

Election 2010: Handshakes and body language

At the end of the first leaders' debate all three leaders were very relieved – their body language appears natural and possibly telling – but it's just one theory...

Cameron and Brown shake hands – Cameron does an arm touch. Brown does not reciprocate.



Brown and Clegg have a 'straight-armed' distant handshake. No arms touching here.



A decent formal handshake between Brown and Clegg



But then ...

Clegg has had enough and un-clasps. Brown continues to hang on..



Clegg must wriggle his hand out from the still clasping Brown.



And away... Brown is still shaking, but Clegg has gone...



Clegg and Cameron line up for their handshake.

Both Clegg and Cameron have already positioned their left hands ready for an arm-touch...

Clegg and Cameron shake and mutually arm-touch.



Cameron and Clegg: Shall we dance? 'Jilted' Brown heads off the stage...



Cameron wants to stay on stage to receive applause.
He touches Clegg's back/arm to attract his attention, for Clegg to stay on stage with him -
he doesn't want to appear isolated...



'Come back on stage', gestures Cameron to Clegg...



What will Clegg do ?



Somewhat self-consciously, Clegg does a 'sideways-shuffle' back up the steps to join Cameron



Clegg and Cameron receive applause – side-by-side. Brown is oblivious of all this...

