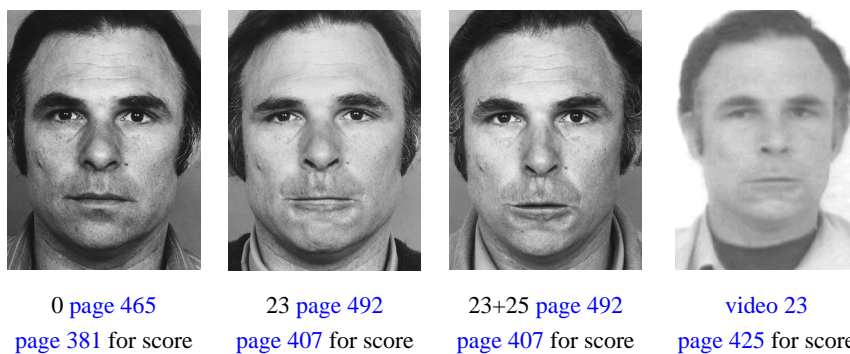

Action Unit 23 – Lip Tightener

Figure 7-1 shows that this AU is based primarily on the inner portion of the muscle that orbits the mouth within the lips. In AU 23 the lips and skin around the lips are tightened and thinned.

A. Appearance Changes due to AU 23

1. Tightens the lips, making the red parts of the lips appear more narrow.
2. May cause the red parts of the lips to roll inwards and almost disappear from view (23 or 23+25),
or,
3. If the lips are parted, there may be an impression of a very small lip protrusion, but the action is a tightening of the lips.
4. May produce small wrinkles or lines in the skin above and below the red parts of lips and muscle bulges below the lower lip.
5. May produce a flattening or wrinkling of the chin boss to a very limited extent.
6. It is possible, although not common, for 23 to affect only one lip. If it is totally absent in one lip, score T23 (top lip) or B23 (bottom lip). An exception is that in combination with 12, top lip 23 is not scored since it is so similar in appearance to the narrowing of the upper lip due to the oblique stretching of AU 12 alone. See the description in AU combination 12+23.
7. If you score 23 as T or B, you cannot also score 23 as unilateral.

Compare the action of 23 in images 23 and 23+25. Note that 23 can occur with the lips closed or open. Inspect the video of 23.



B. How to do AU 23

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 23

AU 23A

The appearance changes for AU 23 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 23, but are insufficient to score 23B (e.g., *slight* tightening of the lips alone).

AU 23B

1. The lips appear *slightly* tightened, and,
2. The red parts are narrowed *slightly* and the narrowing is not due just to 12, 17, 20, 24, or 28.

If you did not see the movement, then the additional criteria must be present:

3. *Slight* wrinkles or bulges in skin above or below at least one lip, or,
4. *Marked* change on either criteria 1 or 2 for 23B and *slight* change on the other.

AU 23C

The lip tightening and narrowing described for 23B are both *marked*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 23D.

AU 23D

The lip tightening and narrowing described for 23B are both *severe*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 23E.

AU 23E

The lip tightening and narrowing described for 23B are both in the *maximum* range.

If the criteria for 23 are present on one lip, but totally absent on the other lip, score as T23 or B23. You can score 23 as occurring on only one side of the face, but you cannot score unilateral 23 on a single lip.

Reference: AU 23

AU 18 makes it difficult to see AU 23; look for the tightening and narrowing of the red parts of the lips, which AU 18 does not cause. AU 12 stretches and thins the upper lip, making it difficult to see 23 in the upper lip, so 23 must be scored in both lips when combined with 12. It is very unlikely that AU 23 would be visible when the same lip is rolled into the mouth with 28, but if it can be seen, score 23+28.

Action Units and Combinations that Change the Intensity Scoring for AU 23

Problematic Combination of AUs	Target Action of Adjusted Criteria	Use These Criteria or See the Section Indicated
12+17+18+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 12+17+18+23	Use the criteria for 18+23 in this table below.
12+17+20+22+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 12+17+20+22+23	Use the criteria for 12+17+23 and 20+22+23 in this table below.
12+17+20+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 12+17+20+23	Use the criteria for 12+17+23 in this table below.
12+17+22+23	Criteria for scoring 23B in 12+17+22+23	Use the criteria for 22+23 on page 281 if 22 and 23 are scored in the same lip, otherwise use the criteria for 12+17+23 below.
12+17+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 12+17+23	Criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing), must both be present in <u>both lips</u> and be <i>marked</i> to score 23B. To score 23C in 12+17+23, at least one of these criteria must be <i>pronounced</i> . See also the Action Unit Combination – 6+12+17+23 or 12+17+23 description beginning on page 263 .

12+18+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 12+18+23	Use the criteria for 18+23 in this table below.
12+20+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 12+20+23	<p>Criteria for scoring 12+20+23B:</p> <p>a. If movement is seen, criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must both be <i>marked</i>, and in <u>both lips</u>.</p> <p>or,</p> <p>b. If movement is not observed, criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must be <i>pronounced</i> in both lips.</p> <p>To score 23C in 12+20+23, criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must both be <i>pronounced</i>, and in <u>both lips</u>.</p>
12+20+22+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 12+20+22+23	Use the criteria for 12+20+23 in this table above in combination with the criteria that reveal the effects of 22 in 20+22+23 on page 281 . (Note that 20+22+23 is difficult to recognize.)
12+22+23	Criteria for scoring 23B in 12+22+23	Use the criteria for 22+23 on page 281 , if 22 and 23 are scored in the same lip.
12+23	Criteria for scoring 23B in 12+23	<p>a. If movement is seen, criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must be met in <u>both lips</u>.</p> <p>If movement is not seen,</p> <p>b. Criteria 1 and 2 must be <i>marked</i> in <u>both lips</u>.</p> <p>or</p> <p>c. Criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) are present in both lips and criterion 3 (wrinkling and bulging) is present in at least one lip.</p>
17+20+22+23	Criteria for scoring 23 in 17+20+22+23	Use the criteria for 17+20+23 in this table below. Also, heed warning of 20+22+23 below.
17+20+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C/D in 17+20+23	<p>Criteria for 23B in 17+20+23:</p> <p>Criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must both be <i>pronounced</i>.</p> <p>For 23C in 17+20+23, these criteria must both be <i>severe</i>; and for 23D they must be <i>extreme</i>.</p>
17+22+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 17+22+23	Use the criteria for 22+23 on page 281 , if 22 and 23 are scored in the same lip(s); otherwise use the criteria for 17+23 in this table below.
17+23	Criteria for scoring 23B/C in 17+23	<p>Criteria for 23 in 17+23:</p> <p>Criteria 1 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must be <i>marked</i> and the skin adjacent to the red area of the lips is pulled in, not bulging out.</p> <p>To score 23C in 17+23, these criteria must be <i>pronounced</i>.</p> <p>See also the Action Unit Combination – 17+23, 17+24 beginning on page 259.</p>

18+23	Criteria for scoring 23 in 18+23	<p>Criteria for 23B in 18+23:</p> <p>a. Lip tightening and wrinkling or bulging in skin above or below lips is <i>pronounced</i> (18 also contributes to this appearance and therefore this change alone is not sufficient to score 23 in 18+23). and,</p> <p>b. <i>Pronounced</i> narrowing of the lips. If 18 is in one lip and 23 in the other lip, use the criteria for 18 alone and 23 alone for the appropriate lip, and score as T18+B23 or B18+T23.</p> <p>Criteria for 23C in 18+23: both of the above criteria are <i>severe</i>.</p> <p>Criteria for 23D in 18+23: both of the above criteria are <i>extreme</i>.</p> <p>Criteria for 23E in 18+23: both of the above criteria are <i>maximum</i>.</p> <p>See also the Action Unit Combination – 18+23 beginning on page 247.</p>
20+22+23	Criteria for scoring 23B in 20+22+23	<p>Criteria for scoring 22+23 in 20+22+23, if 22 and 23 are in same lip:</p> <p>a. <i>Slight</i> forward thrust to the lips, but less than 22 alone. and,</p> <p>b. Red parts of the lips are tightened more than in 20 alone, and lips are not completely funneled out as in 22 alone. and,</p> <p>c. Lips are not flattened as in 20 alone.</p> <p>If movement is not seen, both a and b must be present and the lips must be <i>markedly</i> tightened and narrowed.</p> <p>Note that 20 and 22 tend to cancel the effects of each other if one AU is much stronger than the other. AU 23 also tends to diminish the effects of 22. Therefore, the combination of 20+22+23 can rarely be scored.</p>
20+23	Criteria for 2B3 in 20+23	<p>a. Criteria 1 and 2 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must be present,</p> <p>b. Lips must not be flattened as they would be from 20 alone.</p> <p>If you did not see the movement, then use the following criterion:</p> <p>c. criteria 1 and 2 and 2 in 23secC (tightening and narrowing) must be <i>marked</i> and b. above must be present.</p>
22+23	Criteria for scoring 22B+23B, if 22 and 23 are in the same lip:	<p>a. <i>Slight</i> forward thrust to lips.</p> <p>b. Red parts of lips are tightened, not completely funneled out.</p> <p>If 22 and 23 affect only one lip, use the criteria for scoring 22 alone and 23 alone, and score as T22+B23 or B22+T23. Recall that unilateral 22 or 23 cannot be scored, if present in only one lip. Also, recall that 22 will rarely occur with the lips closed unless 17 is also present.</p> <p>If you did not see the lips move, be careful about scoring 22 plus 23: consider whether it was 22 or 23 alone.</p>