

the science of...  
**SPYING**

## Can you be someone else?

Watching - Observing and gathering information

### Purpose

To improve skills of observation, empathy and performance

### Age range (years)

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16



### Subjects

English/ Drama.  
PSHE



## Background

Sometimes spies must pretend to be someone else. This simple impersonation activity asks students to think about some of the things spies must consider when going undercover.

## Steps

1. Ask pairs of students to take turns impersonating each other. Suggest that the person being copied does a simple task for a minute or two, saying a few words, e.g. packing or unpacking their school bag while describing their actions and the items they are handling.
2. The impersonator copies, being careful to note posture, walk, gestures, facial expressions and voice.
3. Ask the participants to describe:
  - how it felt to try and be someone else
  - how it felt to be impersonated
  - what were the hardest things to get right.

## Extensions

Open up a class discussion: “When is it acceptable to impersonate someone?” If necessary, suggest examples such as celebrity ‘lookalikes’, comedic impressions, or for the purposes of ‘identity theft’. Ask students to consider issues of legality, entertainment value and social impact.