



Typing Spoken Languages

in SignWriter 4.4

Changing To Alphabet Mode

1. There are three typing modes: **Sign**, **Fingerspelling** and **Alphabet**. When a file first opens, it is automatically in Sign mode. To type spoken language words, you need to switch to **Alphabet** mode.
2. To change typing modes, use the **Type** command. Type **Alt-t** for Type. This will appear:

This marks
Alphabet
mode

Type | Sign Fingerspell Alphabet

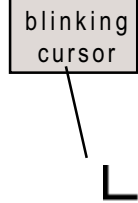
3. Press **a** for alphabet. The bottom of your screen now looks like this:

A

Select Copy Erase Find Replace Margin Quit ?

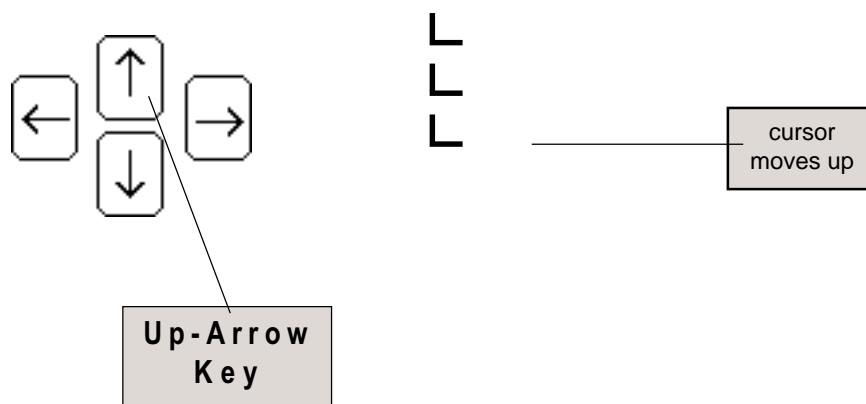
4. Notice the letter **A** appears at the bottom left of your screen. This tells you that you are now in **Alphabet** mode.
5. Before you begin typing words, follow the instructions on the next four pages.

Moving The Cursor

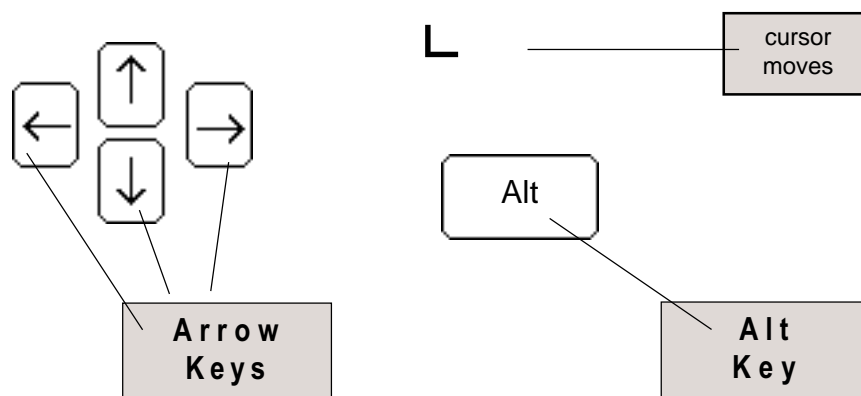


1. When a file is first opened, the cursor is blinking in the upper left corner of your screen:

2. Look on the back of your **keyboard reference card**. Diagrams show different ways to move the cursor. As you can see, tapping on the **Arrow** keys can move the cursor. Now find the **Arrow** keys on your keyboard. Tap several times on the **Up-Arrow** key. The cursor moves up:

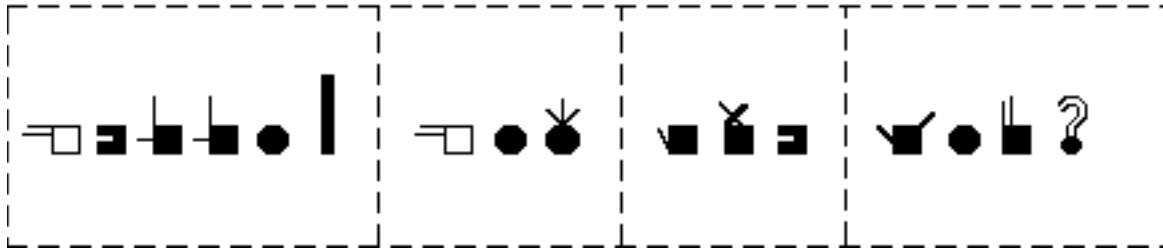


3. Tap several times on the **Down-Arrow** key. The cursor moves down. Try moving the cursor to the right and to the left with the **Side-Right** and **Side-Left Arrow** keys for practice. Then hold the **Alt** key down, and at the same time tap on the different **Arrow** keys. The cursor moves faster:



Imaginary Box

1. There is an **Imaginary Box** surrounding every sign or fingerspelled word:

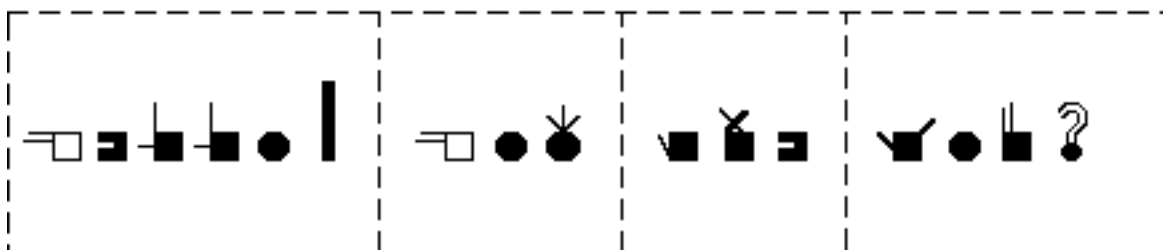


2. This **Imaginary Box** is created every time you press the space bar in either Sign mode or Fingerspelling mode.

3. Look closely at the fingerspelling on your screen. Notice the **tiny lines** or markers under the fingerspelled words:



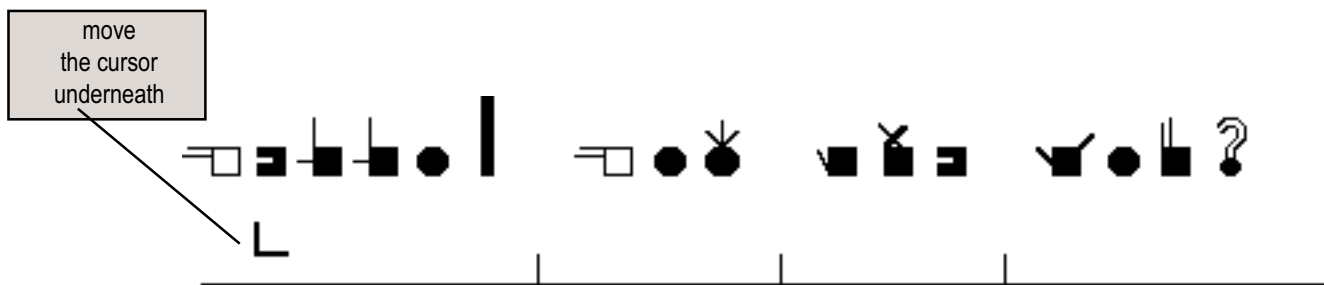
4. These little lines mark the **beginning** of the sign or fingerspelled word. They are the **left wall** of the **Imaginary Box**:



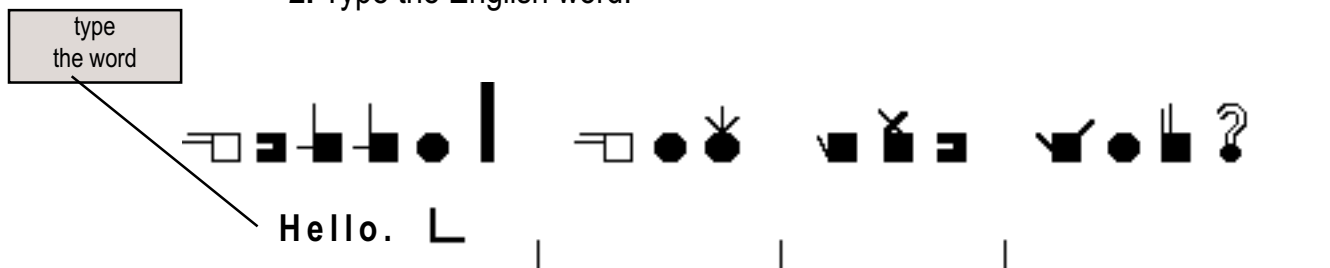
Typing Glosses

Typing one (or a few) English words under signs or fingerspelled words is called a **gloss**. Glosses explain what each sign or fingerspelled word means in English. To type English glosses, you must be in **Alphabet** mode. Follow this sequence:

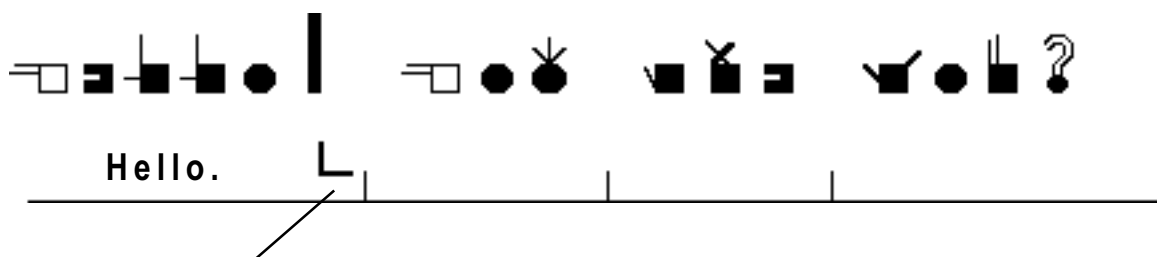
1. Move the cursor directly under the sign or fingerspelled word:



2. Type the English word:



3. Press the **Tab Key**. The cursor jumps to the next marker (the beginning of the Imaginary Box surrounding the next sign or fingerspelled word):



The Tab key places the cursor a little to the left of the beginning of the next sign or fingerspelled word.

4. To type the next gloss, repeat steps 1, 2, and 3.

Typing Paragraphs

There are two ways to type paragraphs:

1. Large Spaces Between Words And Lines. If you type **Alt-Space** between words, the program puts **one** Imaginary Box around **each** word. You do not have to press Return to go to the next line. The program automatically word-wraps. However, there will be a **large** space between words, and very **large** spaces between lines:

W e l c o m e t o S i g n W r i t e r

P C ! I f y o u h a v e

2. Normal Spacing Between Words And Lines.

If you press the **space bar** between words (the standard way of typing), the program puts **one** Imaginary Box around the **entire** paragraph. Using this method, the program will **not** automatically word-wrap. When you come to the end of the line, press **Alt-Return**:

For example, a topic is basically what the sentence is about. In ASL, there is a special construction in which the topic is placed at the beginning of the sentence.

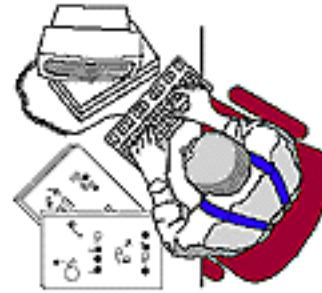
type Alt-Return
to move to
the next line

Note: An Imaginary Box cannot be longer than **one** line. If you keep typing without using Alt-Return, you will **bump into** the **right wall** of the Imaginary Box. When this happens, the screen will **blink** in the lower left corner to tell you that you can type no further. When the box blinks, the program says: **Sign too long. Press Return.** Press Return. To continue your paragraph, type **Alt-Return** and continue typing.

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Type Fingerspelling in Sign Writing
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