
Having learned 17+23, the changes introduced by the addition of 12 should be easy to see. The shape of the lips is a compromise between that found with 12 alone , and that with 17 alone , resulting in a fairly straight mouth line. In addition, most of the usual signs of 12 are present.

1. Pulls the corners of the lips back and upward through the action of 12, but due to the push up on the lower lip by 17 and the lip tightening by 23, the shape of the mouth is straight or curved in a U shape only to a very limited extent.
2. Deepens the nasolabial furrow, pulling it laterally and up. The skin adjacent to the nasolabial furrow is raised up and laterally.
3. In a weak to moderate 12, there is some raising of the infraorbital triangle and there may be some deepening of the infraorbital furrow.
4. In a strong action of 12, one or more of the following:
  - a. The infraorbital triangle upward push is more evident.
  - b. The infraorbital furrow deepening is more evident.
  - c. Bags the skin below the lower eyelid.
  - d. Narrows the eye aperture by pushing up the cheek and skin below the lower lid.
  - e. Produces crow's feet at eye corners.
  - f. May raise and widen the nostrils.
5. Pushes the chin boss upwards.
6. Pushes the lower lip upwards.
7. May cause wrinkles to appear on the chin boss as skin is stretched, and may produce a depression medially under lower lip.
8. If the action of 17 is strong, the lower lip may protrude, but not as much as it would in 17 alone if there were no 23.
9. Tightens the lips, making the lips appear more narrow.
10. May cause the lips to roll inwards and almost disappear from view.
11. Produces small wrinkles in the skin above and below the lips and muscle bulges below the lower lip.
12. It is possible for the action of 12 to be weak or moderate without 6, and therefore the score would be 12+17+23, but it is more usual that if the 12 is visible in this combination, it is sufficiently strong to cause the appearance changes listed under (4), in which case it is important to distinguish 12+17+23 from 6+12+17+23. To distinguish 12 versus 6+12, follow the advice in the Subtle Differences table for Chapter 6 beginning on [page 225](#) in the entries for 6+12 vs. 12A/B/C and 6+12 vs. 12D/E.

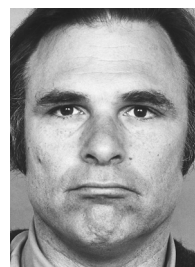
Compare images 6+12ii, 17, 6+12+17, 6+12+23, with 6+12+17+23. Inspect the video of 12+17+23.



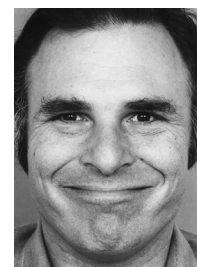
0 [page 465](#)  
[page 381](#) for score



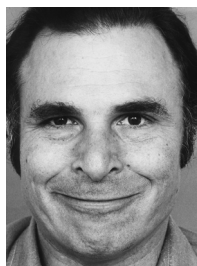
6+12ii [page 485](#)  
[page 400](#) for score



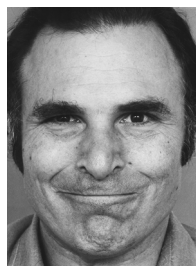
17 [page 475](#)  
[page 390](#) for score



6+12+17 [page 489](#)  
[page 404](#) for score



6+12+23 [page 494](#)  
[page 409](#) for score



6+12+17+23  
[page 496](#)  
[page 411](#) for score



[video 12+17+23](#)  
[page 427](#) for score

## B. How to do AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23

Follow the instructions for AU 12, AU 17, and AU 23. Pull the corners of your lips up and back (AU 12), then push up your lower lip (AU 17). While holding this (12+17) on your face, tighten and narrow your lips (AU 23). Add AU 6 to this combination.

**AU 6** (repeated from [page 32](#)): This action is difficult to produce on demand without including other actions, especially 7. Concentrate on lifting your cheeks without actively raising up the lip corners (that is AU 12). Take time in trying this Action Unit as it may not be possible to do it at first. If you have difficulty:

- Try making AU 15 (see the AU 15 description on [page 100](#)). While holding 15 on your face try to lift your cheeks upwards. Once you can do 6+15, try 6 alone.
- Try AU 9 (see the AU 9 description on [page 93](#)), while holding it on your face add 6. Once you can do 6+9, try 6 alone.
- Try AU 12 (see the AU 12 description on [page 178](#)), note what happens around your eyes. Now try to do that same appearance without moving your lip corners.
- Try winking, using your cheek in the wink. Note how your cheek lifts. Now do that cheek lift without the wink.
- Try squinting your eyes as though to block out a bright sun, and although this motivation is likely to produce AUs 4 and 7 as well, you can refine these movements to exclude all but AU 6.

**AU 12** (repeated from [page 179](#)): This movement is an easy to do. Smile. Imitate image 12i. Holding a weak version on your face, slowly increase the extent of action and watch as your face begins to resemble 6+12ii and 6+12+25ii.

**AU 17** (repeated from [page 98](#)): This movement is easy to do. Push your lower lip upwards. Note the wrinkles in your chin, and the change in the shape of the lower lip. If you are unable to make this movement, place your fingers on your

chin about in the middle and push the skin upwards, noting the changes that occur. Now try to hold this appearance when you take your fingers away.

**AU 23** (repeated from [page 237](#)): This movement is not easy to make. Tighten your lips. Make them thin and tense. Be careful not to press them together (AU 24). Concentrate just on your lips. If you have difficulty, try tightening your lips and pressing them, then release the press holding the tightening action. You may have done or seen this movement when using the phrase “Zip your lip.”

### C. Intensity Scoring for AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23

The criteria for AU 12 in these combinations are the same as for 12 in the combination 12+17, repeated below. The criteria for AU 6 in 6+12+17+23 are the same as for 6 in 6+12, repeated below. The criteria for AU 17 in these combinations are the same as for 17 alone, repeated below. The criteria for AU 23 in these combinations are different and are presented below in combinations with 6, 17, and 23 at unspecified intensities. Any combination of intensities is possible in these combinations.

#### AU 6A in AU Combinations 6+12, 6+7+12, 6+12+17+23, etc.

The appearance changes for AU 6 in 6+12 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 6, but are insufficient to score 6B (e.g., *slight* crow's feet or *slight* cheek raise).

#### AU 6B in AU Combinations 6+12, 6+7+12, 6+12+17+23, etc.

1. *Marked* crow's feet wrinkles; if present in neutral, they must increase.  
and
2. *Slight* infraorbital triangle raise: cheeks up, infraorbital furrow deepened, and bags or wrinkles under eyes; if present in neutral, the furrow and either bags or wrinkles under the eyes must increase.  
and
3. *Slight* additional evidence of the constricting effect of AU 6 around the eye aperture that is not produced by AU 12, such as: wrinkling, lowering, or changing shape of the eye cover fold; lowering of the outer corner of the eyebrow, crow's feet wrinkles above the outer corner of the eye lateral to the eyebrow, or movement above the cheekbone that shows bulging in the outer ring of muscle around the eye.

#### AU 6C in AU Combinations 6+12, 6+7+12, 6+12+17+23, etc.

The crow's feet wrinkling, infraorbital triangle raising, and additional evidence of constricting criteria for 6B are all present and are at least *marked*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 6D.

#### AU 6D in AU Combinations 6+12, 6+7+12, 6+12+17+23, etc.

The crow's feet wrinkling, infraorbital triangle raising, and additional evidence of constricting criteria for 6B are all present and are at least *severe*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 6E.

#### AU 6E in AU Combinations 6+12, 6+7+12, 6+12+17+23, etc.

Crow's feet wrinkling, infraorbital triangle raising, and additional evidence of constricting criteria are all present and at least *extreme*, with the infraorbital triangle and cheek raising criterion in the *maximum* range.

#### AU 12A in AU Combination 12A+17, 12+17+23, etc.

The appearance changes for AU 12 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 12, but are insufficient to score AU 12B in combination 12+17 (e.g., a *trace* of raising of skin in the lower/middle nasolabial furrow area, a *trace* of infraorbital triangle raise, and a *trace* of counteracting the downward angle of the lip corners due to 17 by 12 pulling them up).

You should emphasize detecting the oblique upward movement of the lip corners in low intensity 12s that changes the angle of the lip corners from what 17 does alone. Note that neither AU 6 or 11 changes the angle of the lips, as does 12.

**AU 12B in AU Combination 12B+17, 12+17+23, etc.**

1. Skin in the areas of the lower-middle portion of the nasolabial furrow or the furrow itself has been raised up and laterally *slightly*. If the nasolabial furrow is permanently etched, it usually deepens with a 12B, but the crucial change is that the skin in this area has shifted obliquely. If the nasolabial furrow is not permanently etched, it may not appear with 12B.  
and
2. *Slight* evidence that the infraorbital triangle has been raised; most likely showing in lifting and puffing out of lateral top corner of infraorbital triangle.  
and
3. *Slight* evidence that the downward angle of the lip corners due to 17 has been counteracted by the upward pull of 12. The angle of the lip corners may not be as upwards as it would be from 12 without 17.

Note that appearance change 1 and 2, as expressed in words, could be due to AU 6, rather than AU 12. However, the appearance of 6 is noticeably different from 12, seen in the images for these AUs. Furthermore, the appearance of 6 and 6+12 also differ. If there are other signs of AU 6, inspect carefully for change 3 above to score AU 12.

**AU 12C in AU Combination 12C+17, 12+17+23, etc.**

All three criteria for 12B above are present and all are at least *marked*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 12D in 12+17.

**AU 12D in AU Combination 12D+17, 12+17+23, etc.**

All three criteria for 12B above are present and all are at least *severe*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 12E in 12+17.

**AU 12E in AU Combination 12E+17, 12+17+23, etc.**

All three criteria for 12B above are present and all are at *extreme to maximum*.

**AU 17A**

The appearance changes for AU 17 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 17, but are insufficient to score 17B (e.g., a *trace* of lower lip pushed up and/or *trace* of chin boss wrinkling).

**AU 17B**

1. *Slight* evidence of lower lip push up beyond the movement necessary to close the lips; may include lip protrusion, or depression in medial area under the red part of the lip. The lower lip may slide in front of the upper lip and expose more of the red part of the lip than usual.  
or
2. *Slight* chin boss wrinkling or puckering, and upward movement of chin boss. If the chin boss is permanently wrinkled, it must increase *slightly*. AU 15 may cause similar chin wrinkling, but they differ in appearance. See 15 vs. 17 in subtle differences.

**AU 17C**

The pushing up of the lower lip and the wrinkling/puckering of the chin boss are both evident and at least one is *marked*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 17D.

**AU 17D**

The pushing up of the lower lip and the wrinkling/puckering of the chin boss are both evident and at least one is *severe*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 17E.

**AU 17E**

The pushing up of the lower lip and the wrinkling/puckering of the chin boss are both in the *maximum* range.

**AU 23A in AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23**

The appearance changes for AU 23 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 23, but are insufficient to score 23B in 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23 (e.g., *slightly* tightened, narrowed lips and pulling in of the red parts).

**AU 23B in AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23**

Lips narrowed and tightened *markedly* more than in the neutral face, and this narrowing is not due merely to AUs 12 or 17.

**AU 23C in AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23**

The criteria above for 23B in 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23 (lip narrowing and tightening, not due to 12 or 17) are at least *pronounced*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 23D in 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23.

**AU 23D in AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23**

The criteria above for 23B in 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23 (lip narrowing and tightening, not due to 12 or 17) are at least *severe*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 23E in 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23.

**AU 23E in AU Combinations 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23**

The criteria above for 23B in 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23 (lip narrowing and tightening, not due to 12 or 17) are in the *maximum* range.