

## Lessons in SignWriting

by Valerie Sutton

with Arabic Translations

by Mohamed Mahmud Abushaira

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### Part 2

#### SignWriting Contact Symbols

# LESSONS IN SIGN WRITING

Contact الاتصال

### Overview

This lesson explains how Sign Writing shows "contact"; that is, when the hand touches another part of the body. At the end is a list describing each contact symbol.

### Contact

Sign Writing includes a group of symbols that show contact between the hand and part of the body. Each symbol shows a different kind of contact.

Example of contact:



me

Example of contact:



hit

## Double Contact

Contact symbols often appear in pairs to show double contact; that is, the same action performed twice in a row:

Example of double contact:



more

Example of double contact:



clap

## Contact Symbols

Six contact symbols are defined in Sign Writing: touch, grasp, in-between, strike, brush, and rub.

\*

Touch (hand touches part of the body)



Deaf

اليـد تـمس جزء من الجسم

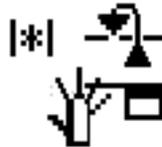
Grasp (hand grasps



+ Grasp (hand grasps part of the body) marry  
 اليد تمسك جزء من الجسم



|\*| In-between (touching between fingers) begin  
 التلامس بين الاصابع



Example of double contact: \*\* more



Example of double contact: ## clap



## Contact Symbols

Six contact symbols are defined in Sign Writing: touch, grasp, in-between, strike, brush, and rub.

\* Touch (hand touches part of the body) Deaf  
 اليد تمس جزء من الجسم



+ Grasp (hand grasps part of the body) marry



+

part of the body)



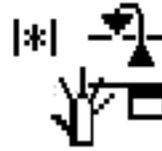
marry

+

اليد تمسك جزء من  
الجسم

|\*|

In-between (touching  
between fingers)



begin

التلامس بين الاصابع

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### Part 3, Section 1

#### SignWriting Movement Symbols

# LESSONS IN SIGN WRITING

## Movement, Part Three

### Movement Symbols

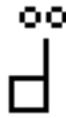
Movement symbols in Sign Writing are divided into ten groups. Included are groups showing finger movement, dynamics, and the four movement types.

Group 1: Finger Movement حركة الاصابع

• Finger closes at middle joint:  milk

اغلاق الاصبع من الوسط

○ Finger opens at middle joint: eleven



فتح الاصبع من الوسط

∨ Finger closes at knuckle joint: bird



ثني الاصبع من قاعدته

^ Finger opens at knuckle joint: send



الاصابع مفتوحة عند المفصل

∩ Fingers open-close-open at knuckle joint, staying together



goodbye

الاصابع تفتح ثم تغلق ثم تفتح وهي مضمومة

∩ Fingers open, close-open twice at knuckle joint, moving separately



fingerspell

الاصابع تفتح ثم تغلق مرتين والاصابع متباعدة

Group 2: Straight Movement Up & Down

الحرطة المستقيمة للاعلى والاسفل





Straight movement

حركة مستقيمة



decide



Down-down quickly

للاسفل مرتين  
بسرعة



ability



Up-down quickly

للاعلى والاسفل بسرعة



difficult



Crossing

تقاطع



schedule



Down-down-down  
quickly

للاسفل مرات  
بسرعة



children



Down-up-down  
quickly

للاسفل ثم الاعلى  
ثم الاسفل



bathe





Angle

زاوية



house



Right angle

زاوية يمنى



system



Sharp angle

زاوية حادة



old



Right angle  
twice

زاوية يمنى  
مرتين



square



Zig-zag

تعرج



letter 'Z'



Zig-zag twice



etc.



Movement down,  
forearm rotates



bad



Movement down,  
forearm rotates  
once



bad

الساعد بحركة  
دائرية للأسفل



Movement down,  
forearm rotates  
twice



very bad

الساعد بحركة دائرية للأسفل مرتين



Movement down,  
forearm rotates  
in alternating  
directions

### Group 3: Straight Movement Up & Forward, Down & Back



Up & forward



afternoon

للاعلى  
والامام



Down & back

للاسفل  
والخلف

Group 4: Straight Movement Forward & Back

الحركة المستقيمة  
للالمام والخلف

↑ Straight movement you

حركة مستقيمة

↑↑ Forward-forward quickly teach

للالمام مرتين  
بسرعة

↑↓ Forward-back quickly control

للالمام ثم  
الخلف بسرعة

↕ Crossing correct or edit

تقاطع

↑↑↑ Forward-forward-forward quickly

للالمام ٣ مرات  
بسرعة

↑↓↑ Forward-back-forward quickly cold



FORWARD-QUICK-  
forward quickly



cold

للامام ثم الخلف ثم  
الامام بسرعة



Right angle

الزاوة اليمنى

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#### Part 4

#### SignWriting Dynamics Symbols

# LESSONS IN SIGN WRITING

## Dynamics

### Overview

This lesson explains Dynamic Symbols. They are applied to movement symbols to show "Movement Dynamics", to facial expressions, and to handshapes in special cases, such as Classifiers.

### Movement Dynamics طبيعة الحركة

Dynamics Symbols are small symbols placed over or near movement symbols to show the intensity, the speed, or the "quality" of movement.

Simultaneous Line  
Both hands move at the same time.

كلتا اليدين تتحركان في نفس الوقت



large

Alternating Lines  
The right moves in one direction.





Alternating Lines

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

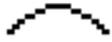
اليدين تتحركان معا بشكل متعاكس



One-Moves-While-The-Other-Is-Still

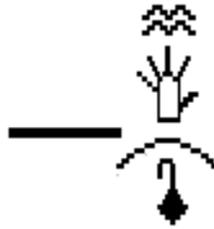
The right moves, while the left remains still. Then the left moves, while the right remains still.

احدى اليدين تتحرك والثانية ثابتة



slow movement

حركة بطيئة



long ago



smooth movement

حركة انسيابية



few



fast movement

حركة سريعة



must



tense movement

حركة مشدودة



American



relaxed movement





relaxed movement

حركة استرخاء



very tired

## Facial Expressions تعابير الوجه

The Tension Symbol can be placed anywhere on the facial circle to show tension on the face.

### Facial Expressions Showing Tension



tension in lips



tension in cheeks

تعابير الشد في الوجه



their/his/hers



good point



yours



perfect



"know what I mean?"

## Classifiers & Other Applications

When the Tension Symbol is placed over a single handshape, it represents a hand that remains stable through many signs, while the other hand signs, referring to it. For example:



must



computer



computer



add to computer



modem

In the example above, the sign for "computer" was marked by the left hand remaining in a "c" handshape. Notice that the Tension Symbol above the "c" handshape is a written marker for this "establishment in space".

Another example is the sign for "plate". It is "established in space" by the Tension Symbol. Then the left hand may stay in that position, while the right hand signs, referring to it. The Tension Symbol is the "marker" for plate:



plate



plate-it

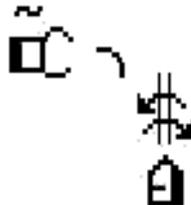


plate-blue

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### Part 5, Section 1

#### SignWriting Facial Expressions

# LESSONS IN SIGN WRITING

## Face

### Overview

This lesson explains how Sign Writing shows facial expressions. At the end is a list describing each face symbol.

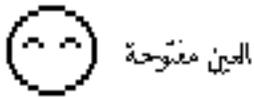
### Facial Expressions

Facial expressions in Sign Writing are based on the following symbol:



The other face symbols are variations of this symbol. For instance:



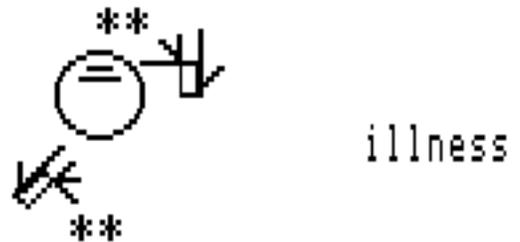


NOTE - When your hand is near the right side of your head, the hand symbol is placed to the right of the head symbol:



Example of facial expression showing forehead:

مثال على تعابير الوجه



Example of eyebrows & mouth:

مثال على الحاجب مع

العين

Example of eyes:

مثال على العيون



Example of nose:

مثال على الانف



Example of tongue:

مثال على اللسان



letter

NOTE - In SignWriter, use the Change key to see all the variations of the face symbols. If you do not find the variation there, then try the Rotate Key.

Face Symbols رموز الوجه

Face symbols in Sign Writing are divided into ten groups: forehead, eyebrows, eyes, eye gaze, cheeks, nose, mouth, tongue, teeth, and others.

Group 1: Forehead الجبهة



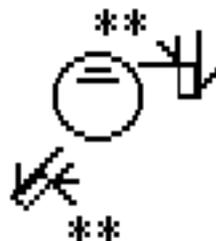
Forehead

الجبهة



Forehead wrinkled

الجبهة متجعدة



illness

Group 2: Eyebrows حاجبي العينين



Eyebrows up

الحاجبان للاعلى



agree



Eyebrows straight

الحاجبان مستقيمان



Eyebrows down

الحاجبان للاسفل



who



Eyebrows up, inside

الحاجبان للاعلى والداخل



Eyebrows down, inside

الحاجبان للاسفل والداخل



Eyebrows up, outside

الحاجبان للاعلى والخارج



Eyebrows down, outside

الحاجبان للاسفل والخارج

Group 3: Eyes العينان



Eyes open

العينان مفتوحتان



look at



Eyes squeezed

العينان مغلقتان بشئ مضغوط



Eyes closed

العينان مغلقتان



Eyes half-open



Eyes half-open

العِينان نصف مَفْرُوحان



Eyes half-closed

العِينان نصف مَطْفَآن



Eyes wide open

العِينان مَفْرُوحان بِاتِّسَاع



Eyelashes

رموش العِينان

#### Group 4: Eye Gaze



Eye gaze up

العِينان تُحَدِّقان لِلالعلى



Eye gaze up, to one side



Eye gaze up, to one side

العينان تحديقان جانبيا للاعلى



eye gaze sideways

العينان تحديقان للجانب



Eyes wide open

العينان مفتوحتان بشكل متسع



Eyelashes

رموش العينين

Group 4: Eye Gaze تحديق العينين



Eye gaze up

العينان تحديقان للاعلى



Eye gaze up, to one side

العينان تحديقان للاعلى بشكل جانبي



Eye gaze sideways

العينان تحديقان جانبا



Eye gaze down, to one side

العينان تحديقان للأسفل بشكل جانبي



Eye gaze down

العينان تحديقان للأسفل



Eye gaze forward

العينان تحديقان للامام



Eye gaze forward, to one side

العينان تحديقان للامام بشكل جانبي



Eye gaze sideways

العينان تحديقان للجانب



Eye gaze back, to one

العيناان للتحلف با اتجاه جاني

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### Part 6, Section 1

#### SignWriting Body & Head Movement

# LESSONS IN SIGN WRITING

Body الجسم

## Overview

This lesson explains two things Sign Writing uses to show the body: body position and body movement. At the end is a list describing each body symbol.

## Body Position موقع الجسم

Sign Writing includes symbols which show the position of the shoulders, head, torso, and arms.

## Shoulder Position موقع الاكتاف

Shoulders are shown with the following symbol, which can point in three directions:

— Shoulders (straight) الاكتاف مستقيمة

-  Shoulders (straight) الاكتاف مستقيمة
-  Right shoulder forward الكتف الايمن للامام
-  Left shoulder forward الكتف الايسر للامام

To show shoulder positions up and down, the following symbols are used:

-  Right shoulder raised الكتف الايمن للاعلى
-  Left shoulder lowered الكتف الايسر للاسفل
-  Both shoulders lowered الكتفان للاسفل

Example of shoulder position:



Example of shoulder position:



Example of shoulder position:



NOTE - In SignWriter, use the Change key to see all the variations of the shoulder symbols.

Sign Writing includes a symbol which shows the shoulders in a top view. It is used to show the distance between the body and the hands:



Shoulders (top view)

الراس منظر علوي

Example of top-view shoulder position:



You help him/her.

Head Position موقع الراس

Head position is shown by adding a line to the shoulder symbol. The line represents your nose:



Head straight الراس مستقيم



Head tilted to the right الراس مائل لليمين



Head tilted to the left الراس مائل لليساار

To show your head looking up or down,  
the following symbols are used:

-  Head straight الراس مستقيم
-  Head looking up الراس ينظر للاعلى
-  Head looking down الراس ينظر للاسفل

To show your head turned to the right or left,  
the head position line is moved to the side  
of the shoulder symbol:

-  Head straight الراس مستقيم
-  Head turned to the right الراس محني لليمين
-  Head turned to the left الراس محني لليساار

Sign Writing includes a number of symbols that  
combine shoulder and head positions into one  
symbol. For instance:

-  Right shoulder forward;  
head looking up & to the  
right, tilted left  
الكتف الايمن للامامالراس ينظر للاعلى و اليمينوينثني  
لليساار

NOTE - In SignWriter, use the Change key to see  
all the variations of the head position symbols.

## Torso Position

"Torso" refers to the upper body: from your shoulders to your waist. Sign Writing shows torso position with the following symbol:

↑ Torso position موقع الجذع

This symbol, which always appears next to a shoulder symbol, can point in eight directions:

forward للامام



back للخلف

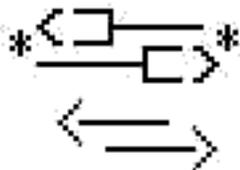
↑ ——— ↑ Torso leans forward للجذع ينحني للامام

→ ——— → Torso leans to the side الجذع ينحني الى الجنب

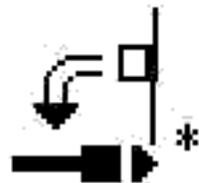
↓ ——— ↓ Torso leans back الجذع ينحني للخلف

## Arm Position موقع الذراع

Sign Writing adds lines for arms occasionally, when the arm is contacted or crossed. You will find arm lines under the - key (right next to the number 0 key) on the Sign Keyboard.



baby



day



table



computer



arm



love

## Body Movement حركة الجسم

Sign Writing uses the movement symbols to show movement of the head, shoulders, and torso.

### Head Movement

Head movement is shown by placing a movement symbol above the head symbol. Consider the following symbol:



Head turns up

Double-stem movement symbols show rotational movements such as nodding or shaking your head.

Single-stem movement symbols show "projecting" head movement with no rotation of the head:



Head projects forward

Example of  
head movement:



Yes. I understand.

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