



# MIME AND DRAMA



Notes



Many deaf people excel in mime and drama. There is a difference between mime and ISL. In this lesson, you will learn the importance of working in unison while performing with others.



## OUTCOMES

After studying this lesson, learner:

- appreciate performances of mime and drama;
- compare and contrast the commonalities and differences between mime and ISL;
- discuss importance of learning to work in unity on a common performance.

Drama means a skit or theatre performed by a group of signers on a stage for an audience. It is important to know that mime is different from drama and theatre. Drama is a type of content that spreads online, like on YouTube, and is staged for the audience

In a drama act, the characters should wear special types of clothes that are appropriate for their roles and are easily recognizable to the audience. For example, if a character is playing the role of a police officer, they should wear a police uniform

<p align="center"><b>Drama</b></p> <p>Skits are performed in ISL by signers.</p>
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Figure-15.1 : Mime

<p align="center"><b>Mime</b></p> <p>Stories are enacted with the performer's whole body.</p>
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Figure-15.1 : Drama

Creative Expressions  
in ISL



Notes

- ❖ In mime, a story is acted out with the whole body movement, and both deaf and hearing people use mime. Mime can use gestures to help people understand the story
- ❖ There is no use of fluent ISL, and the actors do not sign complete sentences in ISL. The meaning should be clear to anyone who is watching the actors' bodies.

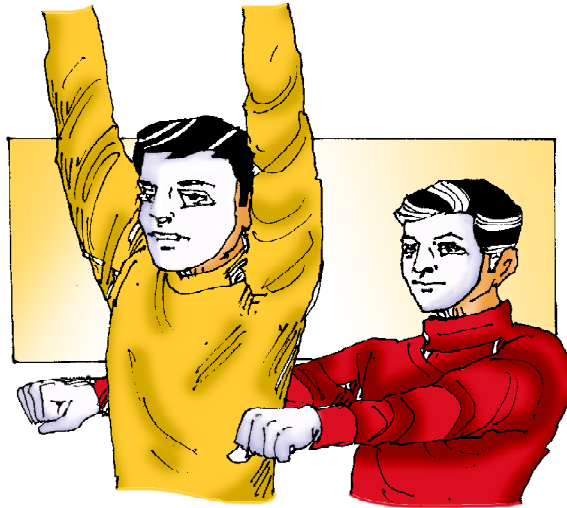


Figure-15.3 : Mime

Here, you can see the special costumes of the signers. They are dressed in black with white make up on the to whole face. They are acting out a few scenes. They do not talk to each other or to the audience in ISL sentences. Some of them act as objects. While they act out these experiences, there are some ISL signs, for example the sign of BANANA and TELEPHONE. Such signs are easy to understand even if people do not know ISL.

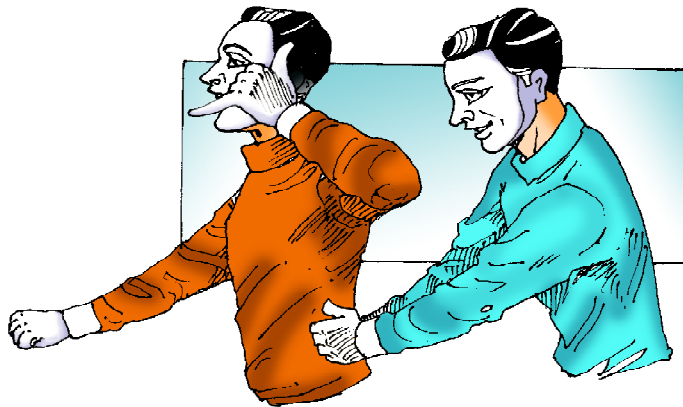


Figure-15.4 : Mime

An ISL drama/theatre performance is quite different from miming:

- ❖ In drama, signers use actual ISL to talk to each other on stage or to the audience.
- ❖ Sometimes, the actors may change the way something is signed, for special effect; this also happens in poetry.

Miming and signing are different because:

- ❖ Mime involves the entire body for acting out, but ISL has a standard smaller space around the upper body used for signing
- ❖ Mime is generally understood by everyone, but limits the amount of detail that can be expressed. For example, in mime, performers can show that someone throws a banana peel in the trash but they cannot show what the person is thinking.
- ❖ In mime, understanding the performance depends on the context of shared experiences, but in ISL, anything can be explained whether shared experience or not.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 15.1

1. Who uses mime?
  - a. Deaf people only.
  - b. Hearing people only.
  - c. Both deaf and hearing people.
2. True / False
  - a. Mime can also be understood by people who don't know ISL. (True / False)
  - b. ISL drama cannot be understood without knowing ISL or use of interpreter. (True / False)
  - c. The amount of detail we can express is limited in ISL. (True / False)
  - d. Mime uses the whole body. (True / False)
  - e. ISL is same as Mime. (True / False)

Notes



Creative Expressions  
in ISL

Notes

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

- Mime is different from drama and theatre.
- Drama means a skit or theatre performed by a group of signers on a stage for an audience.
- In mime, a story is acted out with the whole body with minimal signing. Just watching the actors makes the meaning clear.
- some actors may act as objects.
- Both deaf and hearing people use mime.
- Mime actors dress in black and do white make up on face.
- Miming is different than talking in ISL as in mime, whole body is used whereas while talking in ISL it's the hands and upper body used.
- In ISL, anything can be talked about and explained where as in mime, understanding depends upon shared experience.
- In Drama, actors use actual ISL to talk to each other or the audience.
- In Drama, actors may change the style of signing to create impact in a drama.

**TERMINAL EXERCISE**

1. Discuss and provide at least two differences between ISL drama and mime.
2. What is dress code of mime?
3. What according to your understanding are the commonalities between mime and ISL? Explain with examples.
4. What is the importance of “learning to work in Unity” during common performance? Explain by giving suitable example.

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS**

1. c
2. a. True  
b. True  
c. False