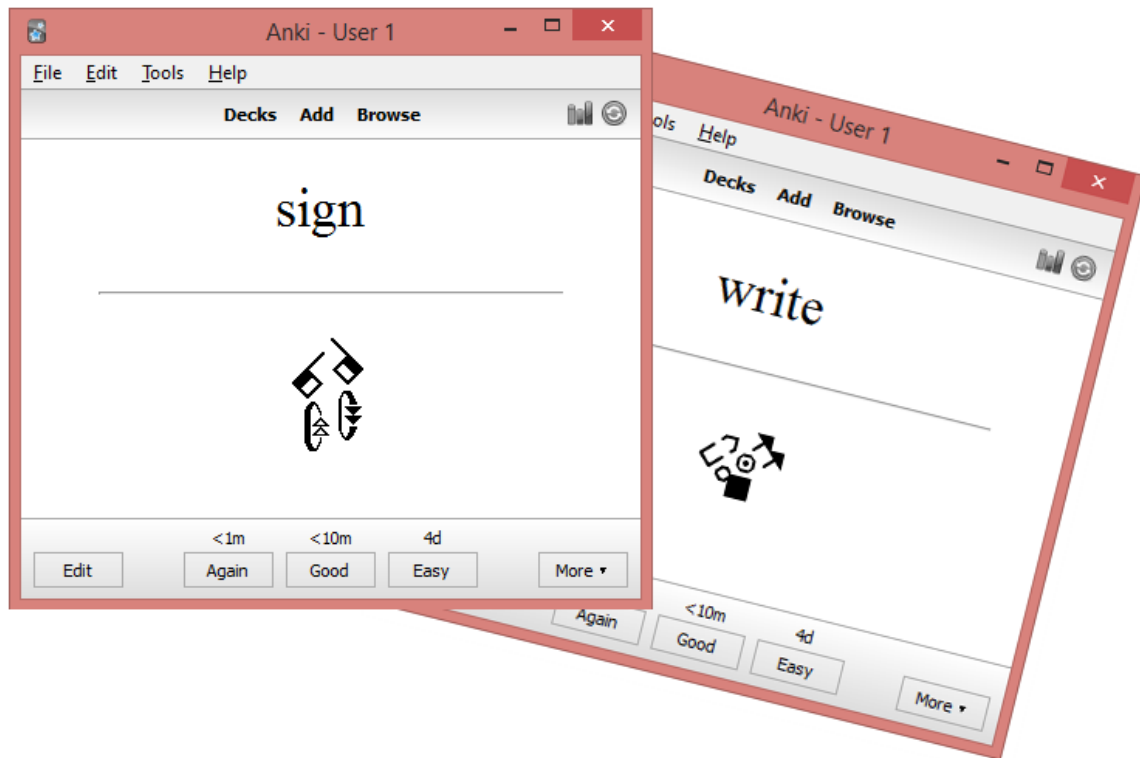# Sign Language Student Guide
With Anki Flashcards in SignWriting

André Lemyre

SignWriting

This document has a French version: " Guide de l'étudiant-e de langue signée en SignÉcriture (SignWriting) avec les cartes électroniques Anki ".

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First Edition
©2015-01-04

This document was prepared with SignWriter Studio™ version 1.2 © 2009 created by Jonathan Duncan. This free software can be downloaded: http://signwriterstudio.com/

Anki was created by Damien Elmes. AnkiDroid was adapted from Damien Elmes' code. This free software for Windows, MAC, Android and Linux can be downloaded in English:
 http://ankisrs.net
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=en

The Anki version for iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch is available for a low price:
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ankimobile-flashcards/id373493387?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4

Anki flashcards are free (use the search field):
https://ankiweb.net/shared/decks/

This publication and the SignWriting Script are free
to use under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License
http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/

Introduction

This guide explains how to install Anki software to study a sign language with electronic flashcards.

The signs are written in SignWriting. SignWriting was invented in 1974 by Valerie Sutton. It is used in 42 countries. An introduction to SignWriting is provided to help you learning rapidly how to read this intuitive and visual notation.

The flashcards can be studied on a Windows PC, an Android cell phone, a Mac, an iPhone, an iPad or an iPod Touch.

The signs are copied from SignPuddle Online dictionary. They were formatted as flashcards with SignWriter Studio^{TM} a sign editor. We present the software in annex.

We will use the American sign Language ASL dictionary as an example. The signs were written by volunteers. They were not validated by linguists.

André Lemyre

ASL Reading Guide

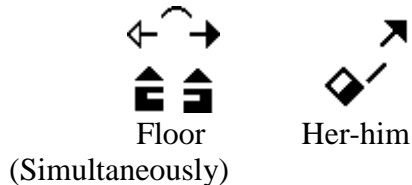Simple configurations (A-Z, 0-10):
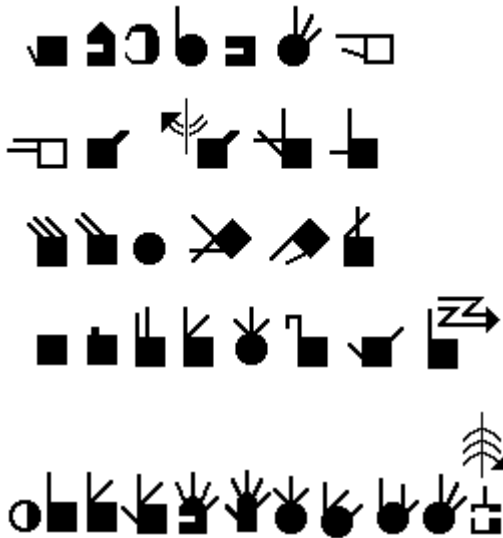
The hand is square when closed and round when the thumb forms a circle.

The hand color indicates if the signer sees the palm (white) or the back of the hand (black).

The symbol is cut at the fingers if the hand is horizontal.
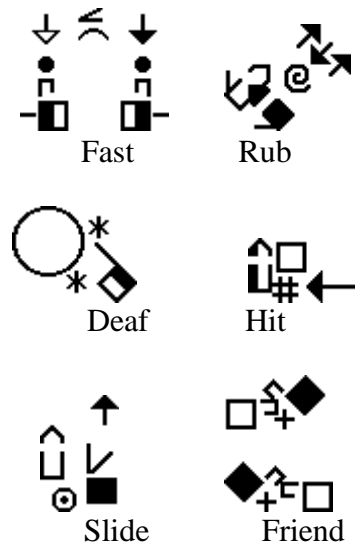
Floor
(Simultaneously)

Her-him

A vertical movement has a double stem arrow. A horizontal movement has a single stem arrow. The black arrowhead is for the right hand and the white arrowhead is for the left hand. The empty arrowhead represents both hands.
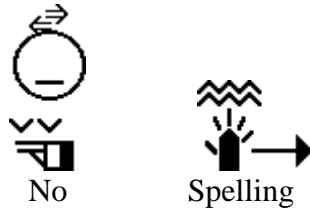
Family   Important   Sign
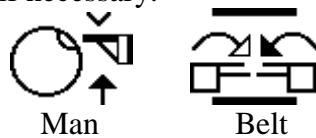
Zoo

Go forward   Stairs
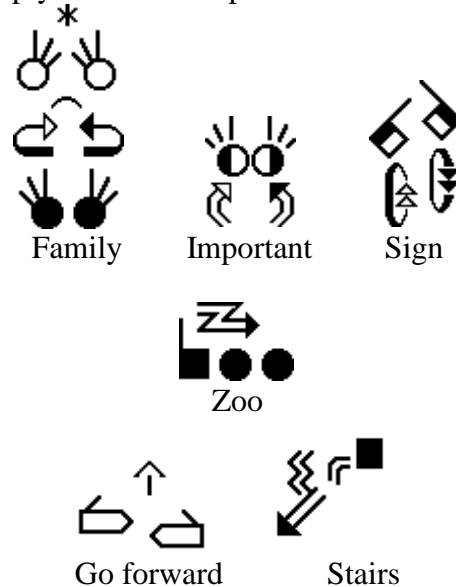
Movement symbols:
< fast, @ rub, * touch,
+ grasp, ☉ brush, # strike

Fast   Rub

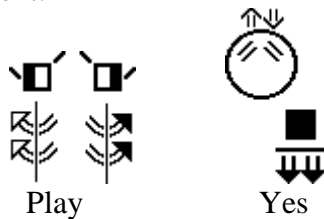Deaf   Hit

Slide   Friend

4

Head and finger movements

No   Spelling

The face, the shoulders and the hips are written if necessary.

Man   Belt

A line represents the forearm or a wrist movement.

Play   Yes

Stefan Wöhrmann ´s SpeechWriting system

Writing what is seen, when lip reading, not sounds.

Symbols		Phonemes
	Mouth Open Rectangle Yawn	ʌ a:
	Mouth Open Rectangle	ɛ ɛ:
	Mouth Open Oval	ə e:
	Mouth Open Oval Wrinkled	i i:
	Mouth Open Circle	ø ø: o:

	Mouth Open Wrinkled	u: ʊ y y:
	Mouth Closed Neutral	m
	Mouth Tense	b p
	Teeth on Lips	f v
	Tongue Tip Touches Inside Mouth	l
	Tongue Inside Mouth Relaxed (up)	d n ŋ t
	Mouth Open Forward	ʒ ʃ
	Teeth	z s ks ts
	Mouth Wrinkles Single	j
	Tongue Inside Mouth Relaxed (down)	k r g
	Mouth Wrinkles Double	X ç
	Teeth on Tongue	th ð θ
	Mouth Open Oval Yawn	ɔ

Simple examples:

| Age	Find	Need
Airplane	Give	Sad
Book	Have	Sell
Car	Hope	School
Cat	House	Surprise
Eat	Library	Want
Father	Mathematics	Wife
	Mother	

Anki and AnkiDroid

Several versions of Anki are available. The versions for PC and cell phones Android are free. The iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch version is available at low cost. The decks of electronic flashcards are free.

The software is based on active revisions. Decks of flashcards on several topics are available. Each electronic flashcard presents a word or a question and the corresponding sign. You have to try remembering the sign. This effort helps memorization. After, verify the answer. The words you forgot or for which you made a mistake will be displayed more often than those you got right.
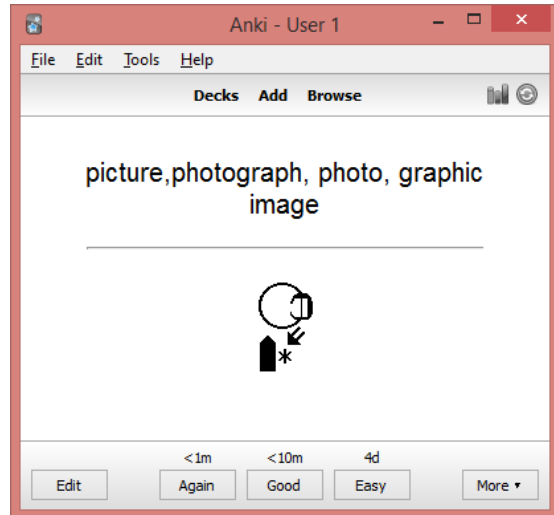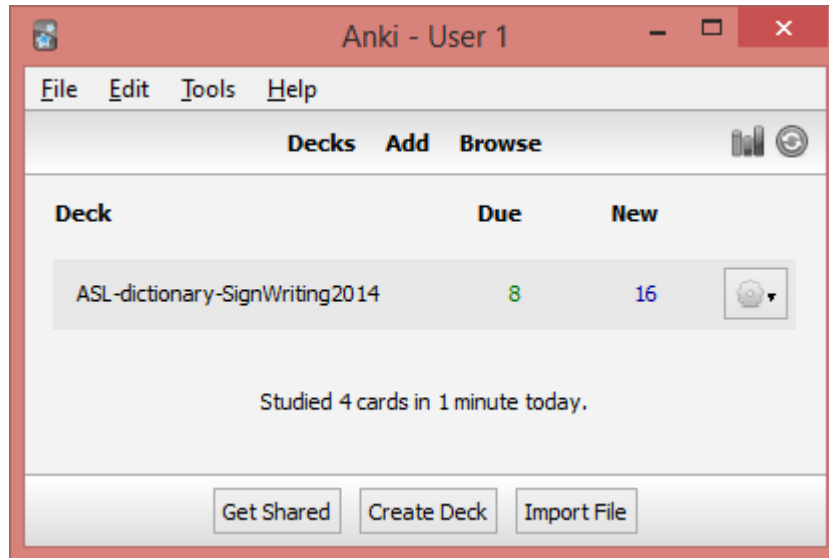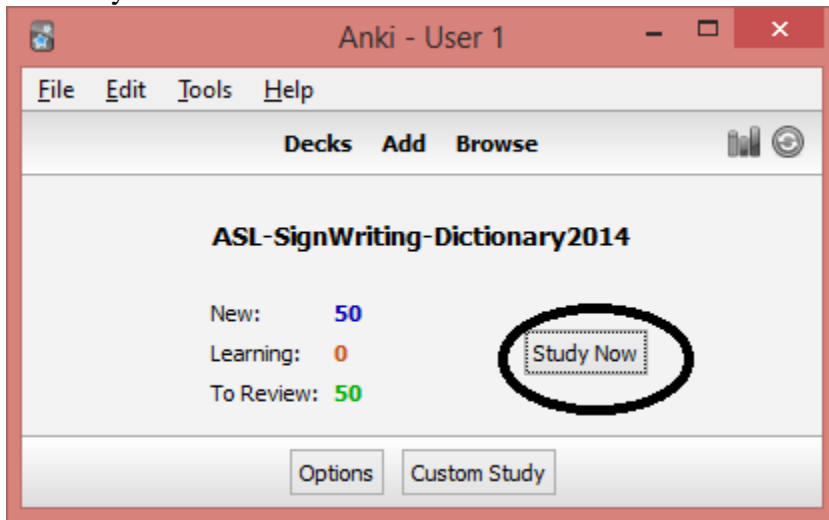
Examples of ASL flashcards in SignWriting:
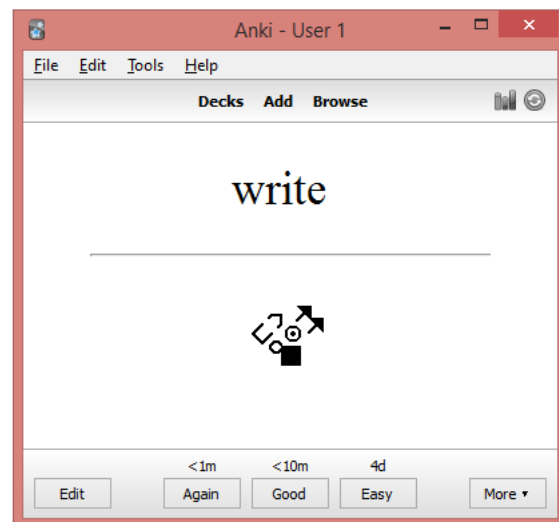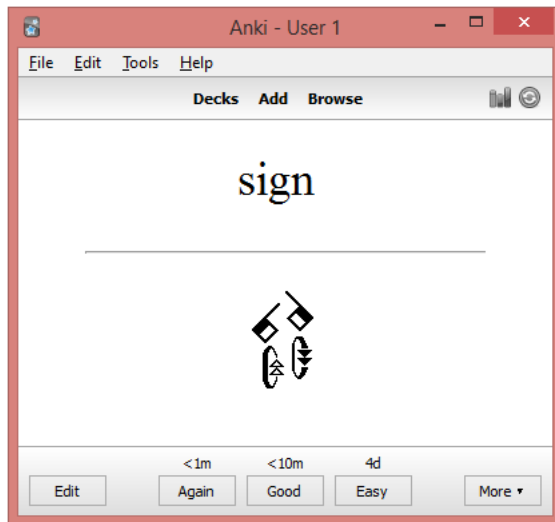
Studying a Sign Language With Anki

1. Launch Anki.
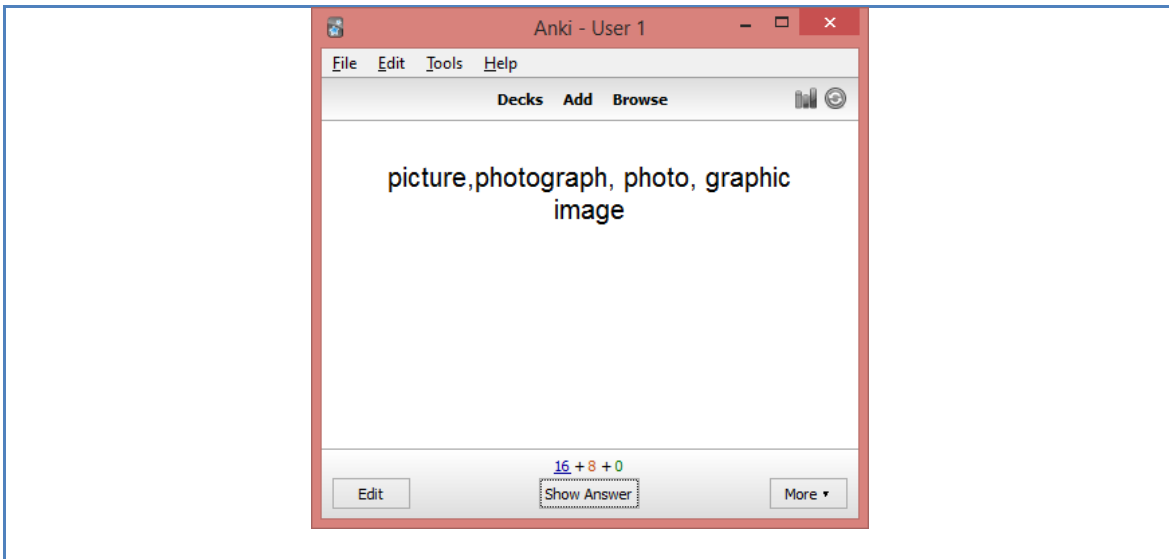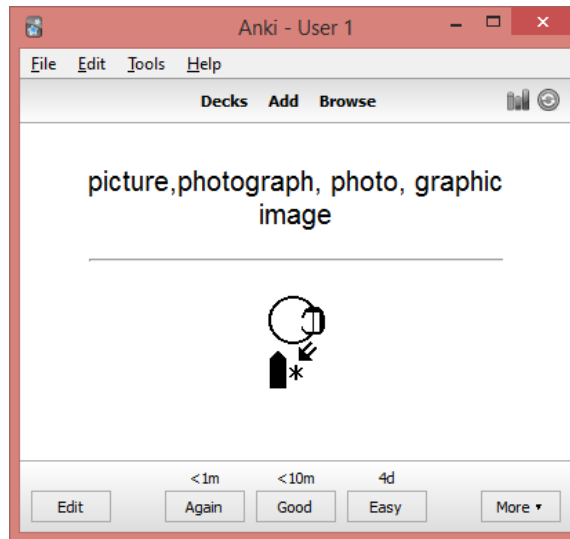2. Click on the deck name.

3. Click « Study Now ».

4. Read the question.
5. Try to find the answer.

6. Click « Show Answer ».

7. If you do not know the answer, click « Again », the question will be repeated soon.
8. Click « good » to review the flashcard later.
9. If you knew the answer, click « Easy », the question will not be repeated before a long time.

Installing AnkiDroid on an Android Cell Phone

There are several videos on YouTube explaining how to use Anki.

Visit google play web site. Install the English application on your Android phone:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=en

The French version:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=fr

The Spanish version:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=es

The Deutsch version:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=de

The Italian version:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=it

Versions in other languages are in preparation: Arabic, Norwegian, and Portuguese…

For Android cell phone :
AnkiDroid is an adaptation of Damien Elmes' code. AnkiDroid freeware can be download in English :
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ichi2.anki&hl=en

The iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch version is available for a low cost :
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ankimobile-flashcards/id373493387?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4
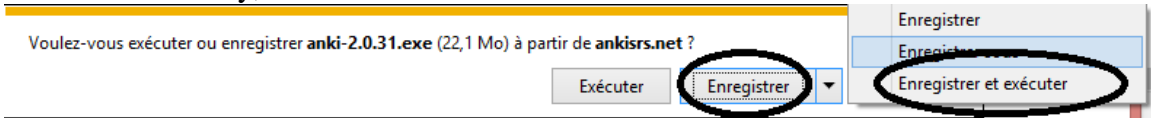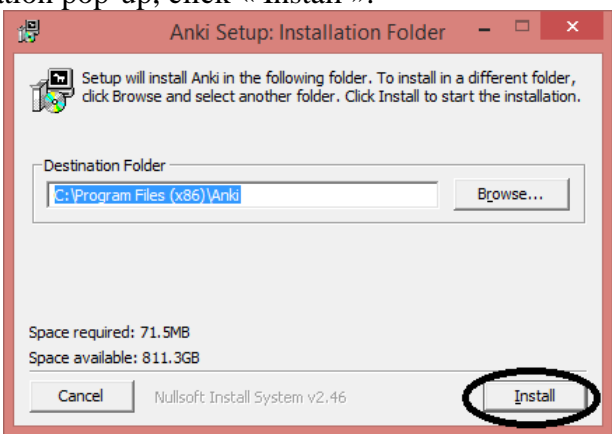
AnkiWeb version allows only to study in text mode, it does not display SignWriting symbols. It is used to download SignWriting decks on local computers or cell phones:
https://ankiweb.net/

Installing Anki on Windows, MAC or Linux

Anki was programmed by Damien Elmes. The software for Windows, MAC, Android and Linux in English are free (several languages are available during the installation):
 http://ankisrs.net/

| Download Anki |
|---|
| 1. If Anki is already installed and running, exit the application.
 2. If required, update the version, it is not necessary to uninstall the previous version.
 3. The data will remain available. |
| 4. To download Anki on your computer, go to the web page: <br> http://ankisrs.net |
| 5. Select the tab for Windows, Mac or Linux. |
| 6. Click « Download ».
 Example : |
| 7. Save the installer in your Downloads folder.
 8. If necessary, double-click on the installer to start the installation. |
| 9. Enter your computer password to allow saving the file and installing the software. |
| 10. In the installation pop-up, click « Install ». |
| 11. Ensure that no version of Anki is running during the installation. Click « OK ». |
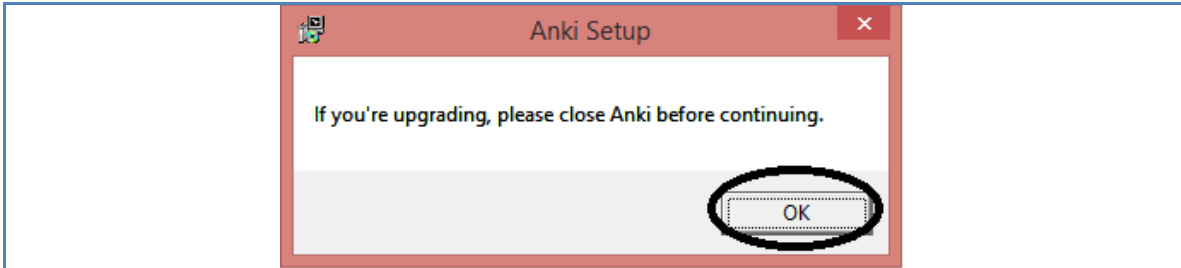
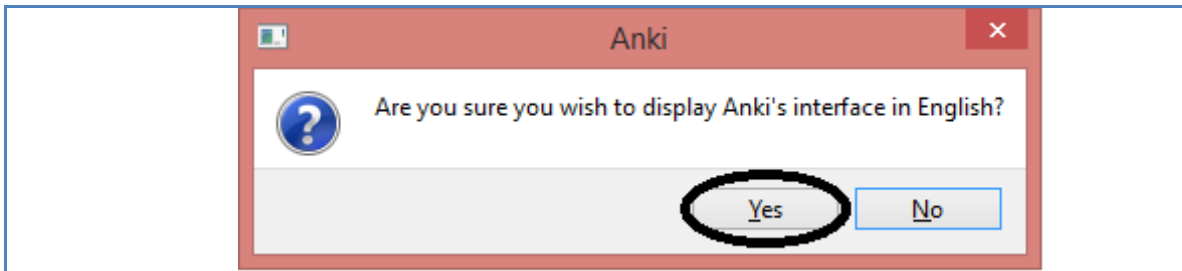12. When the installation is completed, click « Close ».
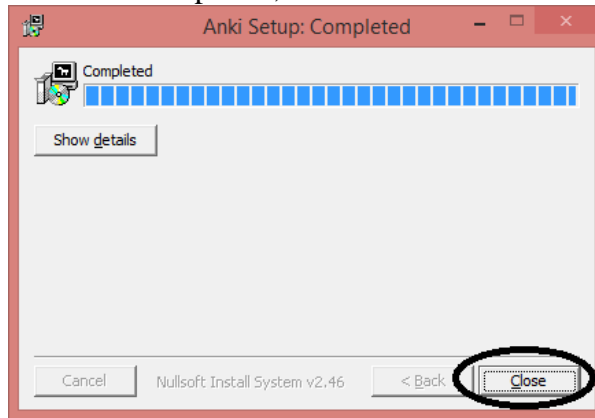
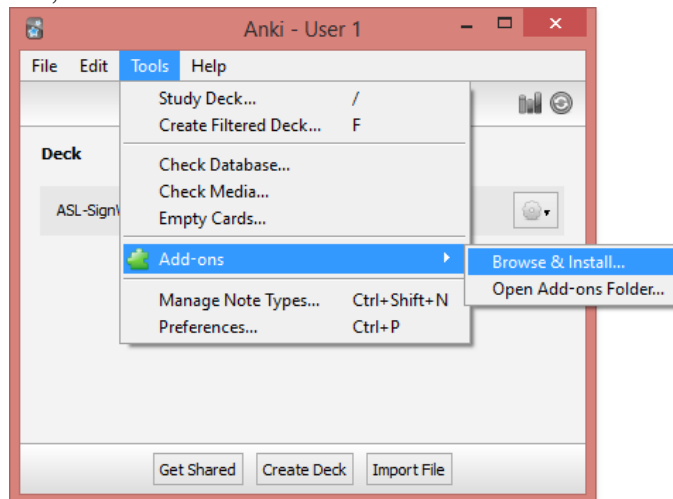13. Double-click on Anki icon to launch the application.

14. Select the language of the user interface, click « OK ». Confirm your choice of language, click « Yes ».
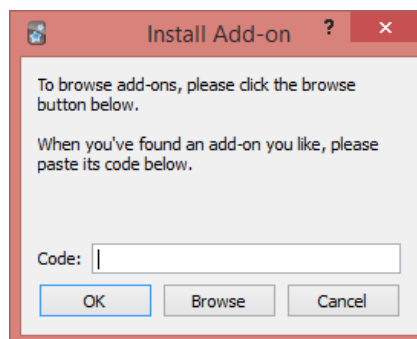
Anki

Are you sure you wish to display Anki's interface in English?

Yes   No
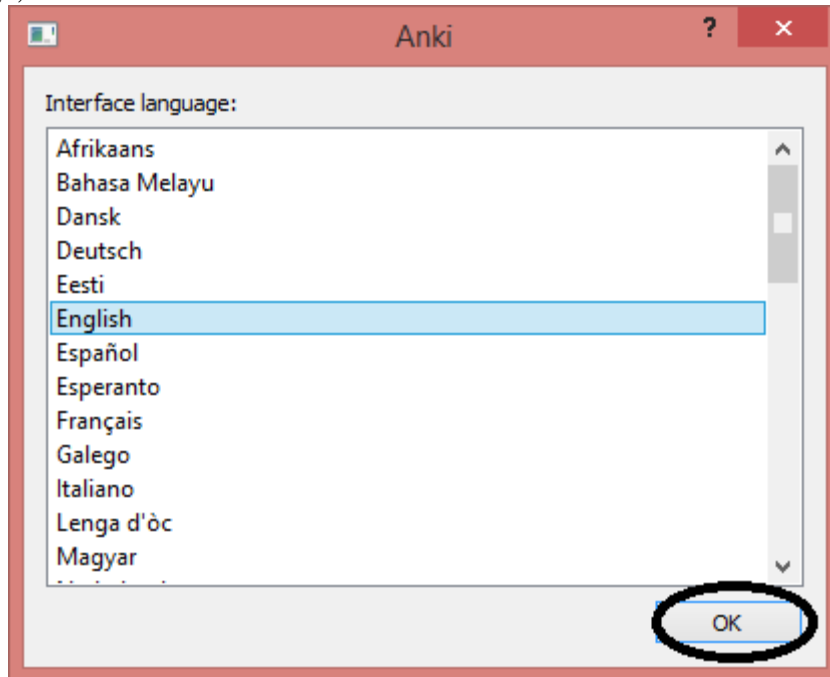
15. The user may need special options. We present a feature for Arabic.
16. Select « Tools », then « Add-ons ».

Anki - User 1

File   Edit   Tools   Help

Study Deck...   /
Create Filtered Deck...   F

Deck

Check Database...
Check Media...
ASL-SignV   Empty Cards...

Add-ons   ▶   Browse & Install...
                Open Add-ons Folder...

Manage Note Types...   Ctrl+Shift+N
Preferences...   Ctrl+P

Get Shared   Create Deck   Import File

17. Select "Browse & Install", a web page web is displayed, we see the code   can be used to display or hide texts in Arabic, Hebrew or Syriac in the cards.

1615485957

18. See https://ankiweb.net/shared/info/1615485957

Install Add-on   ?   ×

To browse add-ons, please click the browse button below.

When you've found an add-on you like, please paste its code below.

Code: |

OK   Browse   Cancel

Installing an Existing Deck.

To download a shared deck, follow the following steps. You will be able to modify this deck. You can import cards created by SignWriter Studio™ in an existing deck to upgrade its content. Visit SignWriter Studio™ home page to download sign language decks:

http://signwriterstudio.com/index.htm

When importing an .APKG file in Anki, new cards will be added but none will be modified or deleted.

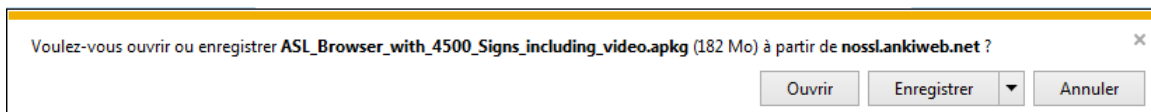| Importing an Existing Deck |
|---|
| 1. Launch Anki and click « Get Shared » at the bottom of the window. |
| 2. A web page is displayed.

https://ankiweb.net/shared/decks/

3. In the « Search » field type the name of a sign language, example: ASL. |
| 4. When you have found a deck, click « Info » to see details.

 |
| 5. A description of the deck is displayed. |
| 6. Click « Download ». |
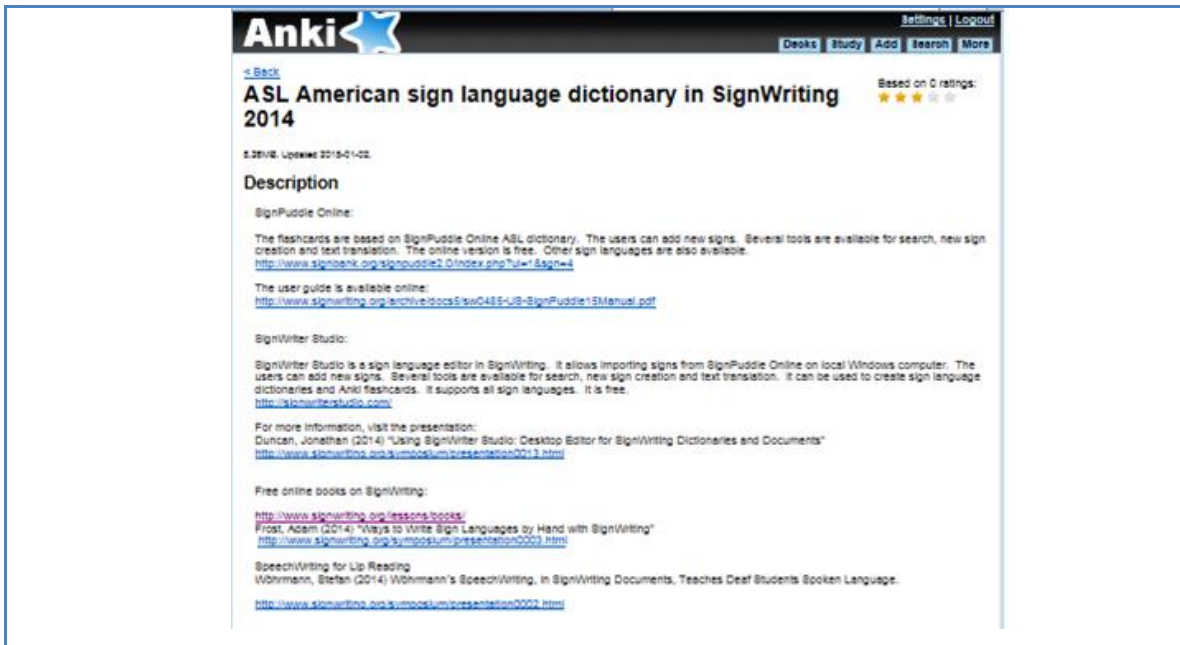
7. Save the file in your project folder.

8. When the file is saved, double-click on it to trigger the download by Anki or click the « Import File» button.
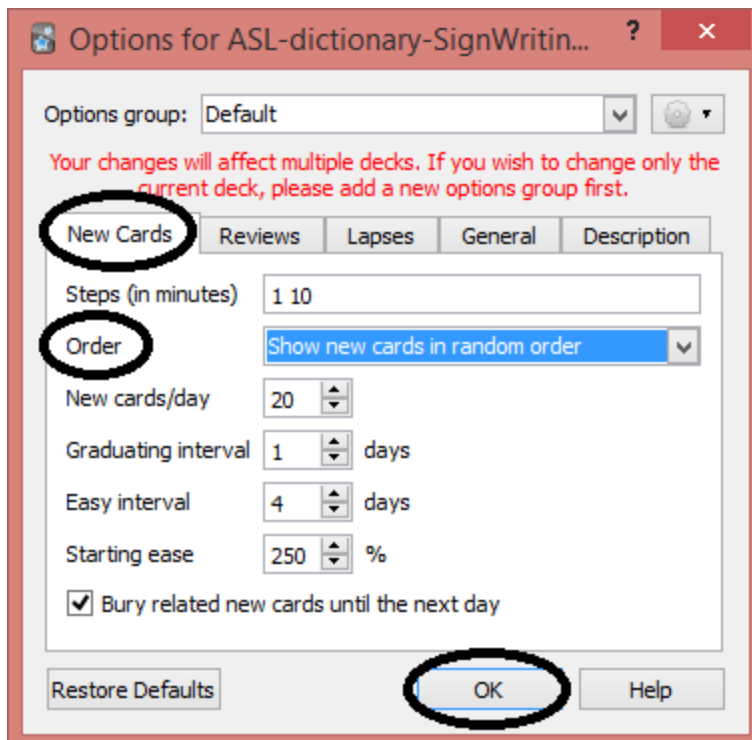

15
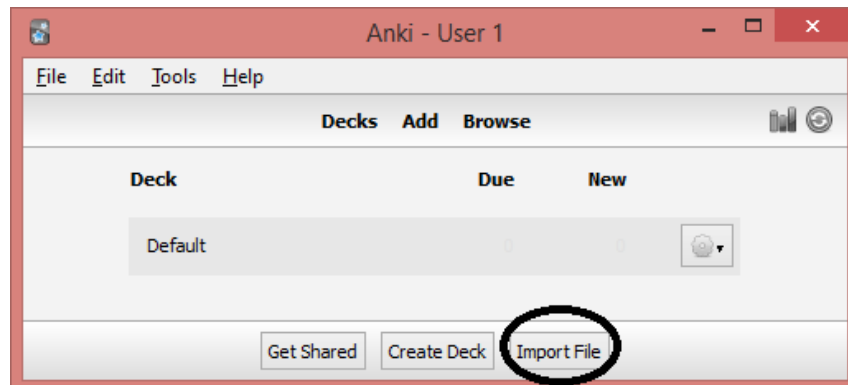
Display of Flashcards in Random Order
1. The sign language deck is displayed in the main window.

2. Select the circle beside the deck.
3. Select « Options ».
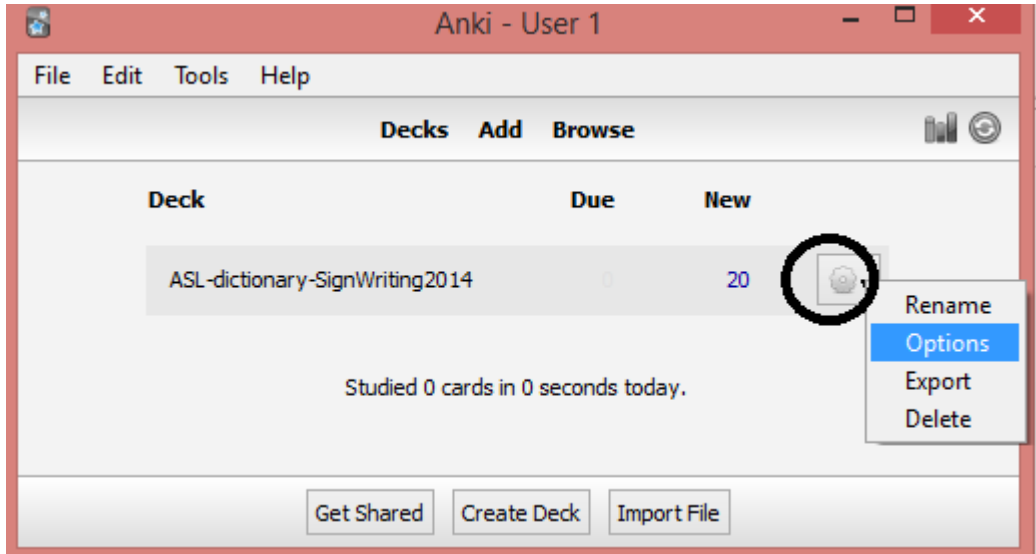
4. Select « New Cards ».
5. Select the order « Show new cards in random order » to avoid studying in alphabetical order.
6. Click « OK ».

SignPuddle Online

It is not necessary to install SignPuddle Online. To use it, it suffices to access it with Chrome or Firefox:

http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle/

Then, select a sign language.

SignPuddle Online contains centralized dictionaries for LSQ, ASL… The users can add new signs. Several tools are available for search, new sign creation and text translation. The online version is free. There exists a version that can be installed on a private computer, it is not expensive.

ASL dictionary:
http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle2.0/index.php?ui=1&sgn=4

LSQ dictionary:
http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle2.0/index.php?ui=4&sgn=47

The English user guide is available online:
http://www.signwriting.org/archive/docs5/sw0485-US-SignPuddle15Manual.pdf

The French user guide is available online:
http://www.signwriting.org/archive/docs6/sw0537-FR-SignPuddle15Manuel.pdf

Simplified display of the user interface:

SignPuddle Online v2.0

Translate

Home

Dictionary US

Translate text
All searches are case sensitive

```
write ASL with computer
```

Translate

write	ASL	with	computer
◉	◉	◉	◉
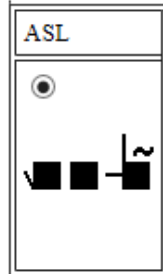
SignWriter Studio™

SignWriter Studio™ is a sign language editor in SignWriting. It allows importing signs from SignPuddle Online on local Windows computer. The users can add new signs. Several tools are available for search, new sign creation and text translation. It can be used to create sign language dictionaries and Anki electronic flashcards for computers or cell phones. It supports all sign languages. It is free.
http://signwriterstudio.com/

For more information, visit the presentation:
Duncan, Jonathan (2014) "Using SignWriter Studio: Desktop Editor for SignWriting Dictionaries and Documents"
http://www.signwriting.org/symposium/presentation0013.html

Refer to the help page:
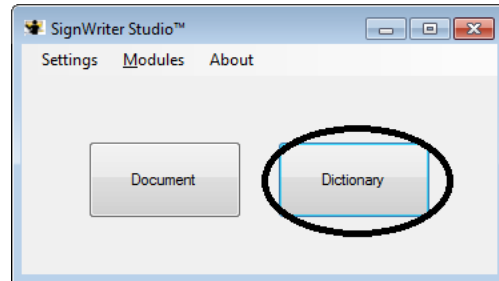http://signwriterstudio.com/help.htm

Examples:
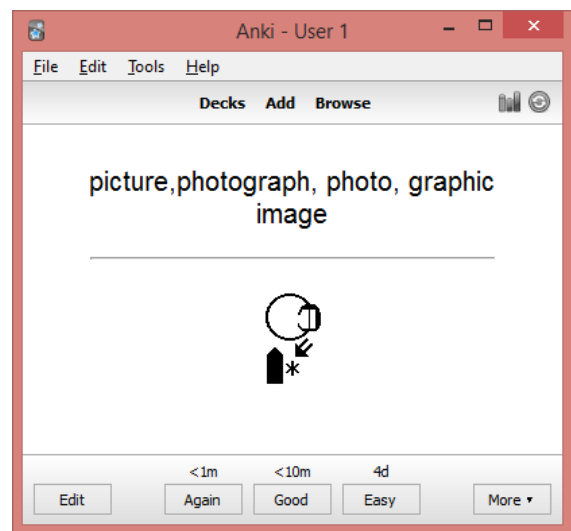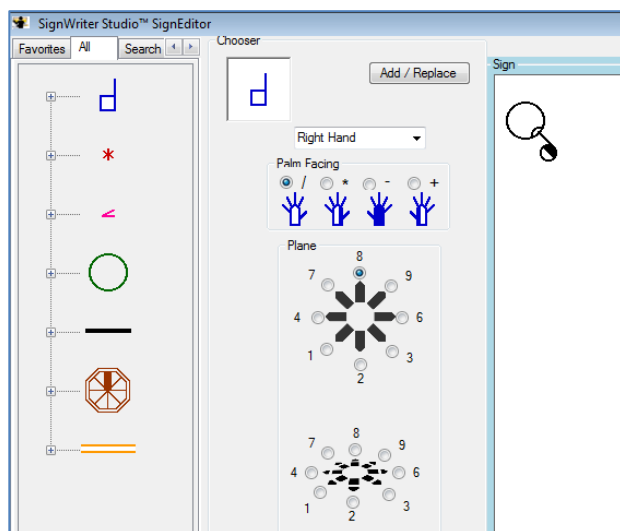
Configuring SignWriter Studio^{TM}

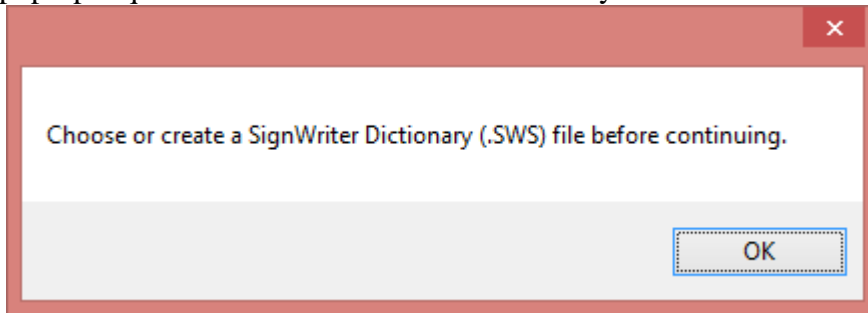| Configuring a Sign Language and Creating an Empty Dictionary |
|---|
| 1. Create a folder for the project. |
| 2. Launch SignWriter Studio^{TM}.

3. Click « Dictionary ». |
| 4. A pop-up requires the creation of a new dictionary. Click "OK". |
| 5. In the main window, create a new dictionary.

6. Select « File » then « New SignWriter Studio^{TM} File ».

7. Choose the project folder and choose a dictionary name.

8. Press « Save ». |
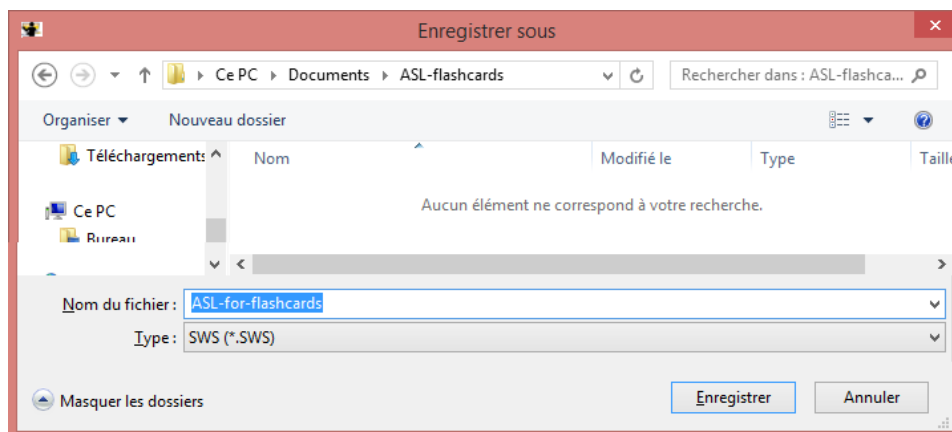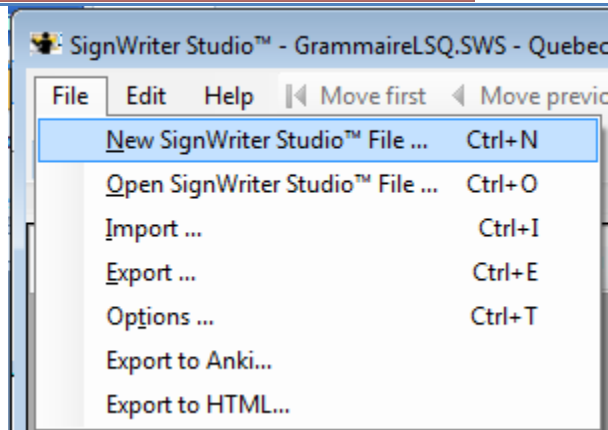
9. Select « File » then « Options ».
10. Ensure that the sign and spoken languages are correct.
11. The sign language must be the same as in SignPuddle Online file (2 different sign languages cannot be combined).
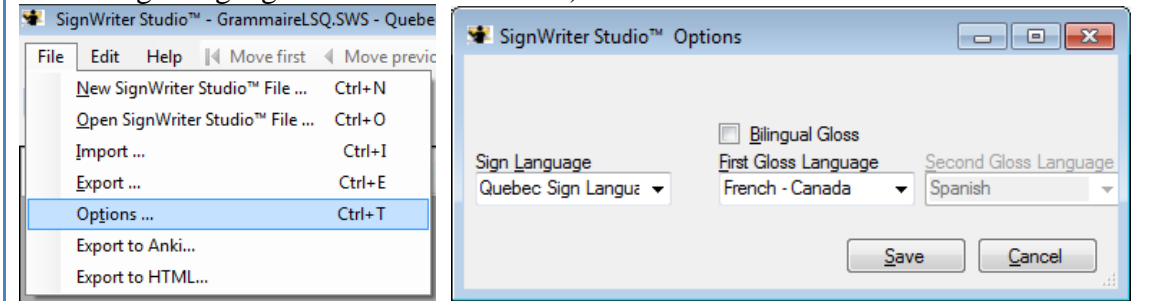
Bibliography

The entire following documents are free and can be downloaded.

Introduction to SignWriting:

http://www.signwriting.org/lessons/books/

Sutton, Valerie (2014) Lessons in SignWriting. Text book. Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc. La Jolla, California. United States.
http://www.signwriting.org/archive/docs2/sw0116-Lessons-SignWriting.pdf

Sutton, Valerie and Frost, Adam (2013) SignWriting. Sign Languages Are Written Languages! Manual 2: SignWriting Hand Symbols. ISBN: 978-0-914336-86-0 © Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.
http://www.SignWriting.org/lessons/iswa

Parkhurst, Dianne and Parkhurst, Stephen (2010) A Cross-Linguistic Guide to SignWriting®. A phonetic approach.
http://www.signwriting.org/archive/docs5/sw0493-SWLessonsBook-Parkhurst-EngLSE.pdf

Frost, Adam (2014) "Ways to Write Sign Languages by Hand with SignWriting"
 http://www.signwriting.org/symposium/presentation0003.html

Introduction on SpeechWriting:

Wöhrmann, Stefan (2014) Wöhrmann´s SpeechWriting, in SignWriting Documents, Teaches Deaf Students Spoken Language.

- http://www.signwriting.org/symposium/presentation0002.html
- http://www.gebaerdenschrift.de/
- http://www.gebaerdenschrift.de/read/Mundbilder/uebersicht_mundbilder.htm.

SpeechAnimating (including an analysis on how to extend SpeechWriting to several languages and to several languages in cued speech):

http://www.signwriting.org/symposium/presentation0020.html