
Action Unit Combination – 14+23

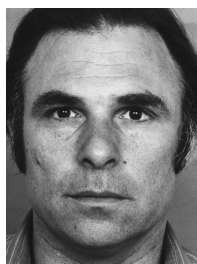
A. Appearance Changes due to AU Combination 14+23

Most of the elements described separately for 14 and 23 are combined additively with only minor changes in the appearances associated with each.

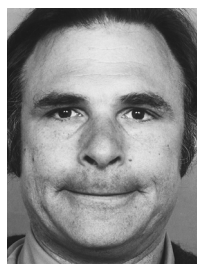
1. Tightens the corners of the mouth, pulling the corners somewhat inwards and narrowing the lip corners.
2. Produces wrinkles and/or a bulge at the lip corner.
3. May cause a dimple-like wrinkle beyond the lip corner.
4. Lip corners are usually angled up to a small extent but they could be angled down or straight.
5. May deepen the nasolabial furrow.
6. Pulls the skin below the lip corners and the chin boss up towards the lip corners, flattening and stretching the chin boss skin.
7. Tightens the lips, narrowing the appearance of the red parts of the lips.
8. May cause the lips to roll inwards and almost disappear from view.
9. AU 23 produces small wrinkles or lines in the skin above and below the lips, and muscle bulges below the lower lip, but these appearance changes are significantly reduced by the lateral pull of 14.

If the lips are parted and you are considering scoring AU 16 with 14+23+25, be certain to review the entry for 16+23+25 in the Reference for AU 16 on [page 115](#).

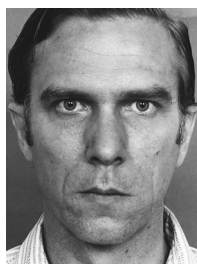
Inspect the images 14+23 and w14+23. Inspect the video of 14+23.



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[page 381](#) for score



14+23 [page 495](#)
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w0 [page 465](#)
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video 14+23
[page 426](#) for score

B. How to do AU Combination 14+23

Follow the instructions given for AU 14 and AU 23, repeated below.

AU 14 (repeated from [page 148](#)): Try to make a dimple in your cheek appear. If you can do it, squeeze very hard, pressing your cheeks against your teeth. Alternatively, try to tighten the corners of your lips so they are pulled inwards, squeezing inwards with your cheeks so they press on your teeth. Try 14 on only one side of your face.

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 Combination 14+23

The intensity criteria for AUs 14 and 23 in 14+23 are unchanged from 14 alone and 23 alone, which are repeated below.

AU 14A

The appearance changes for AU14 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 14, but are insufficient to score 14B (e.g., a *trace* of tightening of the lip corners and with a *trace* of muscle bulging and wrinkling at the lip corners).

AU 14B

1. *Slight* evidence of tightening of the lip corners, pulling the corners somewhat inwards.
and
2. At least one of the following signs:
 - a. *Slight* wrinkles at lip corners extending the line between the lips, which are parallel or perpendicular to lips, or which angle down or up; if these wrinkles are permanent, they must increase *slightly*.
or
 - b. *Slight* muscle bulge at lip corners.
or
 - c. *Slight* dimple-like wrinkle beyond lip corners; if permanent, it must increase *slightly*.

AU 14C

At least *marked* evidence of lip corner tightening and at least *marked* evidence of lip corner wrinkling, lip corner bulging, or dimpling, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 14D.

AU 14D

At least *severe* evidence of lip corner tightening and at least *severe* evidence of lip corner wrinkling, lip corner bulging, or dimpling, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 14E.

AU 14E

Maximum evidence of lip corner tightening and *maximum* evidence of lip corner wrinkling, lip corner bulging, or dimpling.

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.