
Action Unit Combination – 20+23+25

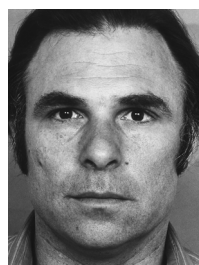
A. Appearance Changes due to AU Combination 20+23+25

This combination preserves most of the appearance changes associated with AUs 20 and 23, but appearance changes 7 and 9 below are influenced by both AUs.

1. Pulls the lips back laterally; they may be raised or lowered a little, but the main movement is horizontal.
2. Elongates the mouth.
3. Pulls the skin beyond the lip corners laterally, so that the cheek area adjacent to the lip corners becomes flattened.
4. Wrinkles may appear at the lip corners or beyond the lip corners part way back toward the ears; the shape of these wrinkles is not important; it is their appearance due to the lateral pull on the skin that is noteworthy.
5. Pulls the lower portion of the nasolabial furrow laterally; may or may not deepen the nasolabial furrow.
6. Stretches the skin over the chin boss laterally. May cause the chin to appear flattened or wrinkled.
7. The lips appear stretched horizontally (by AU 20), but also narrowed and tightened (by AU 23).
8. The lips are narrowed and rolled inwards to almost disappear from view, or they protrude to a limited extent.
9. May cause small wrinkles in the skin above and below the lips and muscle bulges below the lower lip, but 20 tends to cancel out this appearance change due to 23.

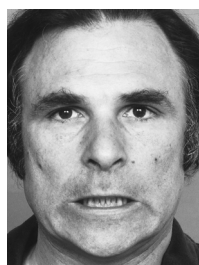
Note that you may see the lower gum revealed in this combination, but you cannot score 16 with this combination on this basis alone (for further explanation about 16 with 20 and 23 see the Reference for AU 16 on [page 115](#).)

Inspect images 20+23+25i and 20+23+25ii. Inspect the video of 20+23+25 and compare it to the video of 16+23+25 to see the different types of lateral pulling and lip lowering in these combinations.



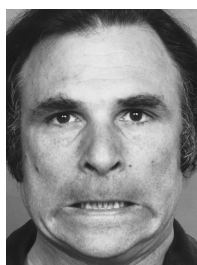
0 [page 465](#)

[page 381](#) for score



20+23+25i
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20+23+25ii
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[video 16+23+25](#)

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[video 20+23+25](#)

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B. How to do AU Combination 20+23+25

Follow the instructions for making AU 20 and AU 23, repeated below. First, stretch your lips horizontally and then tighten them. Reverse the procedure, tightening them first (AU 23) and then stretching them (AU 20). Try both weak and strong actions of 20. Notice how the strong action of 20 smooths out the wrinkles in the skin produced by 23.

AU 20 (repeated from [page 146](#)): This movement is a fairly easy to do. Pull your lip corners back, stretching the lips as hard as you can. Be careful not to pull the corners down (AU 15) and not to pull the corners up (AU 12). If you have difficulty, place your fingers adjacent to the lip corners and pull horizontally towards the back of your jaw and try to hold the appearance when you remove your fingers. You can also induce AU 20 by tightening you neck muscles (AU 21 on [page 300](#)) extremely, and you should see your lip corners being pulled. Once you have the feeling of this lip corner

stretch, try this stretching alone without the neck muscles. Try to make only a weak action as shown in the 20i and 20+25 images, and then a stronger version as shown in the 20ii image.

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 20+23+25

The intensity criteria for AU 20 alone are unchanged in 20+23+25 and are repeated below. The criteria for 23 are changed because 20 obscures the bulging in the skin above and below the lips due to 23. If the criteria for scoring 23 are present on one lip but are totally absent on the other lip, score as T23 or B23. Unilateral 23 cannot be scored if present in only one lip. The intensity criteria guidelines are presented below for 23, with unspecified intensities for 20 and 23, and any intensity of these AUs can occur in this combination, except that 25 at intensity A or B is unlikely. The intensity criteria for 25 are repeated below.

AU 20A

The appearance changes for AU 20 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 20, but are insufficient to score 20B (e.g., a *trace* of lateral pulling of the lip corners and skin with a *trace* of mouth elongation).

AU 20B

1. The lip corners and skin adjacent to the lip corners are pulled laterally *slightly*.

If you do not see the movement, then use the following criteria:

2. *Pronounced* elongation of mouth.

or

3. *Slight* elongation of mouth,
and one of the following:

- a. *Slight* evidence of flattening of skin beyond the lip corners.

or

- b. *Slight* evidence that the lower portion of the nasolabial furrow or the skin in that area pulled laterally.

or

- c. *Slight* evidence of chin boss skin stretched and flattened. Unilateral 20 does not produce this appearance, and this criterion is not relevant for unilateral 20.

AU 20C

At least *pronounced* pulling of the lip corners laterally or mouth elongation is *pronounced*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 20D.

AU 20D

At least *severe* pulling of the lip corners laterally or mouth elongation is *severe* and other signs in 20secA are present, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 20E.

AU 20E

Appearance changes 1, 2, 3, and 4 of 20secA must be *extreme* to *maximum*.

AU 23A in 20+23+25

The appearance changes for AUs 20+23+25 are sufficiently present to indicate AUs 20+23+25, but are insufficient to score 20+23B+25 (e.g., *slightly* tightened lips that are narrowed a *trace* more than 20 would do).

AU 23B in 20+23+25

1. Lips are tightened *slightly*.
and
2. Lips are narrowed *slightly* more than they would be by 20 alone.
and
3. Lips are not flattened as they would be by 20 alone.

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

4. Criteria 1 and 2 must be *marked*.

AU 23C in 20+23+25

The three criteria above (lip tightening, lip narrowing more than due to merely 20, but not as flattened by 20) for 6B are present and the first two are at least *marked*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 23D in 20+23+25.

AU 23D in 20+23+25

The three criteria above (lip tightening, and lip narrowing more than due to merely 20, but not as flattened by 20) for 6B are present and the first two are at least *severe*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 23E in 20+23+25.

AU 23E in 20+23+25

The three criteria above (lip tightening, and lip narrowing more than due to merely 20, but not as flattened by 20) for 6B are present and the first two are in the maximum range.

AU 25A

When the jaw is shut, the appearance changes for AU 25 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 25, but are insufficient to score 25B (e.g., a clear opening between the lips that is less than 2 millimeters, but you can see no teeth).

When the jaw is lowered by AU 26 or 27, score 25A when actions that act to move the lips together have reduced the lip separation at least *severely* from the separation produced by the jaw opening itself.

In either case, if you are uncertain that the lips are parted, do not score 25A.

AU 25B

There are two alternative criteria for scoring 25B when the jaw is shut:

1. Teeth show - you can see teeth without doubt. The sight of but one part of one tooth is sufficient, but you must be certain that you see a tooth.
or
2. Space between lips – must be at least 2 millimeters (the thickness of 2 quarters, an American coin) between the lips.

When the jaw is lowered, use the intensity score of B to indicate that lip uniting actions are reducing the lip separation at least *slightly* from what they would otherwise be, given the extent of jaw lowering.

AU 25C

If the teeth remain together, i.e., no jaw drop can be detected, the increased lip separation from the criteria for 25B likely comes from another lip separating action or actions and must be a *marked* or *pronounced* departure from the B criteria. For example, you might score a 25C if there is a moderate action of AU 10 or AU 16 (or other lip parting action) or a small action of both 10 and 16 that parts the lips at least *markedly* more than the criteria for 25B, but less evidence than the criteria for 25D.

If the jaw is lowered by AU 26 or 27 to separate the lips, and the separation is not increased more than a *trace* by other lip separating actions or decreased more than a *trace* by lip constricting actions, score 25C. The intensity score of C for AU 25 represents the lip separation controlled virtually entirely by the jaw lowering, the lips otherwise remaining relaxed or minimally affected by other muscles pulling them open or constricting them, regardless of the absolute distance between the lips. Use the relative position of the upper lip to the upper teeth and the lower lip to the lower teeth as a guide to whether the lip separation is more or less than the jaw lowering alone produces. If other muscles act to constrict the lips, consider scoring B or A; if they act to separate the lips, consider scoring D or E.

AU 25D

When there is no jaw lowering and the lips part due to other lip separating actions, the lip separation must be *severely* greater than the criteria for 25B to assign a D intensity code to AU 25. Thus, when the teeth are together, lip parting actions other than jaw lowering, such as AU 10 and/or 16, must be pulling the lips apart at least *severely* beyond the B criteria, but less evidence than the criteria for 25E.

When the jaw is lowered, assign a D intensity score to AU 25 when these same lip lowering and raising actions are separating the lips at least *slightly* more than they would be from the jaw lowering alone, but not more than the criteria for the E intensity score. A *slight* departure from the opening caused by the jaw lowering might result from a lip lowering action, a lip raising action, or both.

AU 25E

Like the other intensities of AU 25, the E intensity is not intended to reflect the absolute maximum possible separation of the lips, but rather the maximum possible separation given the degree of jaw lowering, if any. When the teeth remain together, score an E intensity when lip parting actions, such as AUs 10 and 16, separate the lips at least *extremely* or near *maximum* by both lowering the lower lip and raising the upper lip, so that the lips are separated about as much as possible.

When the jaw is lowered, assign the E intensity when both the upper lip is raised and the lower lip is lowered so that the lips are separated at least *severely* more parted than what would result from the lowered jaw alone. Thus, for example, if AU 10 and AU 16 were both acting at *maximum* so that you think the lips are separated as much as possible given the jaw lowering, you assign an E intensity code to 25.