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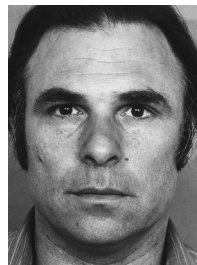
## ***Action Unit 28 and 26+28 – Lips Suck***

Figure 7-1 shows that this AU involves the orbital muscles surrounding the mouth and lips. In AU 28 the lips are pulled into the mouth. This movement can involve only the upper or lower lip.

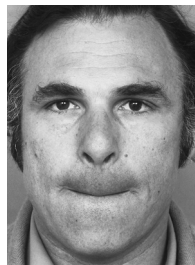
### **A. Appearance Changes Due to AU 28**

1. Sucks the red parts of the lips and adjacent skin into the mouth, covering the teeth.
2. Causes the red parts of the lips to disappear.
3. Stretches the skin above and below the lips as the lips are pulled in.
4. Flattens the chin boss, but the chin boss is not pushed up unless 17 has been added.
5. May cause short wrinkles or bulges to appear at the lip corners.
6. Sometimes you cannot tell whether a single lip has been sucked in or is being held in the mouth by a biting action. If you can see the teeth biting the lip, you score it as AD 32 not 28 (see AD 32 on [page 308](#)). If you cannot see the teeth, and the entire lip (top or bottom) has disappeared and it could be due to sucking or biting, score it as T28 or B28. This matter is further explained in the Subtle Differences table for Chapter 8 beginning on [page 326](#), in the entry for 28 vs. 32.
7. It is possible for 28 to affect only one lip; if it is totally absent in the other lip, score it as T28 (top lip) or B28 (bottom lip).
8. If you score 28 as T or B, you cannot also score 28 as unilateral.
9. The jaw is almost always lowered to do 28, so you score 26+28 in most cases, but the lips need not be separated, so score 25+26+28 only when the lips are not touching.

Inspect the image of 28 and the video of 28.



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



28 [page 493](#)  
[page 408](#) for score



video 28  
[page 425](#) for score

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### **B. How to do AU 28**

This movement is easy. Cover your teeth with your lips, pulling your lips into your mouth.

### **C. Intensity scoring for AU 28**

The lips can be sucked into the mouth by AU 28 in varying degrees, but these differences are hard to assess and may be of little consequence in comparison to the presence of AU 28 itself. Thus, intensity scoring for AU 28 is optional, but the guidelines for doing so are provided below for cases where intensity is relevant.

### AU 28A

The appearance changes for AU 28 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 28, but are insufficient to score 28B (e.g., the red parts of the lips have almost totally disappeared by rolling into the mouth).

### AU 28B

1. The lips are sucked into the mouth so that the red parts completely disappear. Be sure to consider scoring 23 or 32 rather than 28 to explain the changes to the lips if the extent of lip disappearance is less than this criterion.

If you did not see the lips move, then use the following criteria:

2. Total disappearance of the entire red parts of top and/or bottom lip.  
and
3. *Severe* stretching of skin above and/or below the lips by the sucking in action.

### AU 28C

In addition to the red parts of the lips, at least a *slight* amount of the skin of the lips is also rolled into the mouth, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 28D.

### AU 28D

In addition to the red parts of the lips, at least a *severe* amount of the skin of the lips is also rolled into the mouth, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 28E. This amount of lip in the mouth often needs other AUs besides 28 (e.g., 17) to position the lip skin to be rolled into the mouth.

### AU 28E

*Maximum* amount of lip skin is sucked into the mouth, which usually implicates other actions, such as 17, in positioning the lips to suck in so much skin.

If the criteria for 28 are present on one lip, but are totally absent on the other lip score as T28 or B28. You cannot score unilateral 28 in a single lip; score one or the other. To score unilateral 28, the lips must not be sucked in beyond the philtrum. If the lips are closed, score only 26+28, or, rarely, 28; if the lips are parted, score 25+26+28. If intensity differs between lips, score the higher intensity.