



# Movement Dynamics

From Lessons in SignWriting Web Gallery

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## Dynamics Symbols

**1. Movement Dynamics** are small symbols placed near movement arrows. They indicate movement that is fast, slow, smooth, tense, relaxed, simultaneous, alternating, and un-even-alternating:



**2. Handshape Dynamics** mark classifiers. They mark a hand that is held in one place for a long time.



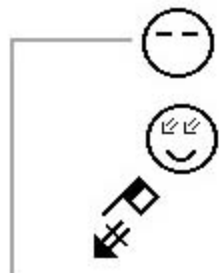
**3. Facial Dynamics** show tense or relaxed facial muscles. The Tense Symbol is used for lips that press together, for raised cheeks, and for squeezed eyes.



**4. Punctuation Dynamics** show the speed, timing and quality of entire phrases and sentences.



**5. Unit Dynamics** marks the influence of one symbol on a whole group of signs. The **Unit-Connecting Line** is used to show one facial expression influencing several signs.



## Movement Dynamics



### Simultaneous Line

Both hands move at the same time.



### Alternating Lines

The right hand moves in one direction, while the left moves simultaneously in the opposite direction.



### Un-Even Alternating

#### One Moves While The Other One Is Still

The right hand moves while the left remains still. Then the left moves while the right remains still.



### Slow Movement



### Smooth Movement



### Fast Movement



### Fast Movement with Emphasis



### Tense Movement



### Tense Movement with Emphasis



### Relaxed Movement



### Relaxed Movement with Emphasis

## Handshape Dynamics

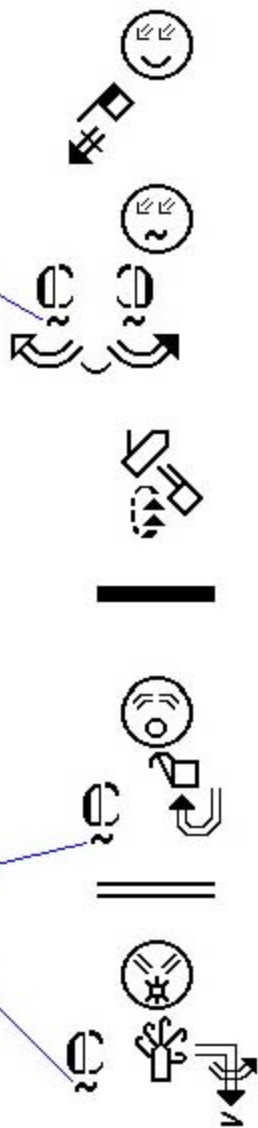
### Writing Classifiers

**Classifiers** are written with the handshape, plus a **Classifier Marker**. The Classifier Marker is a **Tension Symbol**. It is placed under the handshape.

In this sentence, Goldilocks sees a bowl of porridge. The bowl is established in space by a **feeling of tension**, a little like the feeling of placing something on a table. It anchors the visual picture of a bowl in space. The Tension Symbol marks that feeling. It is always placed under the handshapes.

Once the classifier is established, one hand continues to mark the classifier, held in the same position, while the other hand does other signs. The Tension Symbol remains under the hand that **marks the classifier**.

Goldilocks is discussing the porridge. She is saying that she sees the bowl, and then eats the porridge from it. But the porridge is too **hot!!**

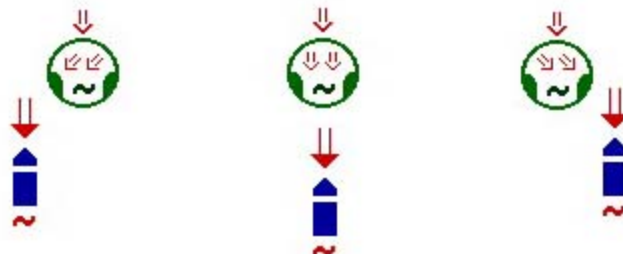


## Facial Dynamics

### Related To Handshape Dynamics

**Facial expressions** are essential to writing Sign Language stories and literature. They mark grammar and emphasis. The Tense Lips symbol shows the dynamics of the lips tensing as the hand is established in space by a classifier. Tension on the lips and near the hands are oftentimes written together.

**Below:** The Classifier for "bed" in American Sign Language, is written with a Tension Symbol under the handshape to mark the classifier. At the same time, the lips also tense, giving the feeling of "anchoring the classifier" in space.



This bed is placed to the left side. It is established in the **left space**, to the left of the facial expression.

The **lipstense** as the classifier is placed in space.

This bed is placed in the center. It is established in the **center space**, directly under the facial expression.

The **lipstense** as the classifier is placed in space.

This bed is placed to the right side. It is established in the **right space**, to the right of the facial expression.

The **lipstense** as the classifier is placed in space.

## Unit Dynamics

### Unit-Connecting Lines

**Influence** is written with a Unit-Connecting Line.

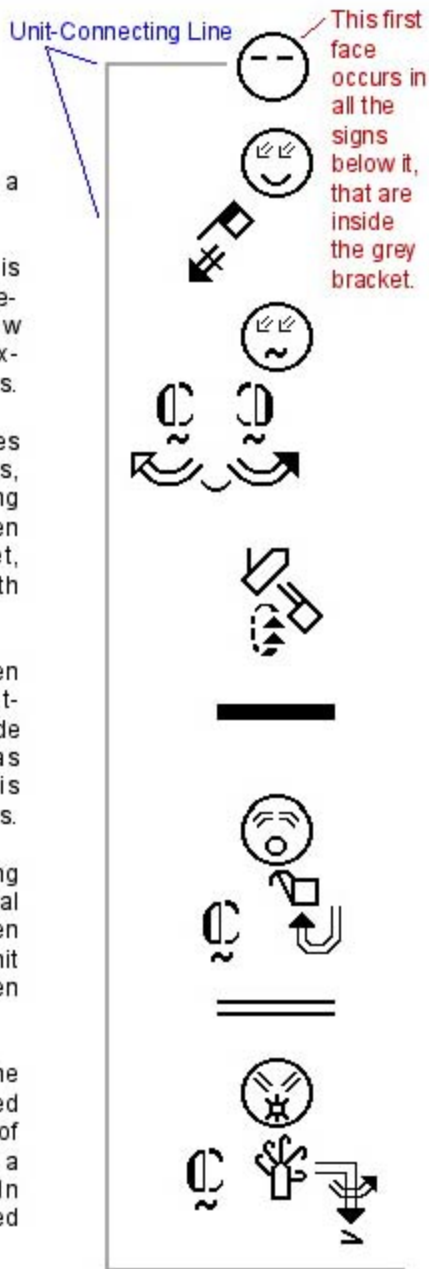
The Unit-Connecting Line is useful for Sign Language researchers. It is used to show the influence of one facial expression on a group of signs.

When one symbol influences a group of symbols or signs, the symbol that is influencing the group is written first. Then a line is written, like a bracket, connecting the symbol with the group it influences.

When SignWriting is written vertically, the Unit Connecting Line is written to the side of the vertical column, as shown here. The Unit Line is grey or lighter than the signs.

In Spain, the Unit Connecting Line is used for horizontal SignWriting literature. When writing horizontally, the Unit Connecting Line is written under or over the writing.

In Sutton DanceWriting, the Unit-Connecting Line is used often to show the influence of one movement symbol on a group of other symbols. In SignWriting, it is rarely used for everyday use.



## Punctuation Dynamics

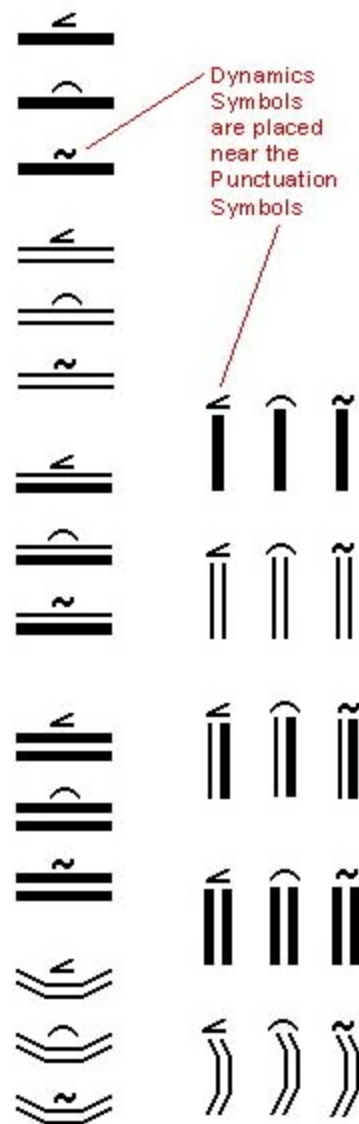
### Sign Language sentences with feeling!

SignWriting, like other writing systems, has punctuation. A dark line at the end of a SignWriting sentence is the equivalent to a period in English. It marks the end of the sentence or phrase. Two lines represent a pause, or comma. Punctuation symbols are described in detail in the next chapter.

SignWriting can add more feeling to sentences by adding Dynamics Symbols to the Punctuation.

The Fast Symbol represents a sentence executed quickly, with speed. This is similar to an Exclamation Point in English.

Slow, Smooth, Tense and Relaxed Dynamic Symbols can also be placed near Punctuation Symbols to give the feeling of slow, smooth, tense or relaxed sentences.



# Dynamics Examples

same-old  
thing



various,  
vary,  
varies



finish,  
already  
did



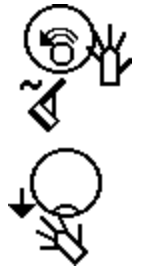
Do you  
want to ask  
me  
questions?



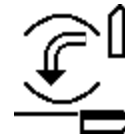
clock



(very)  
beautiful



all day



Object or  
person dis-  
appearing  
slowly in  
the  
distance

