

# Lessons in SignWriting

**Textbook**  
by  
Valerie Sutton



# Lessons in SignWriting Textbook

by  
Valerie Sutton

ISBN: 978-0-914336-55-6  
Fourth Edition



First Edition published in 1990  
Second Edition published in 1995  
Third Edition published in 2002  
Fourth Edition published in 2014

Copyright © 1990-2014  
Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.  
All Rights Reserved



The SignWriting System was first  
invented by Valerie Sutton in 1974.

Cartoons by Frank Allen Paul  
Illustrations by Ida Candelaria & Jayne Gunderson  
Photos of Hands & Body Diagrams by Adam Frost

Photos of Kevin Clark & Lucinda O'Grady  
are captured from the  
Lessons In SignWriting Video Series DVD

This book was prepared with SignPuddle Online.  
SignPuddle Software by Stephen E. Slevinski, Jr

This manual is posted on the web:  
SignWriting Lessons Online  
<http://www.SignWriting.org/lessons>

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/>

Published by  
The SignWriting Press  
<http://www.SignWriting.org/shop>

The SignWriting Literature Project  
<http://www.SignWriting.org/literature>

Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting  
<http://www.SignWriting.org/deaf>

Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.  
an educational 501c3 non-profit organization  
P.O. Box 517 • La Jolla • CA • 92038-0517 • USA  
[SignWriting.org](http://SignWriting.org) • [SignBank.org](http://SignBank.org) • [SignPuddle.org](http://SignPuddle.org)  
Email: [sutton@signwriting.org](mailto:sutton@signwriting.org) • Tel 858-456-0098





# Lessons in SignWriting

## Textbook by Valerie Sutton



With contributions and photos  
from members of the  
Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting  
(the DAC) including...

Adam Frost



Lucinda O'Grady



Kevin Clark



This textbook coordinates with the  
**Lessons In SignWriting®**

**Video Series & Booklets**



View on YouTube or on DVD. Learn SignWriting at home or in the classroom with these two educational videos. The **Lessons In SignWriting Video Series** has been shown on USA cable television as educational programs. Two Deaf native signers, Lucinda O'Grady and Kevin Clark, teach the basics of SignWriting in American Sign Language (ASL), with English voice and captions on the screen.

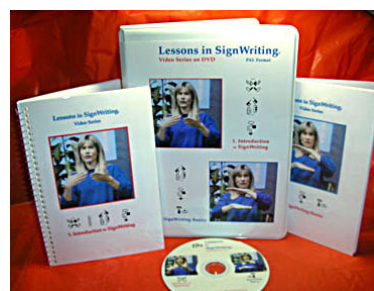
The series includes: **Video 1: Introduction to SignWriting** (21 minutes) and **Video 2: SignWriting Basics** (31 minutes). Each DVD includes a paperback booklet with a transcription of the English voice plus a review of the instruction.

View the Lessons in SignWriting Video Series on:

**SignWriting YouTube Channel**  
[YouTube.com/signwriting](https://www.youtube.com/signwriting)

**SignWriting Web Site**  
[SignWriting.org/lessons](https://SignWriting.org/lessons)

**DVD in SignWriting Shop**  
[SignWriting.org/shop](https://SignWriting.org/shop)





## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Viewpoints</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Hands</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Finger Movement</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Straight Movement</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Curved Movement</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Axial Movement</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Circular Movement</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Face</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Head</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Body</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Dynamics</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Punctuation</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Writing Signs &amp; Sign Literature</b>

## Dedication

This book is dedicated to all of the hard-working, intelligent and generous people who have dedicated their time and knowledge to helping **SignWriting** improve and grow. Without them, writing signs would still be a dream not yet realized!



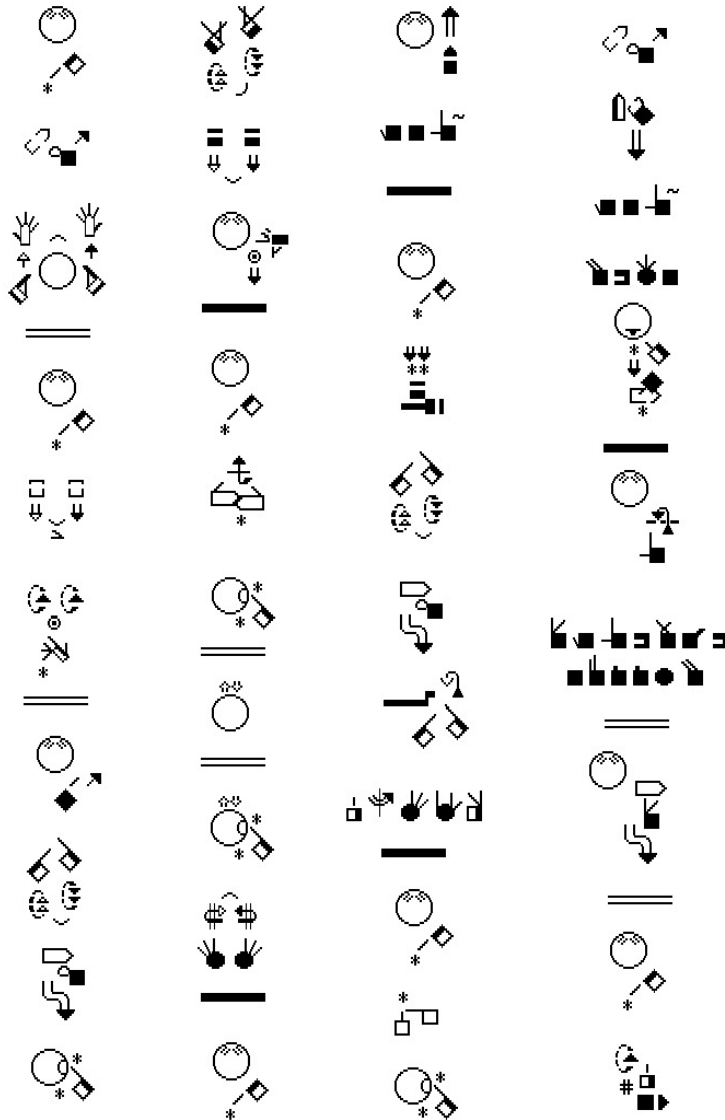


## Introduction

# SignWriting®

## A Deaf Perspective...

by Lucinda O'Grady Batch



I am writing to tell you how strongly I feel about SignWriting and how much it can benefit Deaf people.

I was born Deaf to a Deaf family and I am a native American Sign Language (ASL) user. I have been working with Sign Writing since 1982. I was the first Deaf person to write articles in ASL, in SignWriting, for the SignWriter Newspaper. Later, Valerie Sutton and I established....

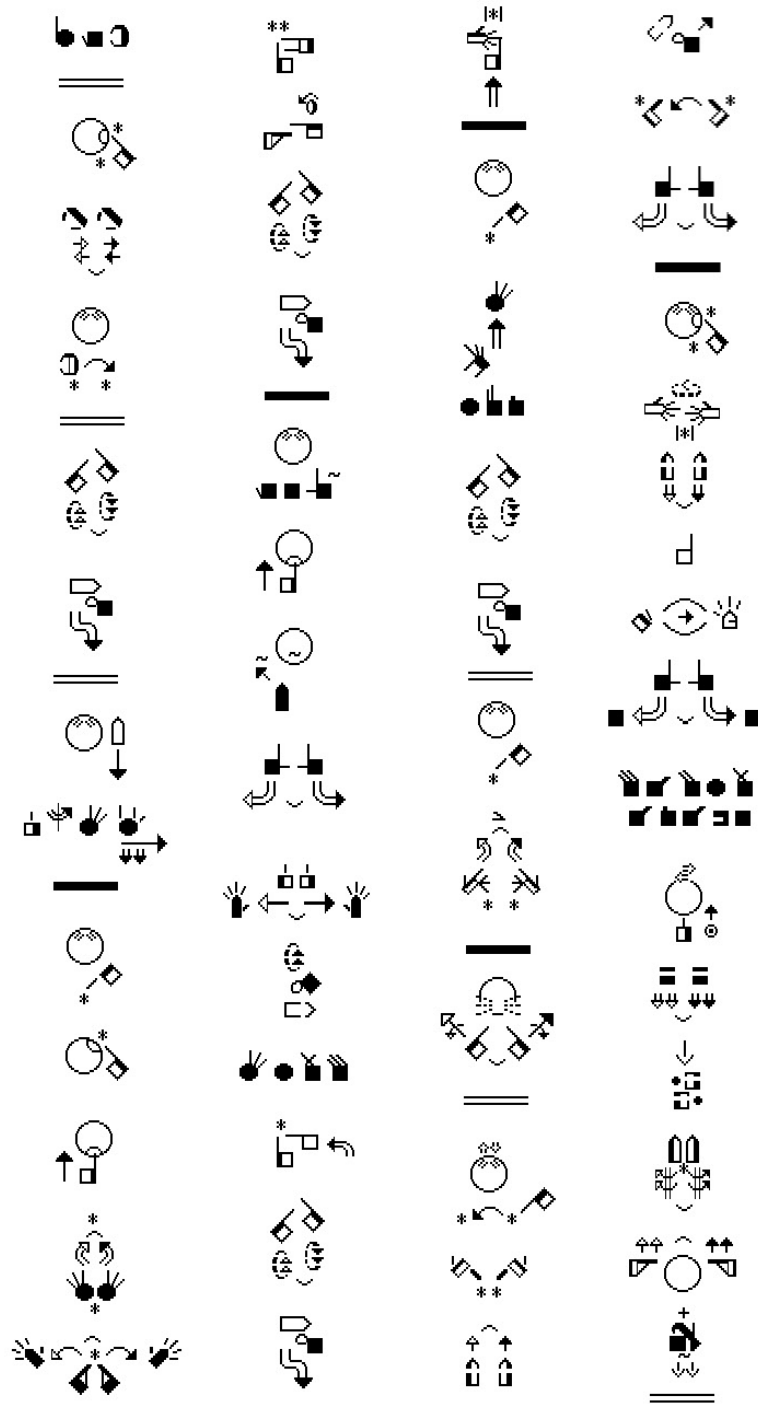


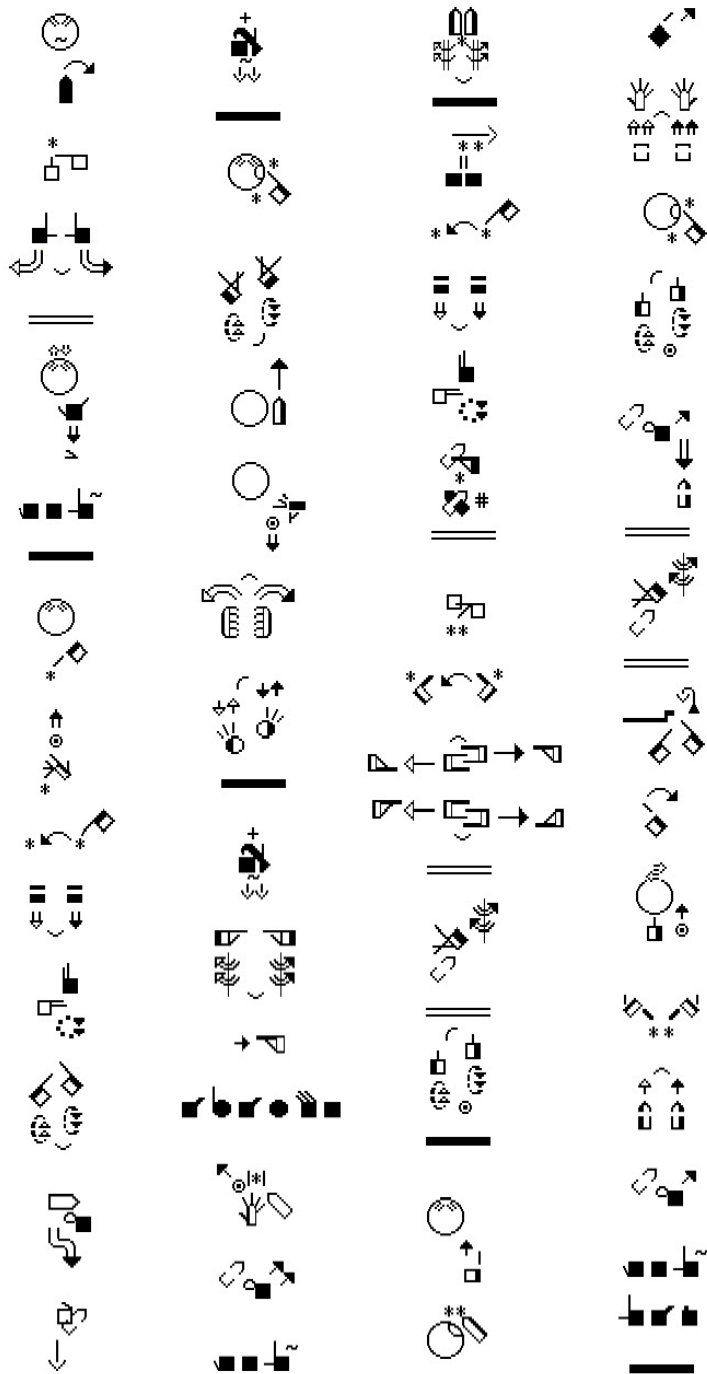


the Deaf Action Committee For SignWriting (the DAC) in 1988.

I think it is very important to spread the word about SignWriting. ASL is a language in its own right, yet until the development of SignWriting, it was a language without a written form. When I found out about Sign Writing I was thrilled to think that at last we would have a way to write our language.

Deaf Americans are one of the very few linguistic minorities that are unable to get books teaching English in





their native language. I feel that we can use SignWriting in order to learn English. Deaf people will benefit greatly from books explaining English grammar and idioms in written ASL.

We can also use it to write down and preserve our stories, poetry and plays. As you know, there are many Deaf playwrights and poets, and up until now, they have not had a way to write the ASL in their literature.

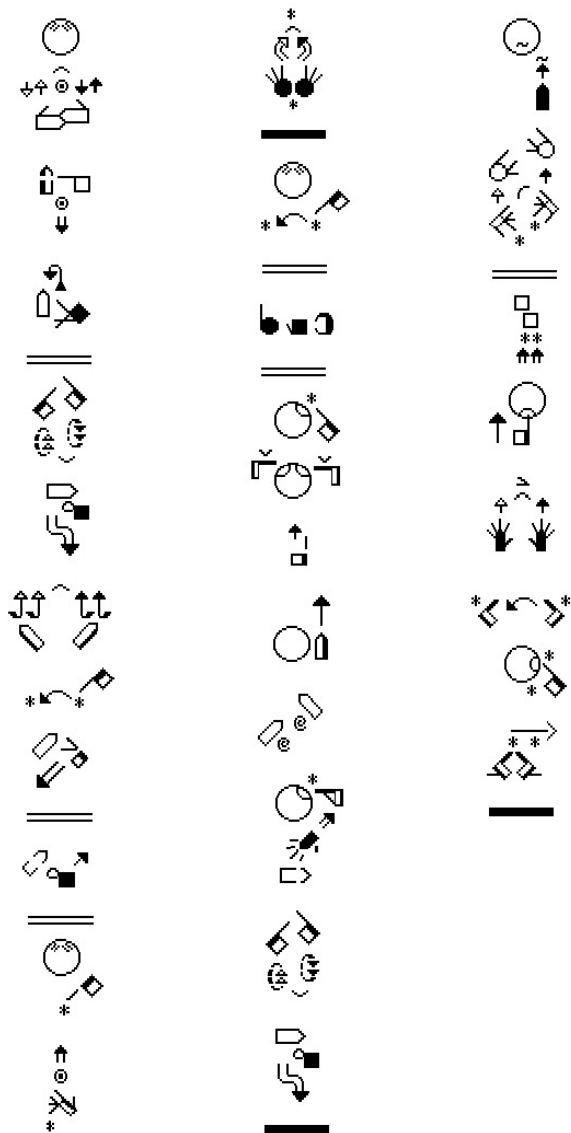


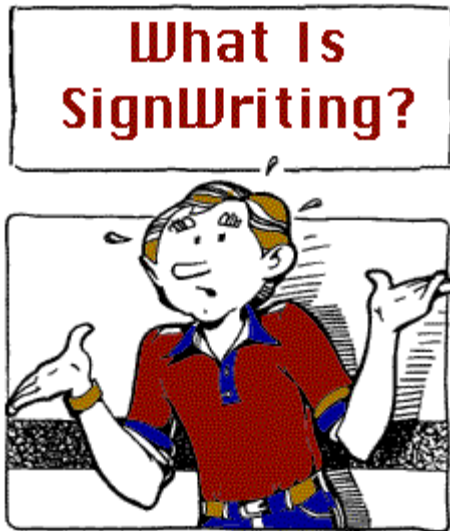
No matter what the project, SignWriting encourages us to read and write and I feel that is important.

All of us hope that you will enjoy learning SignWriting. Your interest and support is a great help to our Deaf community.



Lucinda Batch





With SignWriting,  
you can....



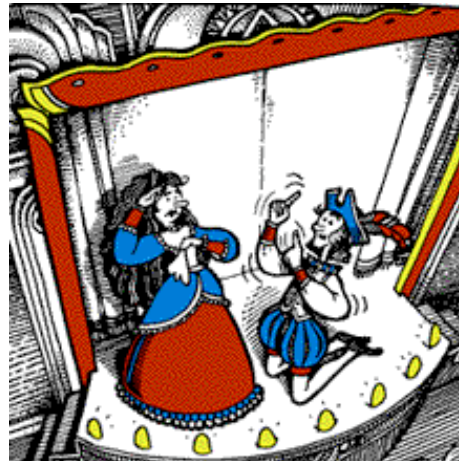
Cartoons by Frank Allen Paul



**READ**  
Sign  
Language



**WRITE**  
Sign  
Language



**PRESERVE**  
Sign Poetry  
and Theater

**Write SignWriting on the web!**

Write signs and Sign Language documents: [www.SignPuddle.org](http://www.SignPuddle.org)





**LEARN**  
Sign  
Language



**TRANSCRIBE**  
Sign  
Language



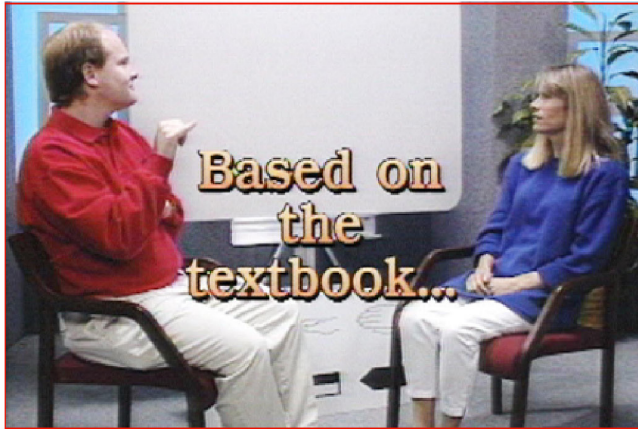
**SHARE**  
Sign  
Language



**MEET Signers**  
Who Write  
Sign Language Too!

**Join the SignWriting Email List!**

Go to this web page to join: [www.SignWriting.org/forums/swlist](http://www.SignWriting.org/forums/swlist)



**Learn SignWriting on the web!**

Download books & view videos: [www.SignWriting.org/lessons](http://www.SignWriting.org/lessons)

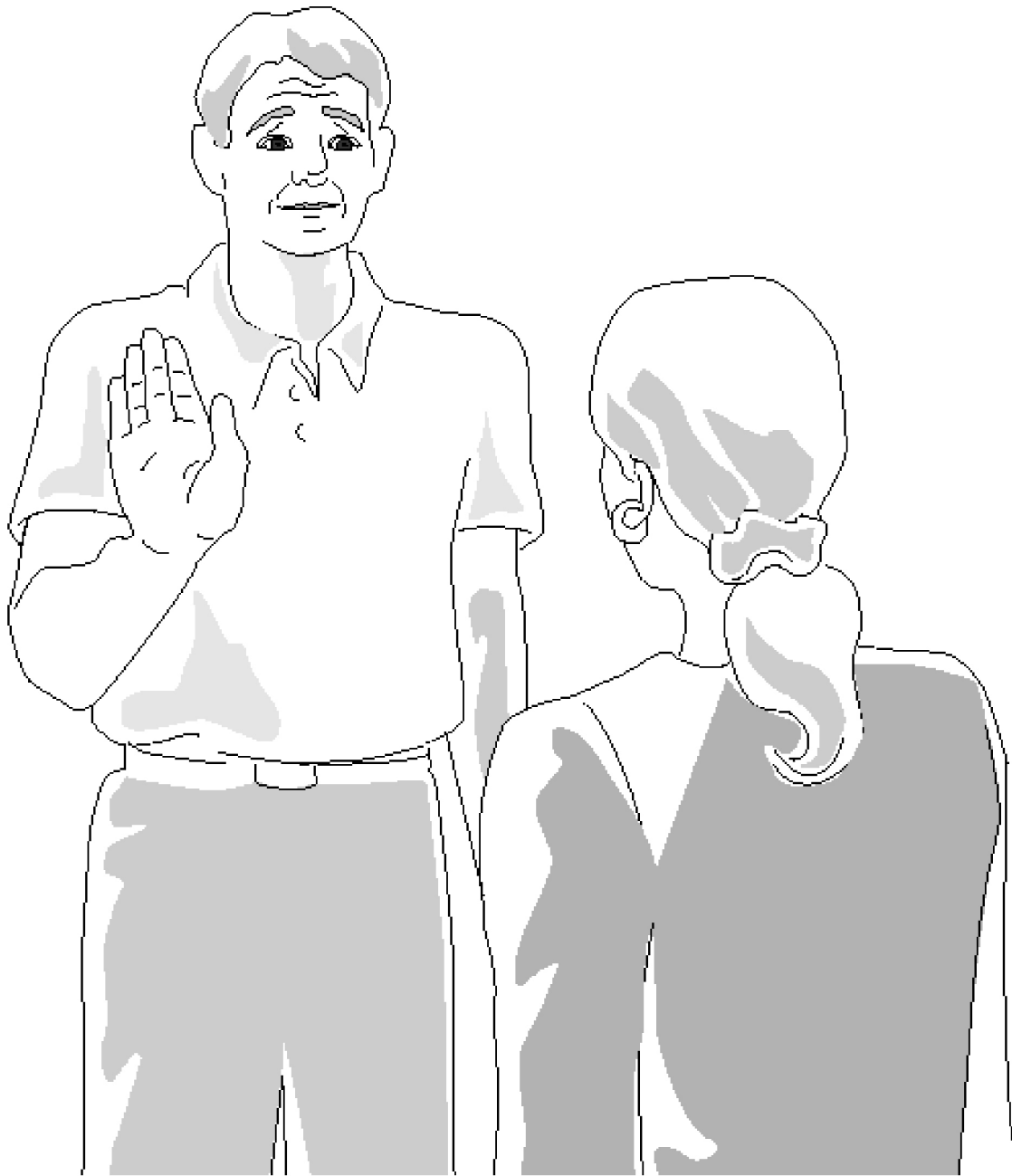


**Viewpoints**

## Receptive Viewpoint

When someone is facing you, signing to you, you view the signs as an observer.

The signer's right side is your left side. This is called the **Receptive Viewpoint**.

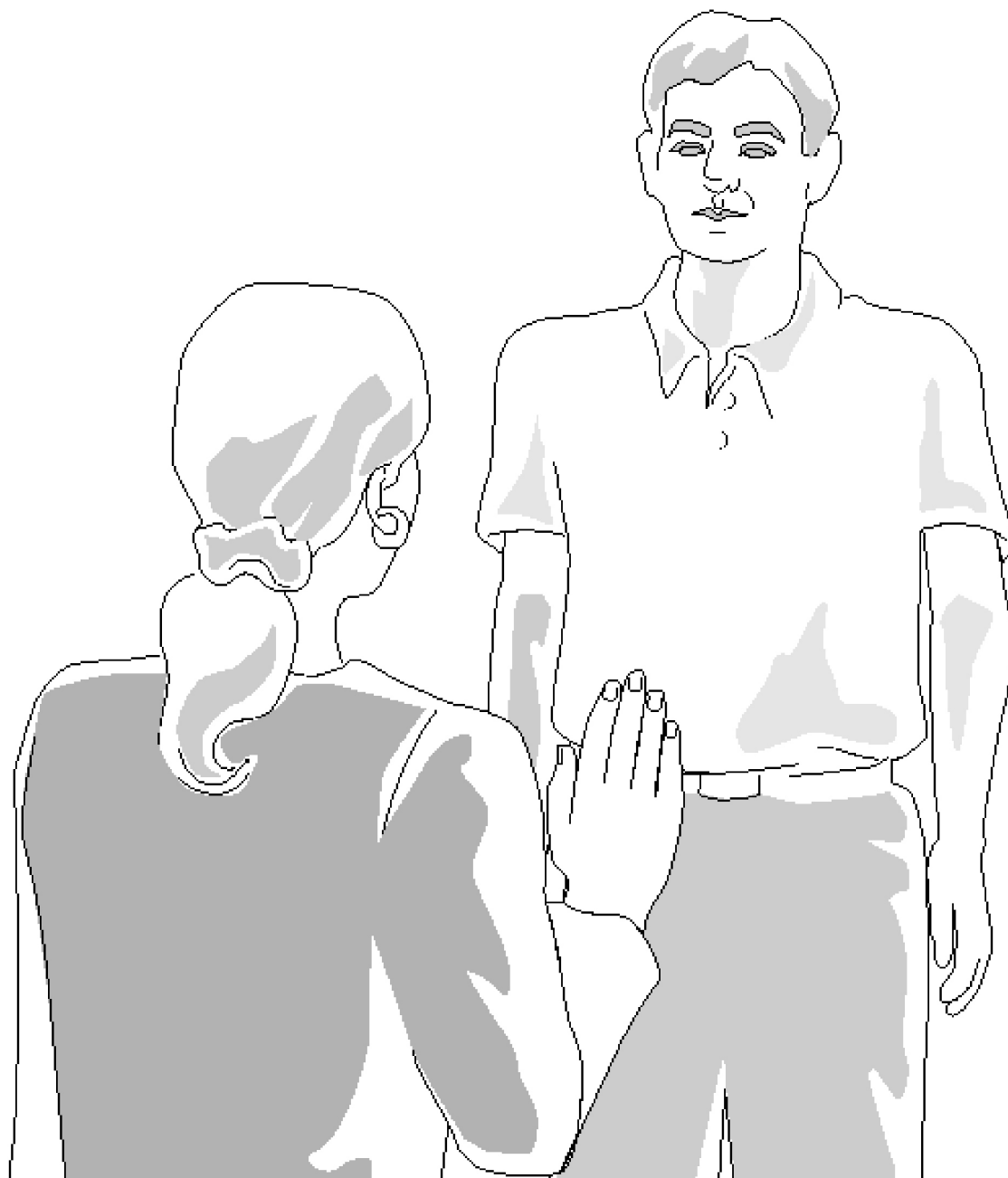




## Expressive Viewpoint

When you are signing to someone else, you see signs from your own point of view.

This is called the **Expressive Viewpoint**.



## Which Viewpoint?

Do we write signs from  
the **Expressive Viewpoint**...



...or  
the **Receptive Viewpoint**?





## The Expressive Viewpoint

We read and write signs expressively.

SignWriting can be written from **either** the Receptive **or** the Expressive viewpoints. This book teaches reading and writing signs from the **Expressive Viewpoint**.

The Expressive Viewpoint is now the **standard** in SignWriting publications.

The **Receptive Viewpoint** is used occasionally when transcribing signs from videotape, or when recording foreign signs in shorthand.

For more information on using the Receptive Viewpoint, refer to Chapter 15.

## The Expressive Viewpoint

Read and write signs as if you are looking at your own hands, from your own perspective.



## Palm of Hand

When you see the palm of your hand, while you are signing, the symbol for the hand will be white, or hollow.

The palm of the hand is always written with a white, hollow symbol.



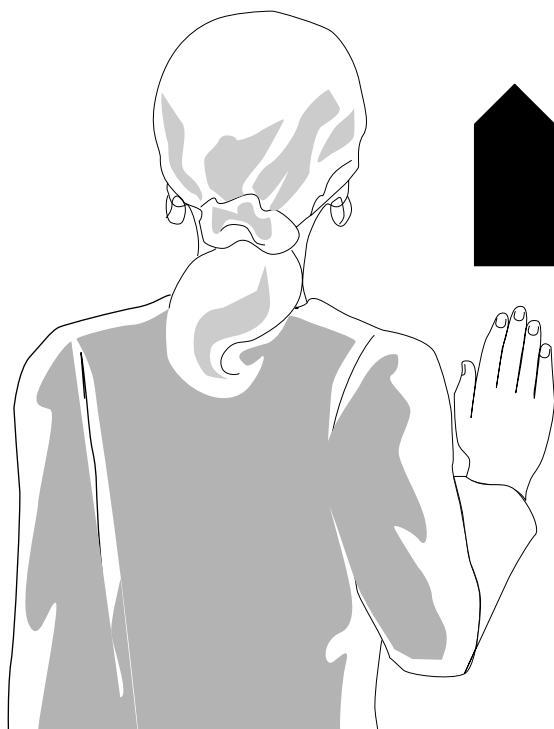


## Side of Hand

When you see the side of your hand while you are signing, the symbol for the hand will be half black and half white.

The white part of the symbol shows where the palm of the hand faces. The dark part represents the back of the hand.

---



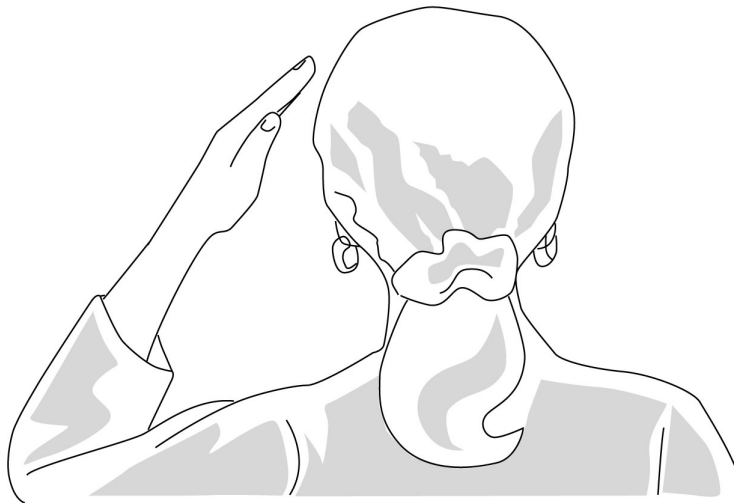
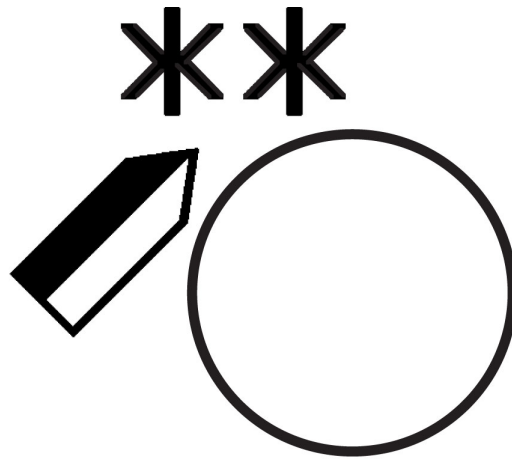
## Back of Hand

When you see the back of your hand while you are signing, the symbol will be black, or filled-in.

The back of the hand is always written with a black, filled-in symbol.

## Left Side of Head

The head is written with a circle, viewed from the back. When the left hand is near the left side of the head, the symbol for the hand is placed to the left:

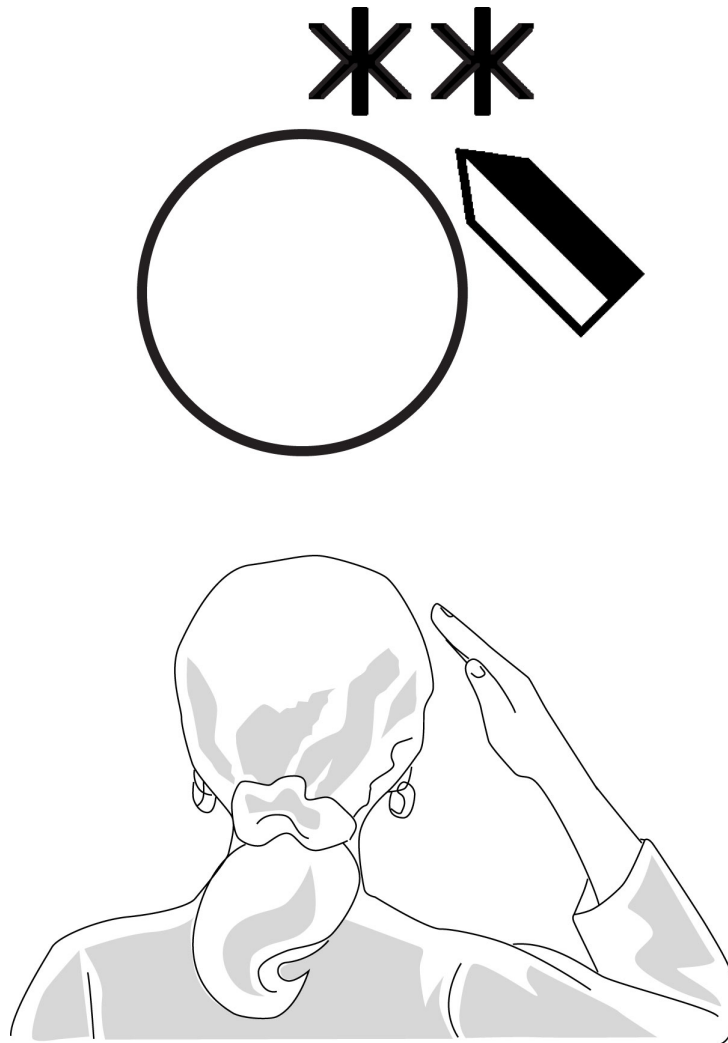


**know**  
(hand on the left side)

Note: An asterisk means **touch**.  
Two asterisks mean **touching two times**.

## Right Side of Head

The head is written with a circle, viewed from the back. When the right hand is near the right side of the head, the symbol for the hand is placed to the right:

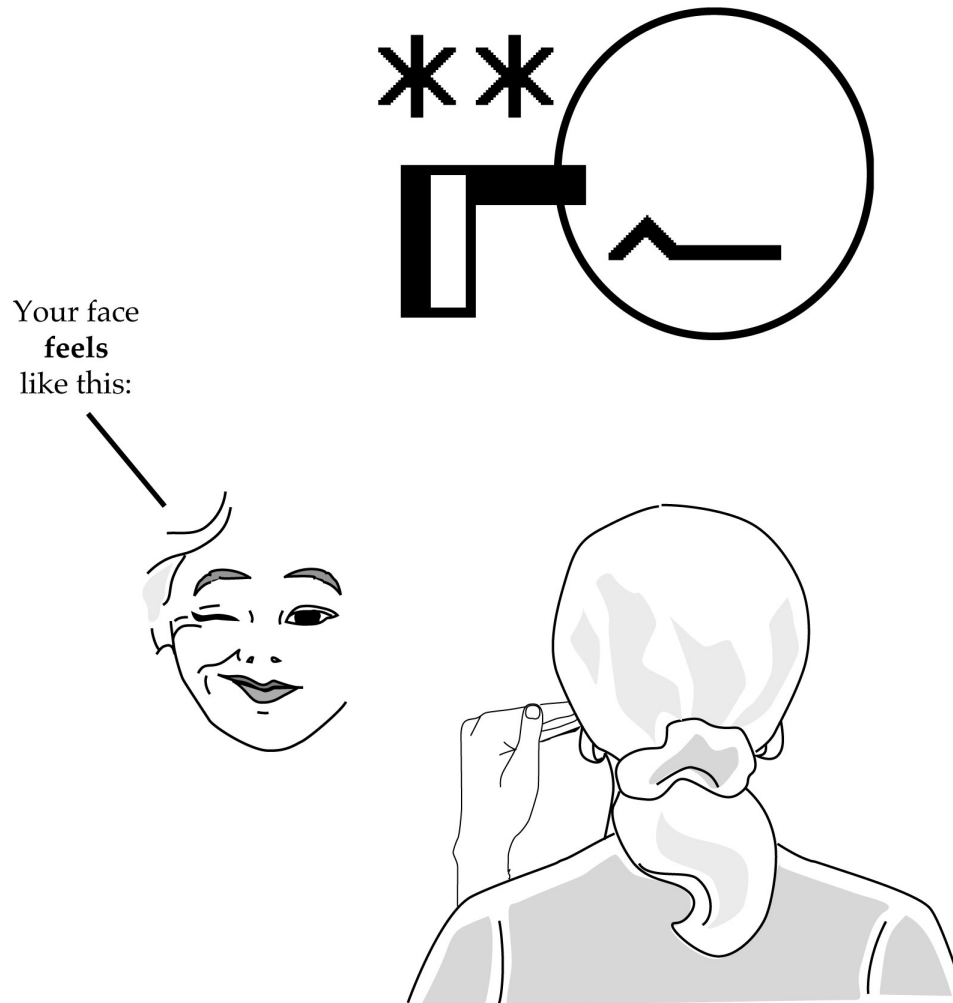


**know**  
(hand on the right side)

Note: An asterisk means **touch**.  
Two asterisks mean **touching two times**.

## Left Side of Face

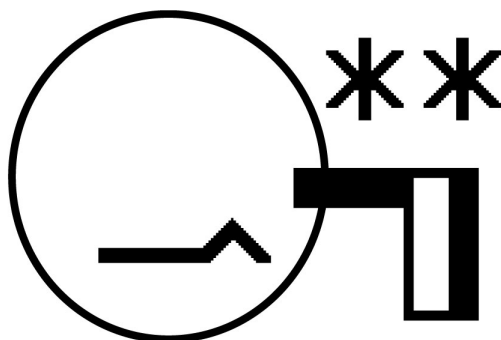
Pretend you can see through the back of the head.  
You are reading and writing how your face “**feels**” when you sign:



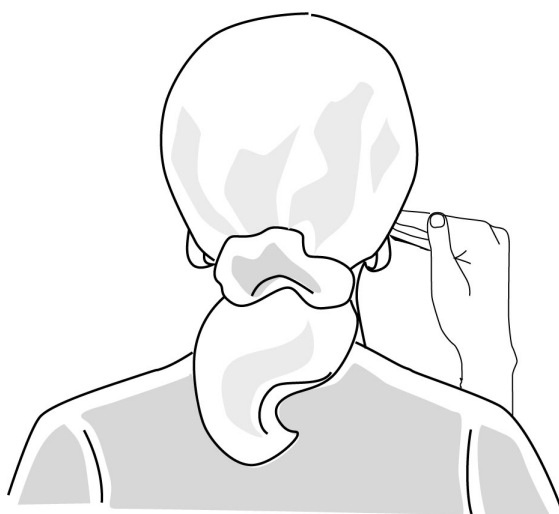
**know**  
(mouth pushed up on left side)

## Right Side of Face

Pretend you can see through the back of the head.  
You are reading and writing how your face “**feels**” when you sign:



Your face  
**feels**  
like this:

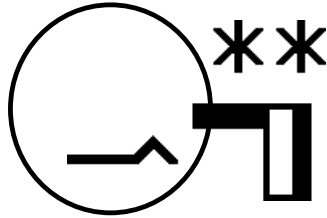


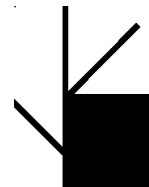
**know**  
(mouth pushed up on right side)



**know**

(mouth pushed up on the right side)

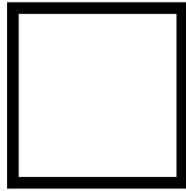




Hands

### 3 Basic Handshapes

#### Closed Fist

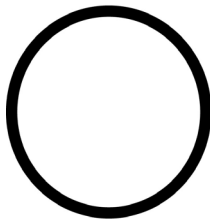


When the fingertips touch the palm of the hand, it is called a **Closed Fist**.

A **Closed Fist** is written with a square.

---

#### Open Fist

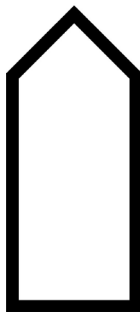


When the fingertips touch each other, it is called an **Open Fist**.

An **Open Fist** is written with a circle.

---

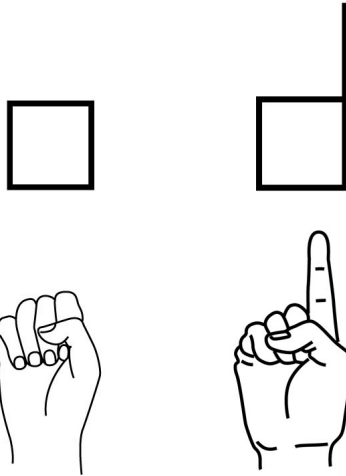
#### Flat Hand



When the fingers stretch straight up, and touch each other, it is called a **Flat Hand**.

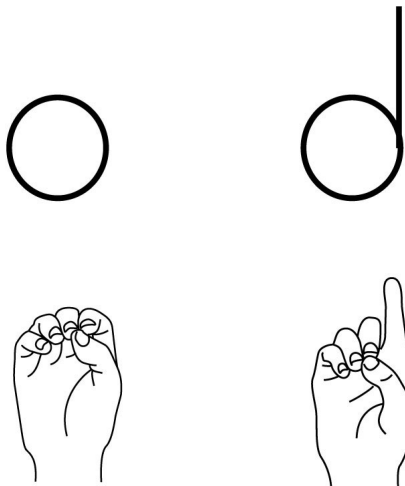
A **Flat Hand** is written with a rectangle, with a tip for the fingertips.

### 3 Basic Handshapes



#### Closed Fist

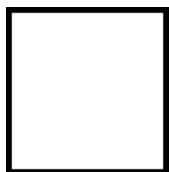
Both the letter S and the number 1 in ASL are written with a square for the Closed Fist, since the fingertips touch the palm:



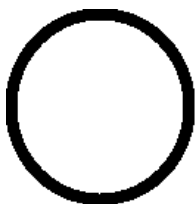
#### Open Fist

Both the letter O and the letter D in ASL are written with a circle for the Open Fist, since the fingertips touch each other:

### 3 Basic Handshapes



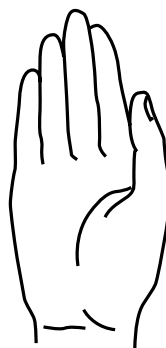
**Closed Fist**



**Open Fist**

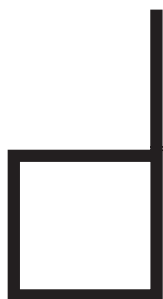


**Flat Hand**

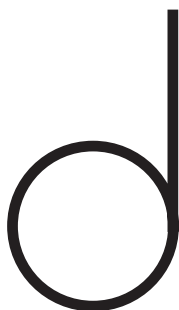




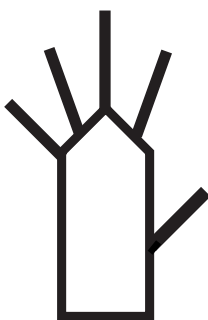
## Add Lines for Fingers



Index Hand



D - Hand



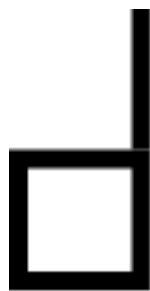
5 - Hand



## Closed Fist: Adding Fingers



The fingertips touch the palm of the hand in the Closed Fist. If one finger sticks up, then one line extends from the square. If two fingers stick up, then two lines extend:



**1 finger up  
Closed Fist**



**2 fingers up  
Closed Fist**

## Open Fist: Adding Fingers



The fingertips touch each other in the Open Fist. If one finger sticks up, then one line extends from the circle. If two fingers stick up, then two lines extend:



**1 finger up  
Open Fist**



**2 fingers up  
with Open Fist**

## Flat Hand: Adding Fingers



The fingers are straight together in the Flat Hand. If the thumb sticks out, then one line extends from the rectangle. If all five fingers spread, then five lines extend from the symbol:



**thumb out**  
**Flat Hand**



**5 fingers spread**  
**5-Hand**

## Rootshapes

Like roots to a tree, Rootshapes provide the foundation for all hand symbols. Rootshapes are determined by the shape of the LOWEST finger in the handshape. For example, a square for a TIGHT Fist must have at least one finger touching the palm of the hand. A circle for an OPEN fist, has at least one finger close to the palm of the hand, but not touching the palm of the hand.



### Rootshape: Tight Fist

Tight Fist: At least 1 finger touches palm



### Rootshape: Circle

At least 1 fingertip touches thumbtip in a curve or...  
At least 1 curved finger is close to palm of hand



### Rootshape: Cup

At least 1 finger is curved at the Middle Joint & Tip Joint.  
There is NO bend or curve at the Knuckle Joint.



### Rootshape: Hinge

At least 1 finger bends at the Knuckle Joint, while  
the Middle Joint and Tip Joint lock completely straight.



### Rootshape: Angle

The Hinge, with fingertips and thumb tip touching



### Rootshape: Flat Thumb Across

Thumb across palm, four fingers straight up with no bends

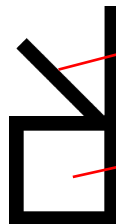
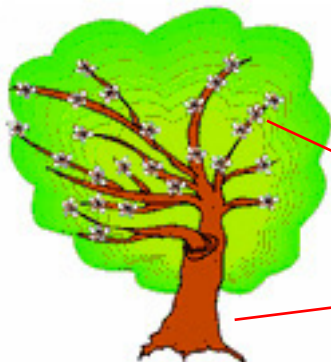


### Rootshape: Flat

Five fingers straight up with no bends

## Action Fingers

Once the Rootshape is established, the lines for the fingers are attached. The finger lines are called Action Fingers. They extend from the root of the hand like branches on a tree. Action Fingers are more important than the Rootshape, because they are looked at first, just as observers look at the branches of a tree first. Readers focus on Action Fingers first, since they give meaning to the handshape.



Action Fingers are  
like branches on a tree

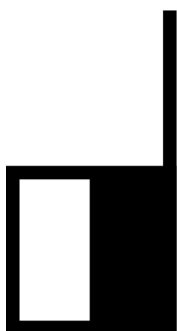
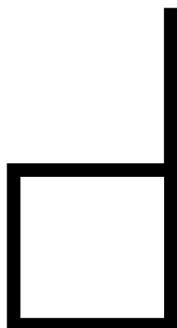
Rootshape provides the  
foundation to the symbol



## Palm Facing

### Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

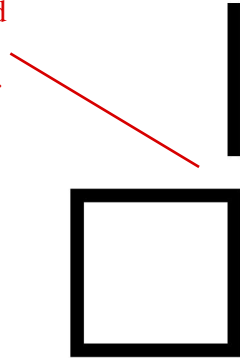


# Palm Facing

## Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

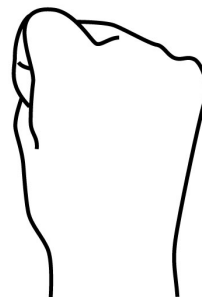
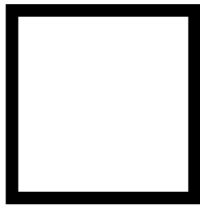
space at  
knuckle joint  
means hand  
is parallel  
to the floor



## Palm Facing

### Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

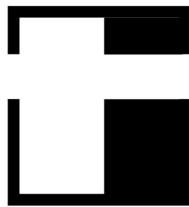
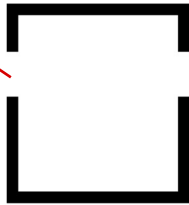


# Palm Facing

## Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

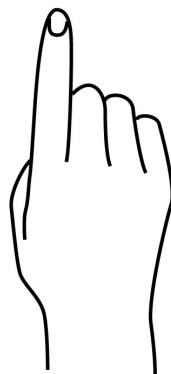
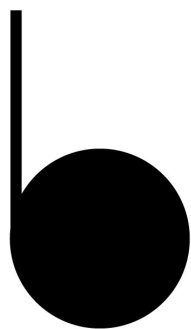
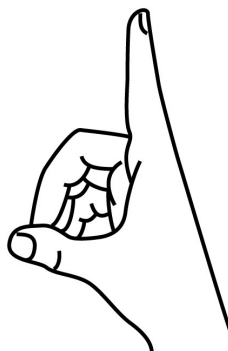
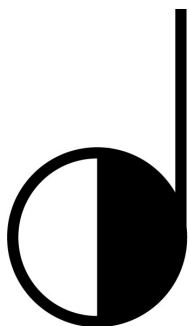
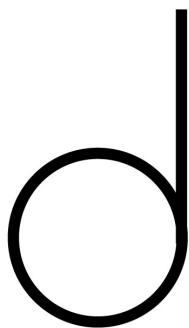
space at  
knuckle joint  
means hand  
is parallel  
to the floor



## Palm Facing

### Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.



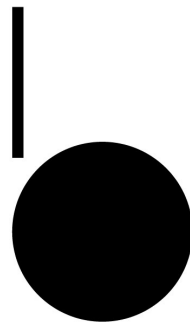
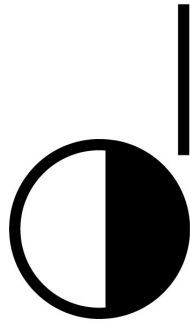
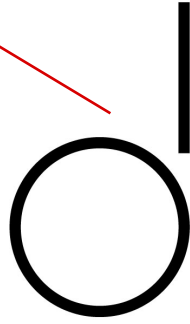


# Palm Facing

## Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

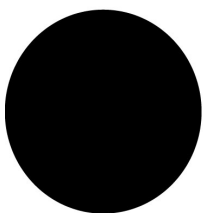
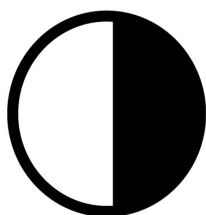
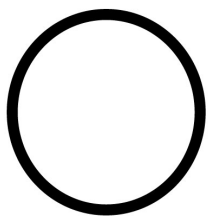
space at  
knuckle joint  
means hand  
is parallel  
to the floor



## Palm Facing

### Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

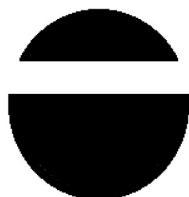
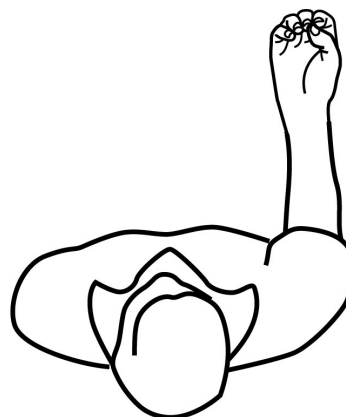
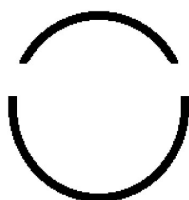


# Palm Facing

## Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

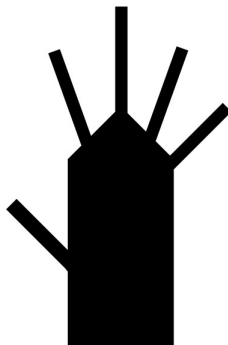
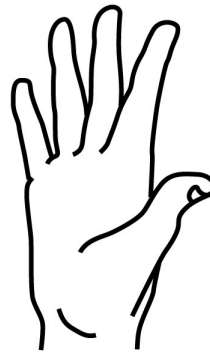
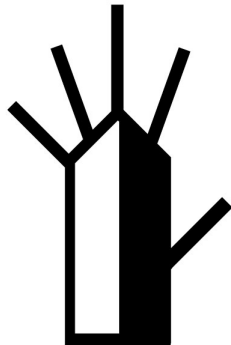
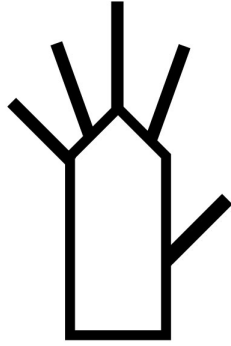
space at  
knuckle joint  
means hand  
is parallel  
to the floor



## Palm Facing

### Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

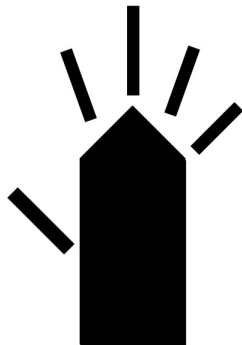
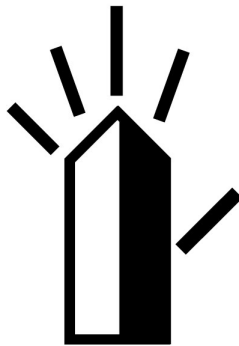
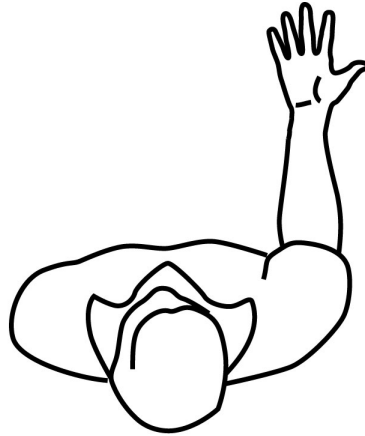
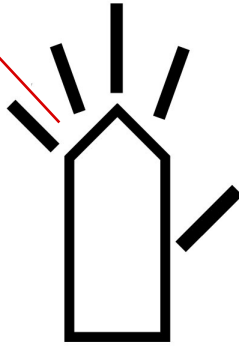


# Palm Facing

## Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

space at  
knuckle joint  
means hand  
is parallel  
to the floor

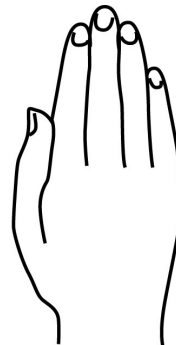
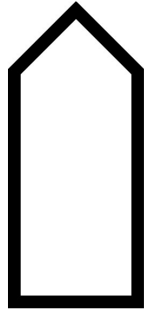




## Palm Facing

### Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

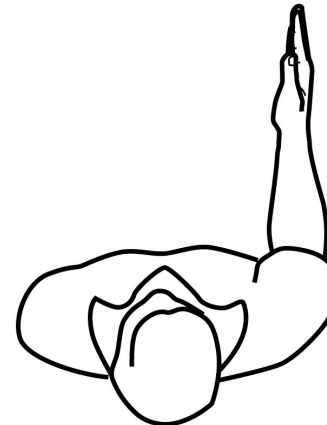
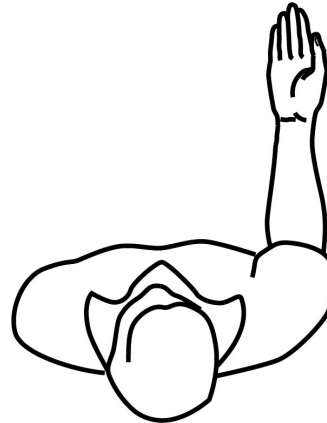


# Palm Facing

## Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

space at  
knuckle joint  
means hand  
is parallel  
to the floor



## Expressive Front View

Signs are written from the signer's expressive viewpoint. Imagine standing BEHIND the signer, copying what the signer does and feels.

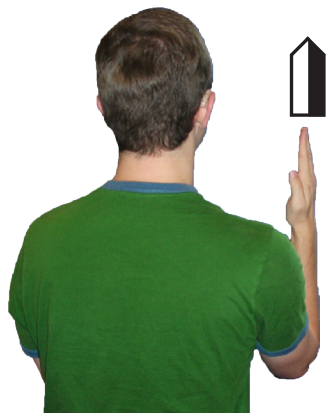


### Palm of Hand

The palm of the hand is written with a white or hollow symbol.

#### Front View Parallel with Wall Plane

The hand is parallel to the Front Wall. The white symbol shows that the palm faces towards your body, towards the reader.



### Side of Hand

The side of the hand is written with a symbol that is half-white and half-dark. The half-white section shows the direction of the palm. The half-dark section represents the back of the hand.

#### Front View Parallel with Wall Plane

The hand is parallel to the Front Wall. The thumb of the hand faces towards your body.



### Back of Hand

The back of the hand is written with a black or filled-in symbol.

#### Front View Parallel with Wall Plane

The hand is parallel to the Front Wall. The black symbol shows that the back of the hand faces towards your body.

# Expressive Top View

Signs are written from the signer's expressive viewpoint. Imagine looking down on the position of the signer, from a bird's eye view.



## Palm of Hand

### Top View Parallel with Floor Plane

The hand is parallel to the floor. You are looking down at your palm from overhead. The white symbol has a space at the knuckle joint representing the Horizon Line. A hand symbol with the Horizon Line crossing over the knuckles means the hand is "parallel with the floor" read from the Top View.

---



## Side of Hand

### Top View Parallel with Floor Plane

The hand is parallel to the floor. You are looking down at the side of your hand (your thumb) from overhead. The hand symbol has a space at the knuckle joint representing the Horizon Line. A hand symbol with the Horizon Line crossing over the knuckles means the hand is "parallel with the floor" read from the Top View.

---



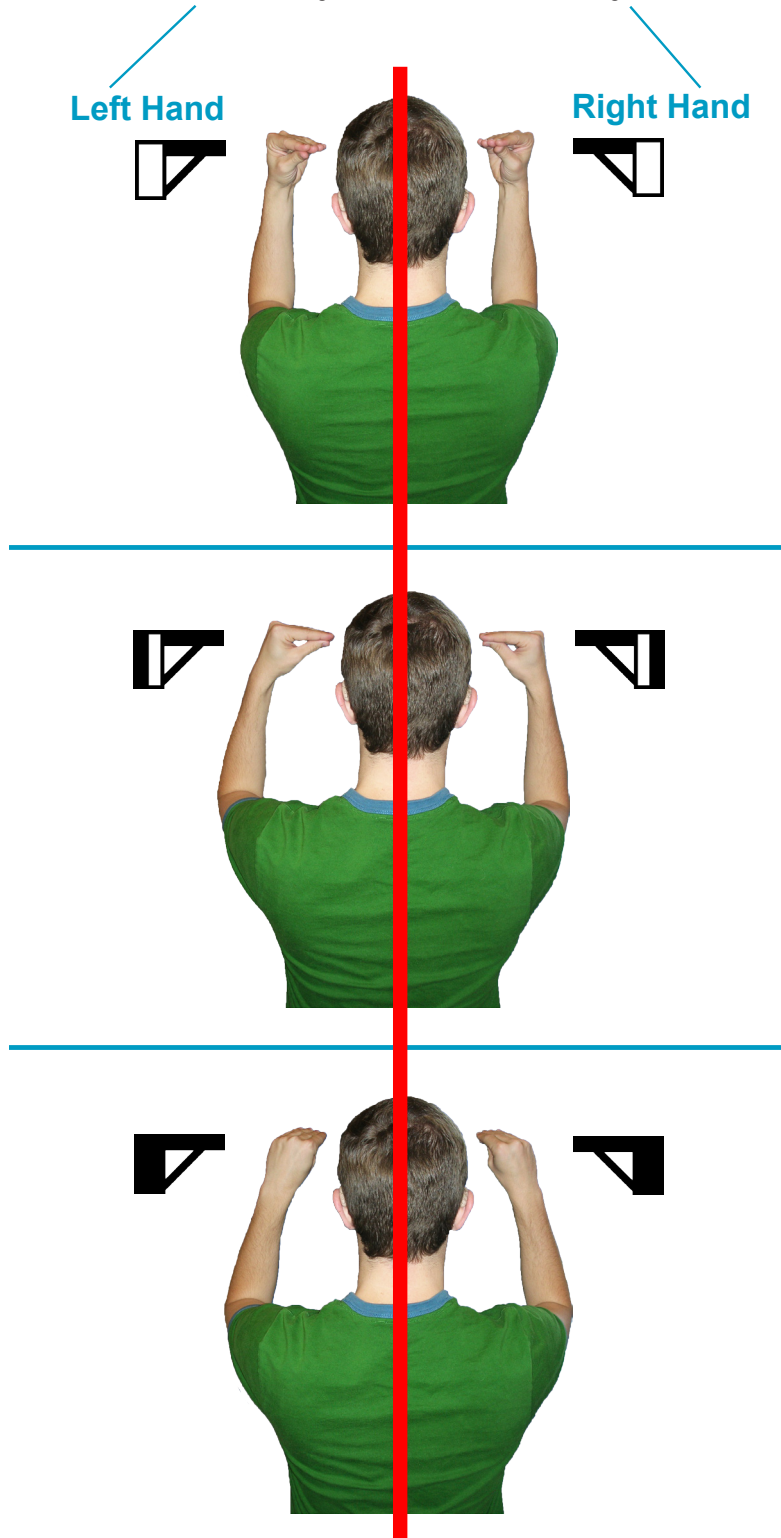
## Back of Hand

### Top View Parallel with Floor Plane

The hand is parallel to the floor. You are looking down at the back of your hand from overhead. The hand symbol has a space at the knuckle joint, representing the Horizon Line. A hand symbol with the Horizon Line crossing over the knuckles means the hand is "parallel with the floor" read from the Top View.

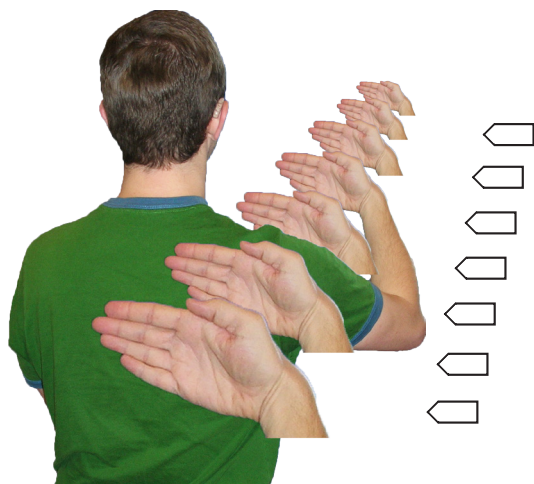
## Hands Relate to Center

In the International SignWriting Alphabet, all hand symbols are designed to relate to the Center of the Body. Imagine a Center Line going down the center of your body. The **Majority of Action Fingers** are directed towards the center. Left hands are written to the left of the Center Line. Right hands are written to the right of the Center Line.



## The Wall Plane

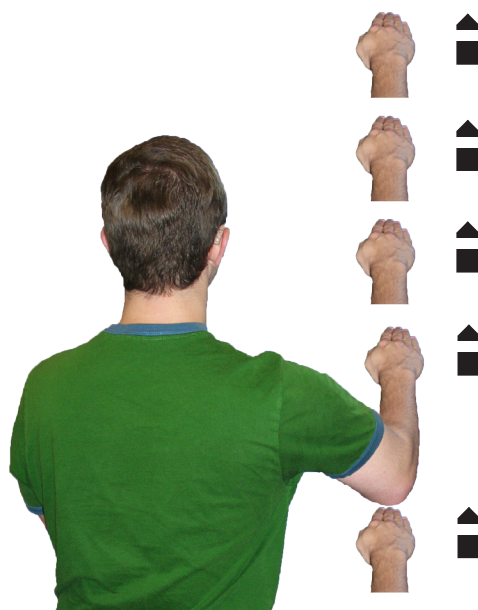
Hand symbols parallel to the Front Wall look the same whether they are far from the chest, close to or touching the chest, or behind the body. You can FEEL the position of the palm facing. It remains the same symbol no matter how close or far it is.



---

## The Floor Plane

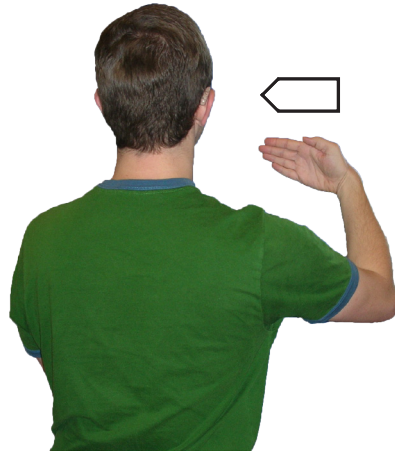
Hand symbols parallel to the Floor look the same whether they are high above the head, in the middle in front of your chest, or low at hip level. You can FEEL the position of the palm facing. It remains the same symbol no matter how high or low it is.





## Hands Pointing to the Side

Hand symbols with the fingers pointing to the side can be written from the Front View, parallel to the Front Wall Plane, or from the Top View, parallel to the Floor Plane. Both symbols are correct, since side-to-side can be seen from the Front View or the Top View. Choose to write the simpler symbols seen from the Front View, parallel to the Front Wall, since they are less complicated for quick reading:

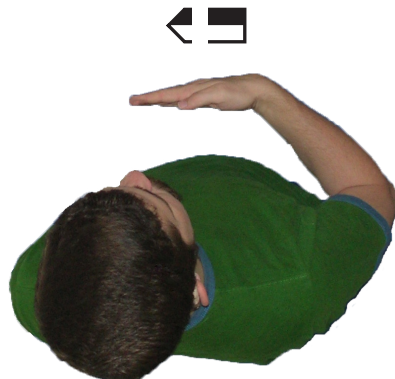


### Choose the Front View

The Front View writes the palm of the hand with a white or hollow symbol.

#### Front View Is Easier to Read

When the fingers point to the side wall, it is best to write the symbol parallel to the Front Wall because the symbol is easier to read.



### Top View Is Correct but...

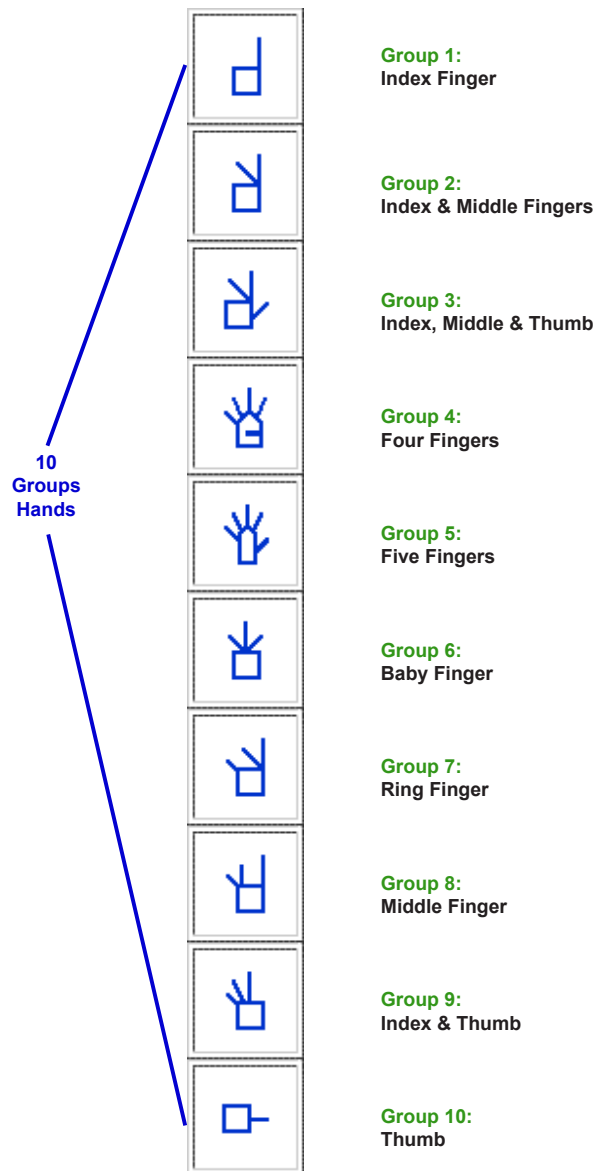
The Top View of the hand is written with a half-white half-dark symbol with the Horizon Line across the knuckles.

#### Top View Is Harder to Read




















When the fingers point to the side wall, it is correct to write the symbol parallel to the Floor, but it is harder to read and therefore not recommended.

## 10 Groups of Hands

There are ten groups of hand symbols in the International SignWriting Alphabet. The hands are grouped according to which fingers are used. These ten groups are the beginning of the **Sign Symbol Sequence**, the order of symbols used to look up signs in SignWriting dictionaries by Sign-Symbols. Handshapes used in all signed languages are included. All ten groups are listed on the following pages. An easy way to remember these groups is to count from one to ten in American Sign Language (ASL).




# 10 Groups of Hands

Hand	Symbol	SymbolGroup	Name
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_1</a>	Index
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_2</a>	Index Middle
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_3</a>	Index Middle Thumb
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_4</a>	Four Fingers
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_5</a>	Five Fingers
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_6</a>	Baby Finger
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_7</a>	Ring Finger
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_8</a>	Middle Finger
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_9</a>	Index Thumb
		<a href="#">SymbolGroup_10</a>	Thumb

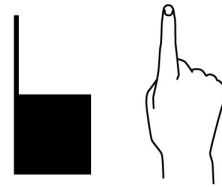
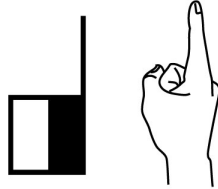
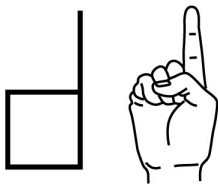
# Group 1

## Index Finger

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 1</a>	Index
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 2</a>	Index on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 3</a>	Index on Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 4</a>	Index on Oval
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 5</a>	Index on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 6</a>	Index on Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 7</a>	Index Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 8</a>	Index Bent on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 9</a>	Index Bent on Fist Thumb Under
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 10</a>	Index Raised Knuckle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 11</a>	Index Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 12</a>	Index Hinge on Fist
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 13</a>	Index Hinge on Fist Low
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 14</a>	Index Hinge on Circle

## Front View

Hands parallel with the Front Wall.



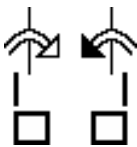
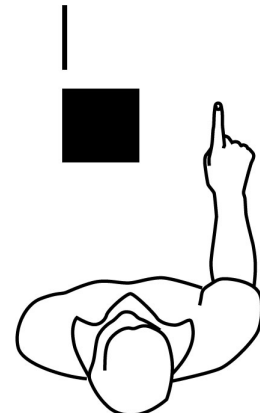
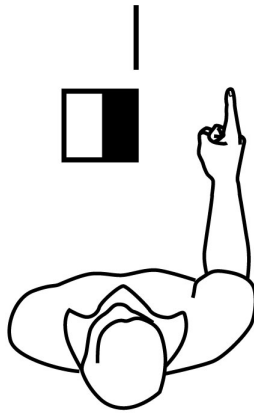
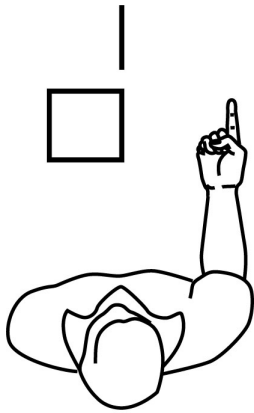
one half

Deaf

where

## Top View

Hands parallel with the Floor.



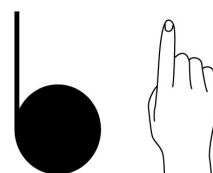
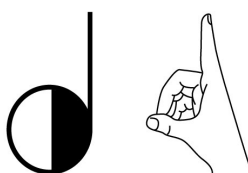
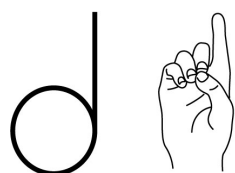
happen

you

also

## Front View

Hands parallel with the Front Wall.



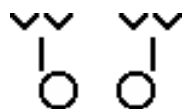
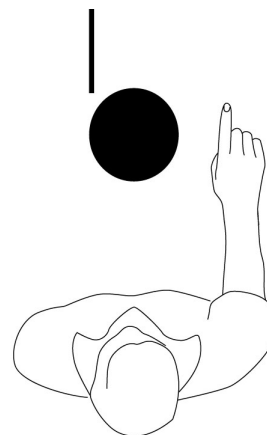
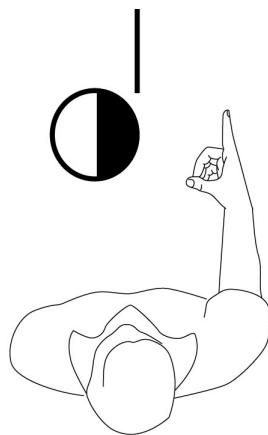
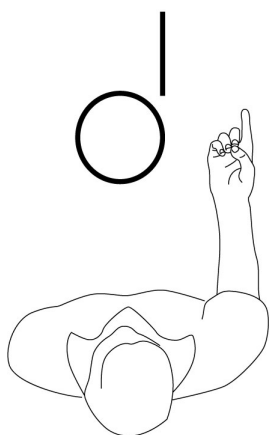
dinner

dating

democracy

## Top View

Hands parallel with the Floor.



do-do?

































dessert

doctor



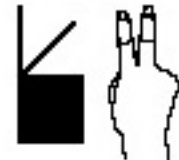
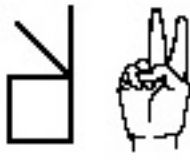
# Group 2

## Index Middle

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 15</a>	Index Middle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 16</a>	Index Middle on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 17</a>	Index Middle Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 18</a>	Index Middle Raised Knuckles
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 19</a>	Index Middle Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 20</a>	Index Up, Middle Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 21</a>	Index Hinge, Middle Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 22</a>	Index Middle Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 23</a>	Index Middle Unit, Index Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 24</a>	Index Middle Unit, Middle Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 25</a>	Index Middle Unit, Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 26</a>	Index Middle Unit, Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 27</a>	Index Middle Cross
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 28</a>	Index Middle Cross on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 29</a>	Middle Bent Over Index
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 30</a>	Index Bent Over Middle

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



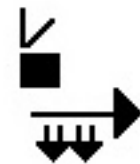
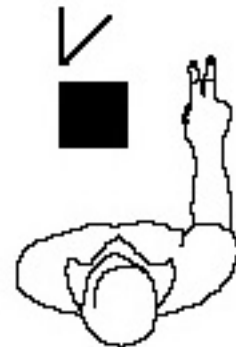
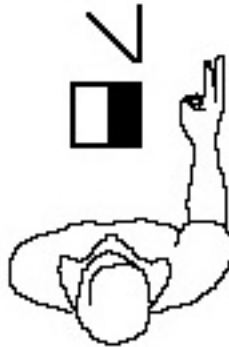
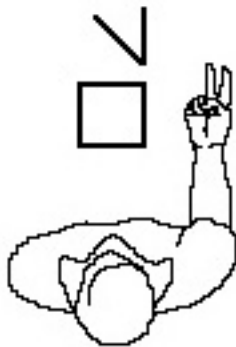
see

see

stupid

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor





























the two of them

read

twenty-two



























# Group 3

## Index Middle Thumb

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 31</a>	Index Middle Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 32</a>	Index Middle Thumb on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 33</a>	Index Middle Straight, Thumb Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 34</a>	Index Middle Bent, Thumb Straight
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 35</a>	Index Middle Thumb Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 36</a>	Index Middle Hinge Spread, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 37</a>	Index Up, Middle Hinge, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 38</a>	Index Up, Middle Hinge, Thumb Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 39</a>	Index Hinge, Middle Up, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 40</a>	Index Middle Up Spread, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 41</a>	Index Middle Thumb Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 42</a>	Index Middle Thumb Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 43</a>	Index Middle Thumb Hook

























# Group 3

## Index Middle Thumb

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 44</a>	Index Middle Thumb Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 45</a>	Thumb Between Index Middle Straight
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 46</a>	Index Middle Unit, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 47</a>	Index Middle Unit, Thumb Side Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 48</a>	Index Middle Unit, Thumb Side Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 49</a>	Middle Thumb Hook, Index Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 50</a>	Index Thumb Hook, Middle Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 51</a>	Index Middle Unit Hinge, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 52</a>	Index Middle Cross, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 53</a>	Index Middle Unit, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 54</a>	Index Middle Unit Cup, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 55</a>	Middle Thumb Cup, Index Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 56</a>	Index Thumb Cup, Middle Up

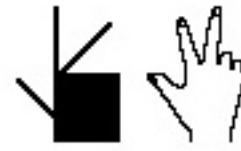
# Group 3

## Index Middle Thumb

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_57</a>	Middle Thumb Circle, Index Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_58</a>	Middle Thumb Circle, Index Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_59</a>	Index Thumb Angle Out, Middle Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_60</a>	Index Thumb Angle In, Middle Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_61</a>	Index Thumb Circle, Middle Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_62</a>	Index Middle Thumb, Unit Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_63</a>	Index Middle Thumb, Angle Out
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_64</a>	Index Middle Thumb, Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_65</a>	Middle Thumb Angle Out, Index Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_66</a>	Middle Thumb Angle Out, Index Crossed
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_67</a>	Middle Thumb Angle, Index Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_68</a>	Index Thumb Hook, Middle Hinge

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



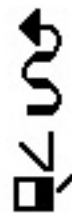
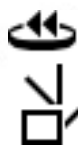
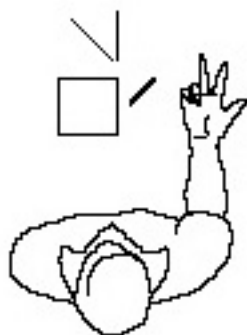
**Denmark**

**third**

**\$3.00**

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



















**the three of them**

**vehicle**

**awkward**

# Group 4

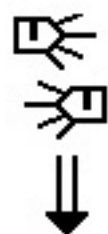
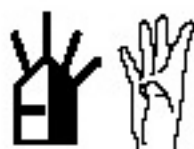
## Four Fingers

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 69</a>	Four Fingers
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 70</a>	Four Fingers Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 71</a>	Four Fingers Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 72</a>	Four Fingers Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 73</a>	Four Fingers Unit Split
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 74</a>	Four Fingers Unit Claw
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 75</a>	Four Fingers Unit Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 76</a>	Four Fingers Unit Hinge



## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



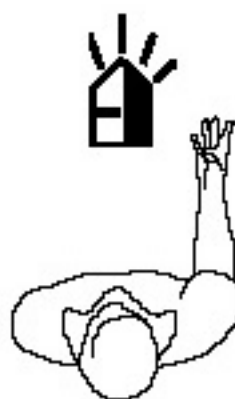
a long list

talk

\$4.00

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the four of them

talk-talk-talk

forty-four































# Group 5

## Five Fingers

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 77</a>	Five Fingers Spread
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 78</a>	Five Fingers Spread Heel
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 79</a>	Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 80</a>	Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent Heel
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 81</a>	Five Fingers Spread Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 82</a>	Five Fingers Spread Bent Heel
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 83</a>	Five Fingers Spread, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 84</a>	Five Fingers Spread Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 85</a>	Five Fingers Spread Cup Open
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 86</a>	Five Fingers Spread Hinge Open
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 87</a>	Five Fingers Spread Oval
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 88</a>	Five Fingers Spread Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 89</a>	Five Fingers Spread Hinge, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 90</a>	Five Fingers Spread Hinge, No Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 91</a>	Flat

































# Group 5

## Five Fingers

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 92</a>	Flat, Between Palm Facings
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 93</a>	Flat Heel
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 94</a>	Flat, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 95</a>	Flat, Thumb Side Heel
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 96</a>	Flat, Thumb Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 97</a>	Flat, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 98</a>	Flat Split Index, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 99</a>	Flat Split Center
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 100</a>	Flat Split Center, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 101</a>	Flat Split Center, Thumb Side Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 102</a>	Flat Split Baby
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 103</a>	Claw
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 104</a>	Claw, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 105</a>	Claw, No Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 106</a>	Claw, Thumb Forward

























# Group 5

## Five Fingers

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 107</a>	Hook Curlicue
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 108</a>	Hook
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 109</a>	Cup Open
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 110</a>	Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 111</a>	Cup Open, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 112</a>	Cup, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 113</a>	Cup Open, No Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 114</a>	Cup, No Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 115</a>	Cup Open, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 116</a>	Cup, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 117</a>	Curlicue Open
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 118</a>	Curlicue
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 119</a>	Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 120</a>	Oval
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 121</a>	Oval, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 122</a>	Oval, No Thumb

# Group 5

Five Fingers

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 123</a>	Oval, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 124</a>	Hinge Open
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 125</a>	Hinge Open, Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 126</a>	Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 127</a>	Hinge Small
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 128</a>	Hinge Open, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 129</a>	Hinge, Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 130</a>	Hinge Open, No Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 131</a>	Hinge, No Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 132</a>	Hinge, Thumb Side Touches Index
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 133</a>	Hinge, Thumb Between Middle Ring
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 134</a>	Angle

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



America



cool



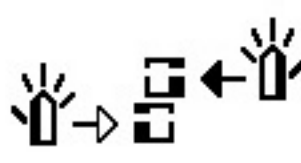
hello

## Top View

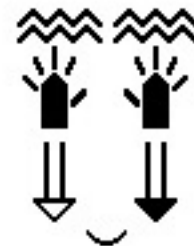
Hand Parallel With The Floor



wait



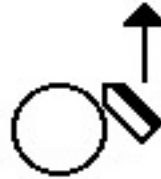
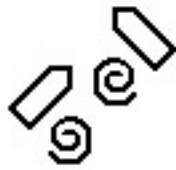
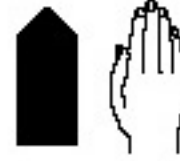
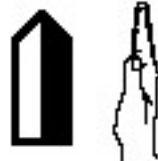
condense



snow

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



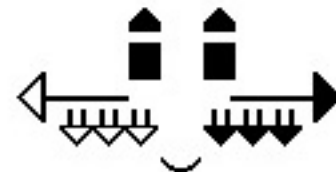
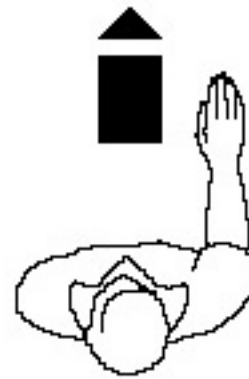
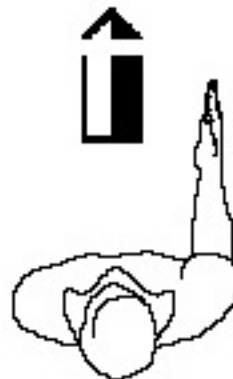
appreciate

hello

yours

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor





things

way

children

# Group 6

## Baby Finger

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 135</a>	Index Middle Ring
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 136</a>	Index Middle Ring on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 137</a>	Index Middle Ring on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 138</a>	Index Middle Ring on Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 139</a>	Baby Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 140</a>	Index Middle Ring, Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 141</a>	Index Middle Ring, Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 142</a>	Index Middle Ring, Unit Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 143</a>	Baby Down
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 144</a>	Baby Down, Ripple Straight
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 145</a>	Baby Down, Ripple Curved
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 146</a>	Baby Down, Others Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 147</a>	Baby Up



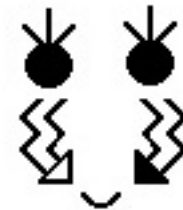
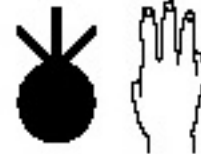
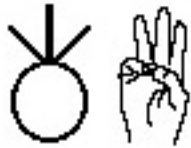
# Group 6

## Baby Finger

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_148</a>	Baby Up on Fist Thumb Under
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_149</a>	Baby Up on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_150</a>	Baby Up on Oval
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_151</a>	Baby Up on Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_152</a>	Baby Raised Knuckle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_153</a>	Baby Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_154</a>	Baby Touches Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_155</a>	Baby Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_156</a>	Baby Thumb on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_157</a>	Baby Index Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_158</a>	Baby Index Thumb on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_159</a>	Baby Index Thumb, Index Thumb Angle Out
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_160</a>	Baby Index Thumb, Index Thumb Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_161</a>	Baby Index
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_162</a>	Baby Index on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_163</a>	Baby Index on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_164</a>	Baby Index on Angle

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



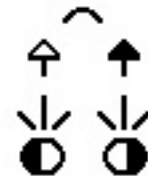
Wednesday

water

weather

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the six of them

way

sixty-six



















# Group 7

Ring Finger

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 165</a>	Index Middle Baby
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 166</a>	Index Middle Baby on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 167</a>	Index Middle Baby on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 168</a>	Ring Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 169</a>	Index Middle Baby on Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 170</a>	Index Middle Cross with Baby
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 171</a>	Index Middle Cross with Baby on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 172</a>	Ring Down
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 173</a>	Ring Down, Index Thumb Hook, Middle Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 174</a>	Ring Down, Middle Thumb Angle, Index Cross
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 175</a>	Ring Up
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 176</a>	Ring Raised Knuckle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 177</a>	Ring Baby

# Group 7

Ring Finger

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 178</a>	Ring Baby on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 179</a>	Ring Baby on Oval
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 180</a>	Ring Baby on Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 181</a>	Ring Middle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 182</a>	Ring Middle Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 183</a>	Ring Middle Raised Knuckles
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 184</a>	Ring Index
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 185</a>	Ring Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 186</a>	Ring Thumb Hook

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



one-seventh



seventh



\$7.00

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the seven of them



seventh



seventy-seven















# Group 8

## Middle Finger

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 187</a>	Index Ring Baby
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 188</a>	Index Ring Baby on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 189</a>	Index Ring Baby on Curlicue
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 190</a>	Index Ring Baby on Hook Out
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 191</a>	Index Ring Baby on Hook In
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 192</a>	Index Ring Baby on Hook Under
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 193</a>	Index Ring Baby on Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 194</a>	Index Ring Baby on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 195</a>	Index Ring Baby on Angle Out
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 196</a>	Index Ring Baby on Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 197</a>	Middle Down
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 198</a>	Middle Hinge

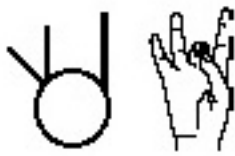
# Group 8

Middle Finger

		<a href="#"><u>BaseSymbol 199</u></a>	Middle Up
		<a href="#"><u>BaseSymbol 200</u></a>	Middle Up on Circle
		<a href="#"><u>BaseSymbol 201</u></a>	Middle Raised Knuckle
		<a href="#"><u>BaseSymbol 202</u></a>	Middle Up, Thumb Side
		<a href="#"><u>BaseSymbol 203</u></a>	Middle Thumb Hook
		<a href="#"><u>BaseSymbol 204</u></a>	Middle Thumb Baby
		<a href="#"><u>BaseSymbol 205</u></a>	Middle Baby

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



interesting



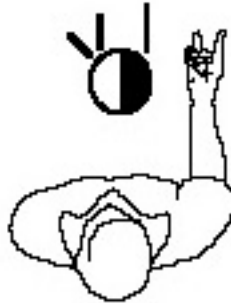
eighth



\$8.00

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the eight of them



hate



eighty-eight





























# Group 9

## Index Thumb

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 206</a>	Middle Ring Baby
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 207</a>	Middle Ring Baby on Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 208</a>	Middle Ring Baby on Curlicue
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 209</a>	Middle Ring Baby on Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 210</a>	Middle Ring Baby on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 211</a>	Middle Ring Baby on Angle Out
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 212</a>	Middle Ring Baby on Angle In
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 213</a>	Middle Ring Baby on Angle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 214</a>	Middle Ring Baby Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 215</a>	Middle Ring Baby Unit on Claw
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 216</a>	Middle Ring Baby Unit on Claw Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 217</a>	Middle Ring Baby Unit on Hook Out

# Group 9

## Index Thumb

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 218</a>	Middle Ring Baby Unit on Hook In
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 219</a>	Middle Ring Baby Unit on Hook
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 220</a>	Index Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 221</a>	Index Thumb Side
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 222</a>	Index Thumb Side on Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 223</a>	Index Thumb Side, Thumb Diagonal
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 224</a>	Index Thumb Side, Thumb Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 225</a>	Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 226</a>	Index Thumb Side, Index Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 227</a>	Index Thumb Side, Both Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 228</a>	Index Thumb Side, Index Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 229</a>	Index Thumb Forward, Index Straight
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 230</a>	Index Thumb Forward, Index Bent

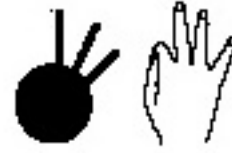
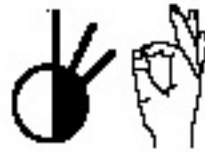
# Group 9

## Index Thumb

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_231</a>	Index Thumb Hook
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_232</a>	Index Thumb Curlicue
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_233</a>	Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Inside
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_234</a>	Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Inside on Claw
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_235</a>	Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_236</a>	Index Thumb Circle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_237</a>	Index Thumb Cup
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_238</a>	Index Thumb Cup Open
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_239</a>	Index Thumb Hinge Open
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_240</a>	Index Thumb Hinge Large
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_241</a>	Index Thumb Hinge
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_242</a>	Index Thumb Hinge Small
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_243</a>	Index Thumb Angle Out
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_244</a>	Index Thumb Angle In
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol_245</a>	Index Thumb Angle

## Front View

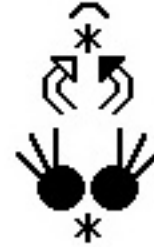
Hand Parallel With The Wall



every Friday



interpret



important

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the nine of us



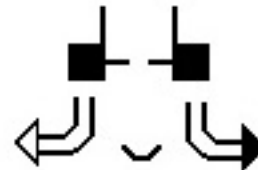
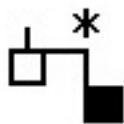
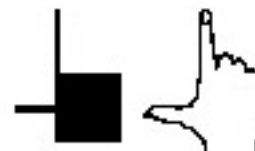
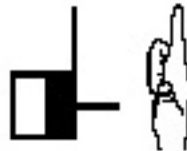
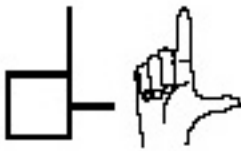
decide



ninety-nine

## Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



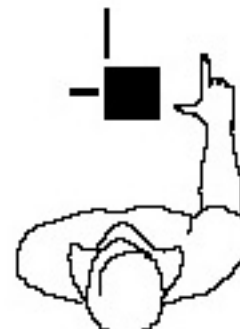
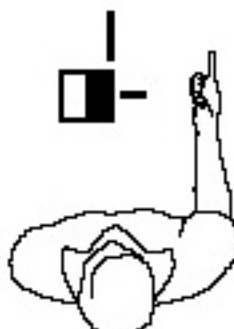
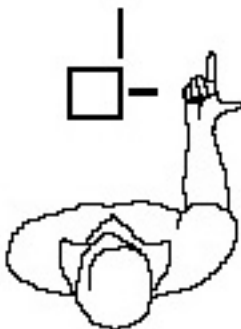
**second**

**lunch**

**language**

## Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



































**both of us**

**law**

**language**

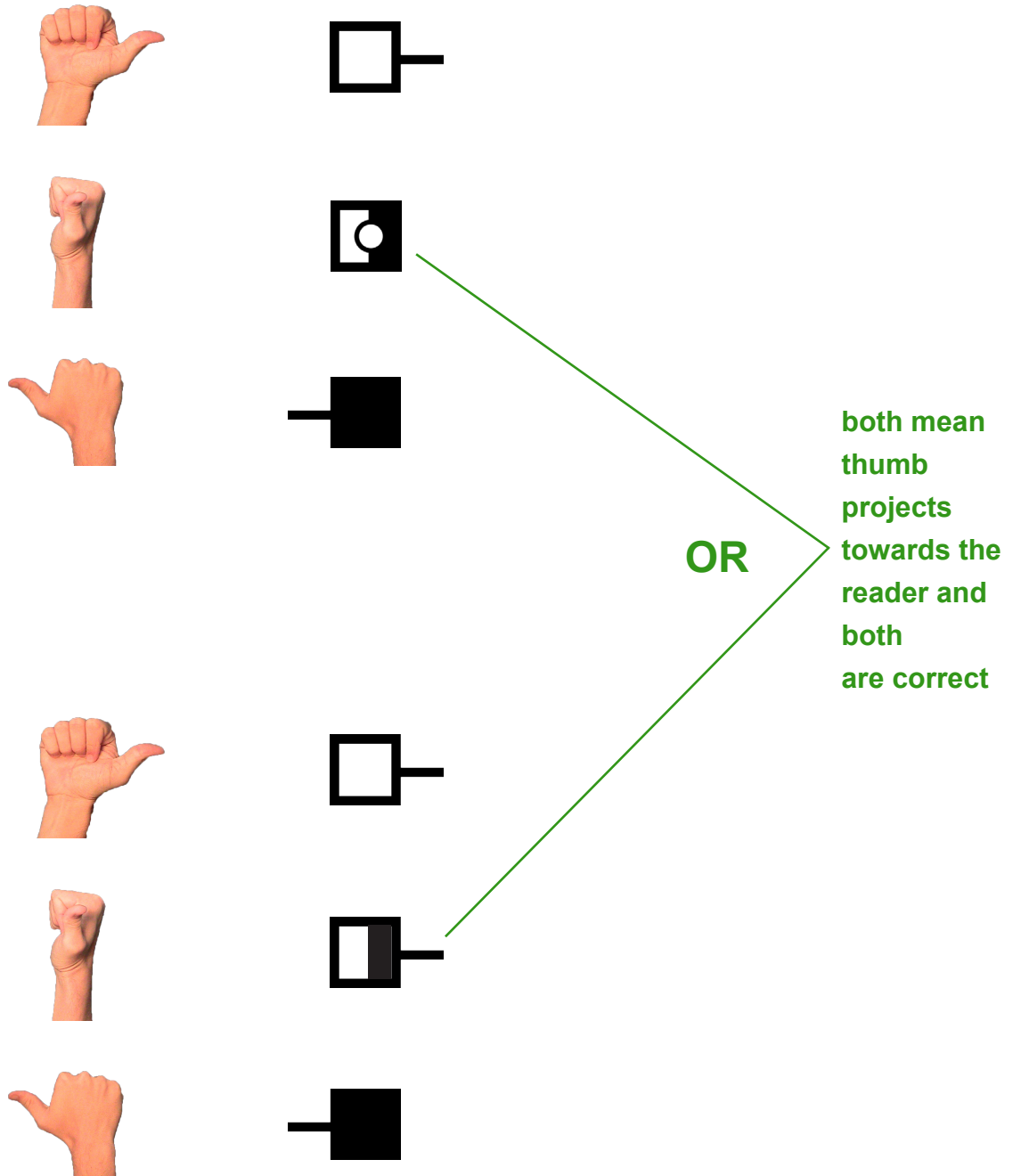
# Group 10

## Thumb

		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 246</a>	Thumb
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 247</a>	Thumb Heel
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 248</a>	Thumb Side Diagonal
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 249</a>	Thumb Side Unit
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 250</a>	Thumb Side Bent
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 251</a>	Thumb Forward
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 252</a>	Thumb Between Index Middle
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 253</a>	Thumb Between Middle Ring
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 254</a>	Thumb Between Ring Baby
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 255</a>	Thumb Under Two Fingers
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 256</a>	Thumb Over Two Fingers
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 257</a>	Thumb Under Three Fingers
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 258</a>	Thumb Under Four Fingers
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 259</a>	Thumb Over Four Raised Knuckles
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 260</a>	Fist
		<a href="#">BaseSymbol 261</a>	Fist Heel

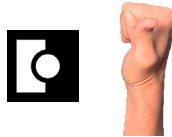
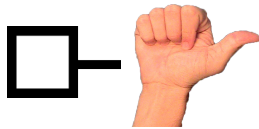
## Two Ways to Write Thumb Towards Reader

The side view of the Thumb Hand can be written in two ways. The dot for the thumb projecting directly toward the reader is the official symbol of the ISWA 2010. But some writers choose to write a line for the thumb to the side, rather than the dot. The line for the thumb is always placed on the dark side of the symbol. Both methods mean the same thing and are correct:



## Front View

Hands Parallel With The Wall



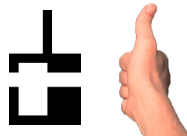
dentist

India

drunk

## Top View

Hands Parallel To The Floor





























other

ahead

remember



## The American Manual Alphabet

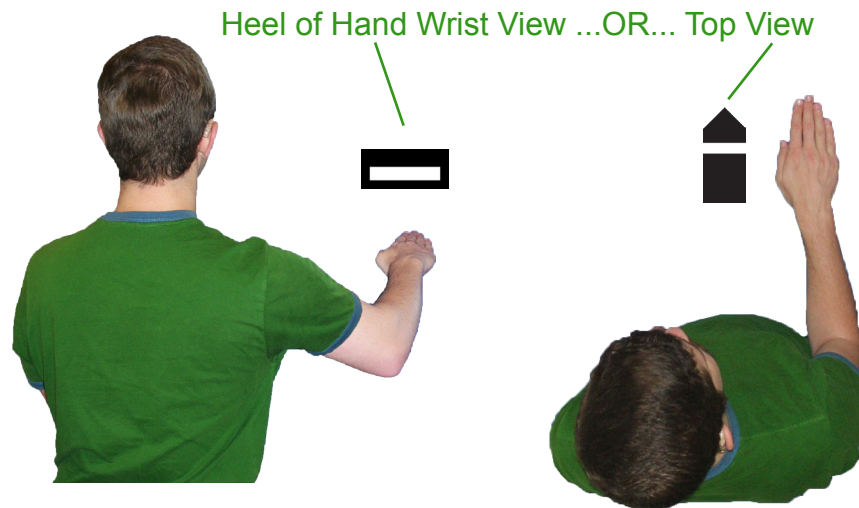
	a		n
	b		o
	c		p
	d		q
	e		r
	f		s
	g		t
	h		u
	i		v
	j		w
	k		x
	l		y
	m		z

## Heel of Hand or Top View?

Flat hands with the fingers pointing straight forward, with the arm parallel to the Floor Plane, can be written from a special viewpoint called the Heel of Hand “Wrist View”, or from the traditional Top View:

### Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape

...use either symbol...



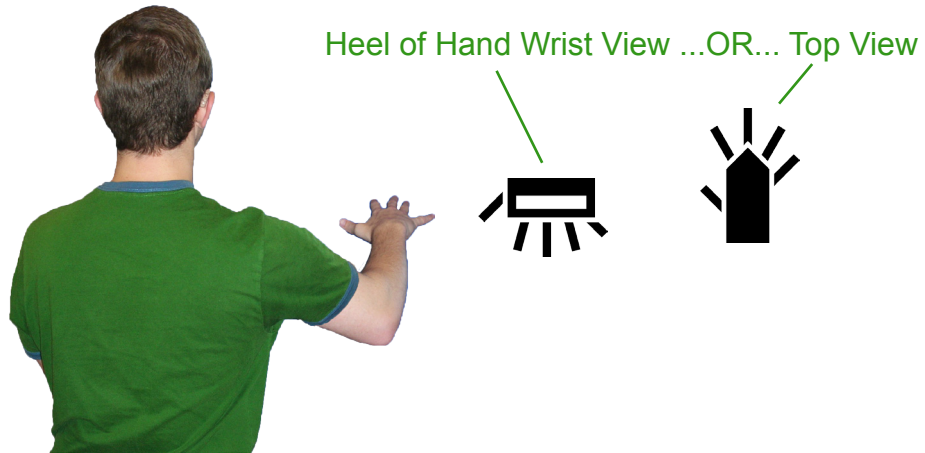
### Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape

...use either symbol...



## Heel of Hand or Top View?

Use Either Symbol

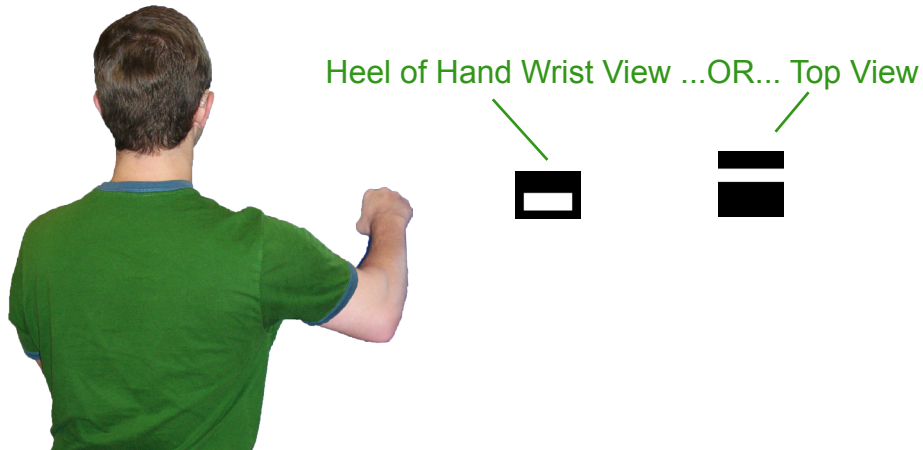


## Heel of Hand or Top View?

Fists with the knuckles directed straight forward, with the arm parallel to the Floor Plane, can be written from a special viewpoint called the Heel of Hand “Wrist View”, or from the traditional Top View:

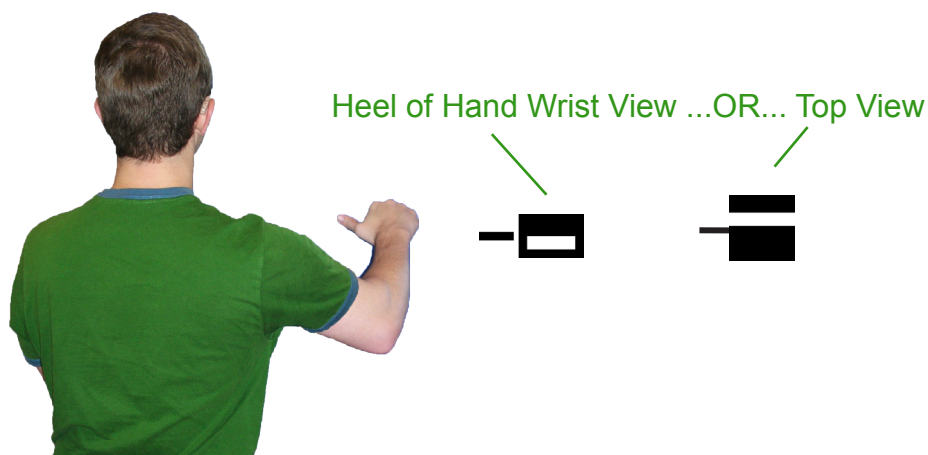
### Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape

...use either symbol...



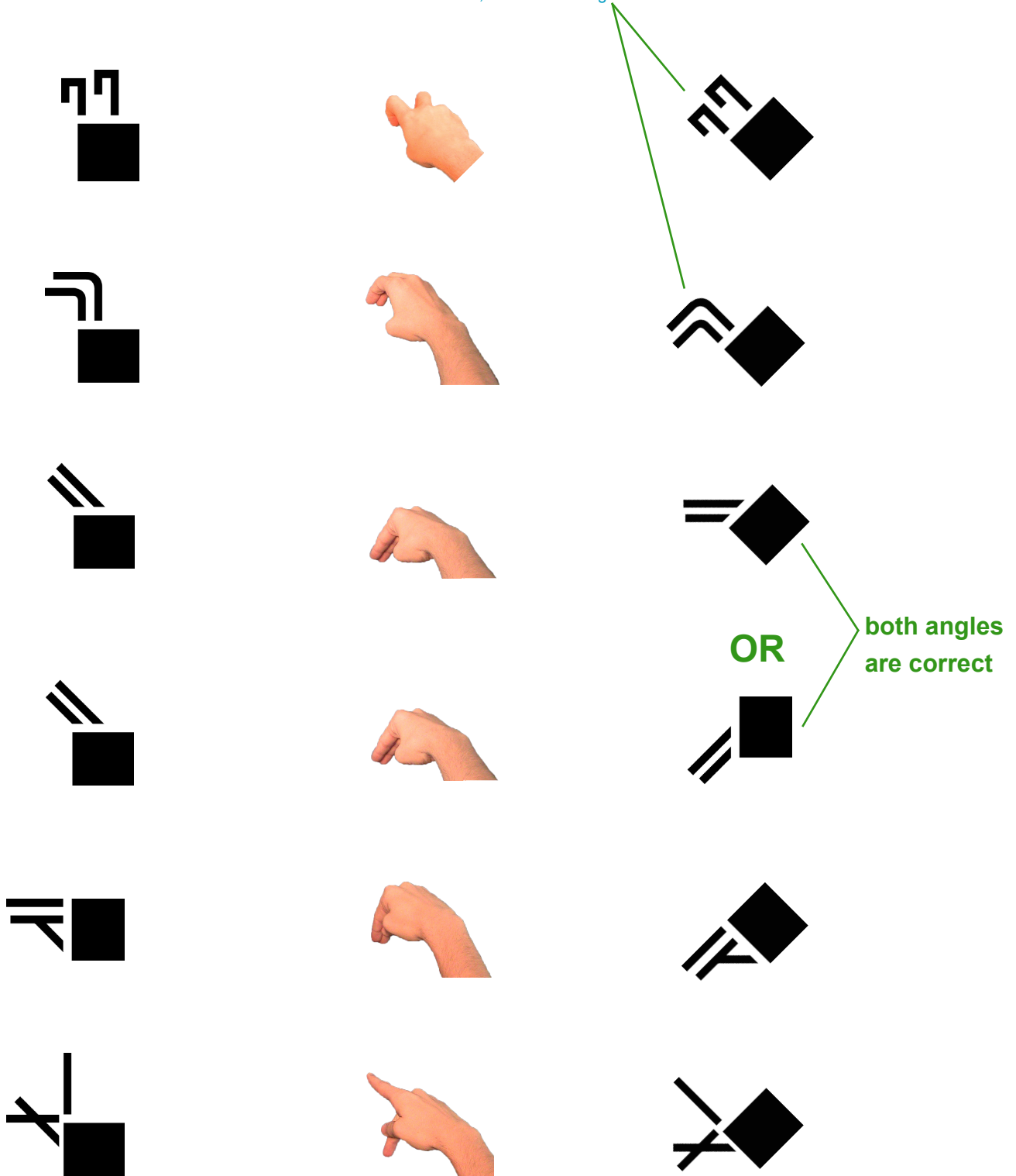
### Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape

...use either symbol...



## Finger Direction Is Meaningful

Two ways to write the same position: The Top View of the Back of the Hand can be written at a slant. Some writers feel this looks more like real life, because the fingers are directed down.

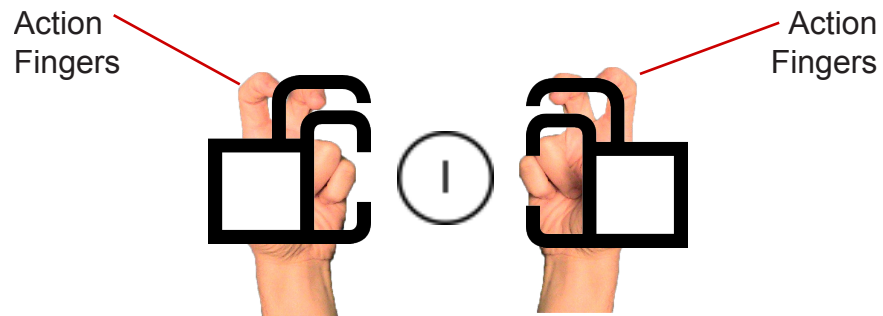


## Action Fingers Directed Towards The Face

Finger direction relates to the Center of the Body. Action Fingers that bend at the knuckle joint in Angle, Hinge, Cup or Curve hand positions direct the fingers into the Center of the Body. The white palm shows the palm is facing the body, with a slight hint that the palm is slightly turned toward the Center too.

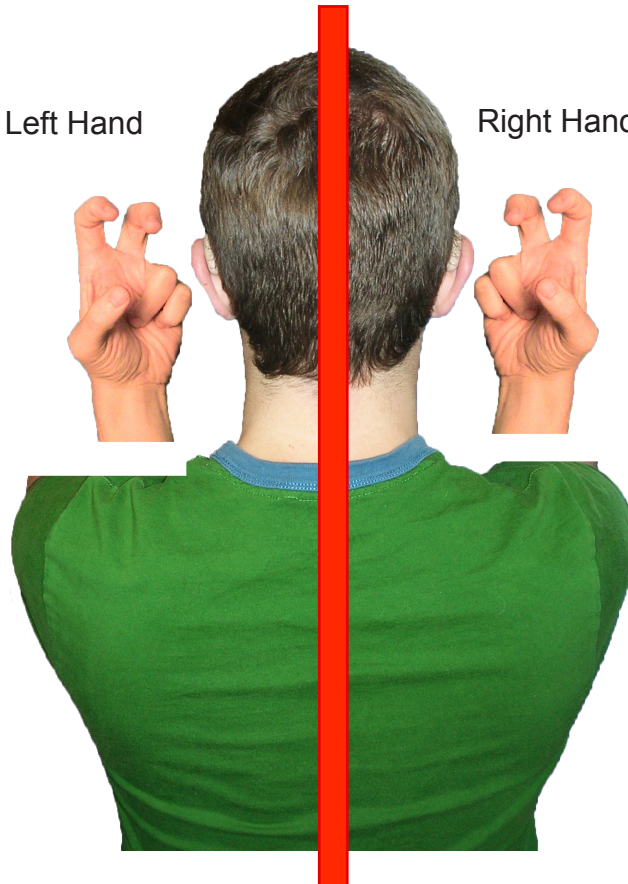
### Fingers Are Directed Toward the Center

...when the palm is facing the body...



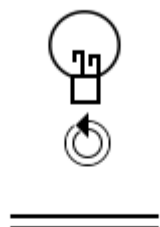
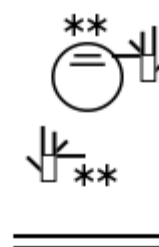
Left Hand

Right Hand

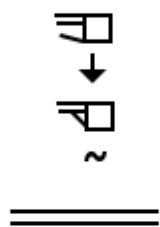




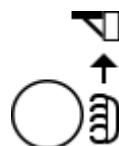
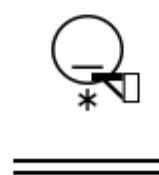
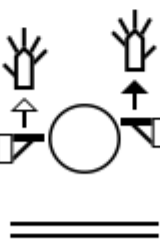
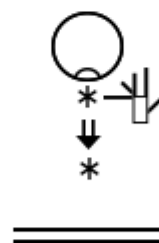
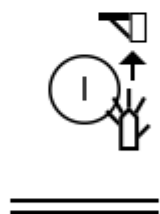
Some  
ASL  
signs  
as  
examples:



glass  
oral  
no-to-me  
wolf  
information



Jew  
clown  
going out  
illness  
lucky  
prefer  
birthday  
eat  
blow a kiss

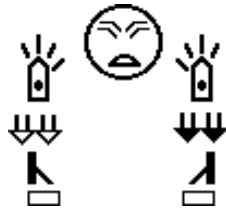


# Action Fingers Directed Up

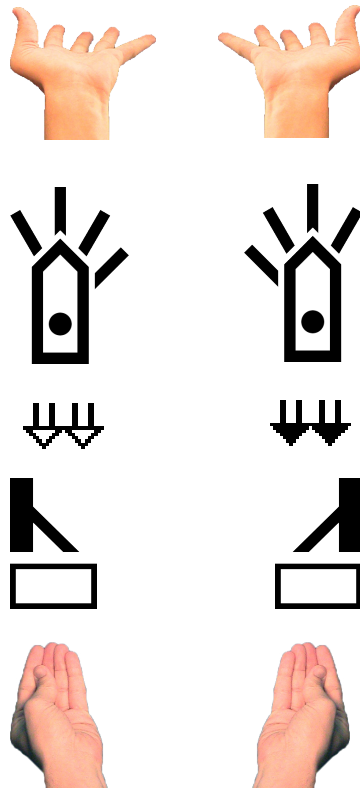
## Angle Hand Symbols

Point the tip of the angled fingers in meaningful directions.

When writing Angle Hands, write the direction of the fingers based on what “feels correct” for the meaning of the sign. Then look at your palm. Where is the palm facing? If the palm is facing the ceiling, then it is parallel to the floor. It will be white with a space at the knuckle joint.



ASL  
sign for  
WET,  
or SOFT



See  
page 100  
for  
Five Fingers  
Spread  
with  
Thumb  
Forward

Finger  
Direction  
Is Up

See  
page 151  
for  
Angle  
Handshape

This sign can be found in: Cat in the Hat in ASL, page 1  
<http://www.signbank.org/SignPuddle1.6/canvas.php?ui=1&sgn=5&sid=144>

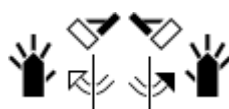
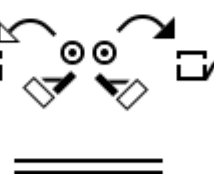
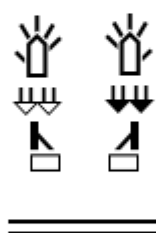
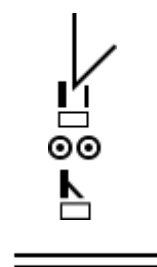




Some  
ASL  
signs  
as  
examples:

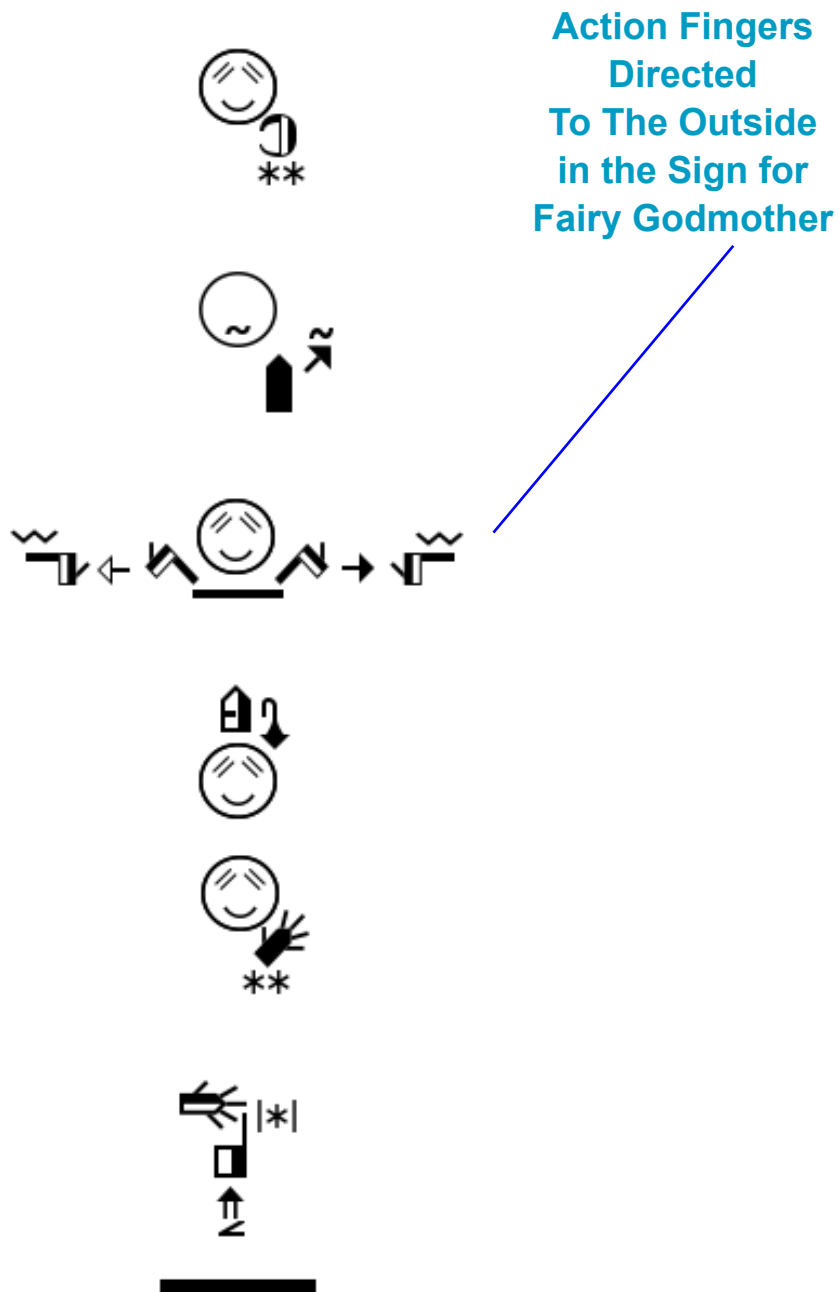


Jewish  
grow  
soft  
soft  
soft  
give to you  
lose  
money  
poor  
waste  
gay  
dissolve  
twelve



## Action Fingers Directed Out Away From The Body

This is very rare. If the majority of Action Fingers are directed to the outside, away from the Center of the Body, as in the sign for FAIRY GODMOTHER in ASL, then it is written pointing out.



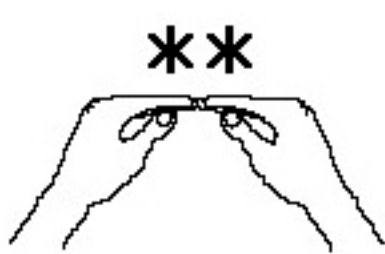




Contact



## 6 Contact Symbols

1. Touch	*	4. Strike	#
2. Grasp	+	5. Brush	⊙
3. In-between	*	6. Rub	@


---

**more**

**school**

**Touch**

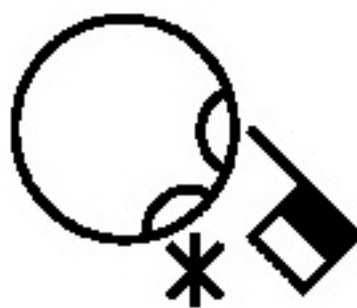
**Touch Contact** is written with an asterisk.

**Touch** is defined as the hand gently contacting another part of the body.

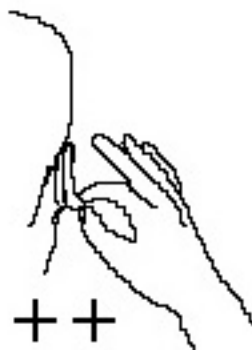
## Touch Contact



dating



Deaf



## Grasp

**Grasp Contact** is written with a plus sign.

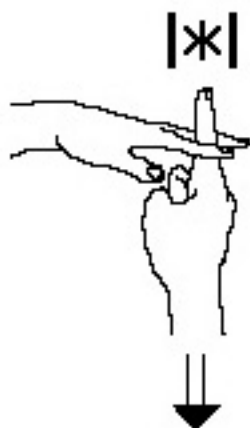
Grasp is defined as the hand grasping a part of the body or a piece of clothing.



earring



congratulations



## Between

**Between Contact** is written with an asterisk between two lines.

Between is defined as touching between two parts of the body, usually between fingers.



disappear



America



## Strike

**Strike Contact** is written with two lines crossing two lines.

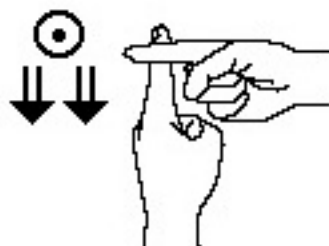
Strike is defined as the hand contacting a surface **with force**.



hit



clap



## Brush

**Brush Contact** is written with a circle with a dark dot in the center.

Brush is defined as movement that first contacts and then **moves off** the surface.

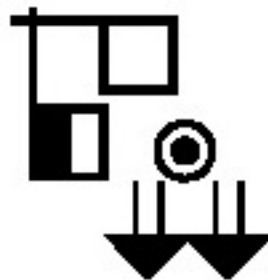


excuse me

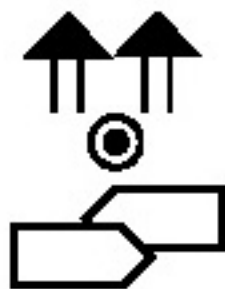


monthly

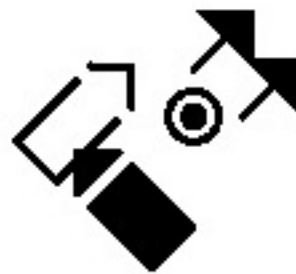
## Brush Contact



monthly



easy



excuse me





## Circular Rub

**Rubbing Contact** in a circle is written with a spiral symbol.

**Rub** is defined as contact that moves, but **stays on the surface**.



coffee



chocolate



## Straight Rub

**Straight Rubbing Contact** is written with the same spiral symbol, but the spiral symbol is connected with a straight arrow.

When the Rub Contact symbol is **connected with an arrow**, it rubs in a straight line (not in a circle). It moves in the direction of the arrow.

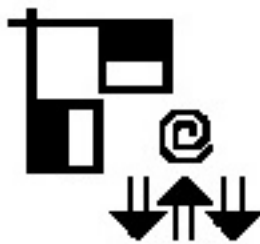


neat

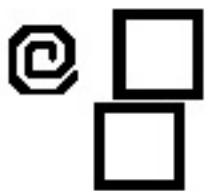


eager

## Rub Contact



temperature



coffee



nice



**Finger  
Movements**

## 6 Finger Symbols

- 1. Middle Joint Closes
  - 2. Middle Joint Opens
  - ▼ 3. Knuckle Joint Closes
  - ▲ 4. Knuckle Joint Opens
  - ⋈ 5. Knuckles Open & Close Together
  - ⋈ 6. Knuckles Open-Close Alternating
- 



**Middle Joint**



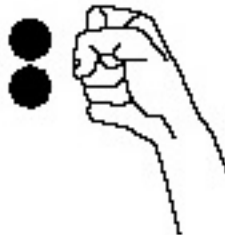
**Middle Joint** finger movements are written with small dots.



**Knuckle Joint**



**Knuckle Joint** finger movements are written with small arrowheads.



## Middle-Joint Closes

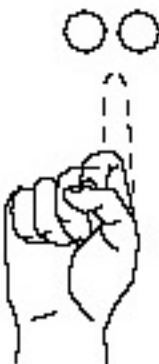
When the middle-joint of the finger closes (bends down or in), this **closing finger movement** is written with a **dark dot**. The dot is placed near the finger joint that does the movement. Two dots represent two closings.



huh?

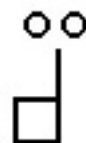


milk



## Middle-Joint Opens

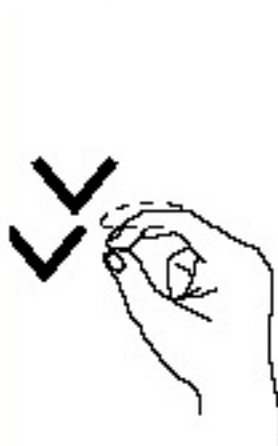
When the middle-joint of the finger opens (bends up or out), this **opening finger movement** is written with a **hollow dot**. The dot is placed near the finger joint that does the movement. Two dots represent two openings.



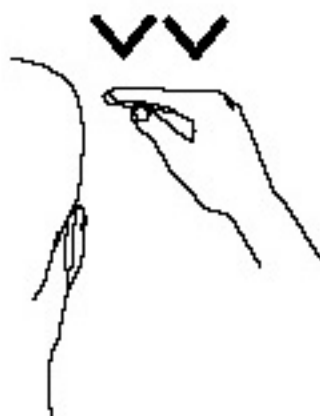
eleven



understand



twenty



boy



## Knuckle-Joint Closes

When the knuckle-joint of the finger closes (bends down or in), this **closing knuckle movement** is written with a small arrow that points down. The arrow is placed near the knuckle joint that does the movement. Two arrows mean 2 closings.



send



send-send

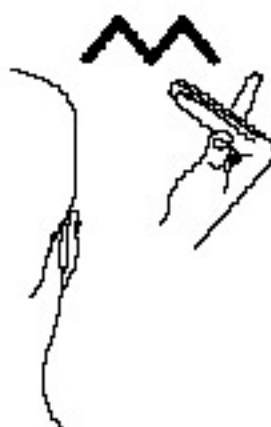


## Knuckle-Joint Opens

When the knuckle-joint of the finger opens (bends up or out), this **opening knuckle movement** is written with a small arrow that points up. The arrow is placed near the knuckle joint that does the movement. Two arrows mean 2 openings.



goodbye



why



### Knuckle-Joints Open-Close

The fingers move together in the same direction, as a unit. The knuckle-joints of the fingers open and close (bend up and down) together. This **open-close knuckle movement** is written with one row of small connected arrows pointing up and down.



fingerspell



typing



### Knuckle-Joints Alternate

The fingers do not move together in a unit. Instead they move in opposite directions. One moves up, as the other moves down. This is called **alternating**. This **alternating knuckle movement** symbol is written with two rows of small arrows pointing up and down.



## Sequential Finger Movement

...specific finger-by-finger opening and closing...



**a name sign**

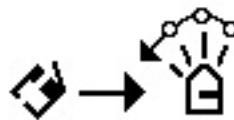
Just follow the arrows. The movement starts at the stem of the arrow, and moves toward the arrowheads. So in this sign, the baby finger bends first, finishing in the A handshapes at the side of the head.



**Sequential Finger Movement That Closes**  
From The Middle Joint

...very specific finger-by-finger closing of the fingers...

Exact details of which finger closes first, second and third.



**FEW**  
in American Sign Language

(one of several ways to write this sign)

**Sequential Finger Movement That Opens**  
From The Middle Joint

...very specific finger-by-finger opening of the fingers...

Exact details of which finger opens first, second and third.

In the example to the left, the sign for FEW opens the index finger first, then the middle finger, ring finger and baby finger.





**Straight  
Movement**

# Wall Plane

The Wall Plane is parallel with the front wall.



# Floor Plane

The Floor Plane is parallel with the floor.

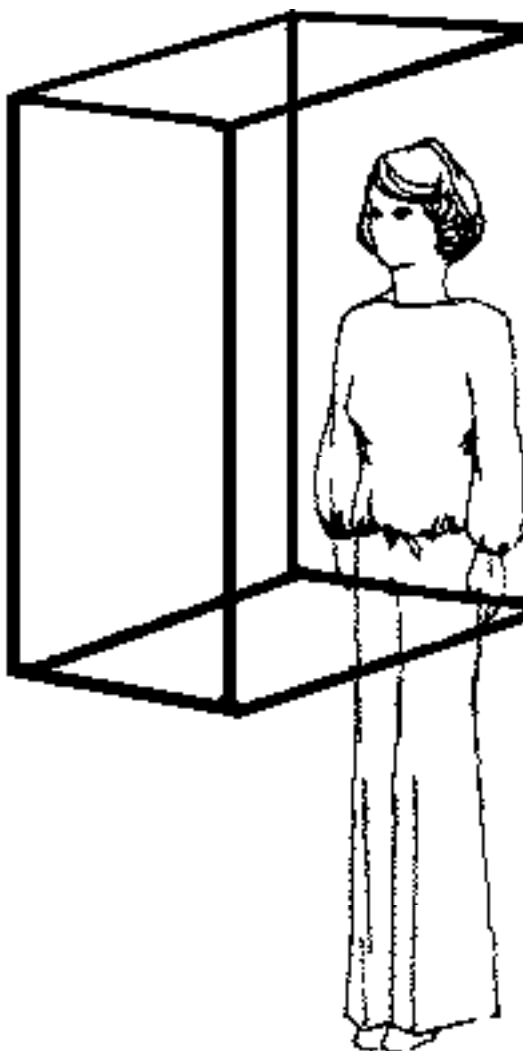


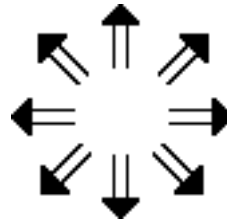
## Signing Space

Signing space is the area in which you move while you sign. It is the distance you can reach in front, below and above you. Signing space travels with you wherever you go....

Think of your signing space like a room. It has a front and back wall and a floor and ceiling. It is divided into planes. A plane is an imaginary flat surface that dissects your signing space.

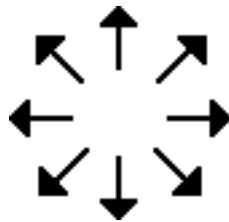
There are two planes used in SignWriting: the Wall Plane and the Floor Plane. The Wall Plane is parallel with the front and back walls. The Floor Plane is parallel with the floor and ceiling. All movement symbols in SignWriting relate to these two planes.





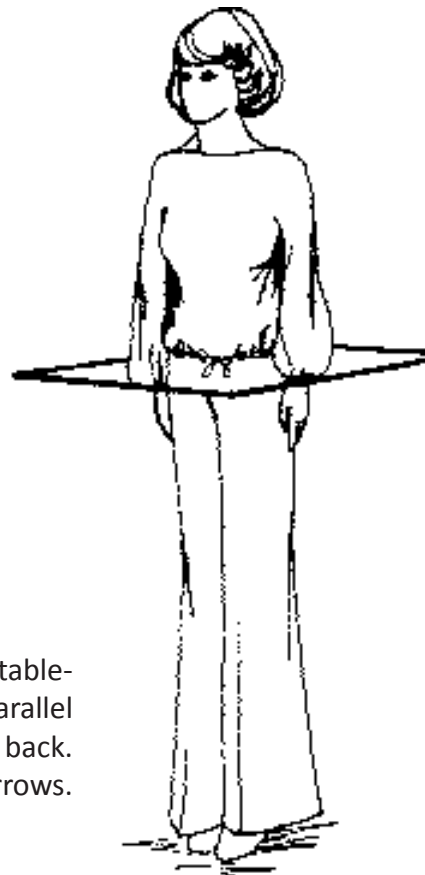
## Wall Plane

The Wall Plane cuts the body like a door, from side to side. Movement parallel with the Wall Plane is up and down. It is written with double-stemmed arrows.

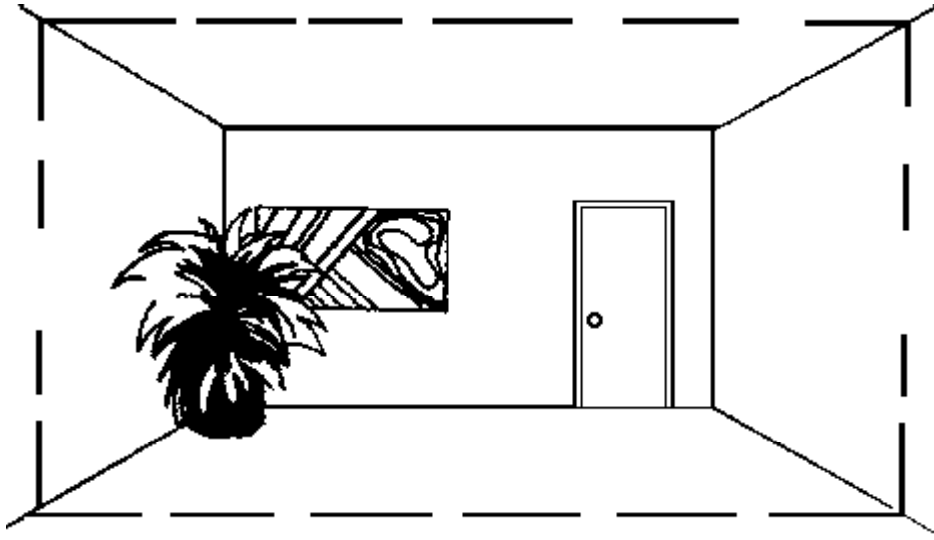


## Floor Plane

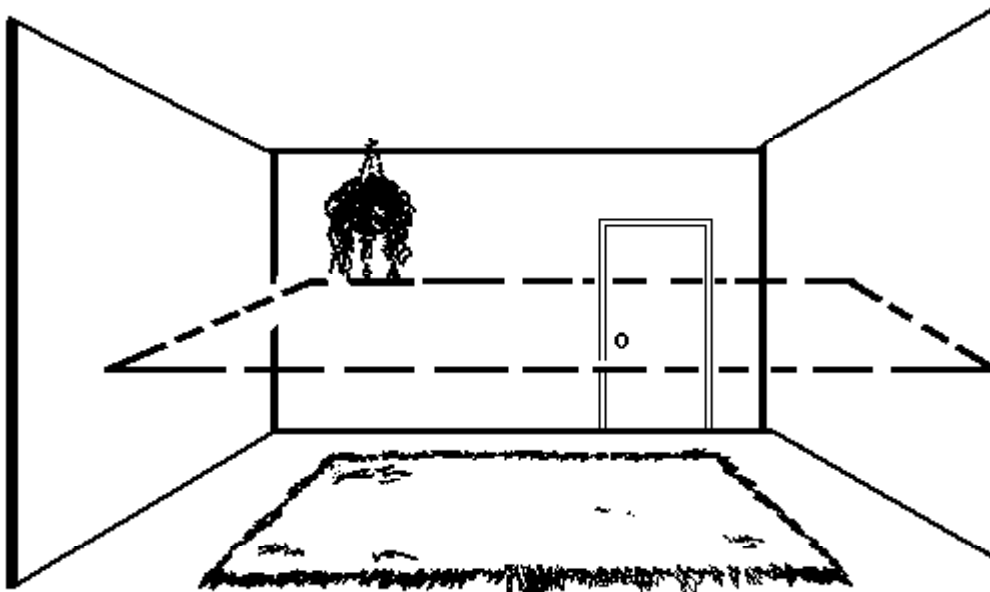
The Floor Plane cuts the body like a table-top, from front to back. Movement parallel with the Floor Plane is forward and back. It is written with single stemmed-arrows.



## The Planes

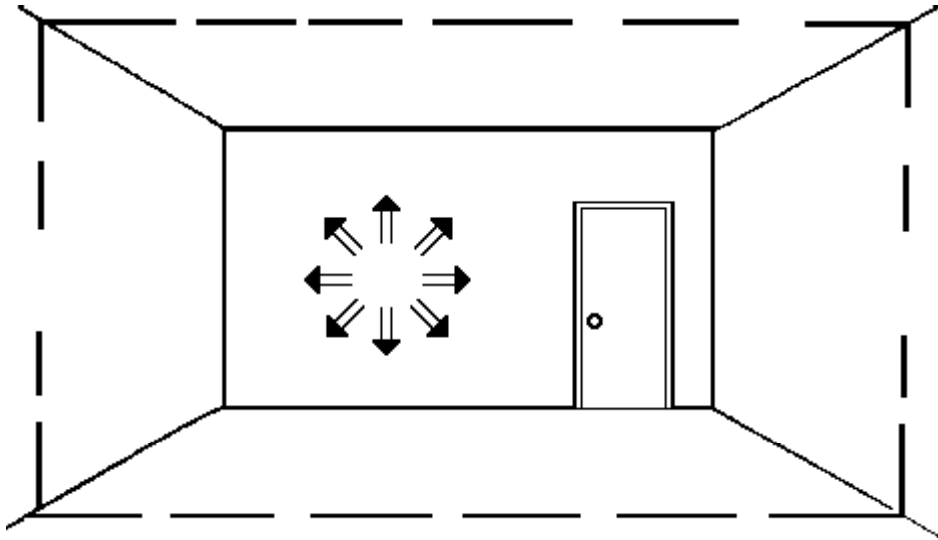


Wall Plane



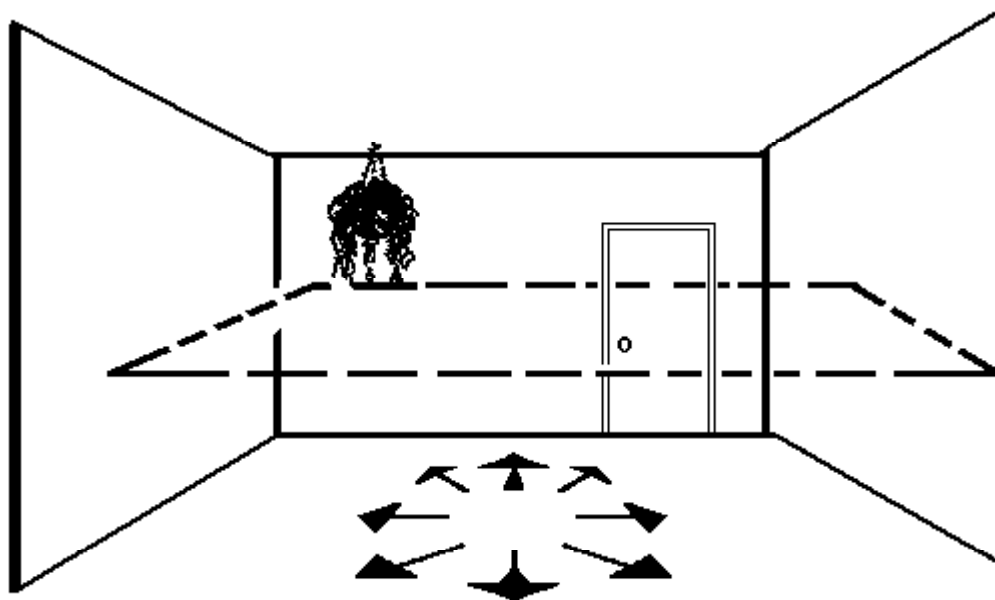
Floor Plane

## The Planes



### Wall Plane

Double-Stemmed Arrows



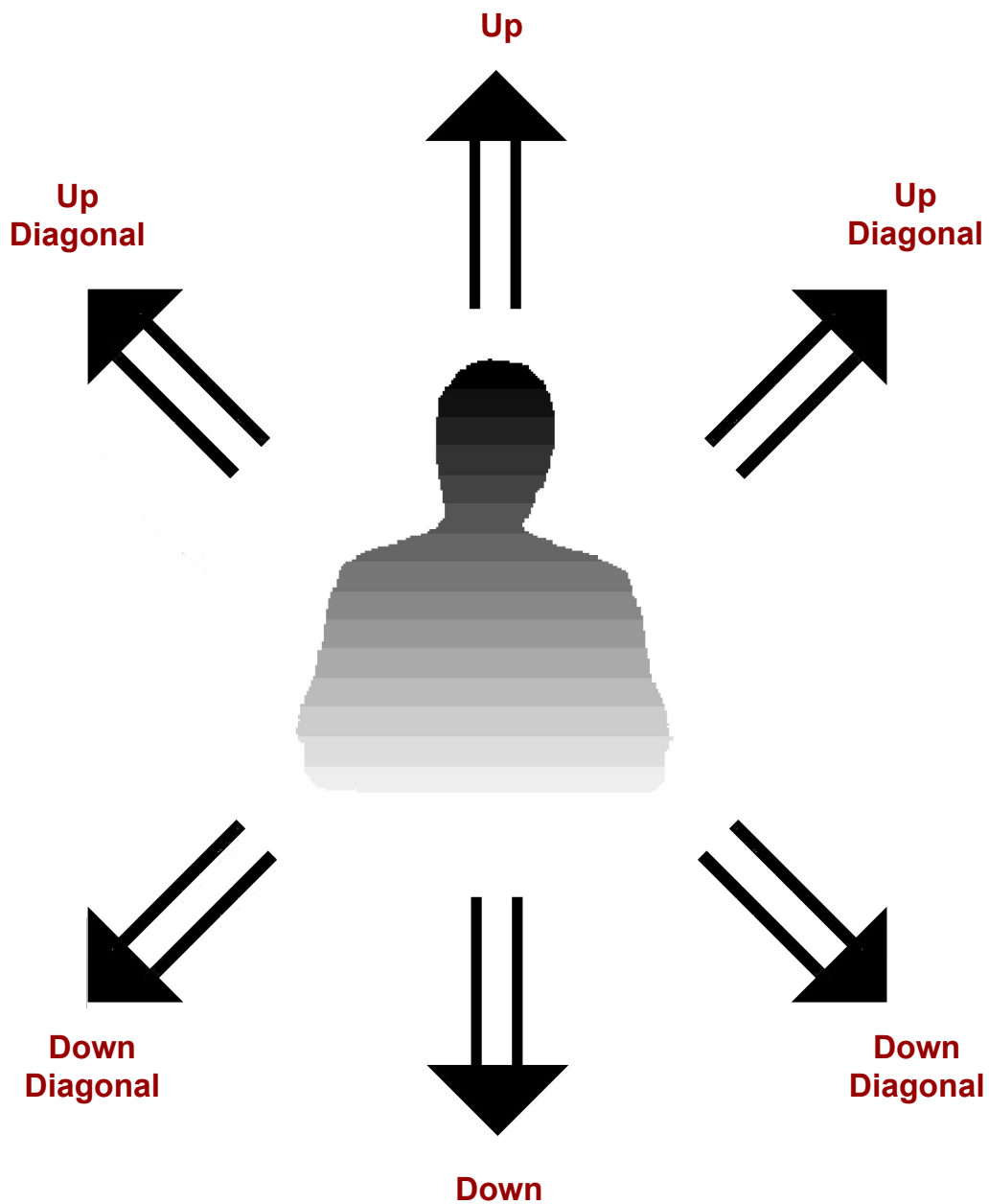
### Floor Plane

Single-Stemmed Arrows



# Up-Down Movement

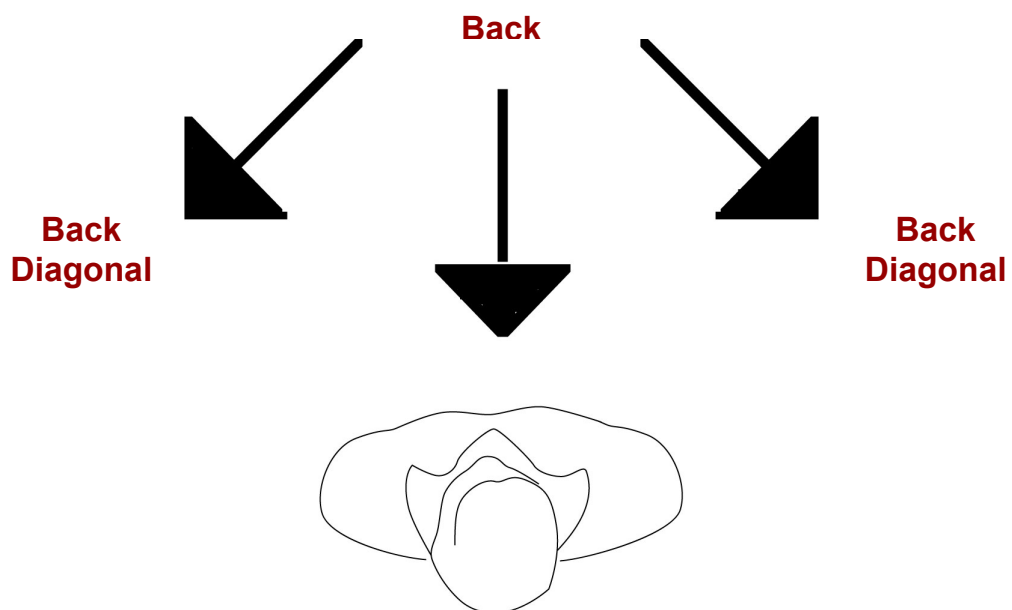
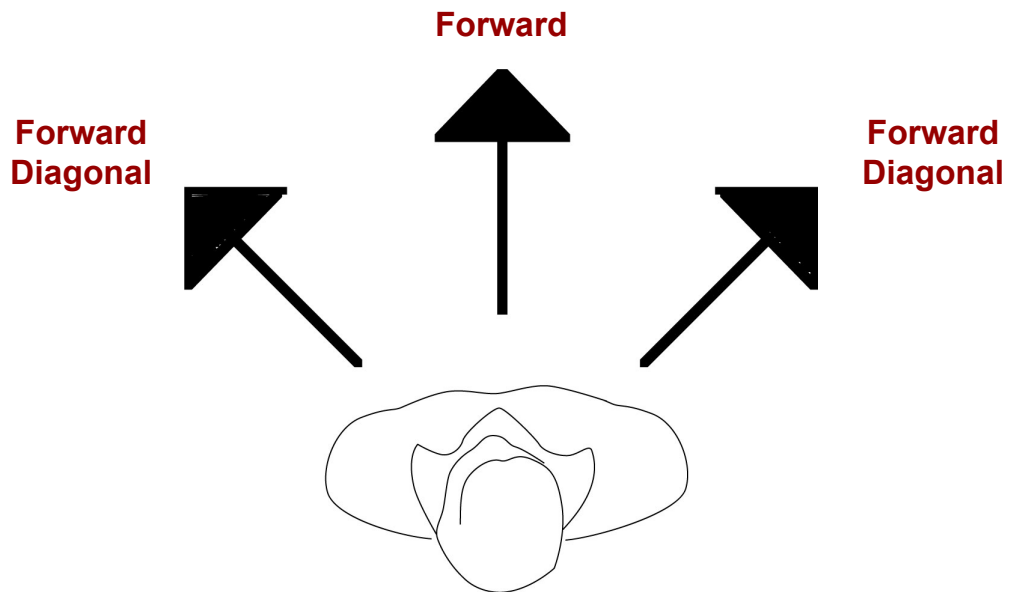
Up-Down Movement is parallel with the Front Wall or your chest.  
It is written with double-stemmed arrows:





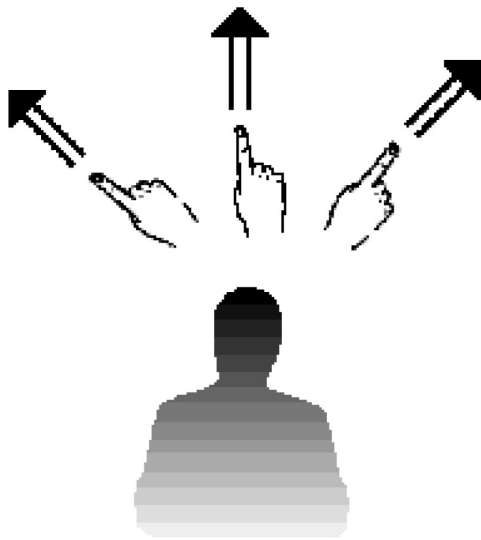
# Forward-Back Movement

Forward-Back Movement is parallel with the Floor or a table top.  
It is written with single-stemmed arrows:

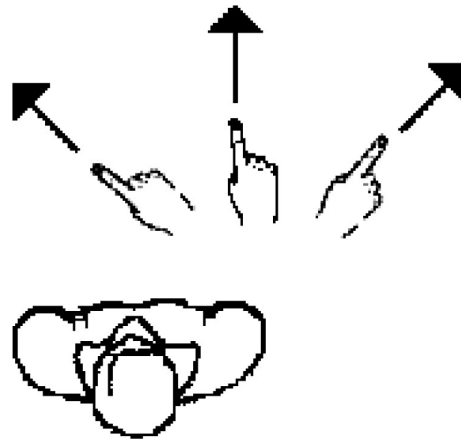


## Movement With The Right Hand

A dark arrowhead.



Front View

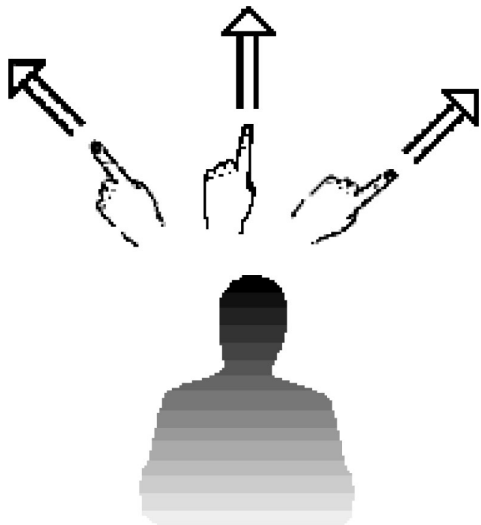


Top View

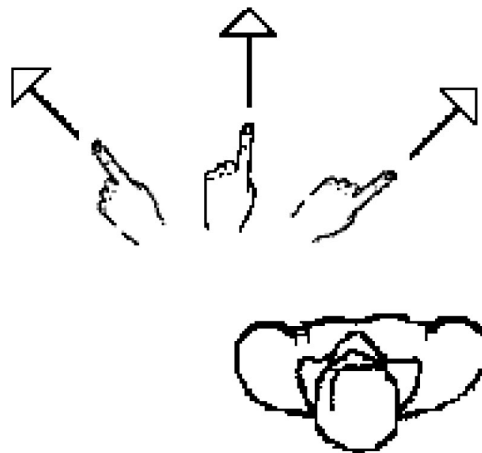
---

## Movement With The Left Hand

A light arrowhead.



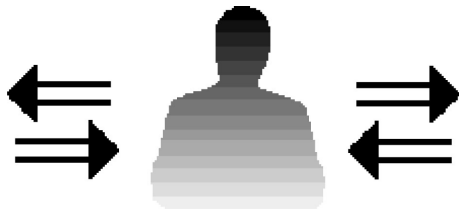
Front View



Top View

## Movement To The Side

Movement to the side can be viewed from either the Front View or the Top View. It can be written with either double-stemmed or single-stemmed arrows.



Front View



Top View

## General Arrowhead Writes Overlapping Paths

When a right movement arrow writes **ON TOP OF** a left movement arrow, the two movement paths **overlap each other**. The two arrows blend together. The dark arrowhead and the light arrowhead become one arrowhead, called the **General Arrowhead**.

Often the hands are contacting when moving in overlapping paths, but it is **NOT ONLY** for contacting hands. For example, two hands can be parallel, side by side, without contact, and then both move to the same side, so that the right arrow writes on top of the left arrow. This creates a **General Arrowhead**.



I help you.

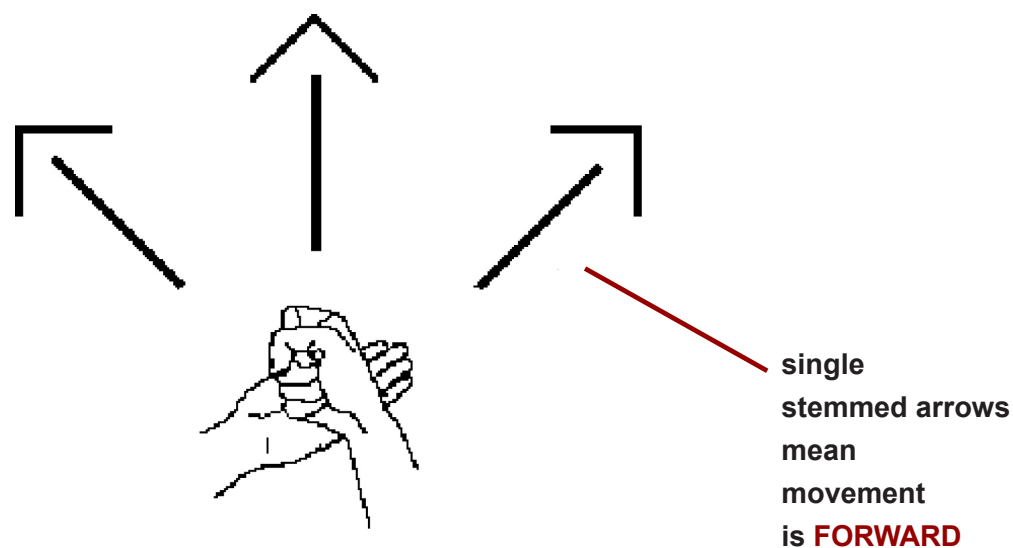
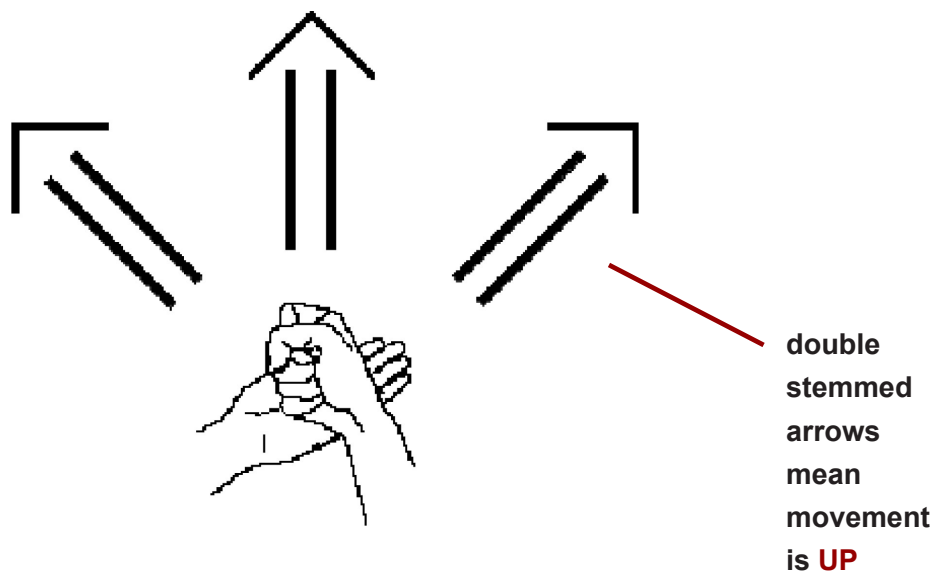


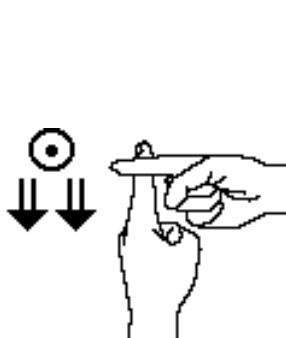
follow



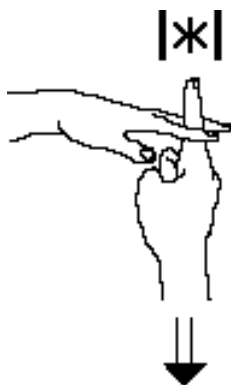
plan

## Do not confuse these arrows:





monthly



disappear



## Straight Movement

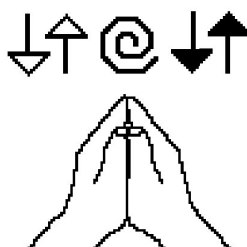


## Up or Down

A double-stemmed arrow means that the movement is straight up or down, parallel with the front wall. The movement is flat with the front of your body.



excuse me



eager



## Straight Movement



## Forward or Back

A single-stemmed arrow means that the movement is forward or back, parallel with the floor. You are looking down, on top of the movement.

## Up-Down Straight Movement

Up-Down movement is parallel with the Front Wall.

It is written with **double-stemmed** arrows:



### Wall-Plane-Straight

Movement From Elbow



### Wall-Plane-Corner

Straight-Corner



### Wall-Plane-Flex

Movement From Wrist



### Wall-Plane-Check

Diagonal-Corner-Straight



### Wall-Plane-Double

Small, Quick Movement



### Wall-Plane-Box

Straight-Corner-Straight



### Wall-Plane-Nod

Small, Quick Movement



### Wall-Plane-ZigZag

Straight-Corner-Diagonal



### Wall-Plane-Cross

Cross 1 Way, Then Other



### Wall-Plane-Peaks

Mountain Tops



### Wall-Plane-Triple

Small, Quick Movement



### Wall-Plane-Twist

Straight with Rotation



### Wall-Plane Nod-&-A-Half

Small, Quick Movement



### Wall-Plane-Twist-Twist

Straight with Rotation



### Wall-Plane-Rooftop

Diagonal-Straight

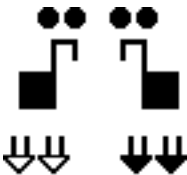
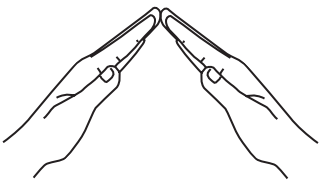
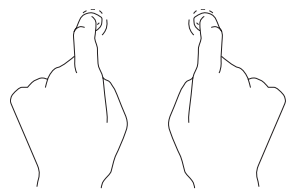


### Wall-Plane-Twist-Shake

Straight with Rotation

# Up-Down Straight Arrows

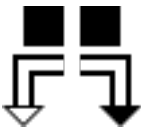
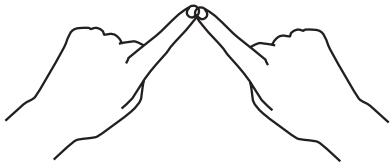
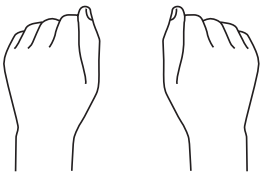
Movement Parallel With The Front Wall



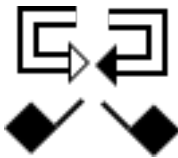
exam, test



house



system



square

# Forward-Back Straight Movement

Forward-Back movement is parallel with the floor.  
It is written with **single-stemmed** arrows:



## Floor-Plane-Straight

Movement From Elbow



## Floor-Plane-Corner

Straight-Corner



## Floor-Plane-Flex

Movement From Wrist



## Floor-Plane-Check

Diagonal-Corner-Straight



## Floor-Plane-Double

Small, Quick Movement



## Floor-Plane-Box

Straight-Corner-Straight



## Floor-Plane-Nod

Small, Quick Movement



## Floor-Plane-ZigZag

Straight-Corner-Diagonal



## Floor-Plane-Cross

Cross 1 Way, Then Other



## Floor-Plane-Peaks

Mountain Tops



## Floor-Plane-Triple

Small, Quick Movement



## Floor-Plane-Twist

Straight with Rotation



## Floor-Plane Nod-&-A-Half

Small, Quick Movement



## Floor-Plane-Twist-Twist

Straight with Rotation



## Floor-Plane-Road-Bend

Diagonal Straight



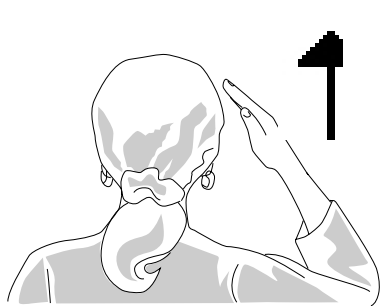
## Floor-Plane-Twist-Shake

Straight with Rotation



## Forward-Back Straight Arrows

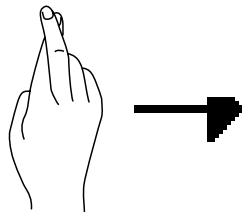
Straight movement parallel with the floor.



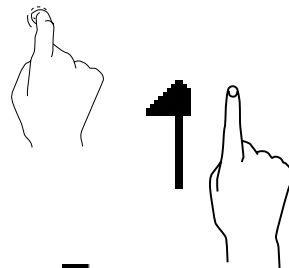
hello



nothing



right (direction)



ask a question

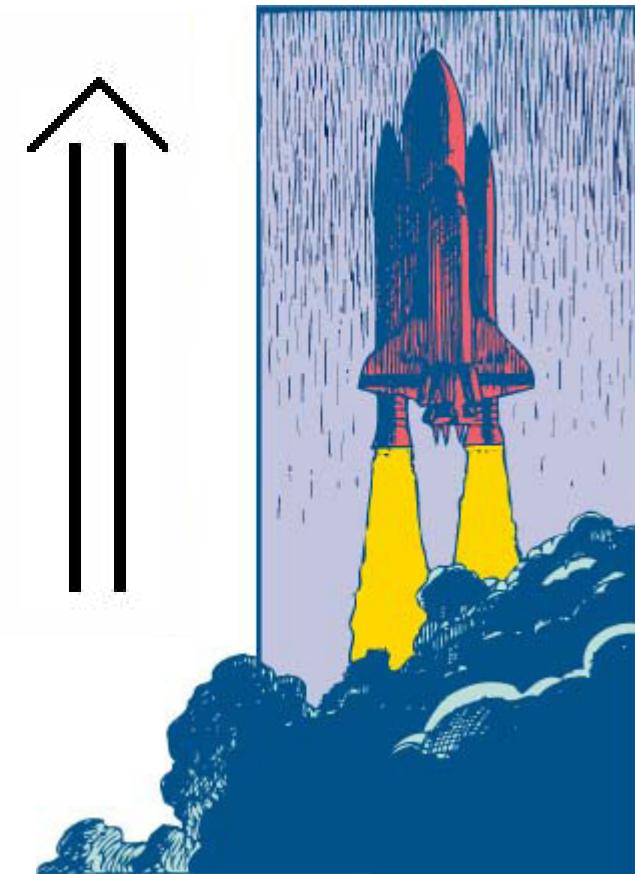


## Writing Movement On Diagonal Planes

Let's review what we have already learned!

Writing movement is based on imaginary planes that cut space. The Plane that is parallel with the front wall, is called the Wall Plane. Up-Down Movement is parallel with the Wall Plane. It is written with double-stemmed arrows.

Imagine a rocketship that travels straight up. Up Movement is written with double-stemmed arrows:

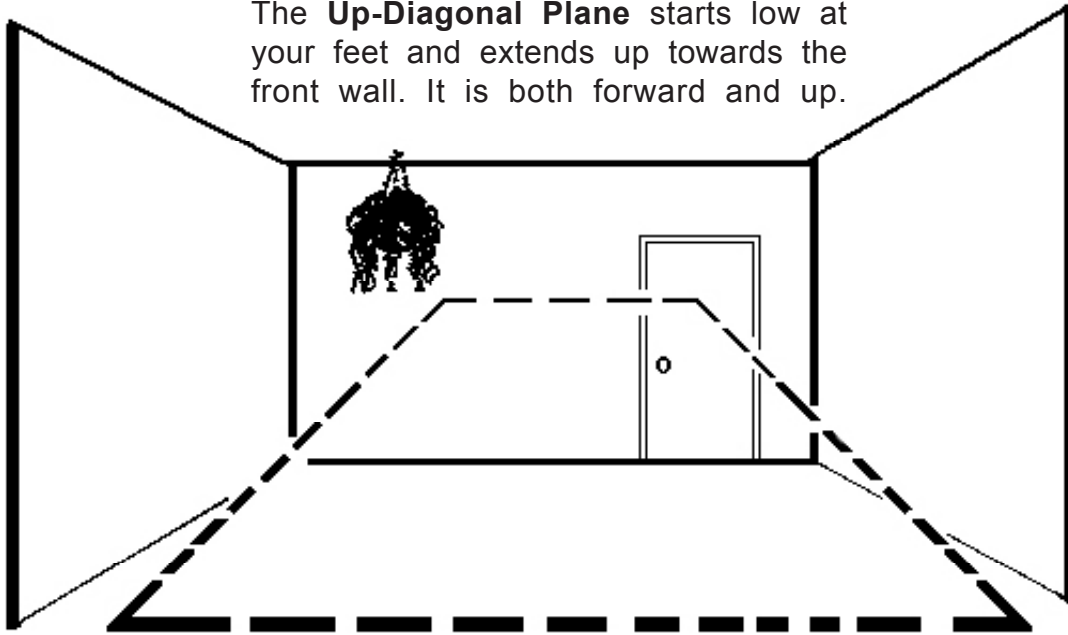


The Plane that is parallel with the floor, is called the Floor Plane. Forward-Back Movement is parallel with the Floor Plane. It is written with single-stemmed arrows. Imagine driving a car. Think of the line in the center of the road. Forward Movement is written with single-stemmed arrows:



## The Diagonal Plane

Space is also divided by diagonal planes. The **Up-Diagonal Plane** starts low at your feet and extends up towards the front wall. It is both forward and up.



## Forward or Back Diagonal

A horizontal bar means **away from your chest**.  
A dot means **towards your chest**.



### Up-Forward Diagonal Movement

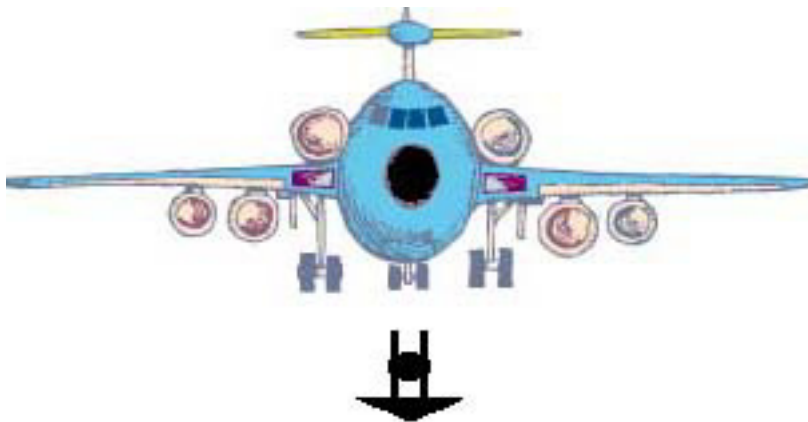
Imagine an airplane taking off, traveling toward the horizon. **Up-Forward-Diagonal-Movement** is written with a double stemmed arrow. A horizontal line, representing the horizon, crosses the stemline.



---

### Down-Back Diagonal Movement

Imagine an airplane coming in for a landing, traveling towards you. **Down-Back-Diagonal Movement** is written with double-stemmed arrows. A dark dot is written on the stem of the arrow. The dot represents the nose of the plane as it is coming towards you.



## Do Not Confuse These Arrows



Up



Up-Forward-Diagonal



Forward

---

## Do Not Confuse These Arrows



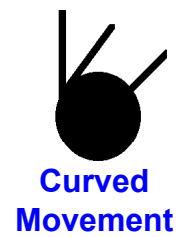
Down



Down-Back-Diagonal



Back



## Up-Down Curved Movement

Up-Down movement is parallel with the front wall. It is written with **double-stemmed** arrows:



1. Curve Up-Side



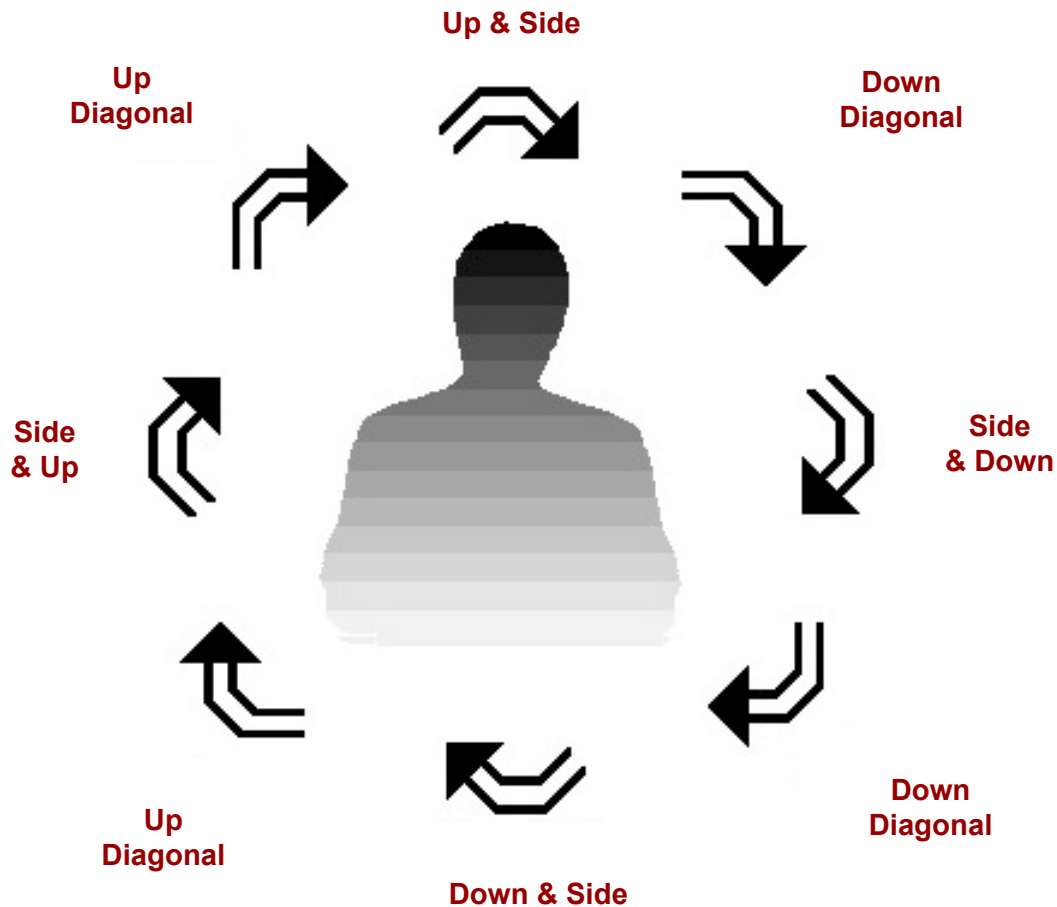
2. Curve Up-Up



3. Curve Up-Down-Up



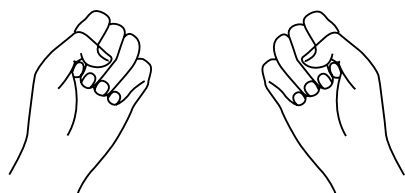
4. Curve Up-Loop-Up





## Up-Down Curved Arrows

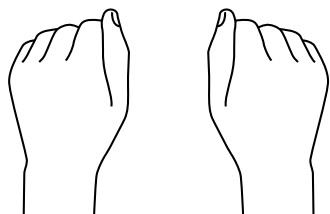
The curves are parallel with the wall.



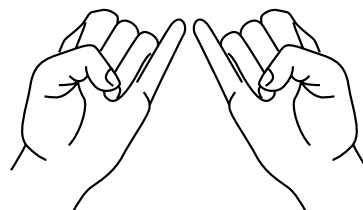
**drive**



**but**



**shape, figure**

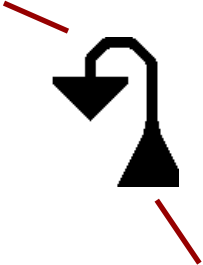


**spaghetti**

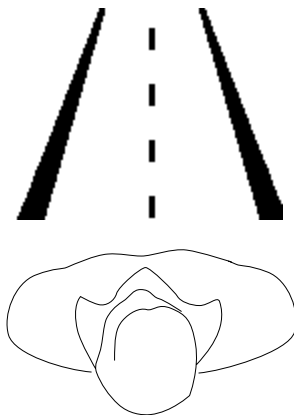
## Forward-Over or Back-Over Curved Movement

Forward-Back movement is parallel with the floor.  
It is written with **single-stemmed** arrows.

The thinner section means  
**far** from the body.



The thick, dark section means  
**close** to the body.



### Close & Far Perspective

Like looking down a road,  
**close** is wider and darker.



1. Forward-  
Over



2. Forward-Over-Over



3. Forward-Loop-Over



4. Forward-Over-Under



5. Back-Over



6. Back-Over-  
Over



7. Back-Loop-  
Over

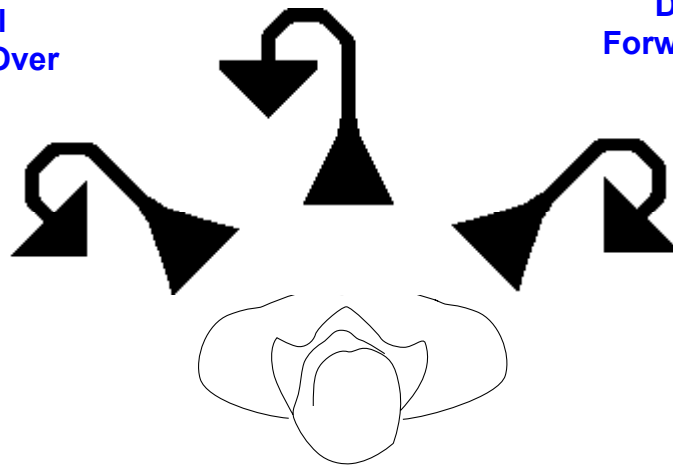


8. Back-Under-  
Over

**Forward & Over**

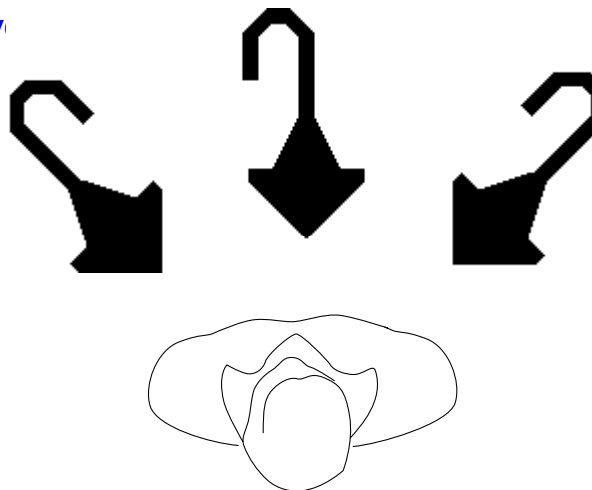
**Diagonal  
Forward & Over**

**Diagonal  
Forward & Over**



**Diagonal  
Back & Over**

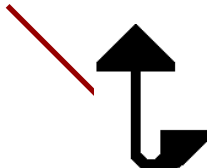
**Diagonal  
Back & Over**



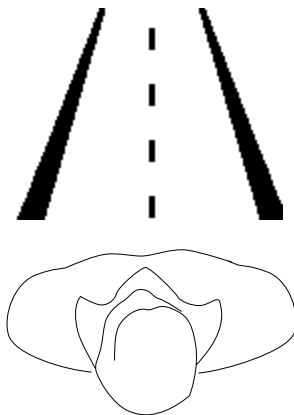
## Forward-Under or Back-Under Curved Movement

Forward-Back movement is parallel with the floor.  
It is written with **single-stemmed** arrows.

The thinner section means  
**far** from the body.



The thick, dark section means  
**close** to the body.



### Close & Far Perspective

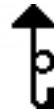
Like looking down a road,  
**close** is wider and darker.



1. Forward-Under



2. Forward-Under-Under



3. Forward-Loop-Under



4. Forward-Under-Over



5. Back-Under:



6. Back-Under-Under



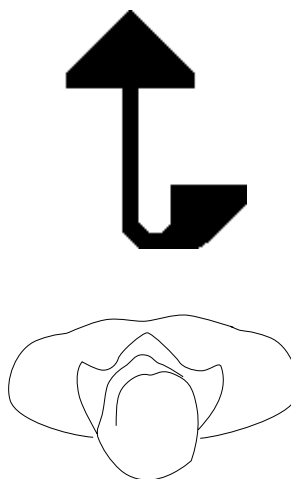
7. Back-Loop-Under



8. Back-Over-Under

### Forward & Under

Diagonal  
Forward & Under



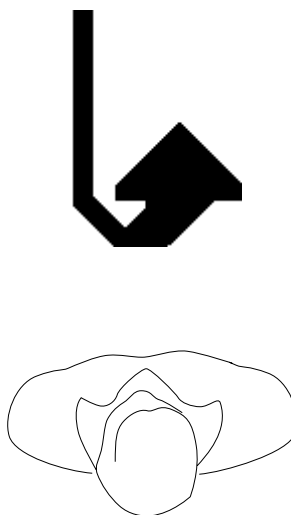
Diagonal  
Forward & Under



---

### Back & Under

Diagonal  
Back & Under



Diagonal  
Back & Under



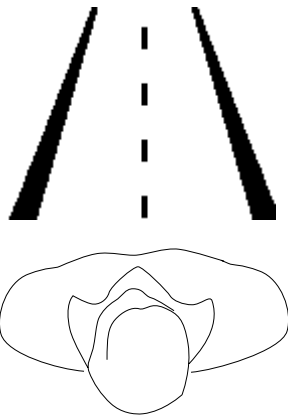
## Forward-Side or Back-Side Curved Movement

The movement is parallel with the floor.  
It is written with **single-stemmed** arrows.

The thinner section means  
**far** from the body.



The thick, dark section means  
**close** to the body.



### Close & Far Perspective

Like looking down a road,  
**close** is wider and darker.



1. Forward-Side



2. Forward-Side-Side



3. Forward-Loop-Side



4. Forward-Side-Back-Side



5. Back-Side



6. Back-Side-Side

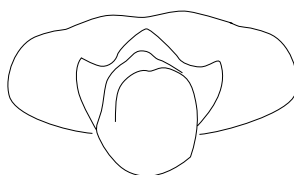


7. Back-Loop-Side



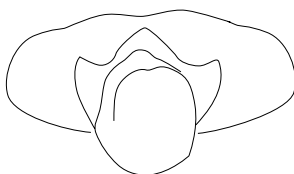
8. Back-Side-Forward-Side

## Forward & Side



---

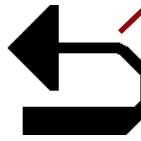
## Back & Side



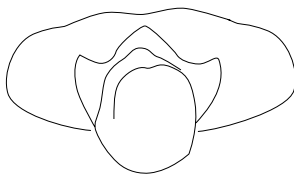
## Side-Forward-Side or Side-Back-Side Curved Movement

Forward-Back movement is parallel with the floor.  
It is written with **single-stemmed** arrows.

The thinner section means  
**far** from the body.



The thick, dark section means  
**close** to the body.



**Close & Far Perspective**  
Like looking down a road,  
**close** is wider and darker.



1. Side-Forward-Side



2. Side-Forward-Side Twice



3. Side-Forward-Side Loop



4. Side-Forward-Side Snake



5. Side-Back-Side



6. Side-Back-Side Twice



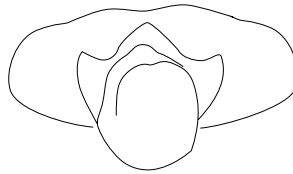
7. Side-Back-Side Loop



8. Side-Back-Side Snake

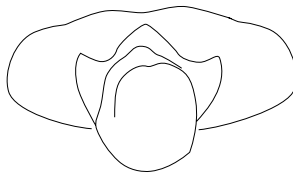


## Side-Forward-Side



---

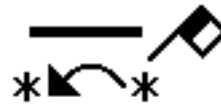
## Side-Back-Side



## Forward-Back Curved Arrows

The curves are parallel with the floor.

across



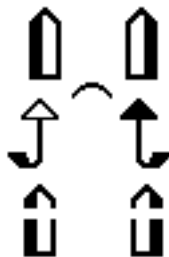
we

grandmother



us

allow



workshop

announce



area



**Axial  
Movement**

## Axial Movement

### Axial Movement

There are two types of Axial Movement:

1. Rotation Movement of the Forearm
2. Flexing Movement of the Wrist

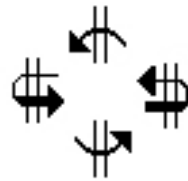
### Rotation

SignWriting includes symbols which show rotation movements made with your forearm. The forearm does not travel. It stays in one place and rotates.

Rotation Symbols place a curved arrow on an **"axis"**. The **"axis-line"** represents the forearm. The rotation revolves around this axis.

A double-lined **axis-line** represents an axis that is parallel with the wall. The forearm is up and the rotation revolves around this **up-down axis**:

Forearm points upward, rotates:



Right forearm is up. Rotation describes the curve of the baby finger forward and side. The forearm does not travel, but stays in place (see note below).



Right forearm is up. Rotation describes the curve of the thumb back towards the chest and then side. The forearm stays in place. (see note below).

Note: The two movements above are technically the same. The difference is the **feeling of the baby finger** or the **feeling of the thumb** leading the rotation. Some signs **push** and some signs **pull**. See **Push-Pull Writing Rules**.



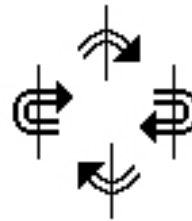
Right forearm is up. Rotation describes the curve of the baby finger side, forward, and then side again. The forearm does not travel, but simply rotates in place.



Right forearm is up. Rotation describes the curve of the thumb side, back and then side again. The forearm does not travel, but simply rotates in place.

A single-lined "axis-line" represents an axis parallel with the floor. When the forearm is pointing forward, parallel with the floor, the "axis-line" is a single line pointing forward:

Forearm points forward, rotates



Right forearm is forward, parallel with the floor. Rotation describes the curve of the thumb up and side. The forearm does not travel, but stays in place.



Right forearm is forward, parallel with the floor. Rotation describes the curve of the baby finger down and side. The forearm stays in place as it rotates.

Note: The two movements above are technically the same. The difference is the **feeling of the baby finger** or the **feeling of the thumb** leading the rotation. Some signs **push** and some signs **pull**. See **Push-Pull Writing Rules**.



Right forearm is forward, parallel with the floor.  
Rotation describes the curve of the baby finger  
side, down and side again.



Right forearm is forward, parallel with the floor.  
Rotation describes the curve of the thumb side,  
up and side again.

Note: The two movements above are technically the same.  
The difference is the **feeling of the baby finger** or the  
**feeling of the thumb** leading the rotation. Some signs  
**push** and some signs **pull**. See **Push-Pull Writing Rules**.

Rotation, Forearm Up  
Forearm Parallel with Front Wall



**class**

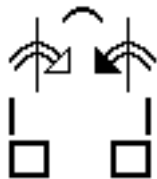


**close**

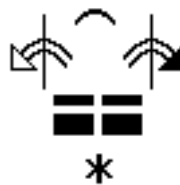


**finish**

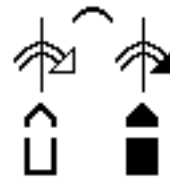
Rotation, Forearm Forward  
Forearm Parallel with Floor



**happen**



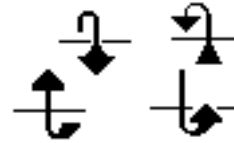
**break**



**dead**

When the forearm is parallel with the floor, but pointing side, the "axis-line" is a single horizontal line pointing side.

Forearm points sideways, rotates



Right forearm is side, parallel with the floor. Rotation describes the curve forward, up and over. The forearm does not travel, but stays in place as it rotates.



Right forearm is side, parallel with the floor. Rotation describes the curve back, up and over. The forearm does not travel, but stays in one place as it rotates.



Right forearm is side, parallel with the floor. Rotation describes the curve forward, down and under. The forearm does not travel, but stays in place.



Right forearm is side, parallel with the floor. Rotation describes the curve back, down and under. The forearm does not travel, but stays in one place as it rotates.

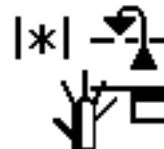
Rotation, Forearm Side  
Forearm Parallel with Floor



third



apple



begin

## Side-Over & Side-Down-Side Rotations



1. Side-Over  
Single Rotation



2. Side-Over  
Double Rotation



3. Side-Over  
Alternating Rotation



4. Side-Down-Side  
Single Rotation



5. Side-Down-Side  
Double Rotation



6. Side-Down-Side  
Alternating Rotation

## Side-Under & Side-Up-Side Rotations



1. Side-Under  
Single Rotation



2. Side-Under  
Double Rotation



3. Side-Under  
Alternating Rotation



4. Side-Up-Side  
Single Rotation



5. Side-Up-Side  
Double Rotation



6. Side-Up-Side  
Alternating Rotation



aerobics









baptism









broom



## Forward-Over & Back-Over Rotations

-  1. Forward-Over Single Rotation
-  2. Forward-Over Double Rotation
-  3. Forward-Over Alternating Rotation
-  4. Back-Over Single Rotation
-  5. Back-Over Double Rotation
-  6. Back-Over Alternating Rotation

## Forward-Under & Back-Under Rotations

-  1. Forward-Under Single Rotation
-  2. Forward-Under Double Rotation
-  3. Forward-Under Alternating Rotation
-  4. Back-Under Single Rotation
-  5. Back-Under Double Rotation
-  6. Back-Under Alternating Rotation



apple



bald



weight

## Forward-Side & Back-Side Rotations



1. Forward-Side  
Single Rotation



2. Forward-Side  
Double Rotation



3. Forward-Side  
Alternating Rotation



4. Back-Side  
Single Rotation



5. Back-Side  
Double Rotation



6. Back-Side  
Alternating Rotation

## Side-Forward-Side & Side-Back-Side Rotations



1. Side-Forward-Side  
Single Rotation



2. Side-Forward-Side  
Double Rotation



3. Side-Forward-Side  
Alternating Rotation



4. Side-Back-Side  
Single Rotation



5. Side-Back-Side  
Double Rotation



6. Side-Back-Side  
Alternating Rotation



blue



comparison



books

## Traveling Rotation

A few movement symbols combine "traveling" movement with an added rotation. The forearm rotates as the arm moves in a specific direction. The rotation symbol is placed on the stem line of the arrow.



### Wall-Plane-Twist

Straight with Rotation



### Floor-Plane-Twist

Straight with Rotation



### Wall-Plane-Twist-Twist

Straight with Rotation



### Floor-Plane-Twist-Twist

Straight with Rotation



### Wall-Plane-Twist-Shake

Straight with Rotation



### Floor-Plane-Twist-Shake

Straight with Rotation

---

## Shaking Rotation

Shaking Rotation does not define how many rotations you make. Instead, it is a fast, shaking motion. It can be written with or without an arrowhead. The dark and light arrowheads are needed at times, to show which arm is doing the shaking:



## Wrist-Flexing Movement

The wrist remains stable while the hand moves in different directions. This flexing motion is written with a horizontal line cutting the wrist. The horizontal line represents the axis of motion. Small arrows point in the direction of the flexing motion. The arrows represent the direction of the hand as it moves.



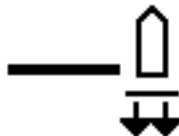
**ASL Sign For "Yes-Yes"**  
Wrist Flexing Down Twice



**ASL Sign For "Flag"**  
Wrist Flexing Forward  
and Back Towards the Chest



**chat**



**before**



**basketball**



**Circular  
Movement**

# Circular Movement





## Arm Circles

Arm circles parallel to the Wall Plane are double-stemmed circles. Arrows mark exactly where the circular movement starts. When reading Circle Symbols, place your hand where the arrows are located on the circle, and then move in the direction of the arrows.

### Single Arm Circles

#### Side-To-Side

Parallel Wall Plane

-  1. One Circle Starts High
-  2. One Circle Starts High-Diagonal-Right
-  3. One Circle Starts Right Side
-  4. One Circle Starts Low-Diagonal-Right
-  5. One Circle Starts Low
-  6. One Circle Starts Low-Diagonal-Left
-  7. One Circle Starts Left Side
-  8. One Circle Starts High-Diagonal-Left

### Double Arm Circles

#### Side-To-Side

Parallel Wall Plane

-  1. Two Circles Start High
-  2. Two Circles Start High-Diagonal-Right
-  3. Two Circles Start Right Side
-  4. Two Circles Start Low-Diagonal-Right
-  5. Two Circles Start Low
-  6. Two Circles Start Low-Diagonal-Left
-  7. Two Circles Start Left Side
-  8. Two Circles Start High-Diagonal-Left

**Single Circles**  
**Forward-Back**  
 Sagittal & Floor Planes

1. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
2. Forward-Back Circle  
Left High Diagonal
3. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Floor
4. Forward-Back Circle  
Left Low Diagonal
5. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
6. Forward-Back Circle  
Right Low Diagonal
7. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Floor
8. Forward-Back Circle  
Right High Diagonal

**Double Circles**  
**Forward-Back**  
 Sagittal & Floor Planes

1. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
2. Forward-Back Circle  
Left High Diagonal
3. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Floor
4. Forward-Back Circle  
Left Low Diagonal
5. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
6. Forward-Back Circle  
Right Low Diagonal
7. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Floor
8. Forward-Back Circle  
Right High Diagonal



ideas



international



inferior

## Wrist Circles

Wrist circles are written with solid lines. Arrows are placed outside the circle. When reading Wrist Circle Symbols, place your hand at the arrow, and then move in that direction.

### Single Wrist Circles Side-To-Side

Parallel Wall Plane



1. One Circle  
Starts High



2. One Circle Starts  
High-Diagonal-Right



3. One Circle  
Starts Right Side



4. One Circle Starts  
Low-Diagonal-Right



5. One Circle  
Starts Low



6. One Circle Starts  
Low-Diagonal-Left



7. One Circle  
Starts Left Side



8. One Circle Starts  
High-Diagonal-Left

### Double Wrist Circles Side-To-Side

Parallel Wall Plane



1. Two Circles  
Start High



2. Two Circles Start  
High-Diagonal-Right



3. Two Circles  
Start Right Side



4. Two Circles Start  
Low-Diagonal-Right



5. Two Circles  
Start Low



6. Two Circles Start  
Low-Diagonal-Left









7. Two Circles  
Start Left Side








8. Two Circles Start  
High-Diagonal-Left



**Single Wrist Circles**  
**Forward-Back**  
 Sagittal & Floor Planes

-  1. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  2. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  3. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  4. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  5. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with  
Floor
-  6. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Floor

**Double Wrist Circles**  
**Forward-Back**  
 Sagittal & Floor Planes

-  1. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  2. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  3. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  4. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Side Wall
-  5. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with  
Floor
-  6. Forward-Back Circle  
Parallel with Floor



who



hearing person



beautiful

## Arm & Wrist Circles

festival



imagine



beautiful



hot



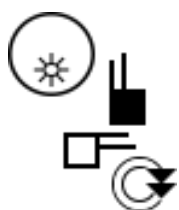
establish



same  
continuously



use



worried

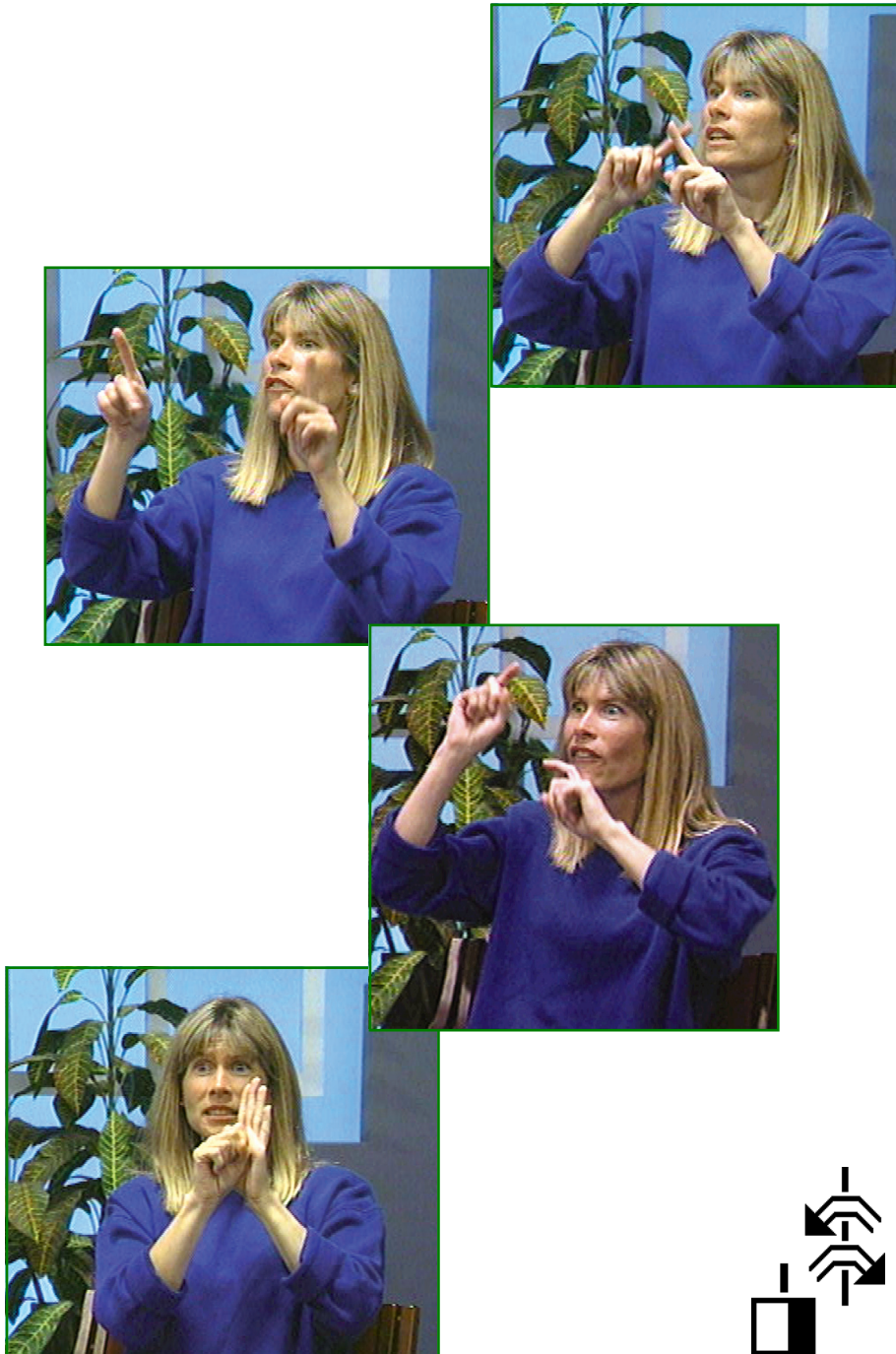


who



who





**Facial  
Expressions**

## Facial Expressions

There are ten groups of facial expressions, including the forehead, eyebrows, eyes & eyegaze, ears & cheeks, breathing & nose, mouth, tongue, teeth, chin and other parts.

### Facial Circle



Neutral  
Facial Circle

### Eyebrows



Eyebrows Up



Right Eyebrow Up



Left Eyebrow Up



Eyebrows Neutral



Right Eyebrow Neutral



Left Eyebrow Neutral



Eyebrows Down



Right Eyebrow Down



Left Eyebrow Down

### Forehead



Neutral  
Forehead



Wrinkled  
Forehead

**Eyebrows**  
continued...



**Eyebrows Down Inside**



**Right Eyebrow Down Inside**



**Left Eyebrow Down Inside**



**Eyebrows Up Inside**



**Right Eyebrow Up Inside**



**Left Eyebrow Up Inside**



**Eyebrows Down Outside**



**Right Eyebrow Down Outside**



**Left Eyebrow Down Outside**



**Eyebrows Up Outside**



**Right Eyebrow Up Outside**



**Left Eyebrow Up Outside**

## Eyes



Eyes Open



Bug Eyes



Right Eye Open



Eyes Half Open



Left Eye Open



Right Eye Half Open



Eyes Squint



Left Eye Half Open



Right Eye Squints



Eyes Half Shut



Left Eye Squints



Right Eye Half Shut



Eyes Closed



Left Eye Half Shut



Right Eye Closed



Eyelashes



Left Eye Closed



Right Eyelash



Eyes Squeezed  
Tightly Together



Left Eyelash

## Eyegaze



Eyegaze Up



Eyegaze  
Up-Diagonal



Eyegaze Side



Eyegaze  
Down-Diagonal



Eyegaze Down



Eyegaze  
Down-Diagonal



Eyegaze Side



Eyegaze  
Up-Diagonal



Eyegaze Forward



Eyegaze  
Forward-Diagonal



Eyegaze Side



Eyegaze  
Back-Diagonal



Eyegaze Back



Eyegaze  
Back-Diagonal



Eyegaze Side



Eyegaze  
Forward-Diagonal

## Ears



Ears



Right Ear



Left Ear

## Cheeks



**Cheeks  
Filled With Air**



**Right Cheek  
Filled With Air**



**Left Cheek  
Filled With Air**



**Cheeks  
Without Air**



**Right Cheek  
Without Air**



**Left Cheek  
Without Air**



**Cheeks  
Sucked-In**



**Right Cheek  
Sucked-In**



**Left Cheek  
Sucked-In**



**Cheeks  
Tense High**



**Right Cheek  
Tense High**



**Left Cheek  
Tense High**



**Cheeks  
Tense Middle**



**Right Cheek  
Tense Middle**



**Left Cheek  
Tense Middle**



**Cheeks  
Tense Low**



**Right Cheek  
Tense Low**



**Left Cheek  
Tense Low**



**Whole Face  
Over To The Right**



**Whole Face  
Over To The Left**



## Breathing



Air Out



Air In



Exhale



Inhale

## Nose



Neutral  
Nose



Contact  
Tip of Nose



Wrinkle  
Nose



Wiggle  
Nose

## Mouth



Mouth Neutral  
Straight, Closed



Closed Mouth  
Protrudes Forward



Closed Smile



Closed Smile  
with Pressure on  
Sides of Mouth



Open Smile,  
Half Straight



Closed Frown



Closed Frown  
with Pressure on  
Sides of Mouth



Half Frown,  
Half Straight



Open Mouth

























Open Mouth  
Protrudes Forward



Open Mouth  
Wrinkles Around  
Sides of the Mouth

**Mouth**  
continued...

	Oval Open Mouth Horizontal		Double Wrinkles Left Side Mouth
	Rectangular Open Mouth Horizontal		Single Wrinkles Around Mouth
	Oval Open Mouth Vertical (Yawn)		Single Wrinkle Right Side Mouth
	Rectangular Open Mouth Vertical		Single Wrinkle Left Side Mouth
	Kiss		Tense Lips
	Kiss Protrudes Forward		Tense Lips Protrude Forward
	Lips Sucked In Pressed Together		Tense Lips Sucked Back
	Upper Lip Over Lower Lip		Lip Corners Both Up
	Lower Lip Over Upper Lip		Lip Corner Up Right
	Double Wrinkles Around Mouth		Lip Corner Up Left
	Double Wrinkles Right Side Mouth		Upper Lip Up In the Middle

## Tongue



Tongue Sticks  
Outside & Up



Tongue Sticks  
Outside &  
Up Diagonal



Tongue Sticks  
Outside & Side



Tongue Sticks  
Outside &  
Down Diagonal



Tongue Sticks  
Outside & Down



Tongue Sticks  
Outside &  
Down Diagonal



Tongue Sticks  
Outside & Side



Tongue Sticks  
Outside &  
Up Diagonal



Tongue Sticks  
Outside Straight  
Center Mouth



Tongue Sticks  
Outside Curled  
Center Mouth



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside & Up



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside &  
Up Diagonal



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside & Side



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside &  
Down Diagonal



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside & Down



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside &  
Down Diagonal



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside & Side



Tongue Licks Lip  
Outside &  
Up Diagonal

**Tongue**  
continued...



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside Up**



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside  
Up Diagonal**



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside  
Side Left**



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside Down  
Diagonal**



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside  
Down**



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside  
Down Diagonal**



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside  
Side Right**



**Tongue Tip  
Touches Inside  
Up Diagonal**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Roof Mouth**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Up Diagonal**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Left Side**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Down  
Diagonal**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Bottom**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Down  
Diagonal**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Right Side**



**Tongue Inside  
Rests Up Diagonal**

## Teeth



Teeth Neutral  
Mouth Open



Upper Teeth  
Touch Tongue



Lower Teeth  
Touch Tongue



Upper Teeth  
Touch Lower Lip



Lower Teeth  
Touch Upper Lip



Teeth Bite Lip



Teeth Bite  
Right Side of Lip



Teeth Bite  
Left Side of Lip

## Chin



Chin Up



Chin  
Up-Diagonal



Chin Side



Chin  
Down-Diagonal



Chin Down



Chin  
Down-Diagonal



Chin Side



Chin  
Up-Diagonal

## Chin continued...



Chin Forward



Chin  
Forward-Diagonal



Chin Side



Chin  
Back-Diagonal



Chin Back



Chin  
Back-Diagonal



Chin Side



Chin  
Forward-Diagonal

## Other



Question  
Face



Neck



Back of Head



Excited

















Hair



**The Head**

# The Head

The Head can be seen from different viewpoints:

	Front View		Contact Center Front of Face
	Back View		Contact Center Back of Head
	Side View		Contact Center Side of Head
	Side View		Contact Center Side of Head
	Top View Facing Front		Contact Center Top of Head
	Top View Facing Diagonal		Contact Center Top of Head
	Top View Facing Diagonal		Contact Center Top of Head



# Rim of Head & Face

## Front View Rim of Front of Face



Rim Of Face  
Chin



Rim Of Face  
Diagonal Low



Rim Of Face  
Cheek



Rim Of Face  
Diagonal High



Rim Of Face High,  
Between Forehead and  
Top of Head



Rim Of Face  
Diagonal High



Rim Of Face  
Cheek



Rim Of Face  
Diagonal Low

## Back View Rim of Back of Head



Rim Back of Head  
Low (Above Neck)



Rim Back of Head  
Diagonal Low



Rim Back of Head  
Behind Ear



Rim Back of Head  
Diagonal High



Rim Back of Head  
High



Rim Back of Head  
Diagonal High



Rim Back of Head  
Behind Ear



Rim Back of Head  
Diagonal Low

## Rim of Head & Face

### Top View Rim of Top of Head



Rim Top of Head  
Back



Rim Top of Head  
Diagonal Back



Rim Top of Head  
Side



Rim Top of Head  
Diagonal Forward



Rim Top of Head  
Forward



Rim Top of Head  
Diagonal Forward



Rim Top of Head  
Side



Rim Top of Head  
Diagonal Back

### Side View Rim of Side of Head



Rim Side of Head  
Under Ear



Rim Side of Head  
Diagonal Low



Rim Side of Head  
Towards Nose



Rim Side of Head  
Diagonal High



Rim Side of Head  
Over Ear



Rim Side of Head  
Diagonal High



Rim Side of Head  
Towards Back



Rim Side of Head  
Diagonal Low

## Rim of Head & Face

### Front View Relating To The Side of Head



Relating to  
Under Chin



Relating to  
Side of Head  
Down Diagonal



Relating to  
Side of Head



Relating to  
Side of Head  
Up Diagonal



Relating to  
Top of Head



Relating to  
Side of Head  
Up Diagonal



Relating to  
Side of Head



Relating to  
Side of Head  
Down Diagonal

### Front View Touching The Side of Head



Touching  
Under Chin



Touching  
Side of Head  
Down Diagonal



Touching  
Side of Head



Touching  
Side of Head  
Up Diagonal



Touching  
Top of Head



Touching  
Side of Head  
Up Diagonal



Touching  
Side of Head



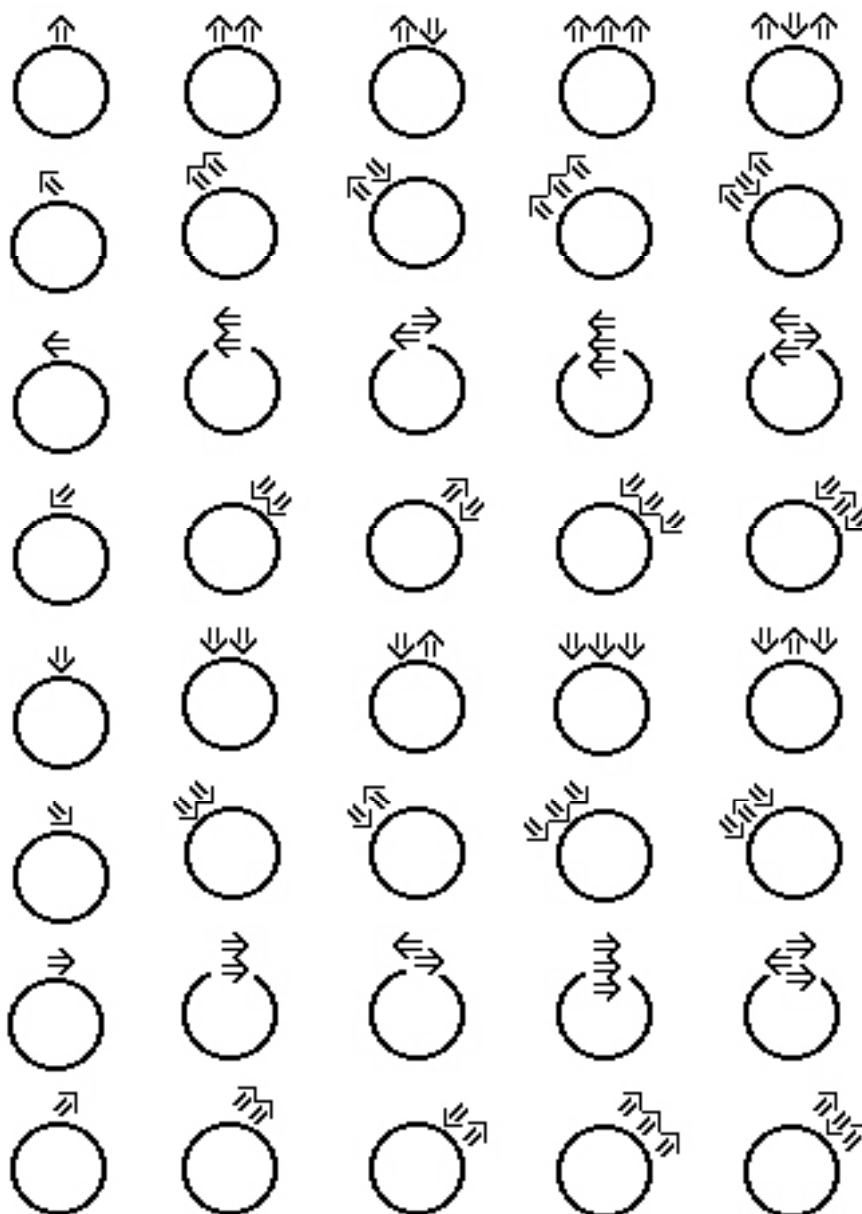
Touching  
Side of Head  
Down Diagonal

## Head Movement

### Face-Direction Movement Symbols

The nose moves in the direction of the arrows.

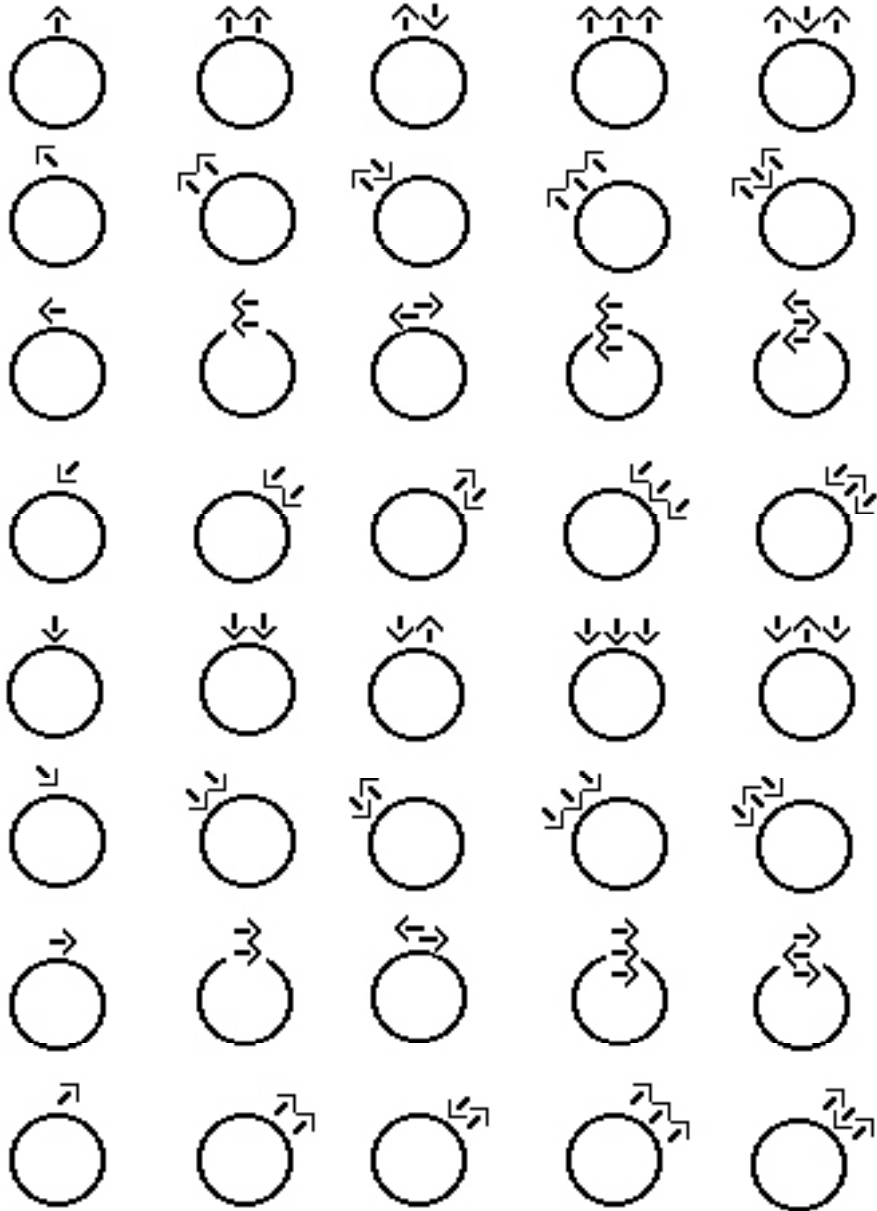
The neck bends and stretches as the nose moves.



## Head Movement

### Head-Direction Movement Symbols





The entire head travels in the direction of the arrows.  
The nose remains straight, and the neck does not bend.



## Head Positions

### Face Direction Lines

















This is not movement. It is a stable position marking the direction of the nose and face, relating to the shoulders.

	Face Direction, Center
	Face Direction, Center, Tilt Right
	Face Direction, Center, Tilt Left
	Face Direction, Side Right, Center
	Face Direction, Side Left, Center
	Face Direction, Side Right, Tilt Right
	Face Direction, Side Right, Tilt Left
	Face Direction, Center Up
	Face Direction, Center Up, Tilt Right
	Face Direction, Side Right, Up
	Face Direction, Side Right, Up, Tilt Right
	Face Direction, Side Right, Up, Tilt Left
	Face Direction, Center Down
	Face Direction, Center Down, Tilt Right
	Face Direction, Side Right, Down
	Face Direction, Side Right, Down, Tilt Right



The Body

## Shoulders

	Shoulders
	Right Shoulder Up (Position)
	Both Shoulders Up (Position)
	Right Shoulder Down (Position)
	Both Shoulders Down (Position)
	One Shoulder Up, One Shoulder Down (Position)
	Shoulder Moves Up
	Shoulder Moves Up-Diagonal
	Shoulder Moves Down-Diagonal
	Shoulder Moves Down
	Shoulder Moves Forward
	Shoulder Moves Forward-Diagonal
	Shoulder Moves Back-Diagonal
	Shoulder Moves Back
	Shoulder Moves Up & Down
	Shoulder Moves Forward & Back



## Torso



Torso Pulls Up



Torso Sinks Down



Torso Moves In A Curve, Up & Side



Bend To The Left Side  
(The Arrow Pushes the Torso Up & Side)



Body Twists To The Left Side  
(The Arrow Pushes The Torso In A Rotation)



Body Twists To The Right Side  
(The Arrow Pushes The Torso In A Rotation)



Torso Tilts Forward



Torso Tilts Forward-Diagonal



Torso Tilts Side



Torso Tilts Back-Diagonal



Torso Tilts Back



Torso Tilts Back & Forth  
Body Rocks Forward & Back

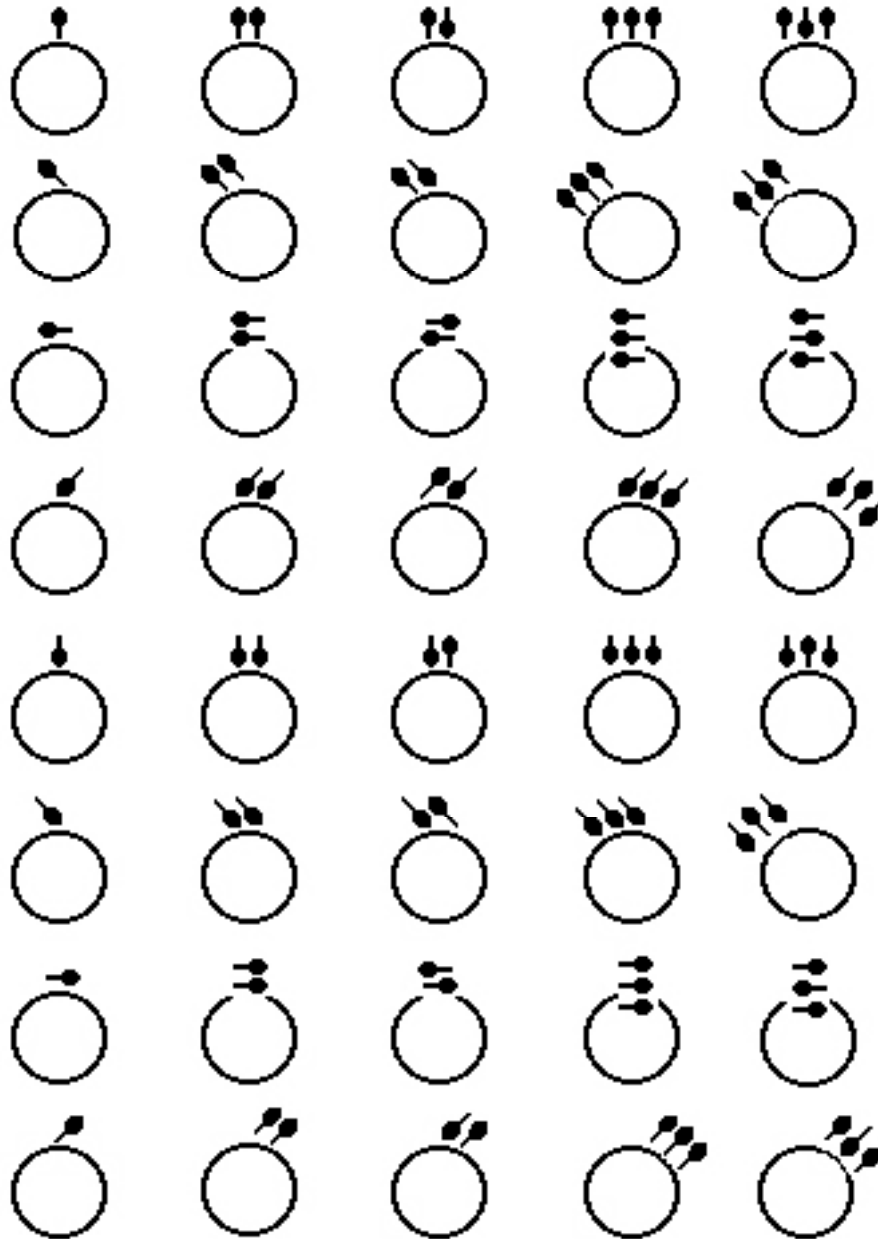


Torso Tilts Back & Forth  
Body Rocks Back & Forward & Back

## Upper Body Tilts

### Rocking Motion from the Hip Joint

The upper body tilts or rocks back and forth. The neck and torso do not bend. They remain straight, moving in a unit from the hip joints.





Dynamics

## 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 uneven-alternating:



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



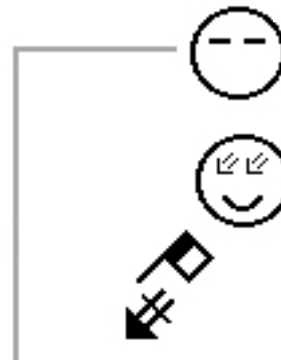
**3. Facial Dynamics** show tense or relaxed facial muscles. The Tense Symbol is used for lips that press together, for raised cheeks, and for squeezed eyes.



**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**



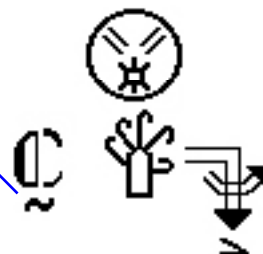

### **Relaxed Movement**



### **Relaxed Movement with Emphasis**

## Writing Classifiers

\_\_\_\_\_

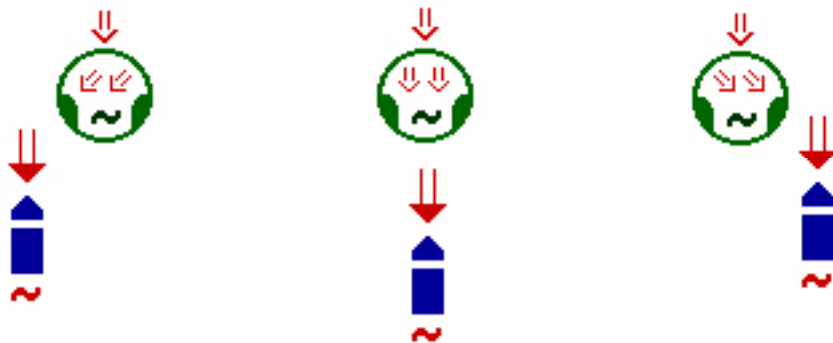


## Facial Dynamics

### 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 **lips tense** 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 **lips tense** 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 **lips tense** 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.

Unit-Connecting Line

This first face occurs in all the signs below it, that are inside the grey bracket.







**Punctuation**

# Punctuation



## **PAUSE**

(similar to a Comma in English)



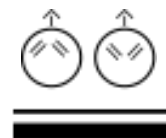
## **END OF SENTENCE**

(similar to a Period in English).



## **PAUSE BEFORE END OF PHRASE**

(similar to a Semi-Colon in English).



## **QUESTIONING PAUSE BEFORE END OF PHRASE**

(similar to a Question Mark in English).

When a sentence or phrase ends in a question, there is a slight pause at the end. The semi-colon symbol is used to write that pause at the end, but it must be combined with signs that write the grammatically necessary Facial Expressions and Head Movements that occur in sign languages when asking questions, including Head Forward and Eyebrows Up or Down.



## **PAUSE BEFORE LISTING ITEMS**

(similar to a Colon in English.)

This is used in the middle of a sentence, marking a new phrase that lists items 1, 2, 3 and so on.



## **PAUSE BEFORE & AFTER A SUB-PHRASE**

(similar to Parentheses in English.)

Marks a second thought inside a sentence, starting with the curved-up symbol and ending in the curved down parentheses.

# Punctuation Dynamics

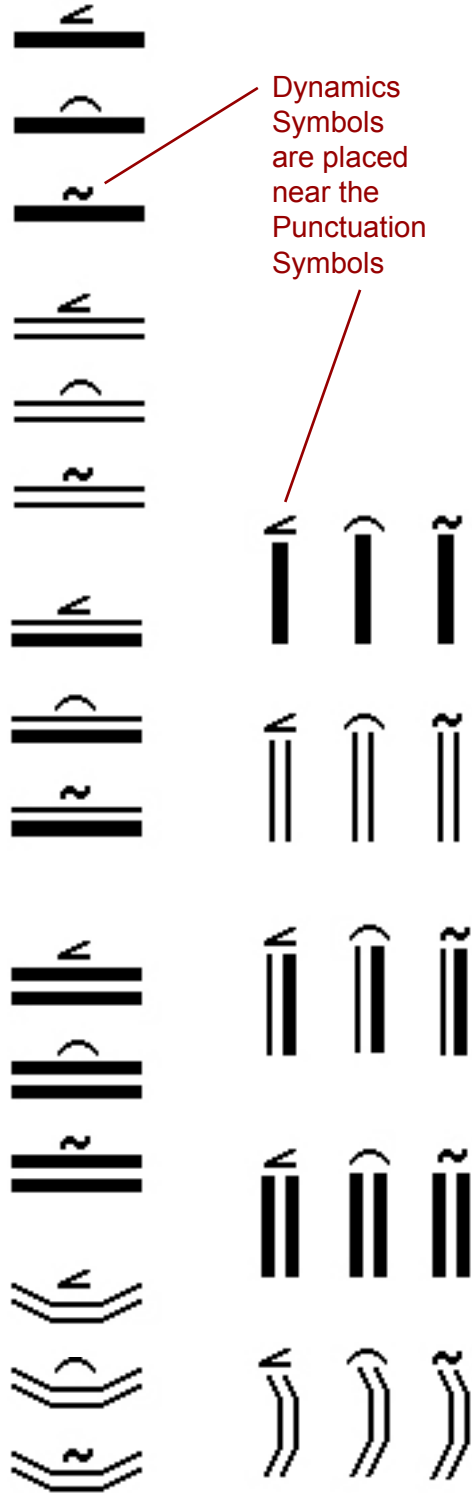
## Sign Language sentences with feeling!

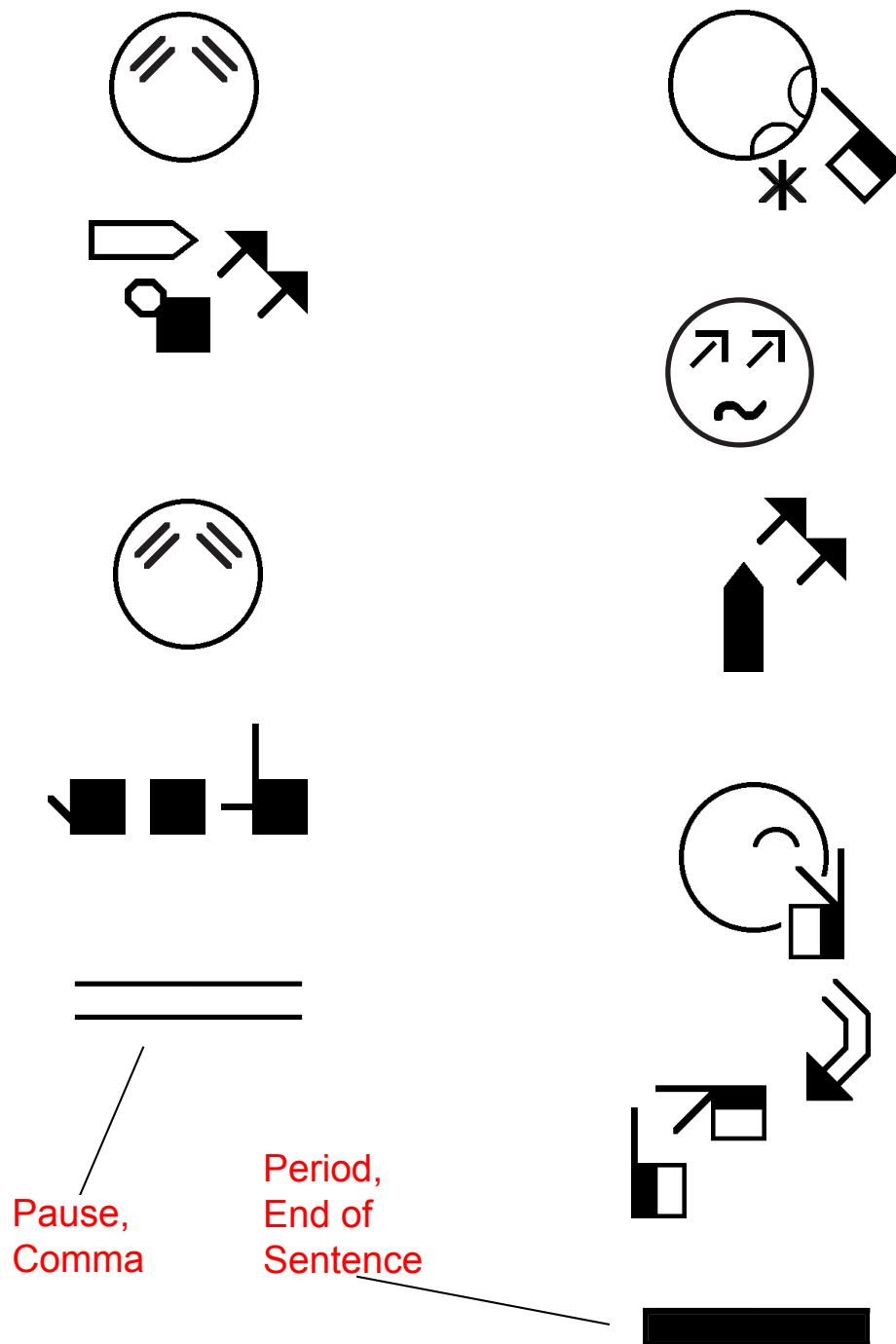
SignWriting, like other writing systems, has punctuation. A dark line at the end of a SignWriting sentence is the equivalent to a period in English. It marks the end of the sentence or phrase. Two lines represent a pause, or comma.

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.

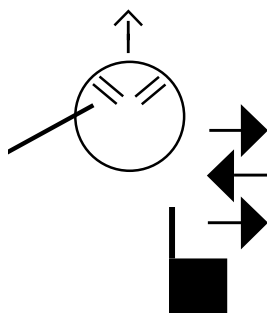
Slow, Smooth, Tense and Relaxed Dynamic Symbols can also be placed near Punctuation Symbols to give the feeling of slow, smooth, tense or relaxed sentences.





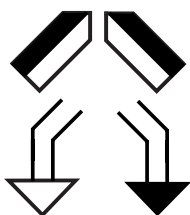
English Translation: Writing ASL from the Deaf perspective.

Eyebrows  
Down



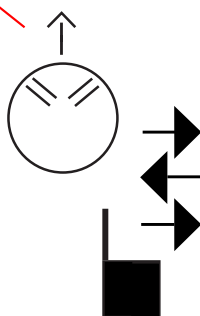
Where

Head  
Forward



house

Question  
Mark,  
Slight Pause  
at End of  
Sentence

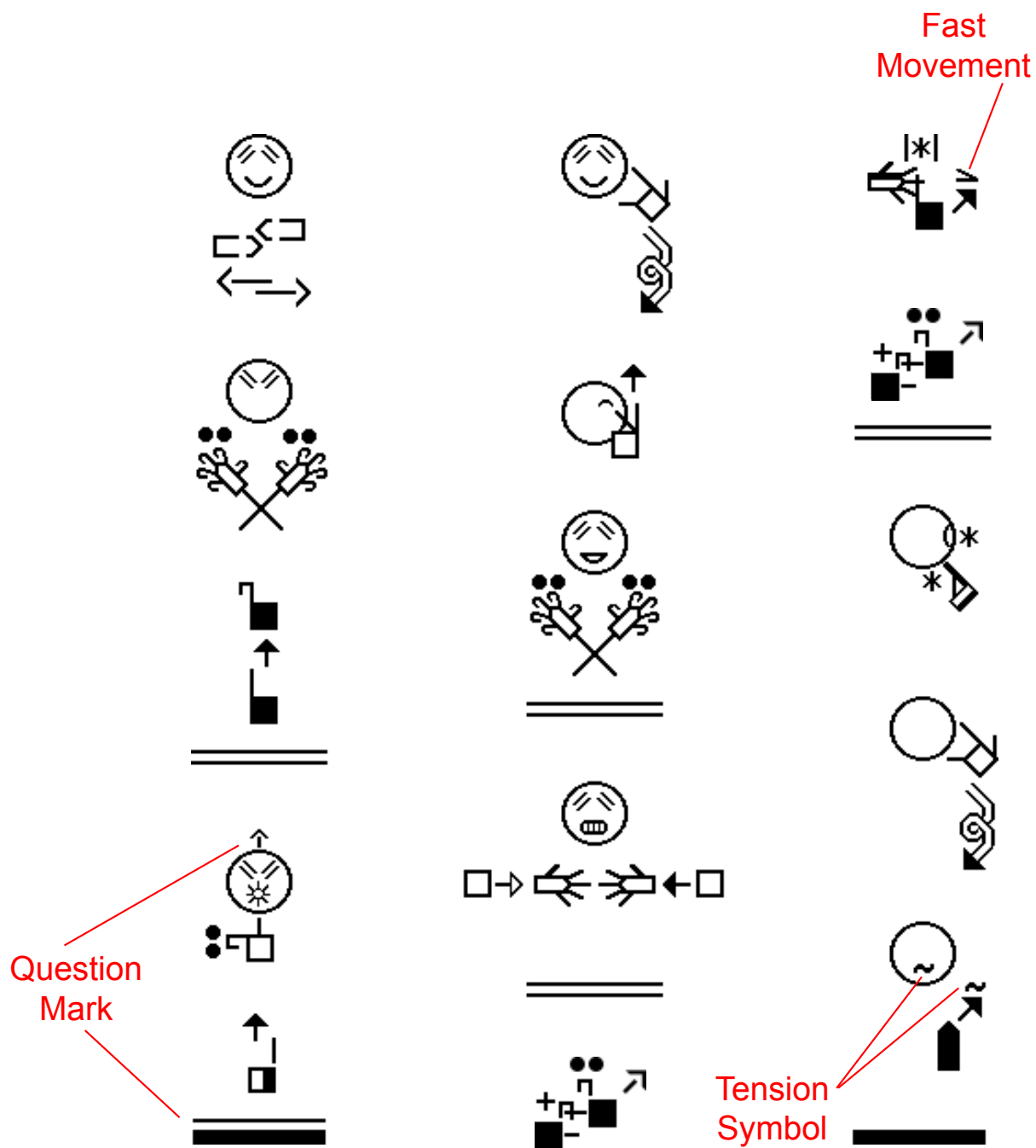


where



?

English Translation: Where is the house?



English Translation: Baby Bear asks "Who are you?"  
 Goldilocks saw the bears, became frightened,  
 shot out of the house, and ran all the way home.



**Writing Signs &  
Sign Literature**

# Writing Signs

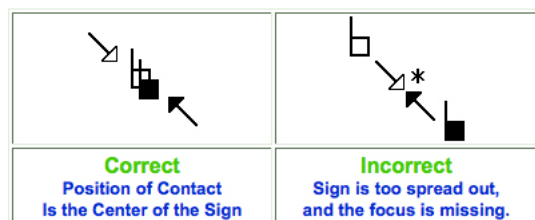
## SignSpelling Guideline 1

### First, write the Position of Contact

When starting to write a sign, ask yourself: “Is there a Position of Contact in this sign?”. Are the hands contacting each other? Are the hands contacting the Face or Body? Write that Position of Contact first, which becomes the “Center of the Sign”.

When writing the Position of Contact, try to place the two contacting symbols as close to each other as possible. Try to make it look like it does in real life. There should be very little space between the two contacting symbols.

SignSpellings revolve around the Position of Contact like a small universe. The Position of Contact is the Center of the Sign, and the Movement and Contact Symbols relate to that center.



The Position of Contact is important because it holds the meaning in a sign. The eye focuses on the Position of Contact when reading. The Position of Contact is like a unit.

Writing the Position of Contact also creates smaller signs in width and height, which makes writing in vertical columns more centered and compact, making the columns themselves less wide.

Writing the Position of Contact gives a visual picture of the sign. Since you can see the two hands are touching by their close placement, the single Touch Contact Star is rarely necessary. It is not wrong to write the single Touch Contact Star, but it is not necessary either. This simplifies the writing of signs.







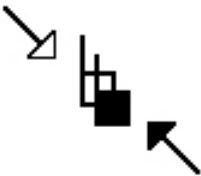
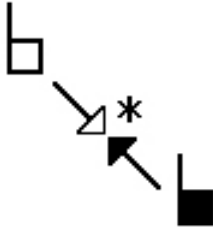


Double Touch Contact Stars are written no matter what, because Double Touch, or Touch-Touch, is a movement, not a position. It is only single Touch Contact Stars that can be eliminated.



## SignSpelling Guideline 1

The two contacting symbols, such as the Hands and Face, are written close to each other. Then Movement Symbols are placed nearby.

Sometimes the entire sign is nothing but the Position of Contact, with no other symbols needed.

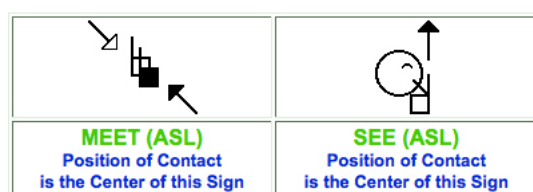
Correct	Not Correct
	
	
	
	
	

# Writing Signs

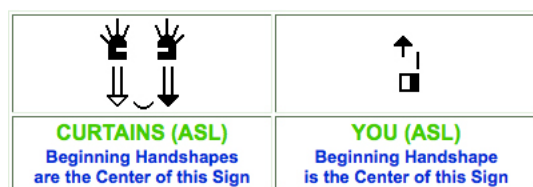
## SignSpelling Guideline 2 Every Sign Has A Center

Every sign has a Center, like a little universe (the Sun is the center and the planets rotate around it). The Center of the Sign gives the sign focus for the reader. It is an Anchor, that grabs your attention.

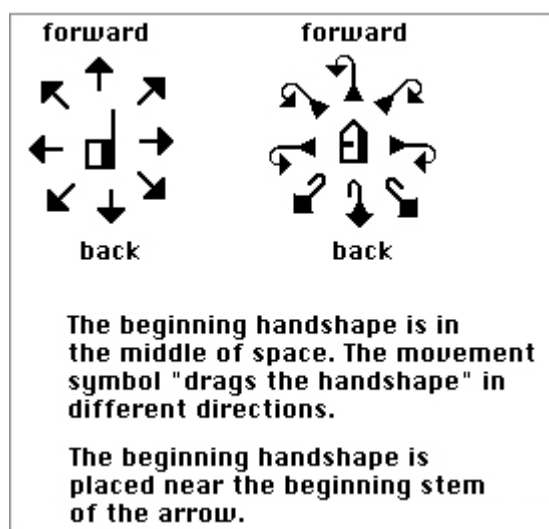
1. The Position of Contact is usually the Center of the Sign:



2. If there is NO contact, then the Beginning Position is the Center:



3. Movement Symbols relate to the Center like planets rotating around the Sun in 8 possible directions.



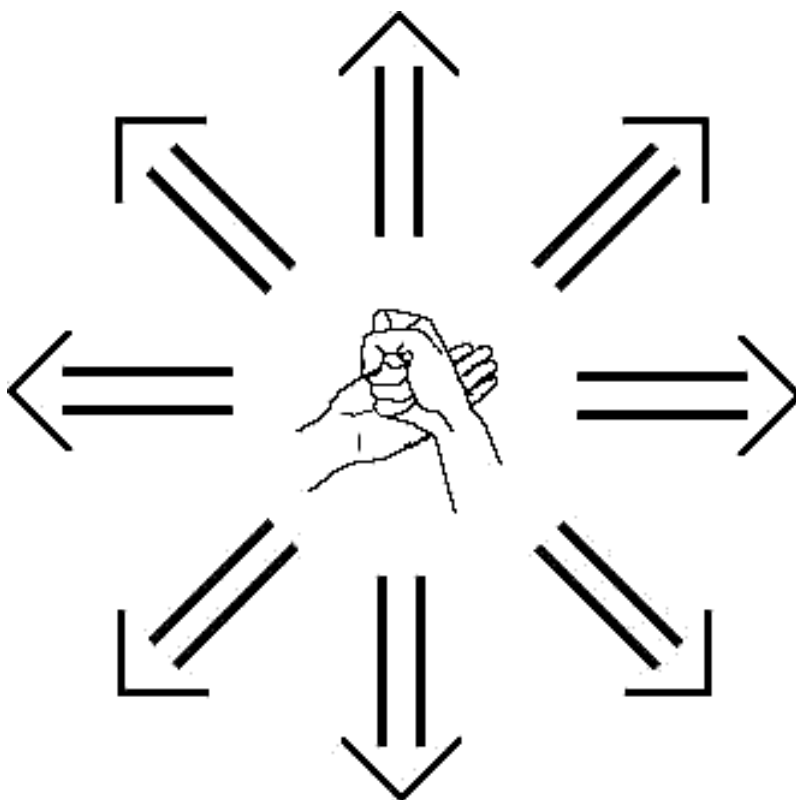
# Writing Signs

## SignSpelling Guideline 3 Step-by-Step Writing Process

1. The Position of Contact is written first. It is the Center of the sign.



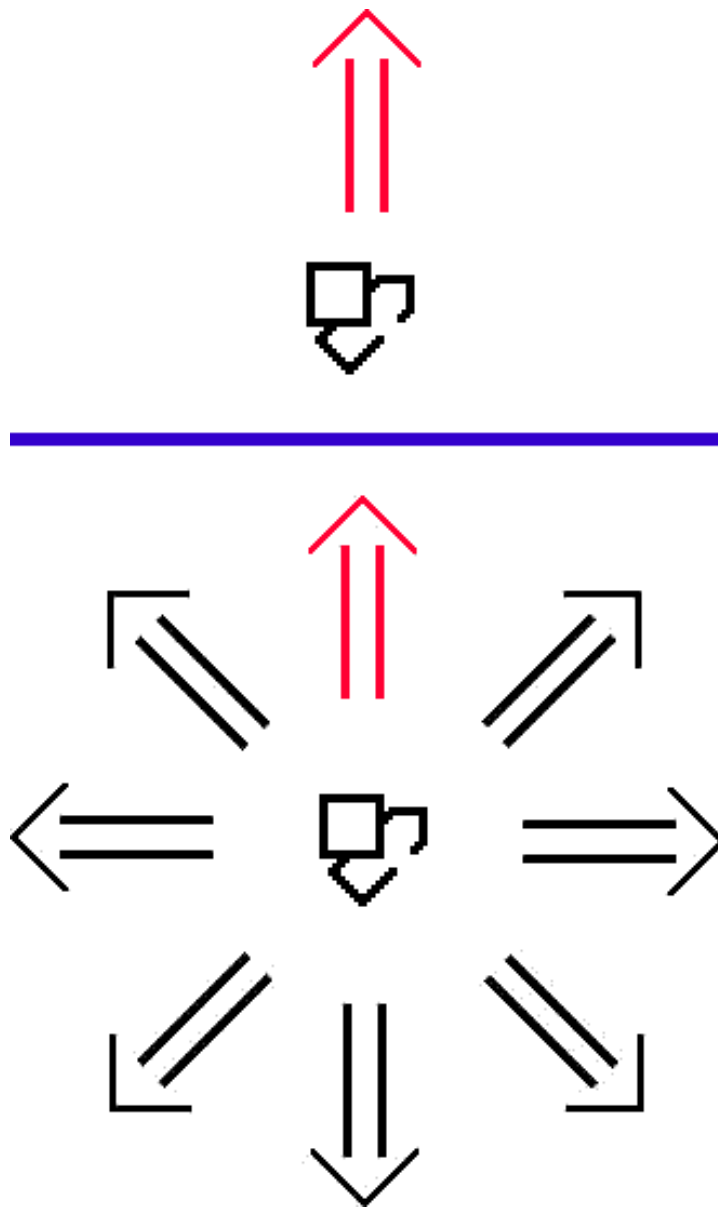
2. There are 8 possible placements of Movement Symbols around the Center. The arrows PULL or DRAG the hands in the direction of the arrow. Imagine a Movement wheel with 8 spokes:



## Step-by-Step Writing Process continued

### 3. Choose the arrow from the Movement Wheel

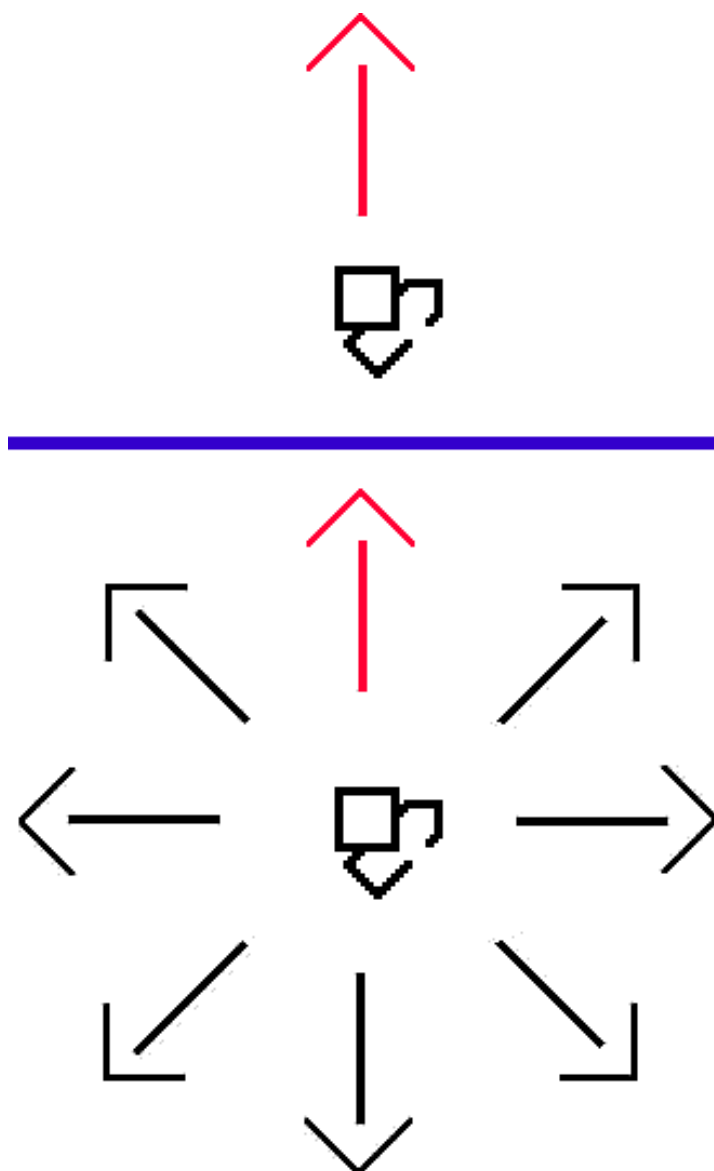
If the movement is straight UP, choose the UP arrow. Keep the UP arrow in the same spatial-relationship to the CENTER as it was when all the other arrows were in the Wheel. The UP arrow, in other words, is always placed ABOVE the CENTER of the sign, pulling it UP:



## Step-by-Step Writing Process *continued*

If the movement is straight FORWARD, choose the FORWARD arrow. Keep the FORWARD arrow in the same spatial-relationship to the CENTER as it was when all the other arrows were in the Wheel.

The FORWARD arrow, in other words, is always placed ABOVE the CENTER of the sign, pulling it FORWARD:

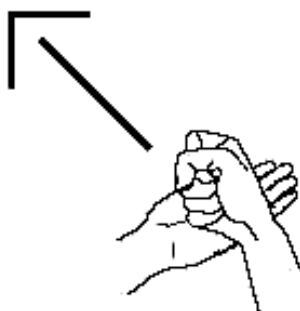


## Step-by-Step Writing Process *continued*

If the movement is FORWARD-DIAGONAL, choose the FORWARD-DIAGONAL arrow. Keep the FORWARD-DIAGONAL arrow in the same spatial-relationship to the CENTER as it was when all the other arrows were in the Wheel.

The FORWARD-DIAGONAL arrow is always placed above and to the diagonal:

Forward  
Left  
Diagonal



The Back Arrow is placed BELOW the Center. This means the movement is coming straight back towards your chest...

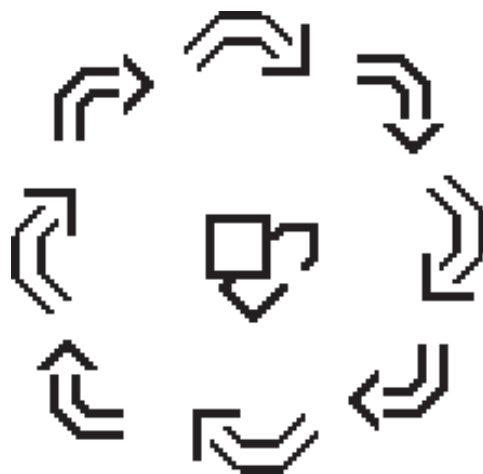


Back



## Step-by-Step Writing Process continued

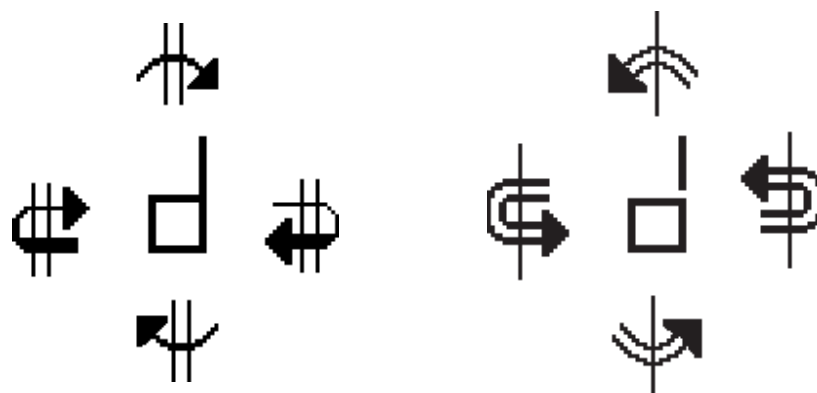
If the movement is CURVED, choose the CURVE arrow needed.  
Keep the CURVED arrow in the same spatial-relationship to the  
CENTER as it was when all the other arrows were in the Wheel.



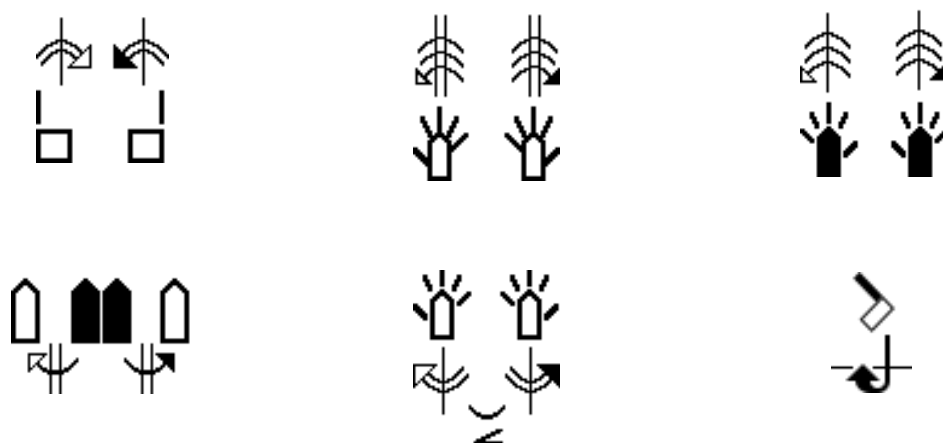
**Help All Of You**

## Step-by-Step Writing Process *continued*

If the movement is a ROTATION ARROW, choose the ROTATION ARROW needed. Keep the ROTATION ARROW in the same spatial-relationship to the CENTER as it was when all the other arrows were in the Wheel.



If the curve of the Rotation Arrow is curved down, it is usually placed under the hands. If the curve of the Rotation Arrow is curved up, then it is usually placed above the hands.





## Step-by-Step Writing Process *continued*

EXCEPTION: Occasionally arrows can collide with other symbols, such as the Facial Circle or the Shoulder Line. When this happens there is no choice but to place the Movement Arrow a little to the side to avoid the collision. This happens mostly when contacting the Face.

### Three ASL Signs that are exceptions:



**really**

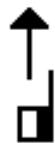


**not**



**good**


**If the Facial Circle had not been there,  
these signs would be written like this:**





# 1


Charles-Michel de l'Épée

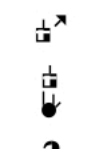
see this article in English

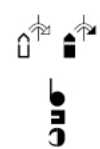





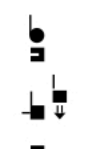




















# 2















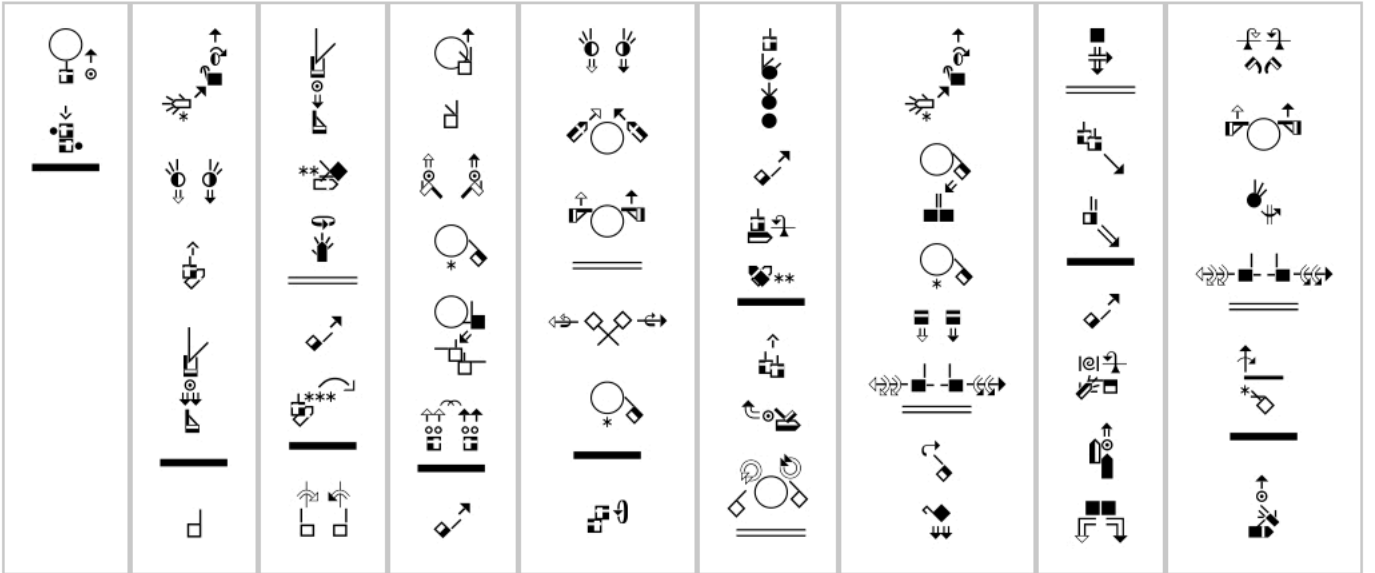




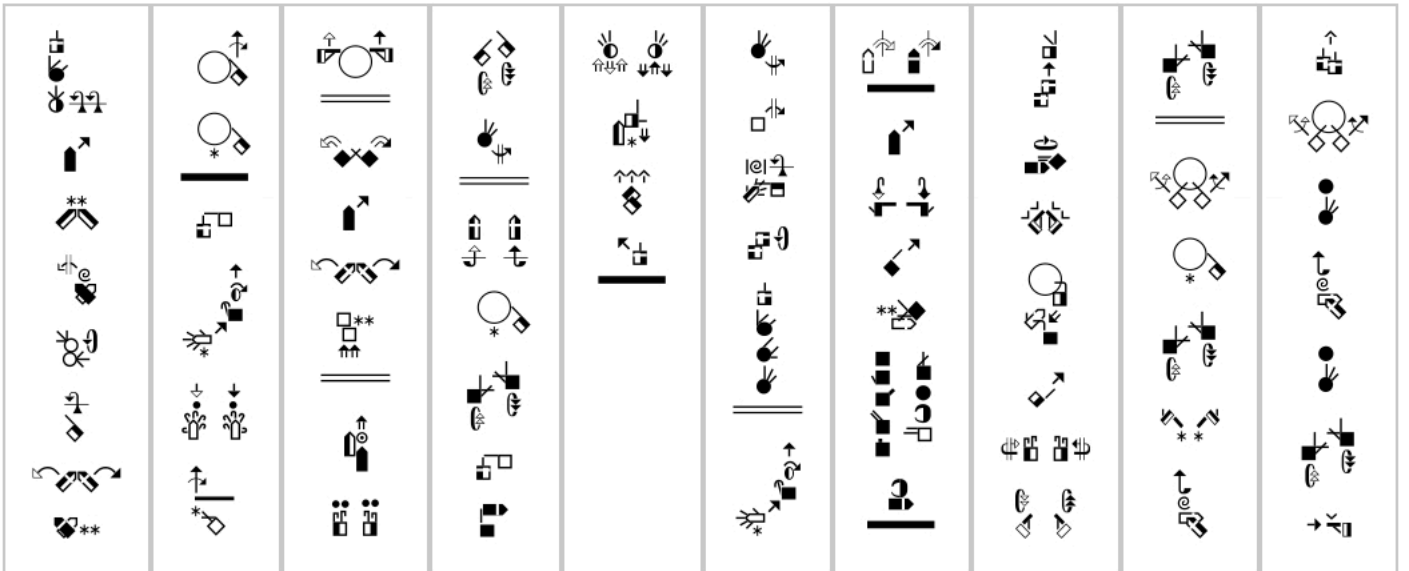




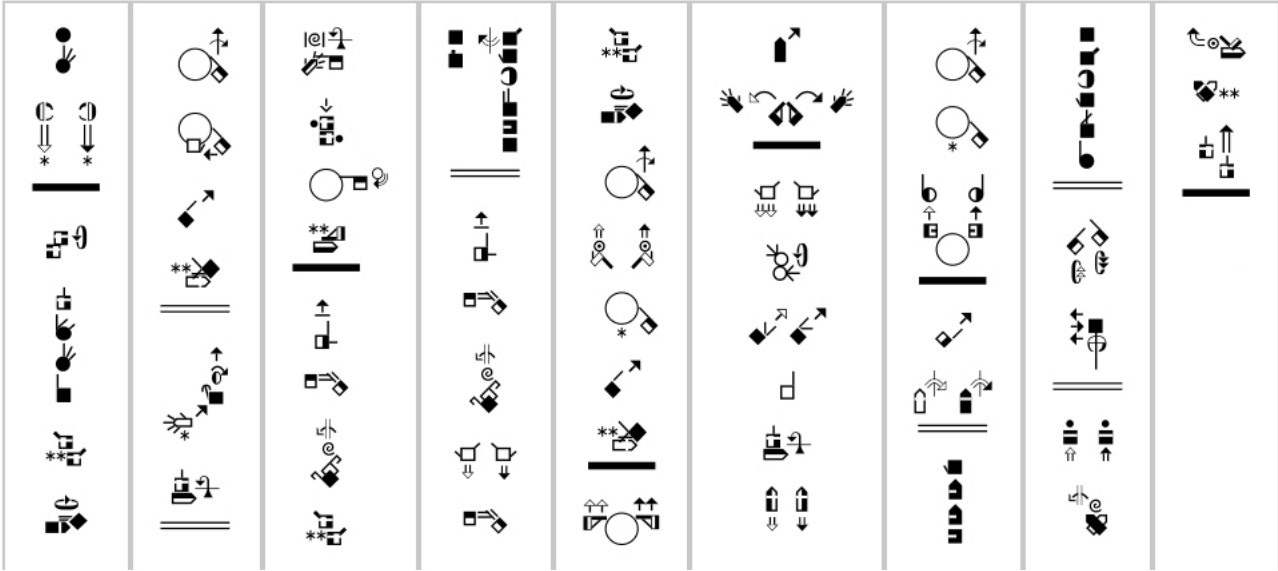
# 3



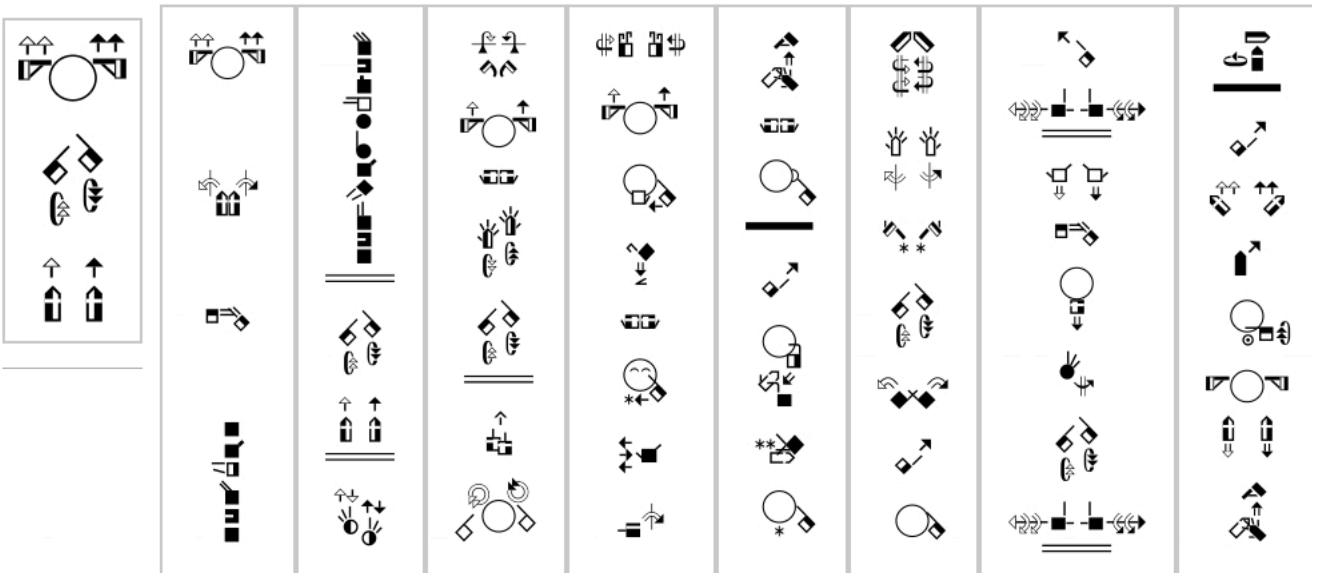
# 4



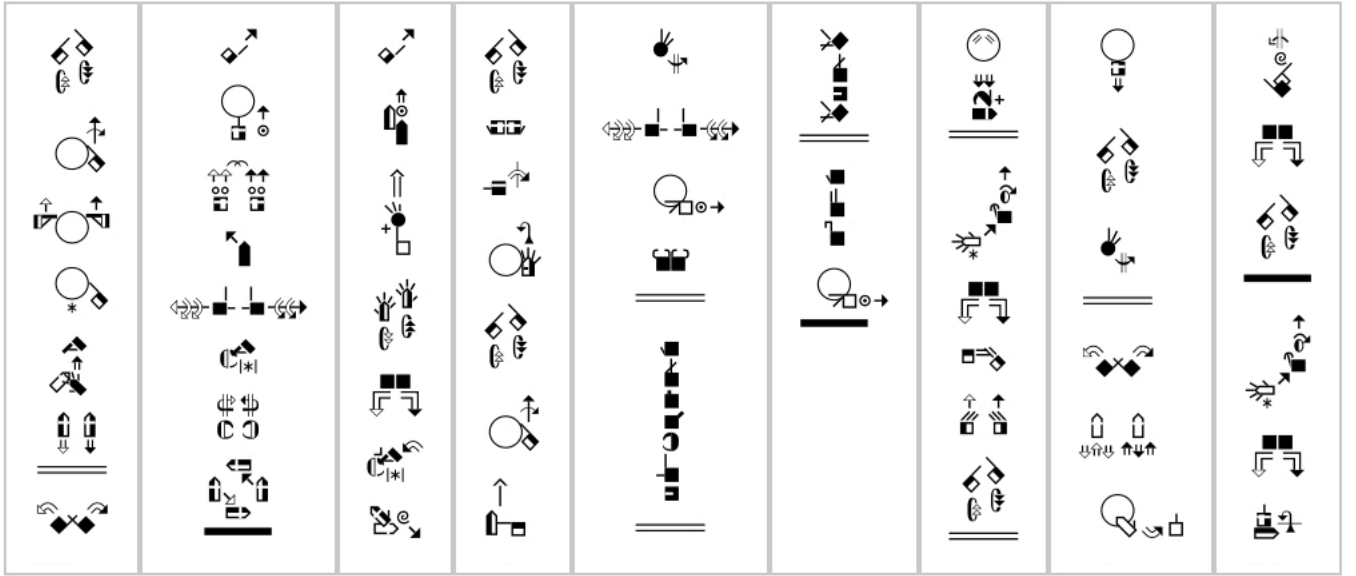
# 5



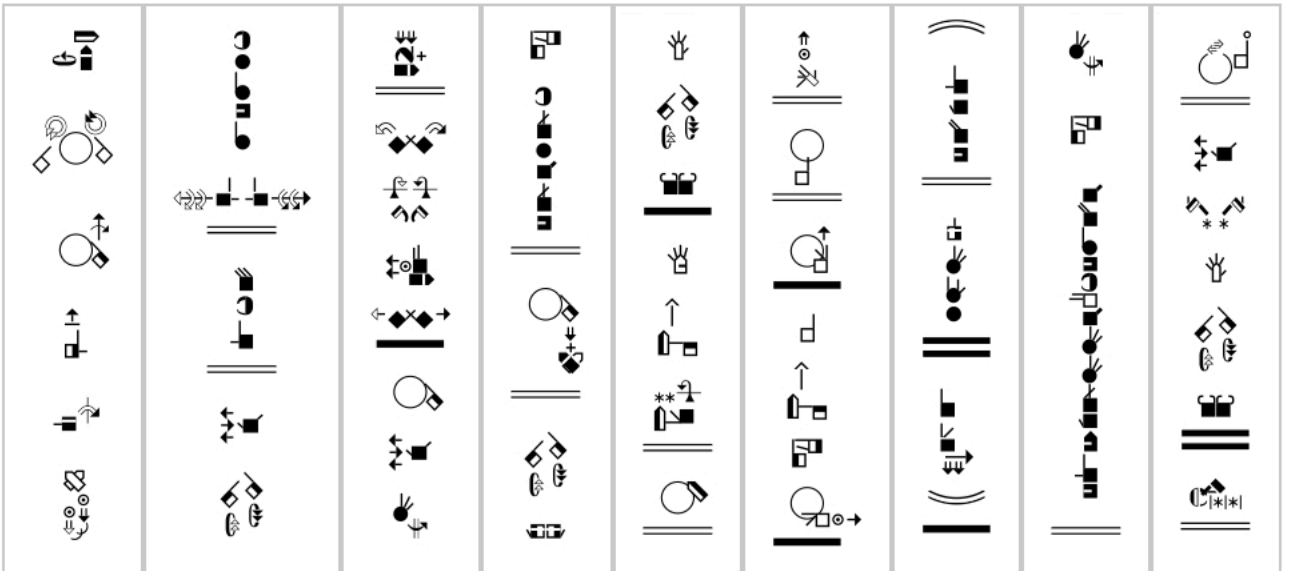
# 6



# 7



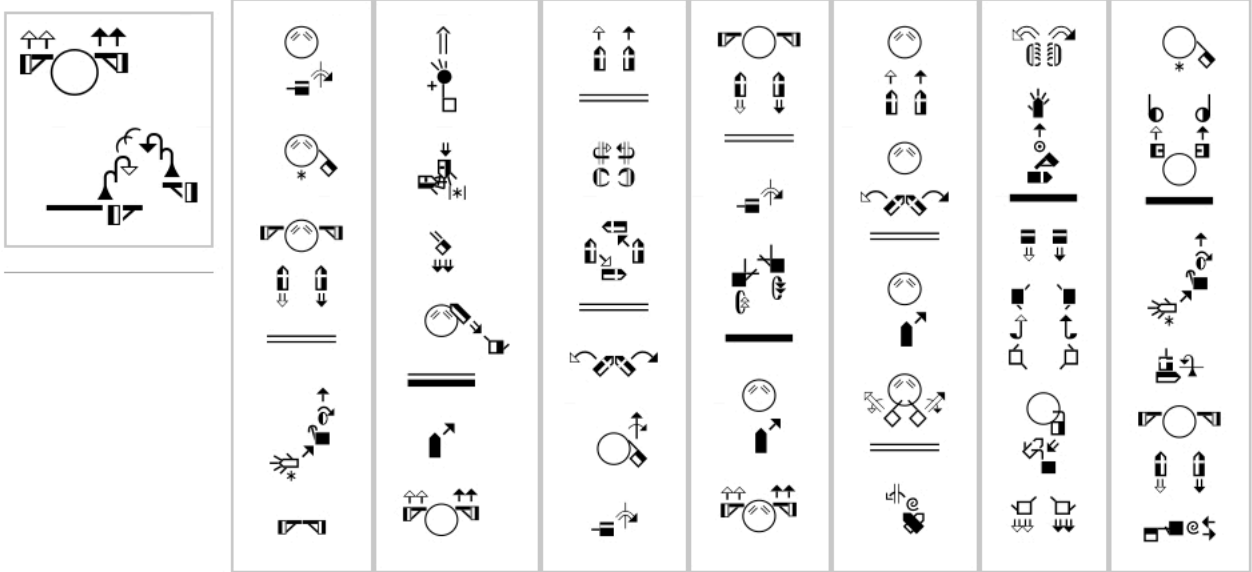
# 8



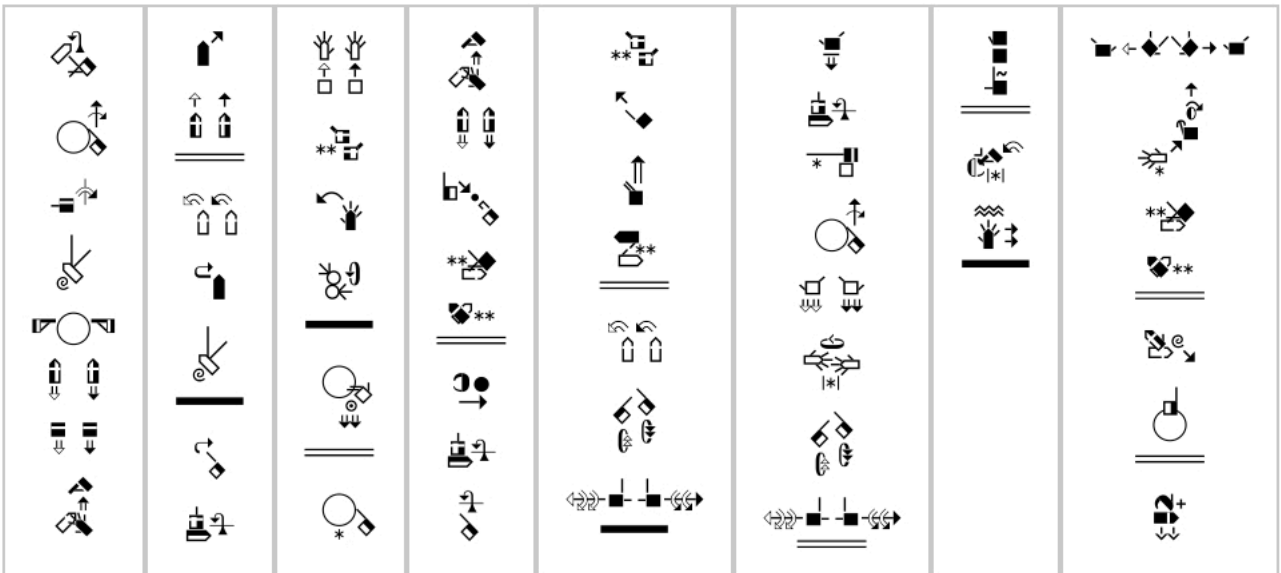
# 9


# 10

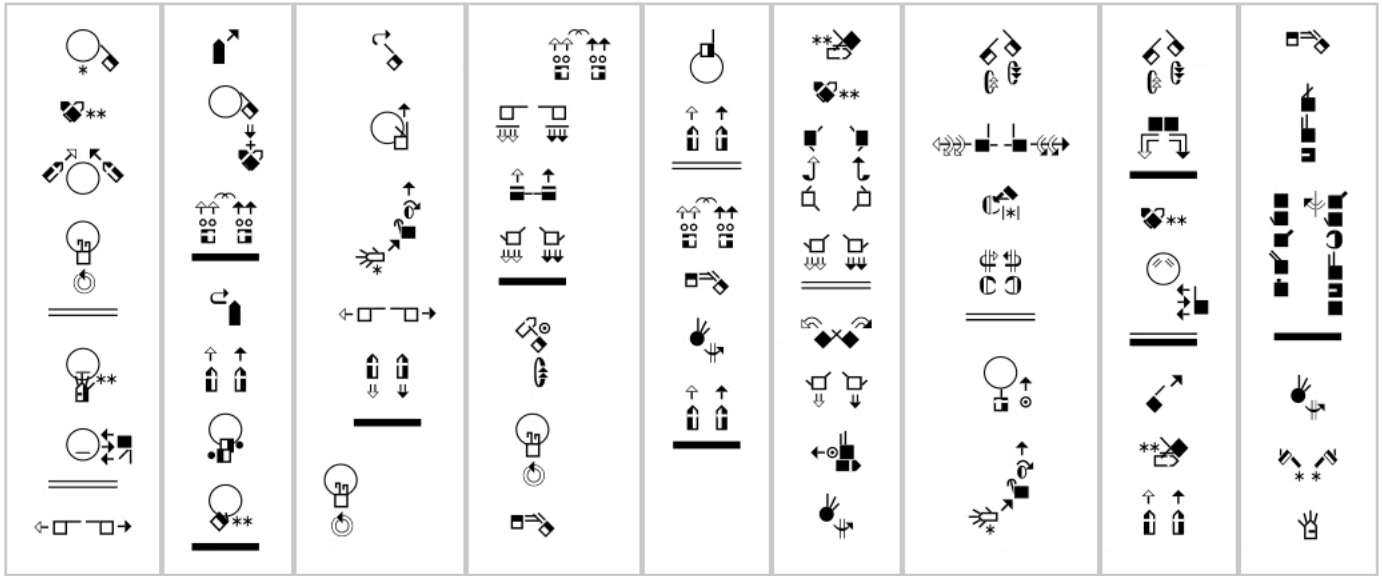

# 11



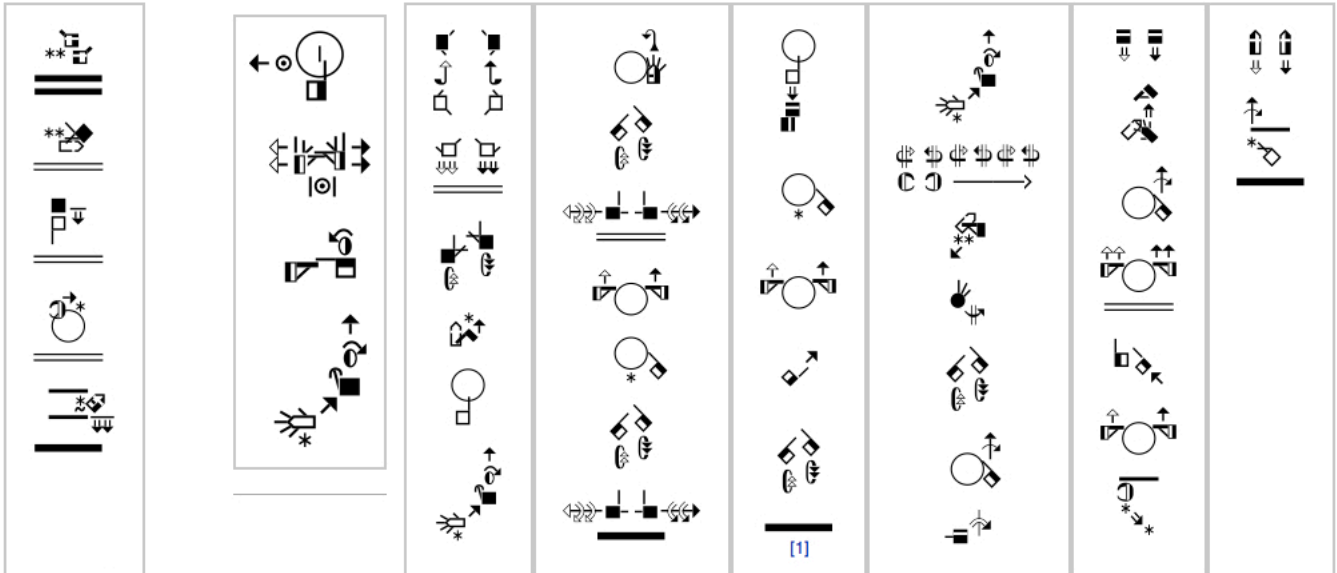
# 12



# 13

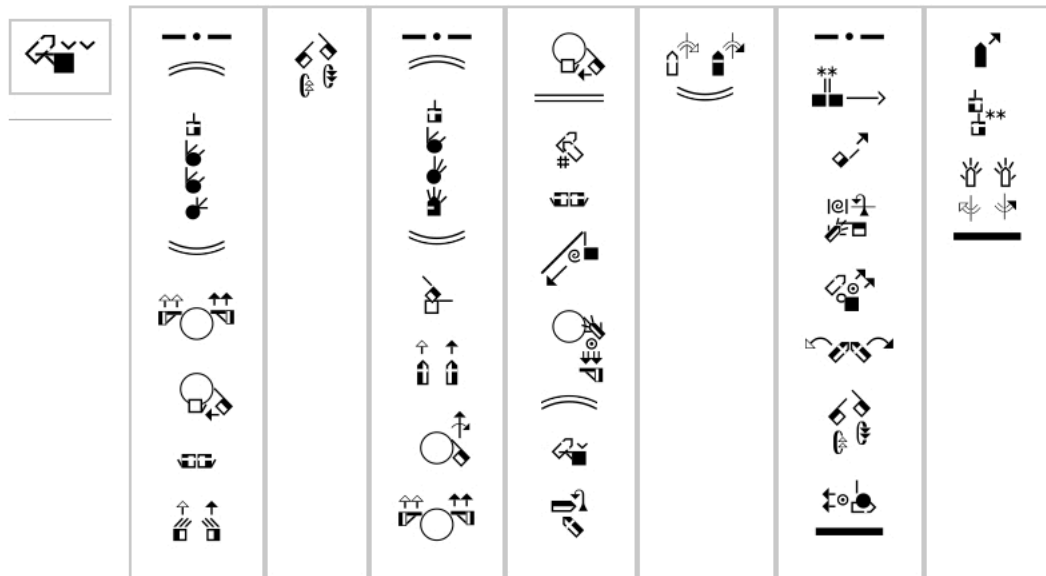


# 14

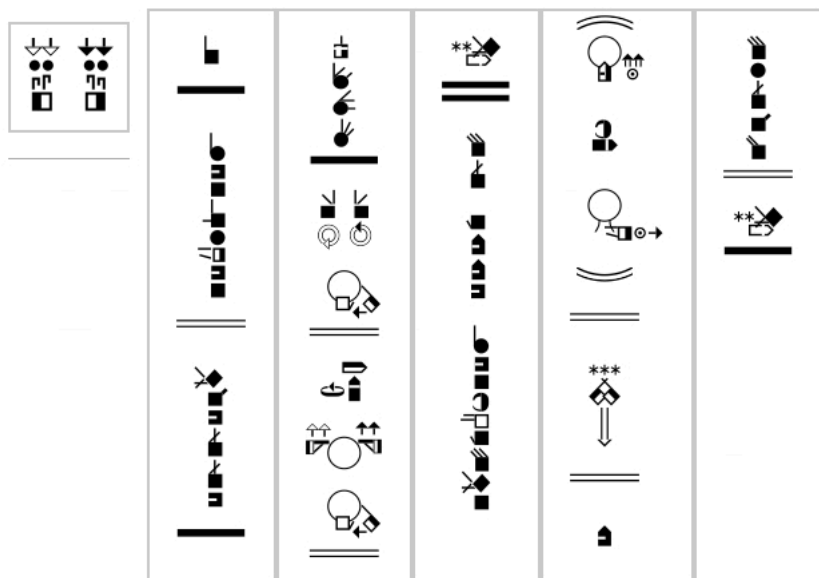


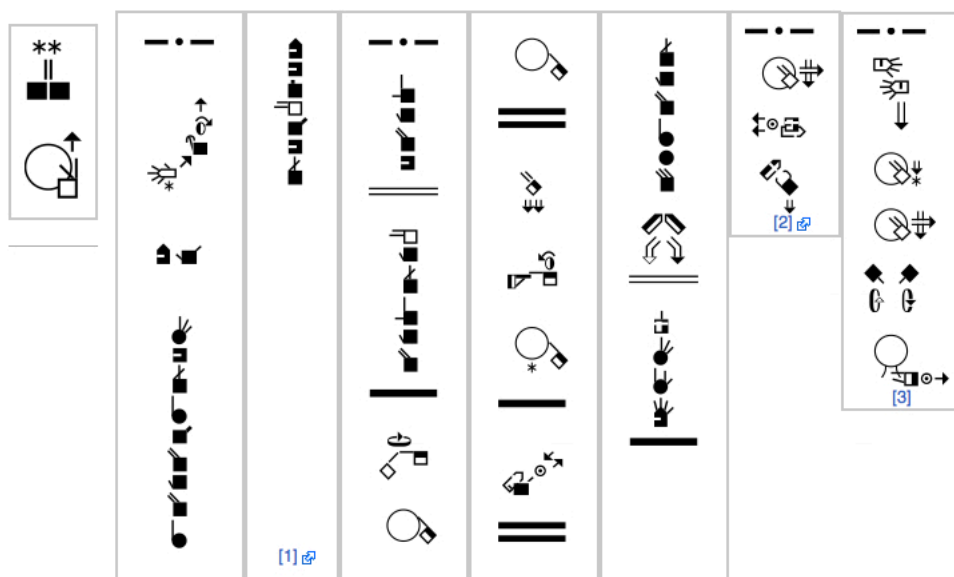


# 15



# 16





## About This Article

### Charles-Michel de l'Épée

written in American Sign Language by Adam Frost

Based on an earlier article signed by Lucinda O'Grady  
in ASL on video and transcribed by Charles Butler Neto.

This article appears in the new ASL Wikipedia:

**ASL WIKIPEDIA**

<http://www.signwriting.org/encyclopedia>

# SignWriting Instruction

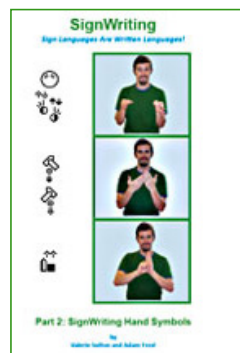
[SignWriting.org/lessons](http://SignWriting.org/lessons) • [SignWriting.org/shop](http://SignWriting.org/shop)



## 1 SignWriting Reference Manual

### Manual 1: SignWriting Basics

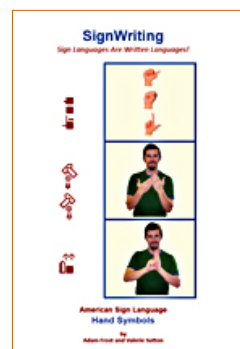
Learn the basics of SignWriting with this slender, 42 page, spiral-bound manual. An introduction to reading and writing any sign language, it gives a summary of hand symbols, contact symbols, finger movements, arm movements, facial expressions, and reading of sign language literature. All examples are in American Sign Language (ASL). Free for download on the web, and only \$10.00 in the SignWriting Shop. ISBN: 978-0-914336-49-5



## 2 SignWriting Reference Manual

### Manual 2: SignWriting Hand Symbols, ISWA 2010

This 300-page spiral-bound reference manual devotes a full page to each of the 261 hand symbols of the International SignWriting Alphabet (ISWA 2010), used to write over 40 sign languages on the web in SignPuddle Online. Each page shows one handshape with 6 photos showing 6 different palm facings. The corresponding SignWriting symbol is placed next to each photo. Additional SignWriting instruction is included in the front and the back of the book. ISBN: 978-0-914336-86-0



## 3 SignWriting Reference Manual

### Manual 3: American Sign Language Hand Symbols

This 115-page spiral-bound reference manual devotes a full page to each of the 83 hand symbols used to write American Sign Language in SignWriting. Each page shows one handshape with 6 photos showing 6 different palm facings. The corresponding SignWriting symbol is placed next to each photo. Additional SignWriting instruction is included in the front and the back of the book. Written & photographed by Deaf ASL professor Adam Frost in collaboration with Valerie Sutton. ISBN: 978-0-914336-82-2



## 4 SignWriting Lessons on the Web

### Web lessons show moving handshapes with symbols

Adam Frost's photos of his own hands move from one palm facing to another, on 261 web pages, each devoted to one of the 261 hand symbols of the ISWA 2010. This popular site is located in SignWriting Lessons Online. Take a visit:

ISWA 2010 Symbol Lessons Online

Animated GIFs by Adam Frost

<http://www.signwriting.org/lessons/iswa/>



### The SignWriting Press

**Deaf Action Committee For SignWriting (the DAC)**  
 Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc. (CSMW), a 501c3  
 non-profit educational organization • [dac@signwriting.org](mailto:dac@signwriting.org)  
 Box 517 • La Jolla • CA • 92038-0517 • USA • tel 858-456-0098  
 SignWriting Shop Online: [www.signwriting.org/shop](http://www.signwriting.org/shop)  
 SignWriting on CafePress: [www.cafepress.com/signwriting](http://www.cafepress.com/signwriting)  
 SignPuddle Online: [www.signbank.org/signpuddle](http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle)

ISBN 978-0-914336-55-6



LESSONS IN SIGNWRITING TEXTBOOK