

## *Subtle Differences Among Single Orbital Action Units in the Lower Face*

Table 7-1 presents the subtle differences for the action units in this chapter.

**Table 7-1: Subtle Differences Among Single Orbital Action Units in the Lower Face**

AUs	Subtle Differences										
14 vs. 24	While the lips in 14 may appear as if they were pressed by 24, the crucial difference between 14 and 24 is that the lip corners are tightened in 14 and not in 24. Less important is that the lip corners may angle up to a limited extent in 14, but not in 24.										
16+25 vs. 22+25	In 16+25 the upper lip is not changed from neutral, it is only the lower lip that is affected, while 22+25 funnels both lips outward. In 16+25 the lower lip is flattened, lowered and laterally stretched, while in 22+25 the lower lip (and upper lip) is funneled out and there is some medial pull so that the mouth is more round in shape. In 16+25 the skin below the lower lip is pushed down and laterally, and the chin boss may be pushed down. In 22+25 the skin covering the chin is drawn forward in line with the action of the lips. You cannot use gum exposure to differentiate these two combinations, for often it appears in either.										
18 vs. 22	Confusion is most likely when it is 18+26 vs. 22+26. Note whether the red parts of lips appear taut (AU 18) or looser (AU 22) and whether one or both lips almost turn out (AU 22).										
23 vs. 24	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>23</b></td><td style="text-align: center;"><b>24</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>lips tightened, not pressed</td><td>lips pressed; if tightened, it is only barely</td></tr> <tr> <td>lips more narrow than 24 as red parts are pulled inward.</td><td>lips less narrow than neutral but more red shows than in 23 and the lips appear de-elongated and skin above and/or below the lips is bulged out</td></tr> <tr> <td>wrinkles or bulges in the skin more evident than in 24</td><td>wrinkles or bulges in skin less evident than 23</td></tr> <tr> <td>23 can occur in either the Top or Bottom lip alone</td><td>both lips must be involved</td></tr> </table> <p>When in doubt whether to score 23 or 24, and it cannot be resolved using the differences listed above and the intensity criteria for each AU, score 23. If it shows signs of both 23 and 24, score it as 23+24 only if the evidence is sufficient to score both AUs at least at the B level, otherwise score the higher intensity AU.</p>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	lips tightened, not pressed	lips pressed; if tightened, it is only barely	lips more narrow than 24 as red parts are pulled inward.	lips less narrow than neutral but more red shows than in 23 and the lips appear de-elongated and skin above and/or below the lips is bulged out	wrinkles or bulges in the skin more evident than in 24	wrinkles or bulges in skin less evident than 23	23 can occur in either the Top or Bottom lip alone	both lips must be involved
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### *Subtle Differences Involving Orbital Actions in the Lower Face*

Table 7-2 lists the signs that can help you distinguish between sets of AUs which differ only subtly. This table repeats the information given earlier about subtle differences between single AUs. Study Table 7-2 carefully and examine the relevant images and videos. Use the index to the video material in Appendix I to locate the video comparisons that can be made.

**Table 7-3: Subtle Differences in AUs and AU Combinations for Lower Face Orbital Actions**

AUs	Subtle Differences
6+12+17+23 vs. 6+12+24	See 12+17+23 vs. 12+24 in this table below.
10+16+25 vs. 10+23+25	See 16+25 vs. 23+25 in this table below.
10+16+25 vs. 22+25	Look for the characteristic shape of the nasolabial furrow due to 10 and also for a raised upper lip (not funneled out) and lowered and laterally stretched lower lip (not funneled out) if it is 10+16+25. In 22+25 the lips funnel outwards, and there is no 10 shape to the nasolabial furrow.
10+17 vs. 10+17+23	The only difference is that the addition of 23 tightens and narrows the lips so that less of the red parts are visible.
10+20+25 vs. 10+23+25	Adding 20 to 10+25 elongates the lips as they are pulled horizontally; while adding 23 to 10+25 narrows and tightens the lips.
10+22+25 vs. 22+25	In 10+22+25 there are the signs of 10 (nasolabial furrow shape, raised infraorbital triangle, possible evidence of the infraorbital furrow) which are absent in 22+25.
10+23+25 vs. 10+25	Adding 23 narrows and tightens the lips, and may cause bulges and wrinkles above and below the lips.
10+23+25 vs. 20+23+25	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>10+23+25</b>            raised infraorbital triangle, possible evidence of the infraorbital furrow and characteristic shape to the nasolabial furrow         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>20+23+25</b>            horizontally stretched lips, elongated mouth, flattening of cheeks beyond the lip corners         </div> </div>
10+23+25 vs. 23+25	The difference is in the signs of 10 (raised infraorbital triangle, possible evidence of the infraorbital furrow, characteristic shape to nasolabial furrow).
12 vs. 12+23	Adding 23 narrows and tightens the lips. If the 12 in the 12+23 is not strong, the addition of 23 also produces wrinkles or bulges in skin above and below the lips and somewhat flattens the upward curve of the mouth. Note evidence of lip tightening and narrowing must be evident in both lips to score 23 in the presence of 12.
12 vs. 12+24	Adding 24 to 12 gives the mouth a tight, held look. AU 24 somewhat counteracts the upward pull of the lip corners and stretch of the lips, tending to narrow and de-elongate the mouth from how it would be with 12 alone. The lips appear pressed together. The difference is a very subtle distinction.
12+17+23 vs. 12+24	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12+17+23</b>            lips narrowed and tightened            chin boss and lower lip pushed up; chin boss wrinkled         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>12+24</b>            lips less narrow and appear pressed            absent         </div> </div>
12+23 vs. 12+24	More red parts of the lips visible in 12+24 than 12+23; lips appear more tightened in 12+23, more pressed in 12+24.
12+23 vs. 14+23	If 12 is weak to moderate, the shape of the mouth is similar in both. However, in 14+23 you can see the signs of 14 – lip corners pulled inward and/or dimple beyond lip corners.

14 vs. 24 vs. 14+24	<p>While the lips in 14 may appear as if they were pressed by 24, the crucial difference between 14 and 24 is that the lip corners are tightened in 14 and not in 24. Less important is that the lip corners may angle up to a limited extent in 14, but not in 24.</p> <p>AU 14 dominates AU 24, making 14+24 difficult to score, unless the action are seen sequentially. AU 14 does not press the lips together, although it makes the detection of 24 difficult</p>	
15 vs. 15+23	<p>In 15 alone the lips are somewhat stretched by the downward pull on the lip corners, but they are not narrowed and tightened as in 15+23. In 15+23 there may also be evidence of wrinkles above or below the lips, but if the 15 element is strong, it cancels these out. Also, 23 may reduce the bagging below the lip corners caused by 15. (See 15+17 vs. 15+23 in this table below.)</p>	
15+17 vs. 15+17+23	<p>The distinction is very subtle, but the addition of 23 tends to diminish the lower lip protrusion of 17, as 23 narrows and tightens the lips. There is less red part of the lip visible in the 15+17+23. Also, 23 may reduce the bagging below the lip corners caused by 15+17.</p>	
15+17 vs. 15+23	<p><b>15+17</b></p> <p>chin boss and lower lip pushed up, chin boss wrinkled</p> <p>lips somewhat narrowed by action of 17, and lower lip may protrude</p> <p>the addition of 17 to 15 may accentuate the bagging, pouching or wrinkling due to 15 below the lip corners</p>	<p><b>15+23</b></p> <p>chin boss looks somewhat flattened as it does from 15 alone</p> <p>lips very narrowed and tightened</p> <p>the addition of 23 to 15 may decrease the bagging, pouching or wrinkling due to 15 below the lip corners</p>
15+17 vs. 15+24	<p>AU 17 raises the chin boss; AU 24 does not.</p>	
15+17 vs. 17+23	<p><b>15+17</b></p> <p>lip corners pulled down with bagging, pouching or wrinkling below lip corners especially if 15 is at moderate or higher intensity</p> <p>lips narrow to some extent due to 17, with lower lip likely to protrude</p>	<p><b>17+23</b></p> <p>wrinkles and/or muscle bulges in skin above and below lips, but not below lip corners</p> <p>lips narrowed and tight</p>
15+17+23 vs. 17+23	<p>In both combinations the lips are narrowed and tightened, and the mouth may have a downward curve. Usually the downward curve is more pronounced in 15+17+23 than in 17+23, but a very strong 17 can cause that shape without 15. The 17 action present in both combinations raises the chin boss, wrinkles it, pushes up the lower lip, and causes bulges to appear below the lower lip, often extending along the entire lower lip line. The one crucial difference is the appearance of bulges or wrinkles below the lip corners in 15+17+23, due to the action of 15. This sign of 15 is not nearly as evident as in 15 alone or 15+17, since the 23 action in the 15+17+23 tends to partly obscure this sign.</p>	
16+22+25 vs. 22+25	<p>This difference is not very subtle, for 16 pulls the lower lip down and stretches it laterally although in 16+22+25 the lower lip is somewhat more funneled out than it is in 16+25. The upper lip appears as it would in 22+25 without 16. The skin below the lower lip is pulled down by 16, and stretched laterally, although 22 some what counteracts this effect by pulling the skin outward as the lip is funneled. You cannot use the gum exposure to differentiate these two combinations for often it appears in either.</p>	
16+23+25 vs. 22+23+25	<p>In 22+23+25 the lips are tightened and protrude forward, but in 16+23+25 neither lip protrudes forward, instead the lower lip is flattened and stretched laterally as well as tightened by 23. In 16+23+25 you may see the chin boss being pushed down by 16, and the skin below the lower lip being pulled down and laterally; these signs are absent from 22+23+25.</p>	

16+23+25 vs. 23+25	If 16 is added to 23+25, the lower lip appears somewhat lower than in 23+25, and there is some evidence that it has been laterally stretched. If 16 is present in addition to 23+25, you may also see the skin below the lower lip pulled down and laterally, although 23 partially counteracts this. The chin boss may also be pushed down by 16. You cannot use the gum exposure to differentiate these two combinations, for often it appears in either.
16+25 vs. 16+23+25	The lowering of the lower lip due to 16 is somewhat counteracted by the tightening of the lips by 23. When 23 is added to 16, the red parts of the lower lip are more narrow than in 16 alone and appear tensed, not just lowered and stretched laterally. Also, see 16+23+25 vs. 23+25 above and 16+25 vs. 23+25 below.
16+25 vs. 22+25	In 16+25 the upper lip is not changed from neutral, it is only the lower lip that is affected, while 22+25 funnels both lips outward. In 16+25 the lower lip is flattened, lowered and laterally stretched, while in 22+25 the lower lip (and upper lip) is funneled out and there is some medial pull so that the mouth is more round in shape. In 16+25 the skin below the lower lip is pushed down and laterally, and the chin boss may be pushed down. In 22+25 the skin covering the chin is drawn forward in line with the action of the lips. You cannot use gum exposure to differentiate these two combinations, for often it appears in either.
16+25 vs. 23+25	In 16+25 the lower lip is lowered and stretched laterally but not narrowed. In 23+25 both lips are narrowed and tightened. While 23+25 bulges the skin below the lower lip, it does not pull this skin down and laterally as 16 does, nor does it push down the chin boss, which 16 may produce.
17 vs. 17+24	Adding 24 to 17 presses the lips, usually causing a bulge or puffed out appearance in the skin above the upper lip, and gives the lips a pressed and de-elongated look.
17+23 vs. 17+24	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>17+23</b></p> <p>lips narrowed and may disappear</p> <p>wrinkles and bulges in skin above and below lips;</p> <p>puffing of skin above upper lip may be present if it is 17+23+24.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>17+24</b></p> <p>lips may protrude and may appear de-elongated</p> <p>some puffing out of skin above and/or below lips</p> </div> </div> <p>If you are in doubt whether to score 17+23 or 17+24, score 17+23.</p>
18 vs. 18+23	These look very different. The combination of 18+23 preserves the medial pull due to 18, but the protrusion of the lips apparent in some versions of 18 disappears. Instead, the lips are narrowed as they are in 23. The upper lip tightening may look similar to 18 alone in 18+23 but the signs of tightening below the lower lip are more similar to 23 alone in 18+23, yet the signs of both AUS are in both lips. The crucial difference is that in 18+23 the lips are narrowed. Remember that 18 and 23 can occur in a single lip and that T18+B23 (or vice versa) would appear different than 18+23.
18 vs. 22	Confusion is most likely when it is 18+25+26 vs. 22+25+26. Note whether the red parts of lips appear taut (AU 18) or looser (AU 22) and whether one or both lips almost turn out (AU 22).
18+23 vs. 23	The lips are de-elongated in 18+23 due to the medial pull of 18. The medial pull of the lips due to 18 obscures weak to moderate tightening and narrowing due to 23, and thus higher points on the scale of evidence are required for 23 with 18 at most intensity levels than for 23 alone.
18+26 vs. 22+26	See 18 vs. 22 in this table above.
20+23+25 vs. 20+25	The addition of 23 to 20+25 narrows and tightens the lips.
22+23+25 vs. 22+25	The addition of 23 to 22+25 limits the amount of funneling of the lips due to 22, as the lips become more narrowed than they would be by 22 alone. You cannot use the appearance of tightening and/or wrinkles in the skin above and below the lips to determine the presence of 23, since these changes may occur with 22 alone. Also, see 22+23+25 vs. 23+25 below.
22+23+25 vs. 23+25	Tightened lips are flat or protruding to a limited extent in 23+25. When the lips protrude forward to a considerable extent, and yet they are tightened, not loose, and they do not funnel out, then it is 22+23+25.

23 vs. 24	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>lips tightened, not pressed</p> <p>lips more narrow than 24 as red parts are pulled inward.</p> <p>wrinkles or bulges in the skin more evident than in 24</p> <p>23 can occur in either the Top or Bottom lip alone</p> <p>When in doubt whether to score 23 or 24, and it cannot be resolved using the differences listed above and the intensity criteria for each AU, score 23. If it shows signs of both 23 and 24, score it as 23+24 only if the evidence is sufficient to score both AUs at least at the B level, otherwise score the higher intensity AU.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>lips pressed; if tightened, it is only barely</p> <p>lips less narrow than neutral but more red shows than in 23 and the lips appear de-elongated and skin above and/or below the lips is bulged out</p> <p>wrinkles or bulges in skin less evident than 23</p> <p>both lips must be involved</p>
23 vs. 28	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>lips are narrowed by tightening skin above and below the lips</p> <p>skin shows the tightening and may show wrinkles</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>lips disappear by sucking in the skin above and below the lips</p> <p>skin shows stretching from sucking-in action</p>
23+26 vs. 26	The addition of 23 to 26 narrows and tightens the lips, and makes the mouth look less relaxed, less like the jaw has just dropped by relaxing.	

**Table 7-4: Alternative Rules Involving Orbital Action Units**

16 @ B28	If the lower lip is pulled down by 16, whether the lips part or not, the lips cannot be sucked in by 28. You can score 16+25+28 if the 28 action occurs only in the upper lip.
18 @ 28	If the lips are pursed by 18 they cannot be sucked in by 28.
22 @ 28 if in same lip	If the lips are funneled out by 22+25, they cannot be sucked in by 28 when they involve the same lip(s). You can score 22+28 if the actions occur on different lips.
24 @ 25	The lips cannot be parted and pressed together. In Chapter 8 you will learn AU 8 which is the movement of 24 with the lips parted.