

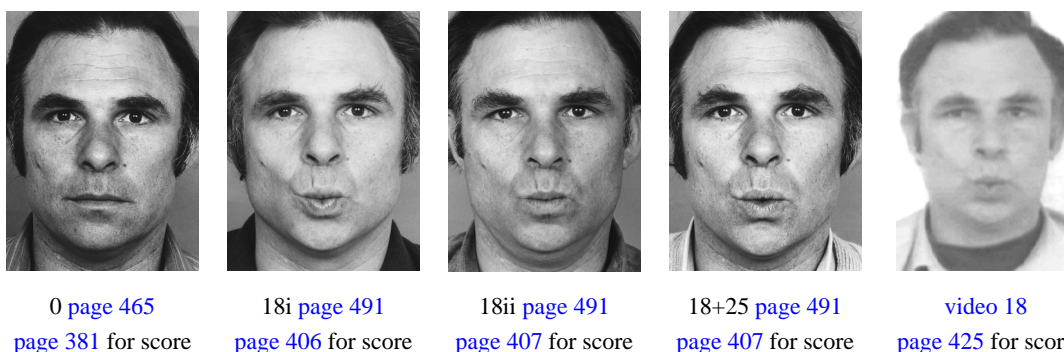
## Action Unit 18 – Lip Pucker

Figure 7-1 shows that the muscle relevant to 18 is located above and below the upper and lower lips. AU 18 draws the lips medially, pursing or puckering them, causing the lips to protrude.

### A. Appearance Changes due to AU 18

1. Pushes the lips of the mouth forward and pulls medially, as if a string attached to the center of the lips were pulling them forward, puckering the mouth.
2. De-elongates the mouth opening, making the mouth opening smaller and rounder, and the lips appear tight.
3. May cause the lips to protrude forwards, but de-elongation may occur without protrusion.
4. Shapes the lips as if the person is pronouncing the vowel oo in the word “fool”.
5. Makes short wrinkles on the skin above the upper lip and also may cause wrinkles on the skin below the lower lip, and wrinkles in the lips themselves.
6. May cause very slight wrinkles or flattening or bulging of the chin boss.
7. It is possible, although not common, for 18 to affect only one lip. If it is totally absent in one lip, score as T18 (top lip) or B18 (bottom lip). A score of 18 without T or B indicates it is shown on both lips.
8. If you score either T or B, you cannot also score 18 as unilateral.

Examine the 18 action in images 18i, 18ii and 18+25, and the video of AU 18. Image 18i shows protrusion, while 18ii shows little or no protrusion. The video shows the protruded version of 18.



### B. How to do AU 18

This movement is easy to make. Try pursing your lips, try puckering-up as if for a kiss or an imitation of a kiss where you are going to make a puckering sound. Speak the word “fool”, holding your lips in the vowel position.

### C. Intensity Scoring for AU 18

#### AU 18A

The appearance changes for AU 18 are sufficiently present to indicate AU 18, but are insufficient to score 18B (e.g., a trace of the mouth de-elongating and the lips pulled medially).

#### AU 18B

1. Mouth pulled *slightly* medially, the lips tightening and the mouth becoming smaller.

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

2. *Marked* change in the size and shape of the mouth, de-elongated, smaller and rounder.  
or
3. Criterion 1 and *slight* protrusion of lips.

#### AU 18C

The medial pulling and de-elongation of the mouth described in criteria 1 and 2 for 18B above are at least *marked*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 18D.

#### AU 18D

The medial pulling and de-elongation of the mouth described in criteria 1 and 2 for 18B above are at least *severe*, but the evidence is less than the criteria for 18E.

#### AU 18E

The medial pulling and de-elongation of the mouth described in criteria 1 and 2 for 18B above are in the maximum range.

If the criteria for 18 are present on one lip but there is not even a *trace* on the other lip, score T18 or B18; otherwise, score as 18. You can score unilateral (Left or Right) 18 but you cannot score unilateral 18 in a single lip. For example, scoring 18 as occurring on the top lip, left side (TL18) is not allowed.

### Reference: AU 18

When considering scoring combinations of 12, 18, and 20, the medial pull of 18 and the pulling laterally or obliquely of either 12 or 20 are possible to perform together, but are difficult to perform or to detect, and are probably uncommon combinations. When both the oblique action of 12 and the lateral pull of 20 are added to 18 (12+18+20), the actions of 12 and 20 become much more difficult to see or score, so care is needed in specifying the evidence for this unlikely combination. On rare occasions the sequential performance of the three AUs may allow you more easily to see them act together.

Action Unit That Changes the Intensity Scoring for AU 18

Problematic Combination of AUs	Target Action of Adjusted Criteria	Use These Criteria
18+23	Criteria for scoring 18B in 18+23	There is a <i>marked</i> change in the size of the mouth or of the lip as it is de-elongated by the medial pull of 18.