



Lessons in SignWriting® 2002

...read & write the movements of signed languages...

Sign Languages Are Written Languages!

by
Valerie Sutton



Lessons In SignWriting®

Textbook & Workbook, Third Edition

by **Valerie Sutton**

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Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc.



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SignWriting Lessons Online

<http://www.SignWriting.org/lessons/lessons.html>

This book is included in the

SignWriting Instruction 2002 Database

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by



Valerie Sutton

with photos of

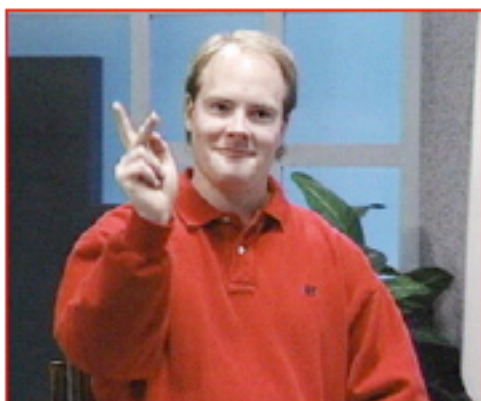


Kevin Clark

and...



Lucinda O'Grady Batch



This textbook coordinates with the
Lessons In SignWriting®
Video Series & Booklets



Available in all video formats. 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 Batch 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 video includes a paperback booklet with a transcription of the English voice plus a review of the instruction.

The Lessons in SignWriting Video Series can be ordered on the SignWritingSite at www.SignWriting.org/catalog/catalog.html.



Introduction

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!



Foreword

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 SignWriting 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 few linguistic minorities that are unable to get books teaching English in their native language.



**Lucinda
O'Grady
Batch**

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!

A Message From The Author

SignWriting is opening new frontiers of communication for Deaf people, and for all signers around the world. This present generation of Deaf children, who are learning to read and write signs for the first time, will become the first generation of Deaf adults with a written form for their native signed language.

SignWriting is used in 27 countries to record 27 different and unique signed languages. It does not change the languages it writes, but instead preserves them, as they are signed, written on paper for others to read. SignWriting symbols show how the body looks, while people sign. It can capture the visual subtleties of any signed language in the world, because it records **body movement**.



Valerie Sutton, 1985

I developed SignWriting out of respect and awe for the beauty and sophistication of all signed languages. I am not a linguist, but I have a tremendous love for learning languages. I will never cease in my fascination and utter amazement at the richness of signed languages around the world. Because they are such beautiful languages, they deserve to be written and preserved. SignWriting is a living, ever-expanding writing system that is changing for the better, as more Deaf people become involved.

This textbook, along with its accompanying CDs, videos and manuals, teaches SignWriting. There are also free SignWriting lessons posted on our web sites,

plus members of the SignWriting List receive free technical support and instruction through email. To join the SignWriting List, write to me at Sutton@SignWriting.org. Hope to hear from you!



Valerie Sutton ;-)

August 1, 2002

La Jolla, California

Introduction

What Is SignWriting?

SignWriting is a visual writing system that makes it possible to read, write and type any Sign Language in the world. SignWriting uses visual symbols to represent the handshapes, movements, and facial expressions of any Sign Language.

The SignWriting alphabet can be compared to the Roman alphabet. The Roman alphabet is used to write English, Spanish, French and other spoken languages. "ABC" is understood by people in Italy, Germany and Denmark. So although each spoken language is different, the Roman alphabet is used to write them all, because it is based on sounds.

In the same way, the symbols in the SignWriting alphabet are international and can be used to write the movements of any Sign Language in the world. Each Sign Language is very different, but the SignWriting alphabet can write them all.

SignWriting provides a world of written literature for the born-deaf, including books, newspapers and dictionaries written directly in the movements of Sign Languages. It can be used to teach math, science, and history to Deaf children, or it can be used by beginning signers, to remember new signs just learned in class.



What Is SignWriting?



With SignWriting,
you can....



1.

READ
Sign Language



2.

WRITE
Sign Language



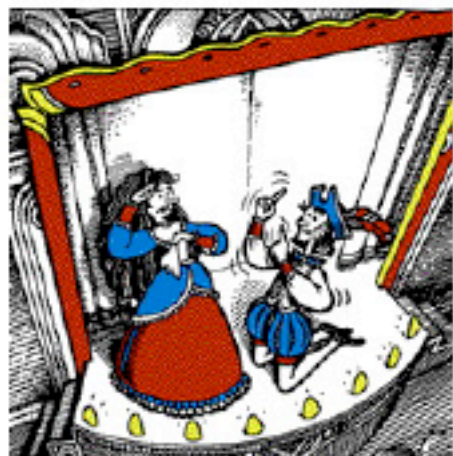
3.

LEARN
Sign Language



4.

SHARE
Sign Language



5.

PRESERVE
Sign Language



6.

RESEARCH
Sign Language

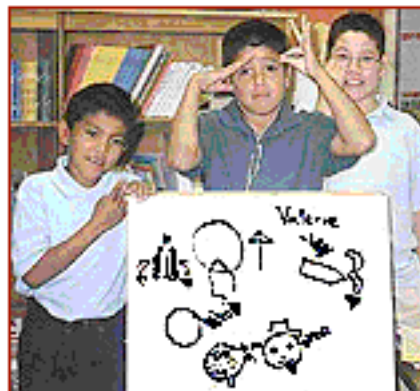


7.

IMPROVE
Communication

The Four Sutton Sites

...lessons, literature, databases & technical support...



SignWritingSite
SignWriting Central
www.SignWriting.org



SignBankSite
SignWriting Databases
www.SignBank.org



DanceWritingSite
DanceWriting Central
www.DanceWriting.org



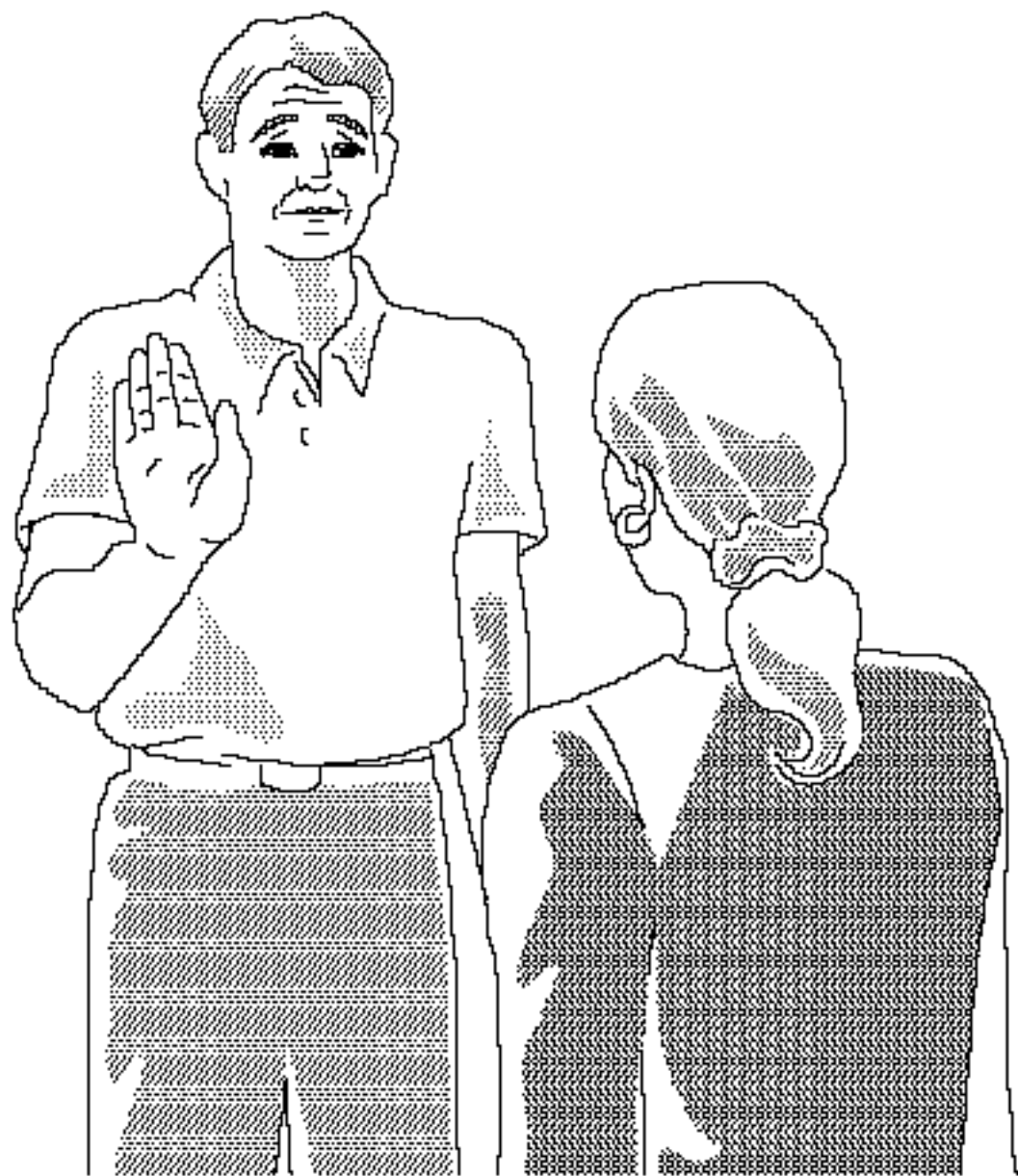
MovementWritingSite
Sutton MW Central
www.MovementWriting.org



Viewpoints

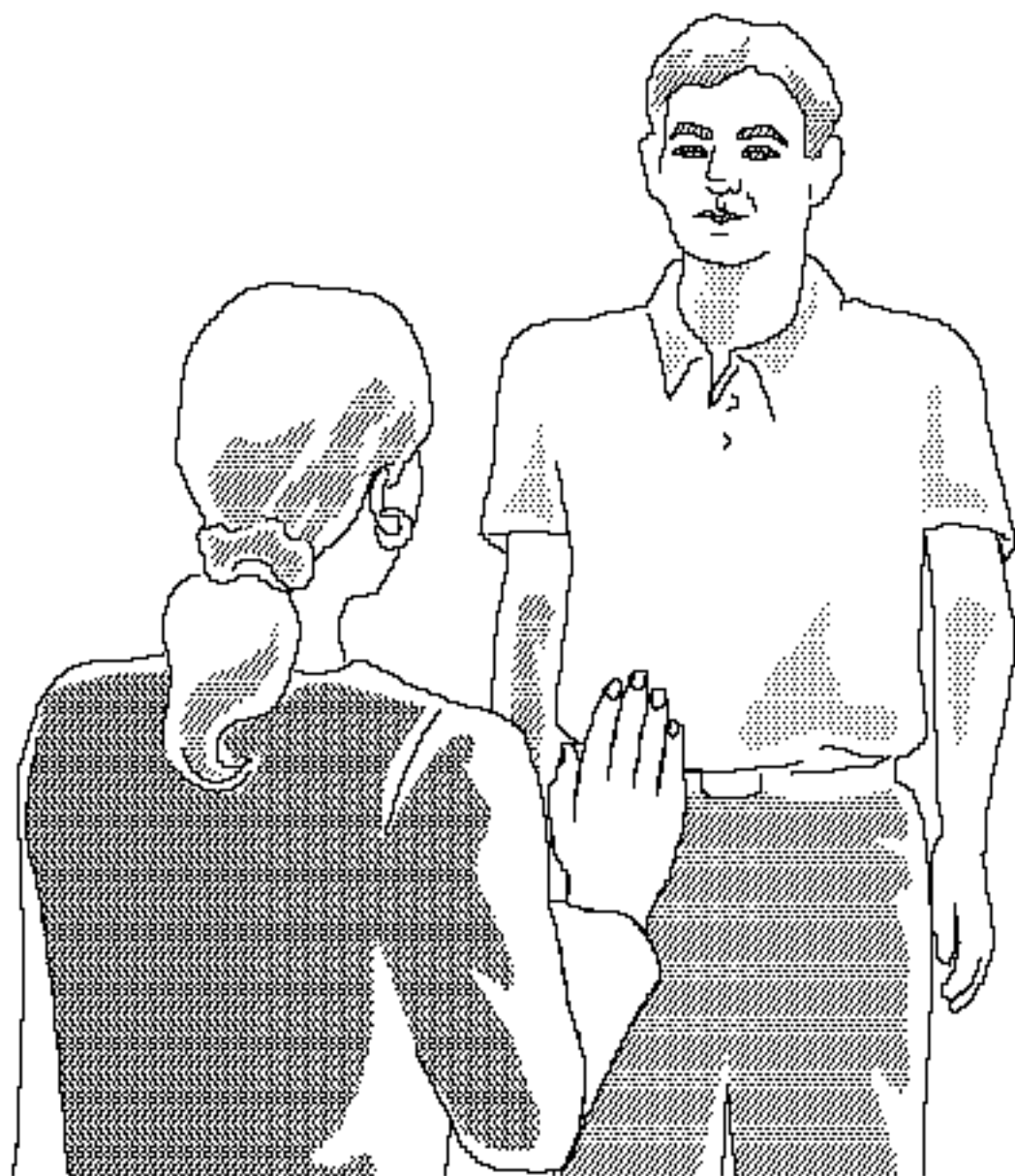
Receptive Viewpoint

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.

Sign Writing 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.



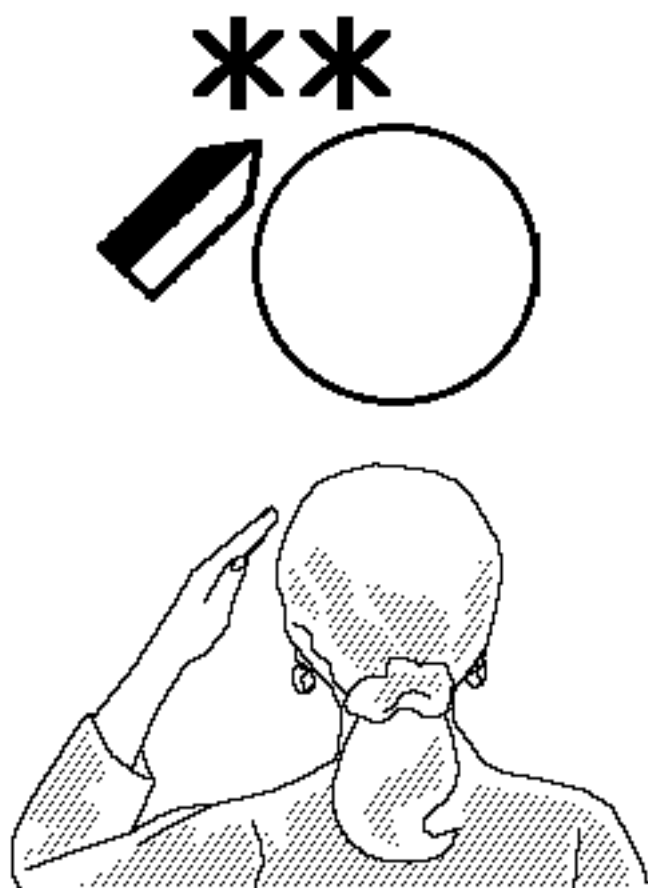
Back of Hand

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:



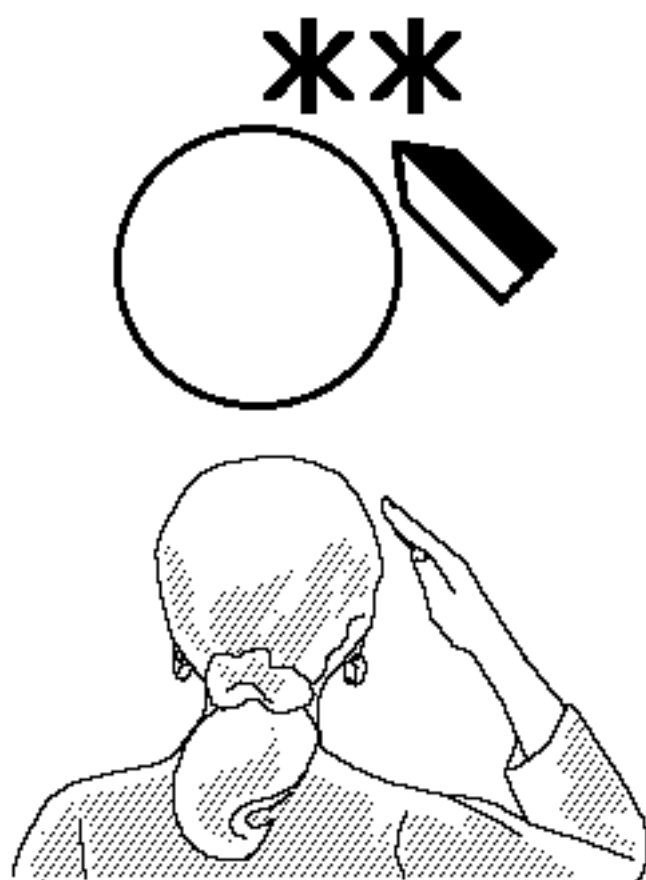
know

(hand on the left side)

Note: An asterisk means **touch**. Two asterisks mean **touching two times**. For information on contact symbols, see Chapter 4.

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**. For information on contact symbols, see Chapter 4.

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:

Your face
feels
like this:



know

(mouth pushed up on the left side)

Note: An asterisk means **touch**. Two asterisks mean **touching two times**. For information on contact symbols, see Chapter 4.

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 the right side)

Note: An asterisk means **touch**. Two asterisks mean **touching two times**. For information on contact symbols, see Chapter 4.

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**.

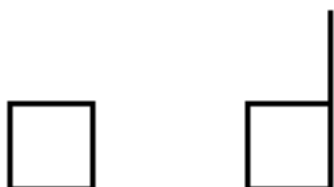


Flat Hand

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

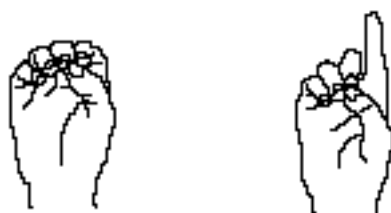
A **Flat Hand** is written with a **rectangle**, with a tip for the fingertips.

3 Basic Handshapes



Closed Fist

Both the letter **S** and 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 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



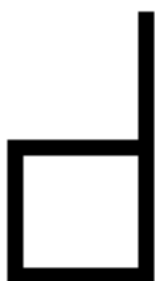
5 - Hand



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

Palm Facing



Wall Plane Front View

The **Wall Plane** is an imaginary plane parallel with the wall. When the hand is parallel with the wall, it is viewed from the front. This is called the **Front View**.

Hands that are parallel with the wall have no space at the knuckle joint.



Floor Plane Top View

The **Floor Plane** is an imaginary plane parallel with the floor. When the hand is parallel with the floor, it is viewed from overhead. This is called the **Top View**.

Hands that are parallel with the floor have a space at the knuckle joint.



Palm Facing

Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

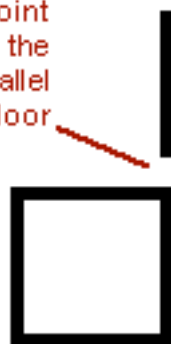


Palm Facing

Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

A space at the
knuckle joint
means that the
hand is parallel
with the floor



Palm Facing

Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

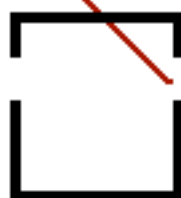


Palm Facing

Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

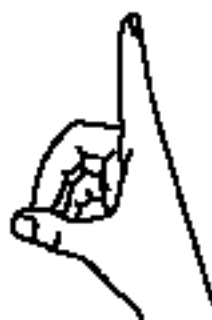
A space at the
knuckle joint
means that the
hand is parallel
with the floor



Palm Facing

Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.



Palm Facing

Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

A space at the
knuckle joint
means that the
hand is parallel
with 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.

A space at the
knuckle joint
means that the
hand is parallel
with 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.

A space at the
knuckle joint
means that the
hand is parallel
with the floor



Palm Facing

Front View

The hand is parallel with the front wall.

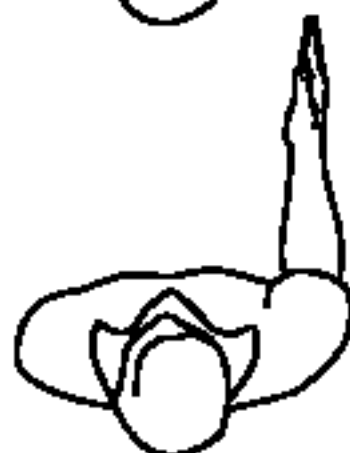


Palm Facing

Top View

The hand is parallel with the floor.

A space at the knuckle joint means that the hand is parallel with the floor





10 Groups of Hands

There are ten groups of hand symbols. The hands are grouped according to which fingers are used. These ten groups are the beginning of the **Sign-Symbol-Sequence™**, which is the order of symbols used to look up signs in SignWriting® dictionaries. 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).



Group 1: Index Finger



Group 2: Index-Middle



Group 3: Thumb-Index-Middle



Group 4: Four Fingers



Group 5: Five Fingers



Group 6: Baby Finger



Group 7: Ring Finger



Group 8: Middle Finger



Group 9: Index-Thumb



Group 10: Thumb



Group 1

Index Finger



Index

Straight Index Closed Fist



Index Bent

Bent Index Closed Fist



Index Cup

Curved Index Closed Fist



Index Hinge

Straight Index Projects Forward



Circle Index

Straight Index Open Fist

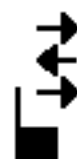


Angle Index

Straight Index Angle Hand

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



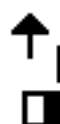
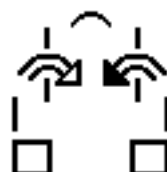
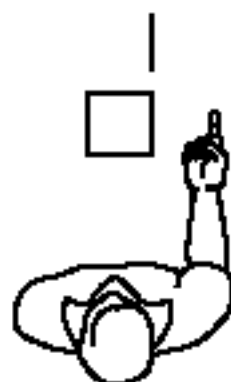
argue

sign

where

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



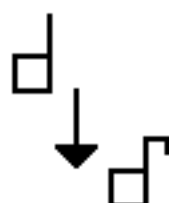
happen

you

same

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



ask me



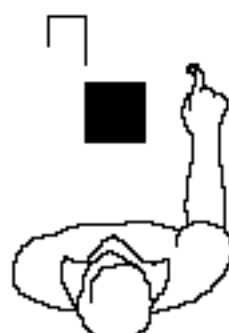
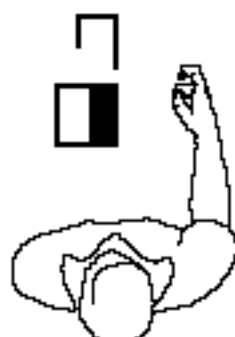
festival



ask you

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



ice skating



control



must, have to

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



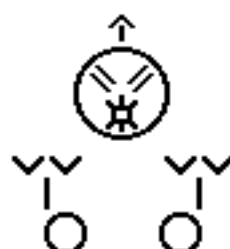
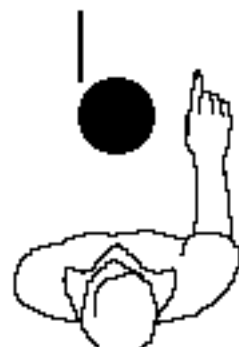
dinner

dating

democracy

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



do-do?

dessert

doctor



Group 2

Index & Middle Fingers



Index Middle
Fingers Spread Side



Index Middle Bent
Fingers Spread & Bent



Index-Hinge Middle
Index Projects Forward
Middle Finger Up



Index Middle-Hinge
Index Up, Middle Finger
Projects Forward



Index Middle Unit
Fingers Together



Index Middle Cup
Curved Fingers



Index Middle Hinge
Straight Fingers Forward



Index Middle Cross
Crossed Fingers



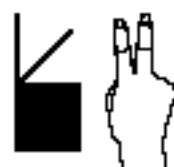
Middle Bent Cross
Middle On Top of Index



Index Bent Cross
Index On Top Of Middle

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



see



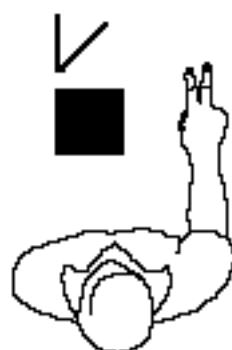
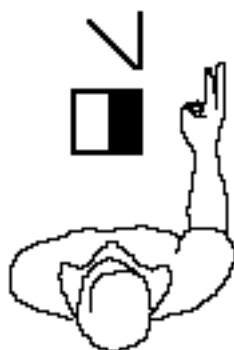
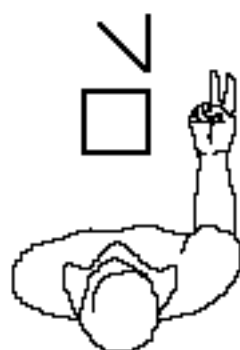
see



stupid

Top View

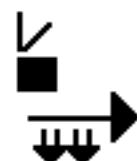
Hand Parallel With The Floor



the two of them



read



twenty-two



Group 3

Thumb, Index & Middle Fingers



Thumb Index Middle

Thumb, Index, Middle Spread



Thumb Index Middle Bent

3-Hand With Bent Fingers



Thumb Index Middle Cup

3-Hand With Curved Fingers



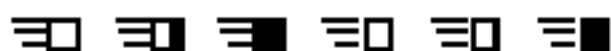
Thumb Index Middle Circle

Curved-3, Tips Touch



Thumb Index Middle Unit

U-Hand, Thumb Out



Thumb Index Middle Hinge

3-Hand, Fingers Forward



Thumb Index Middle Angle

3-Hand, Finger Tips Touch



Thumb Middle Angle Index

K-Hand with Angle



Thumb Middle Circle Index

K-Hand with Circle



Thumb Index Circle Middle

Thumb & Index Touch

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



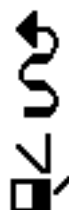
Denmark

third

\$3.00

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the three of them

vehicle

awkward



Group 4

Four Fingers



4 Fingers

4 Fingers Straight Spread
Thumb Crosses Palm



4 Fingers Bent

4-Hand With Bent Fingers



4 Fingers Unit

4-Hand Fingers Together

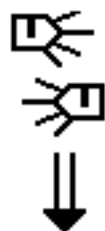


4 Fingers Bent Unit

Bent-B, Tips Touch Thumb

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



a long list



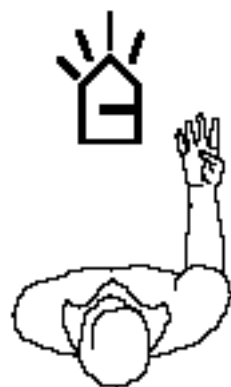
talk



\$4.00

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the four of them



talk-talk-talk



forty-four



Group 5

Five Fingers



Part One: Five Fingers Spread



5 Fingers

Five Fingers Straight Spread



5 Fingers Thumb Forward

Thumb Projects Forward



5 Fingers Bent

All Five Bent At Middle Joint



Fingers Bent, Thumb Straight

Thumb Straight Side



5 Fingers Cup

Spread Fingers Curved



5 Fingers Hinge

Spread Fingers Forward

Part Two: Five Fingers Together



Flat (5 Fingers Unit)

Five Fingers Together



Flat Thumb Forward

4 Fingers with Thumb Forward



Flat Thumb Side

4 Fingers Together Thumb Side



Flat Thumb Bent

4 Fingers Together Thumb Bent



Group 5

Five Fingers



Part Three: Five Fingers Together Bent



Claw

Five Fingers Together Bent



Claw Thumb Forward

Thumb Straight Forward



Claw Thumb Side

Thumb Straight Side



Claw No Thumb

Thumb Hidden Side



Claw Tips Touch

Straight Thumb Touches Claw

Part Four: Five Fingers Together Curved



Cup

Five Fingers Together Curved



Cup Thumb Straight Forward

Thumb Straight Forward



Cup Thumb Straight Side

Thumb Straight Side



Group 5

Five Fingers



...Part Four continued...



Cup No Thumb

Thumb Hidden Side



Circle

Cup, Tips Touch



Curlicue

Circle, Thumb Forward

Part Five: Five Fingers Together Angle



Open Angle

Thumb Straight Forward



Angle Thumb Side

Thumb Straight Side



Angle No Thumb

Thumb Hidden Side



Angle

5 Fingers Straight Tips Touch



Oval

5 Fingers Curved Tips Touch

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



America



mother



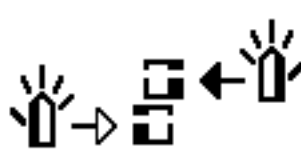
hello

Top View

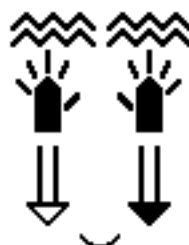
Hand Parallel With The Floor



wait



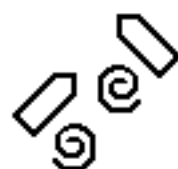
condense



snow

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



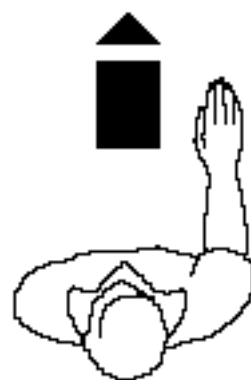
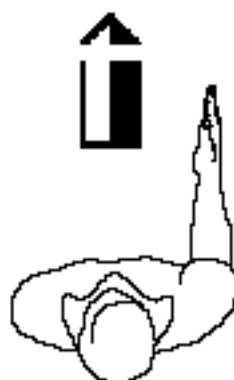
appreciate

hello

yours

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



things

way

children

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



eat



to teach



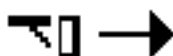
teach you

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



soft



and



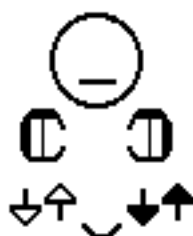
put (to the right)

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



Switzerland



communicate



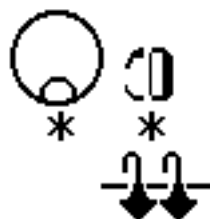
Colorado

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



bowl



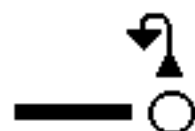
drink



action

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



Oregon



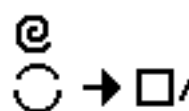
nothing



none

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



smooth



in



New Orleans



Group 6

Baby Finger



Index Middle Ring

Spread Fingers Tight Fist



Index Middle Ring Bent

Spread Fingers Tight Fist



Index Middle Ring Unit

Fingers Together Tight Fist



Index Middle Ring Hinge

Three Fingers Forward



Index Middle Ring Thumb

Baby Finger Down, Others Up



Index Middle Ring Circle

Pineapple with Open Fist



Baby Finger

Fist With Baby Finger Up



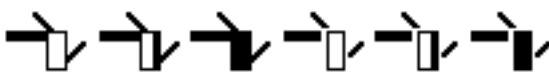
Baby Bent

Baby Finger Up & bent



Thumb Baby

3 Middle Fingers Down



Thumb Baby Angle

3 Middle Fingers Forward



Thumb Index Baby

2 Middle Fingers Down

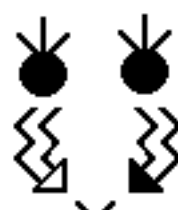
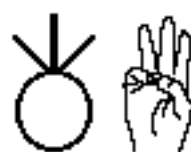


Index Baby

With Tight Fist

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



Index Middle Baby

Ring Finger & Thumb Touch



Thumb Index Middle Baby

Ring Finger Down



Ring Finger

Ring Finger Up



Ring Baby

Ring & Baby Fingers Up

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



one-seventh

seventh

\$7.00

Top View

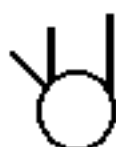
Hand Parallel With The Floor



the seven of them

seventh

seventy-seven



Group 8

Middle Finger



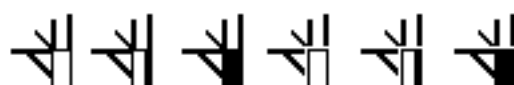
Index Ring Baby Circle

Middle Finger Down



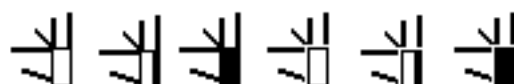
Index Ring Baby Thumb

Middle Finger Down



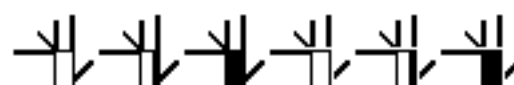
Index Ring Baby Angle

Middle Finger



Index Ring Baby Hinge

Open-8 With Thumb Side



Index Ring Baby Thumb

Middle Finger Angle



Middle Finger

Middle Finger Up



Middle Finger Thumb

Middle Finger Up Thumb Out

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



interesting



eighth



\$8.00

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



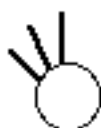
the eight of them



hate



eighty-eight



Group 9

Part One

Thumb & Index Touch



Middle Ring Baby

Thumb & Index Touch Circle



Middle Ring Baby Bent

Thumb & Index Touch Circle



Middle Ring Baby Curlicue

Thumb & Index Curlicue



Middle Ring Baby Hook

Thumb-Index Claw Tips Touch



Middle Ring Baby Hook Out

Thumb Outside Index Finger



Middle Ring Baby Hook In

Thumb Inside Index Finger



Middle Ring Baby Claw

Thumb-Index Bent



Middle Ring Baby Claw Thumb

Thumb Straight Side



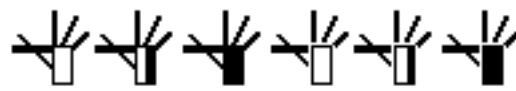
Middle Ring Baby Angle

Thumb & Index Tips Touch



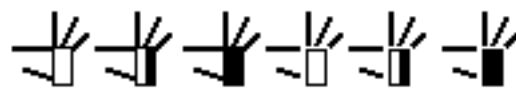
Middle Ring Baby Angle Out

Thumb Outside Index Finger



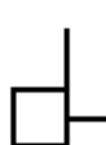
Middle Ring Baby Angle In

Thumb Inside Index Finger



Middle Ring Baby Hinge

Thumb & Index Forward



Group 9

Part Two
Thumb & Index Out



Thumb Index

Straight Out Spread



Thumb Index Unit

Thumb Tight Side



Thumb Bent, Index Straight

Thumb Side Bent



Thumb Straight, Index Bent

Thumb Straight Out Side



Thumb Index Circle

Thumb & Index Tips Touch



Thumb Index Hook

Thumb Touches Bent Index



Thumb Index Cup

Thumb & Index Curved



Thumb Index Open Cup

Curve Opens More



Thumb Index Hinge

Thumb & Index Forward



Thumb Index Open Hinge

Hinge Opens More



Thumb Index Angle

Thumb & Index Tips Touch



Thumb Outside Index Angle

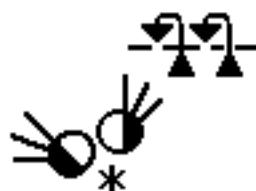
Thumb Outside Index

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



every Friday



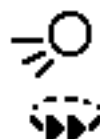
interpret



important

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



the nine of us



decide



ninety-nine

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



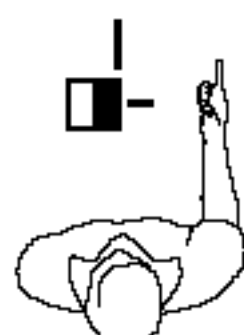
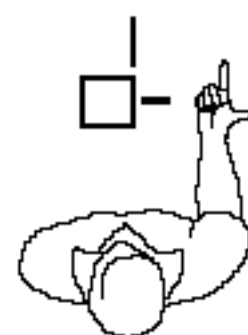
second

lunch

language

Top View

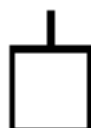
Hand Parallel With The Floor



both of us

law

language



Group 10

Thumb



Thumb

Thumb Straight Side



Thumb Side Bent

Thumb Bent



Thumb Side Unit

Thumb Tight on Side



Fist Thumb Over

Tight, Closed Fist



Thumb Between Index Middle

Thumb Protrudes Between



Thumb Under Middle Hook

Tight Fist, Thumb Under Middle



Fist Thumb Under

Tight Fist, Thumb Hidden

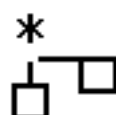


Fist Thumb Forward

Tight Fist, Thumb Forward

Front View

Hand Parallel With The Wall



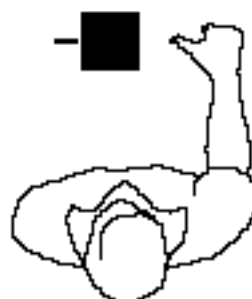
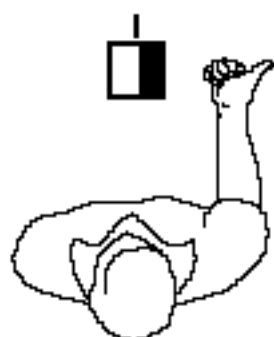
first

perform

drunk

Top View

Hand Parallel With The Floor



other

ahead

other

The Irish Manual Alphabet



a



b



c



d



e



f



g



h



i



j



k



l



m



n



o



p



q



r



s



t



u



v



w



x





























y



z

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

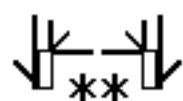
The Swiss-German Manual Alphabet



a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
i
j
k
l
m
n
o
p



q
r
s
t
u
v
w
x
y
z
ö
ä
ü
..
^



Contact

6 Contact Symbols

1. Touch

*

4. Strike

#

2. Grasp

+

5. Brush

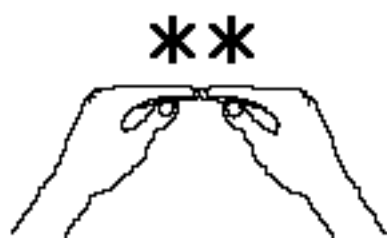
⊙

3. In-between

|*|

6. Rub

@



more



school



Touch

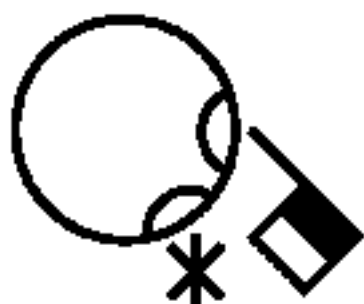
Touch Contact is written with an asterisk.

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.

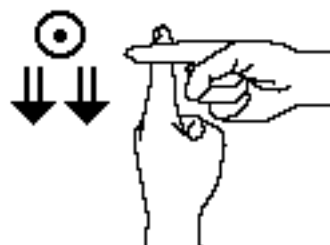
Strike is defined as the hand contacting a surface **with force**.



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.

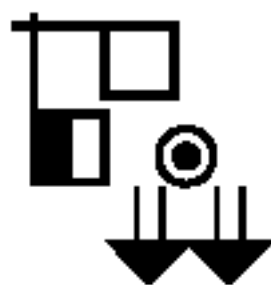


excuse me

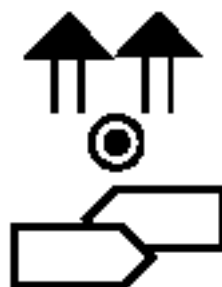


monthly

Brush Contact



monthly



easy



excuse me



Circular Rub



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



coffee



chocolate

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

Straight Rub



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



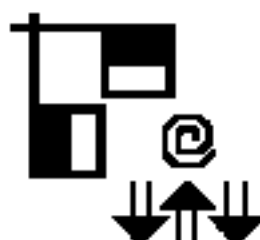
neat



eager

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.

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

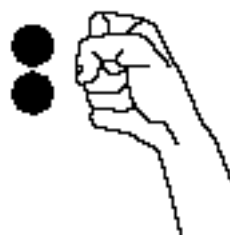


Knuckle Joint finger movements are written with small arrowheads.



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?

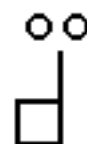


milk

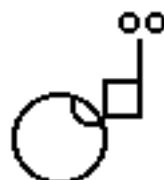


Middle-Joint Opens

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.



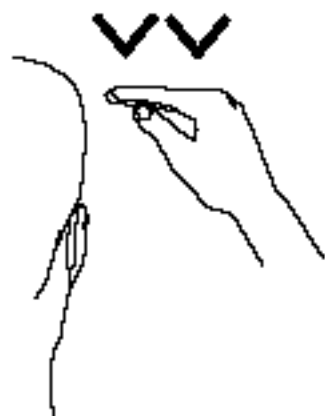
eleven



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.



**Straight
Movement**

Wall Plane

The Wall Plane is parallel with the front wall.



Floor Plane

The Floor Plane is parallel with the floor.

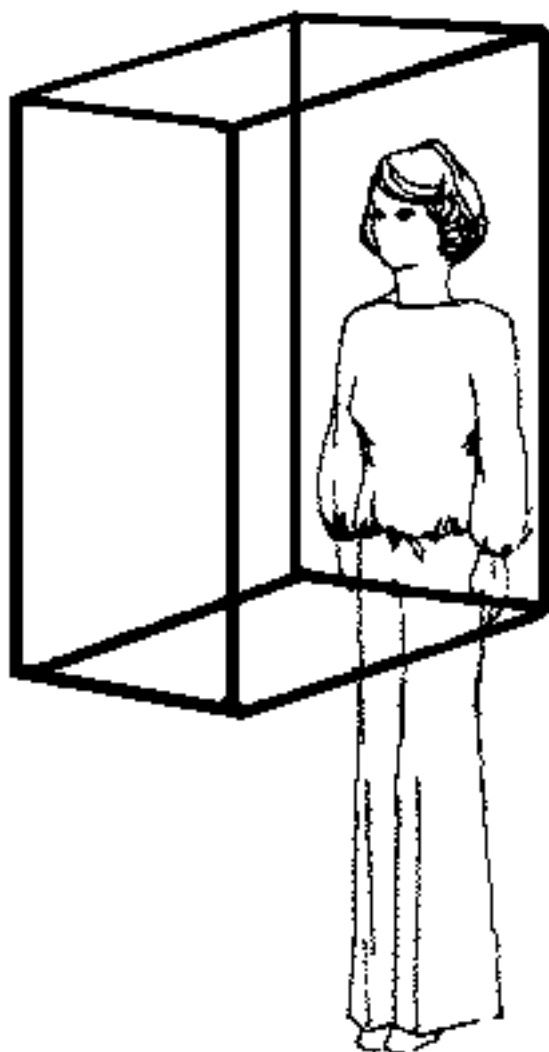


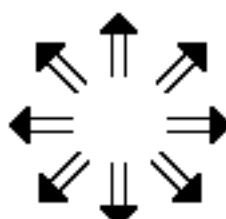
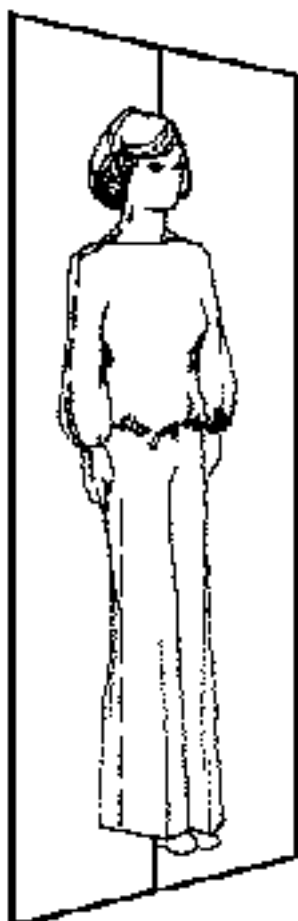
Signing Space

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 disects your signing space.

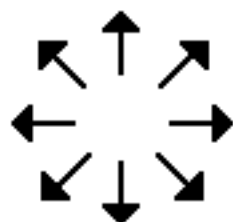
There are two planes used in SignWriting: the Wall Plane and the Floor Plane. The Wall Plane is parallel with the front and back walls. The Floor Plane is parallel with the floor and ceiling. All movement symbols in SignWriting relate to these two planes.





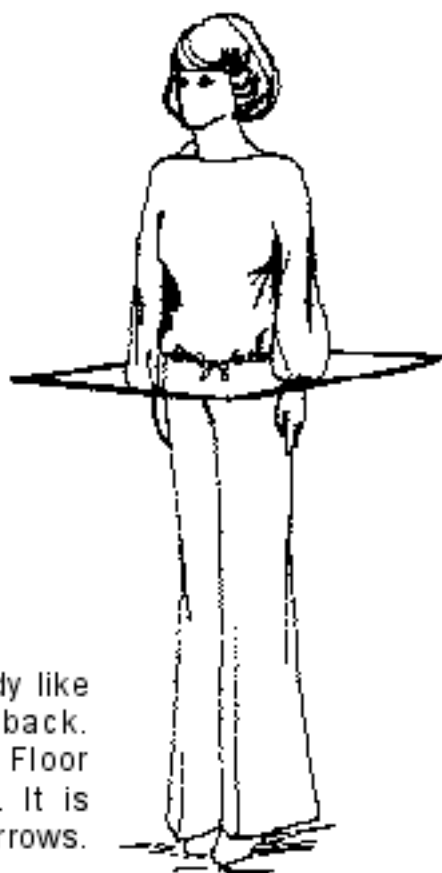
Wall Plane

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.

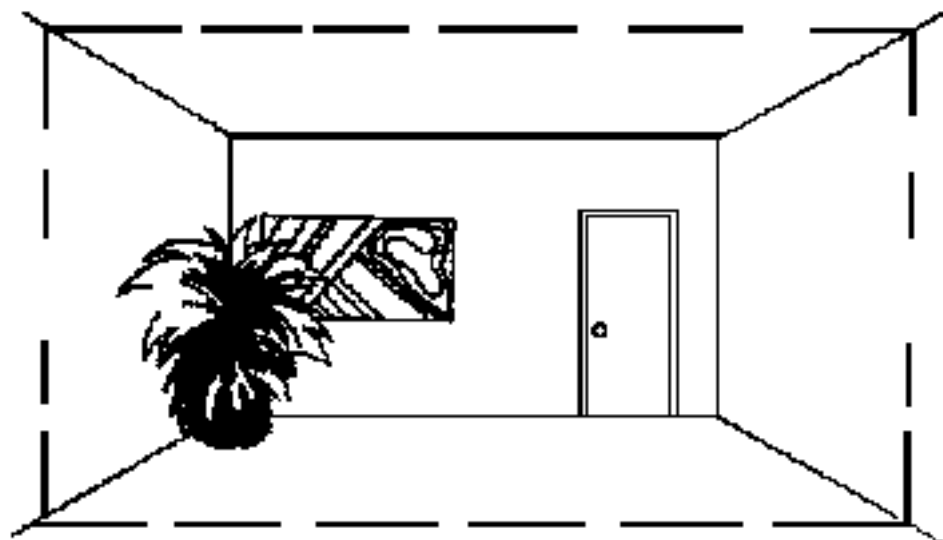


Floor Plane

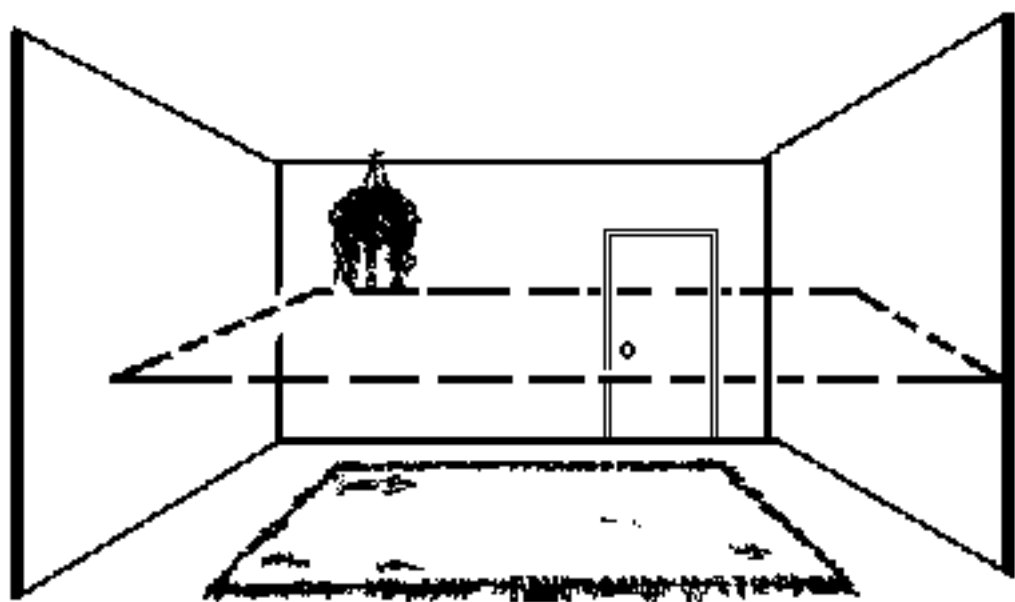
The Floor Plane cuts the body like a table-top, from front to back. Movement parallel with the Floor Plane is forward and back. It is written with single stemmed-arrows.



The Planes

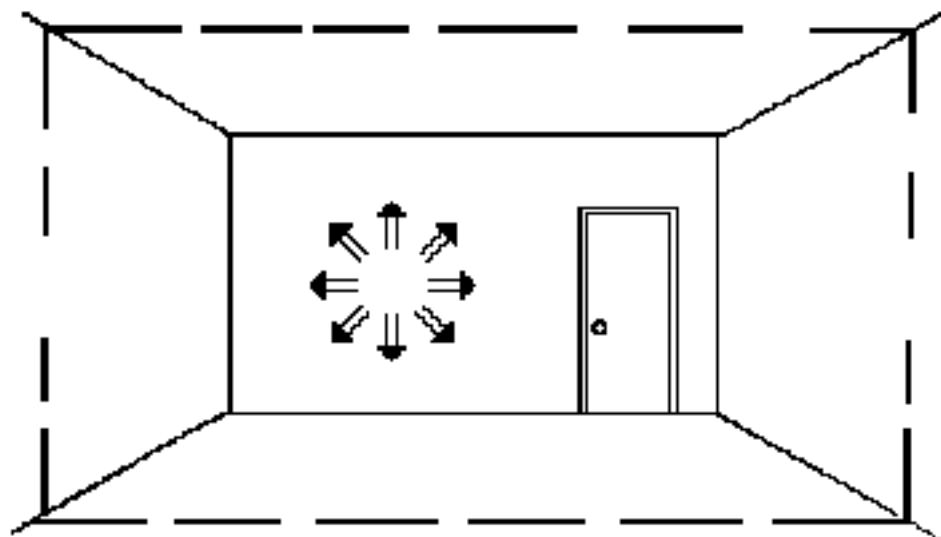


Wall Plane



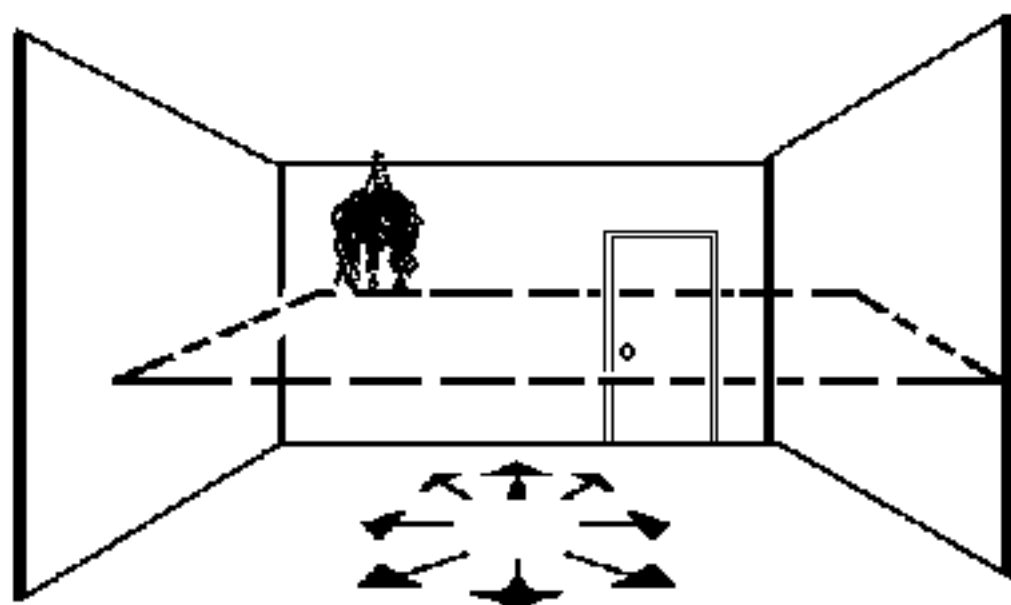
Floor Plane

The Planes



Wall Plane

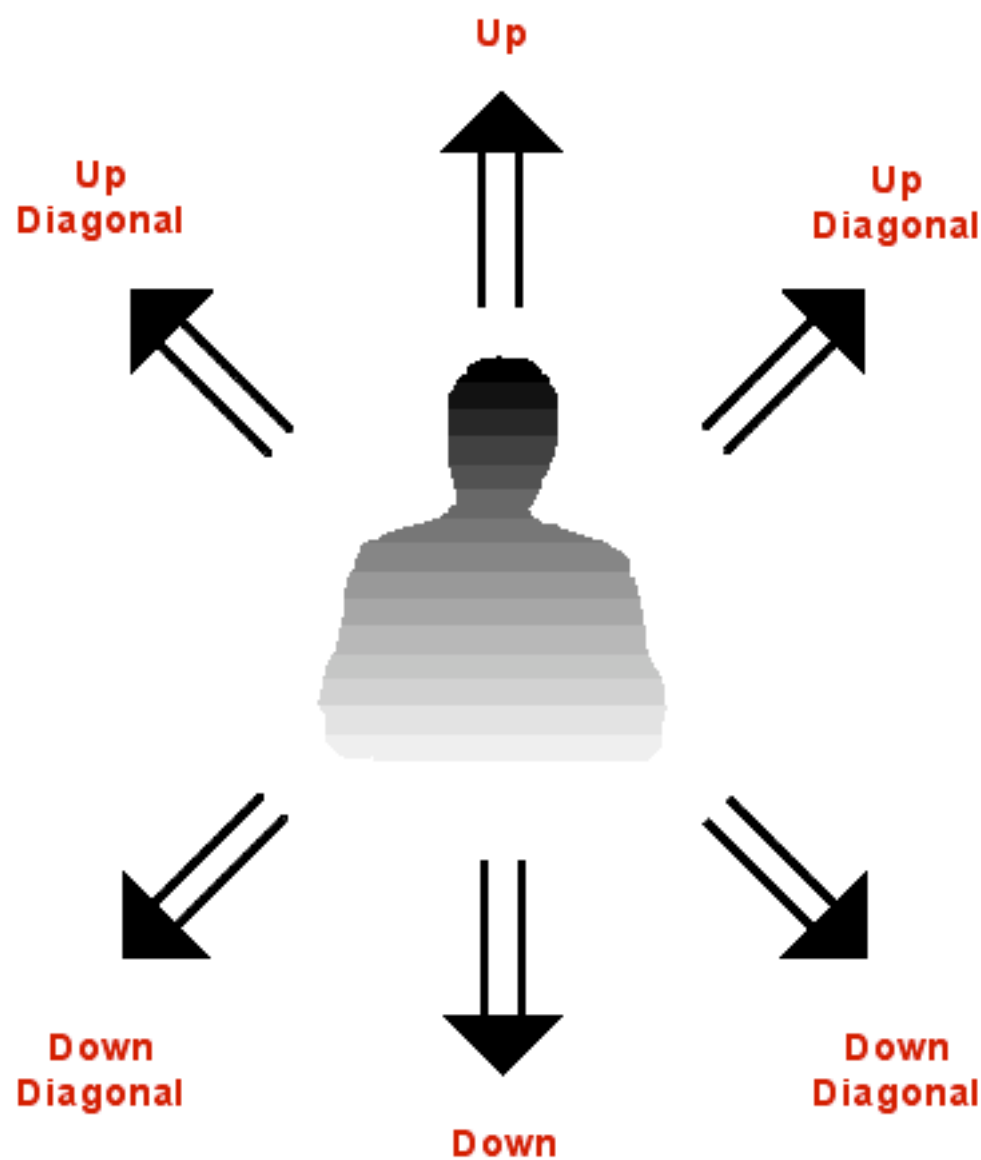
Double-Stemmed Arrows



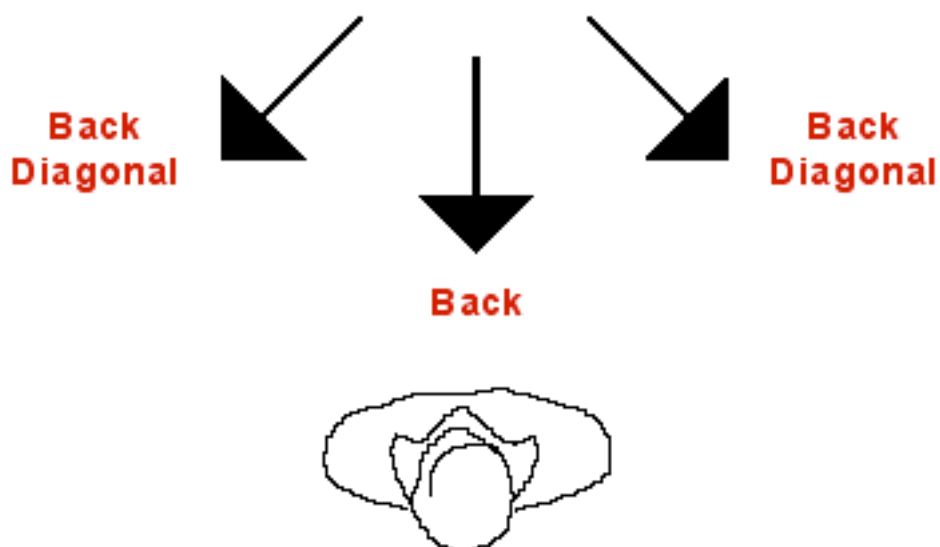
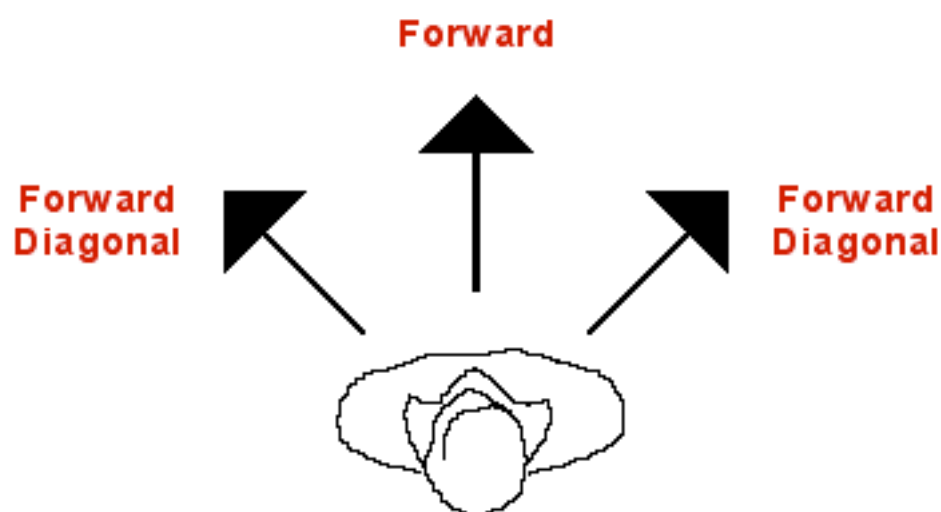
Floor Plane

Single-Stemmed Arrows

Up-Down Movement

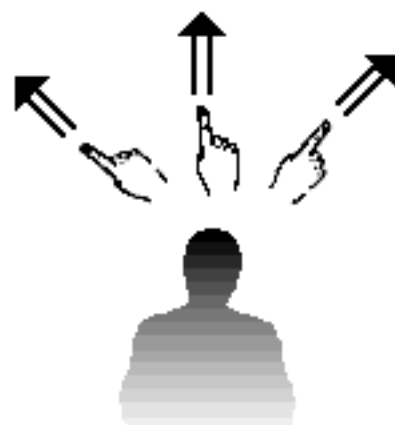


Forward-Back Movement

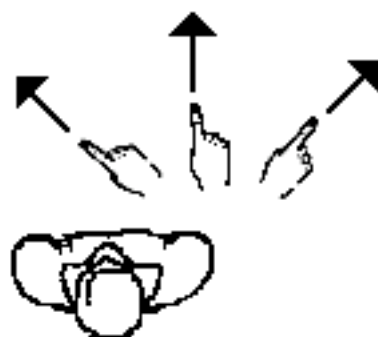


Movement With The Right Hand

A dark arrowhead.



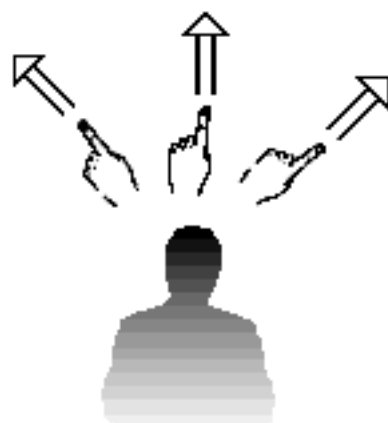
Front View



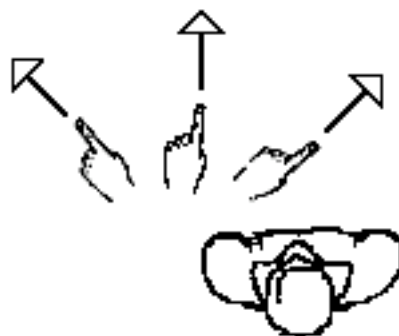
Top View

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.



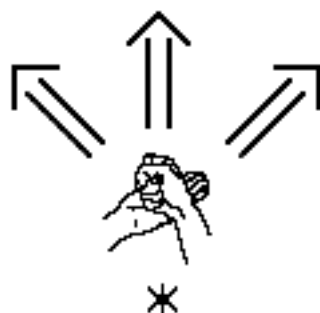
Front View



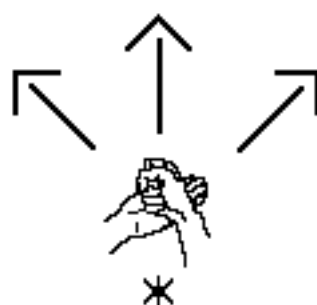
Top View

Two Hands Move As One Unit

When both hands contact, and move together in the same direction, they move as **one unit**. The movement is **both** right and left. This is written with a neutral arrowhead, which is neither dark nor light.

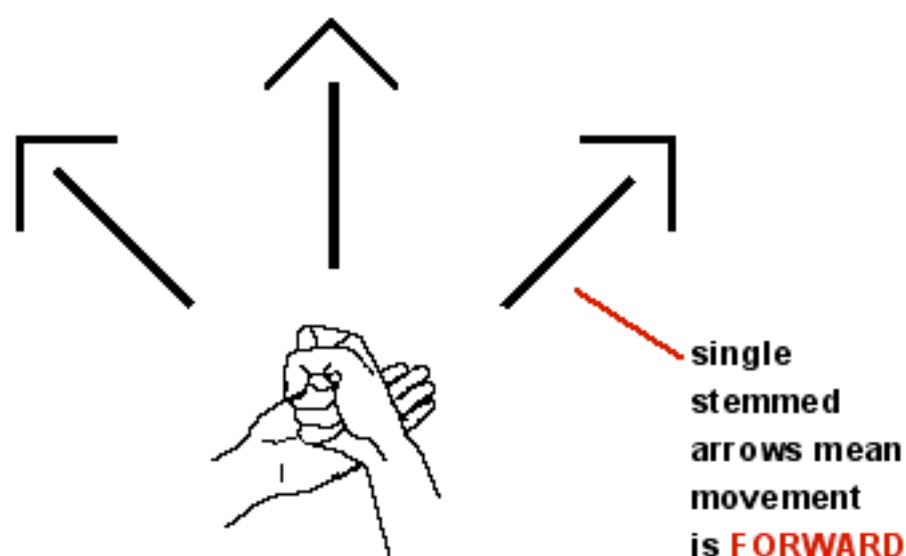
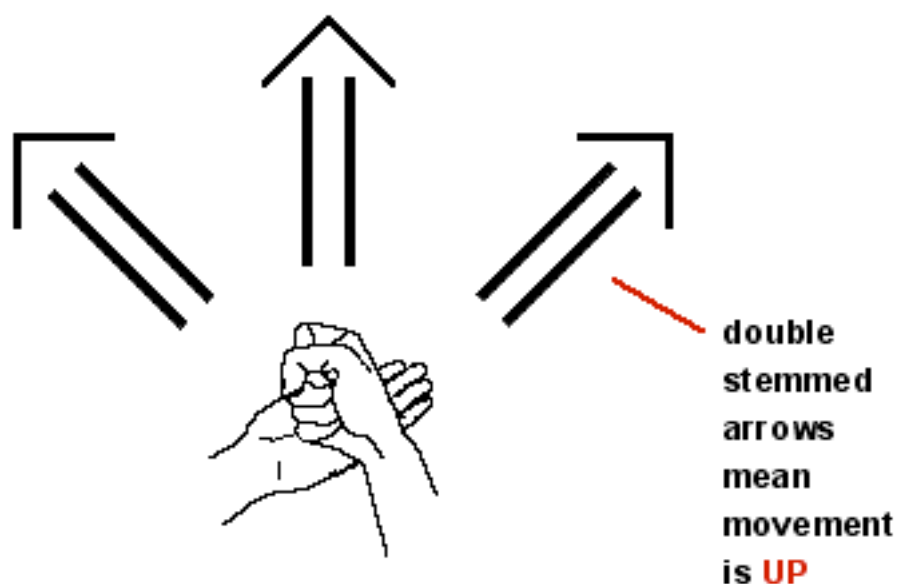


Front View



Top View

Do not confuse these arrows:





Straight Movement



Up or Down



temperature



disappear

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.



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.



excuse me



eager

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



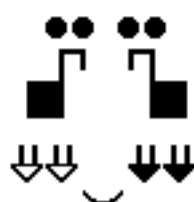
Wall-Plane-Rooftop
Diagonal-Straight



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

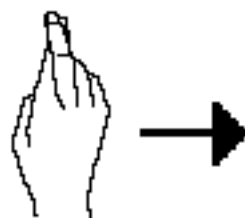
Straight movement parallel with the floor.



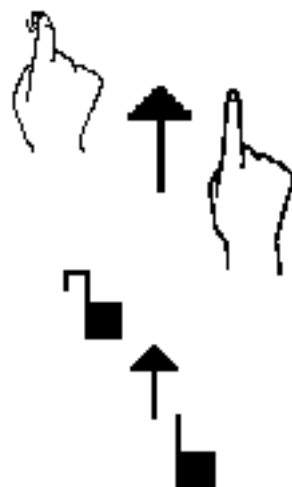
hello



nothing



right (direction)



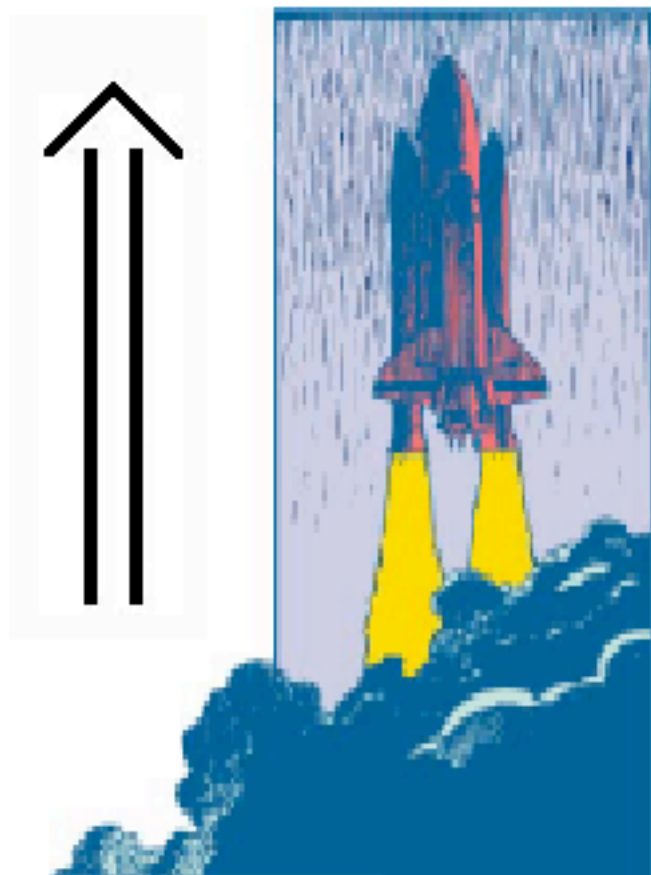
ask a question

Writing Movement On Diagonal Planes

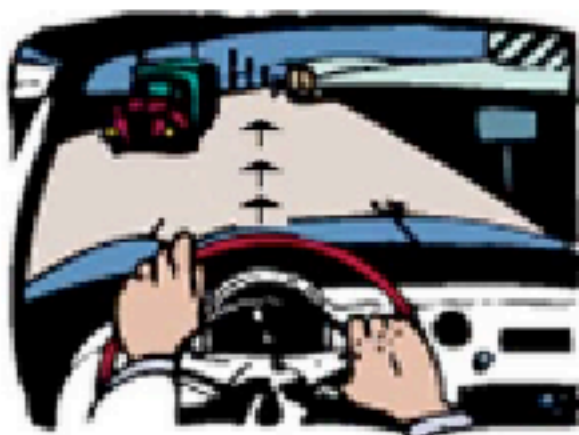
Let's review what we have already learned!

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:

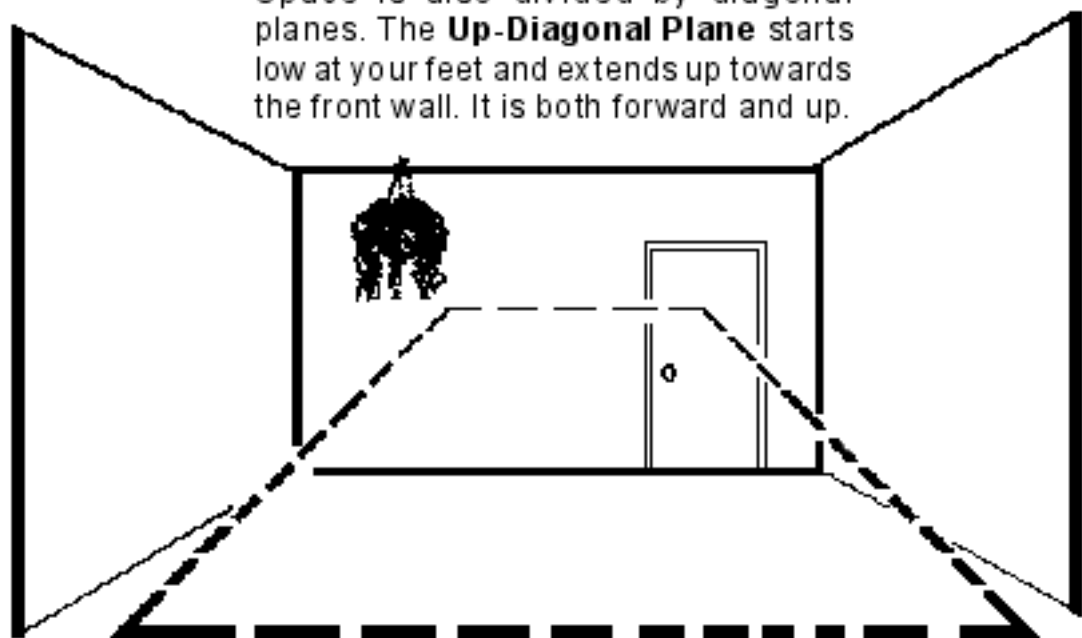


The Plane that is parallel with the floor, is called the Floor Plane. Forward-Back Movement is parallel with the Floor Plane. It is written with single-stemmed arrows. Imagine driving a car. Think of the line in the center of the road. Forward Movement is written with single-stemmed arrows:



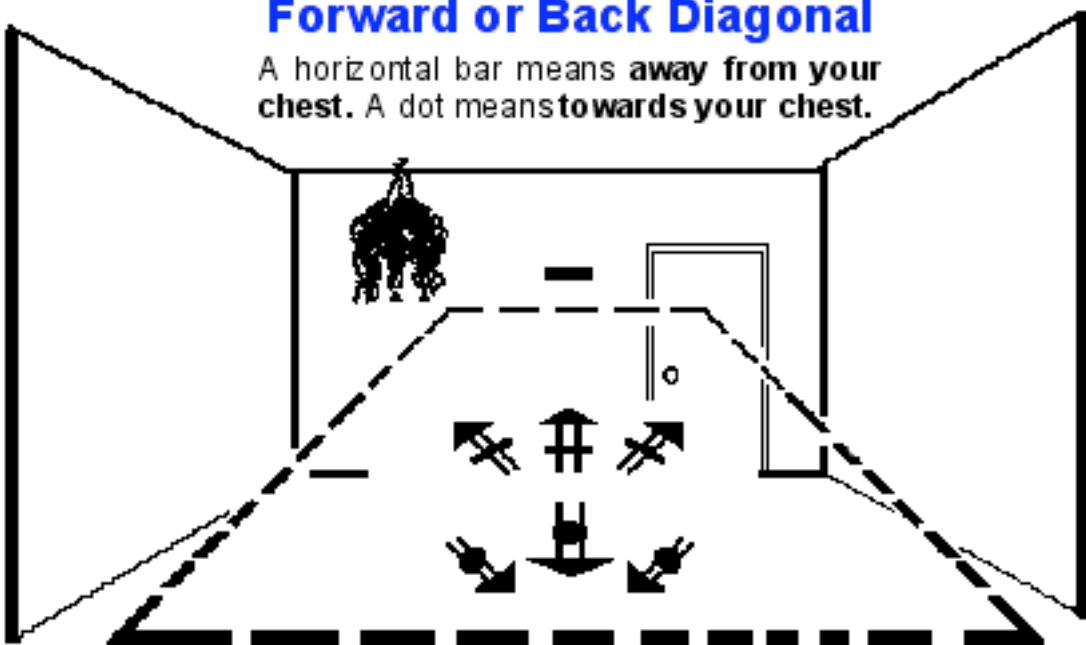
The Diagonal Plane

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.



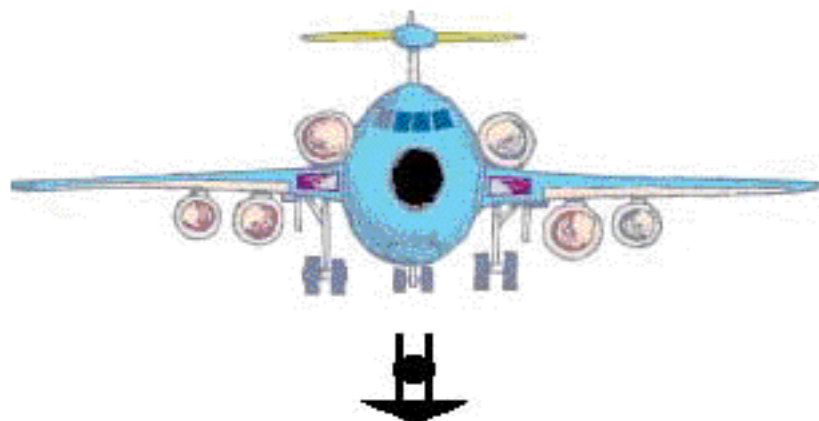
Up-Forward Diagonal Movement

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



**Curved
Movement**

Up-Down Curved Movement

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



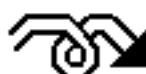
1. Curve Up-Side



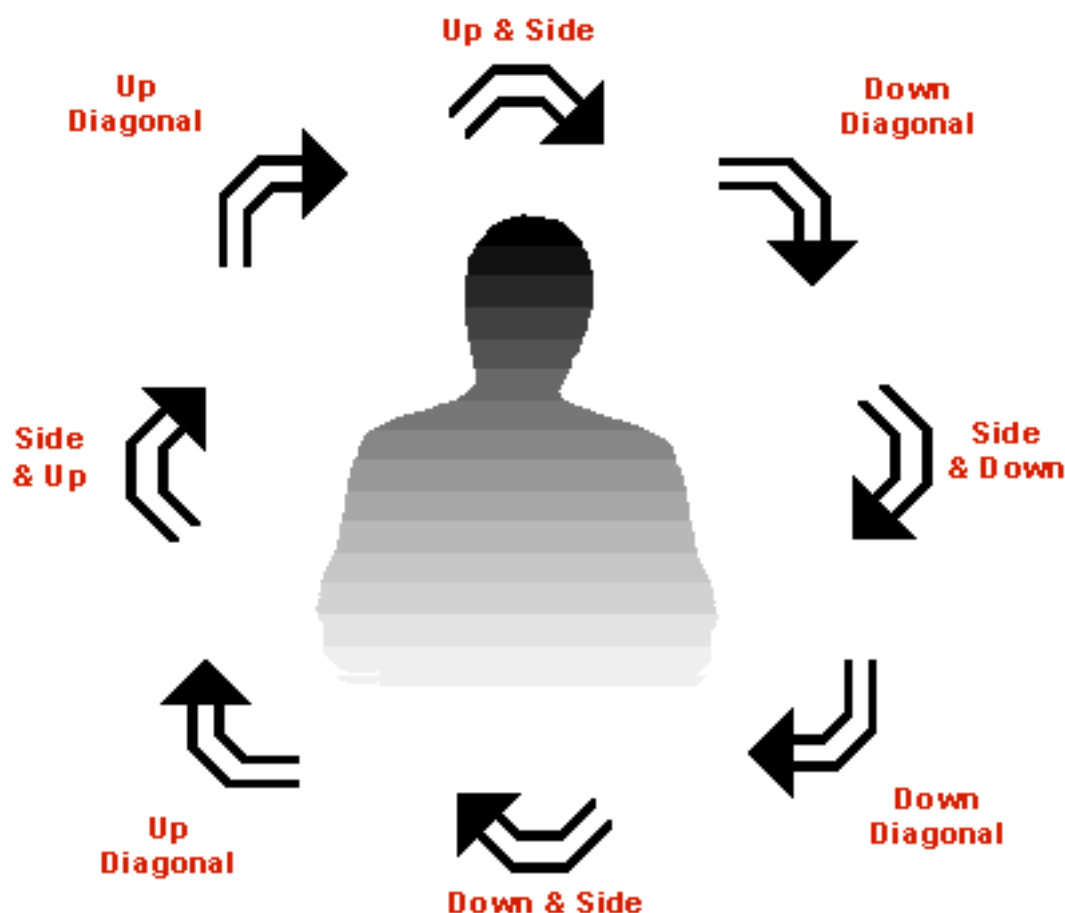
2. Curve Up-Up



3. Curve Up-Down-Up



4. Curve Up-Loop-Up



Up-Down Curved Arrows

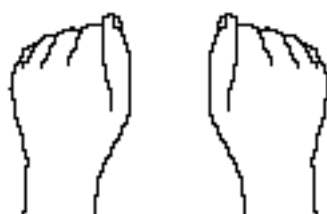
The curves are parallel with the wall.



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

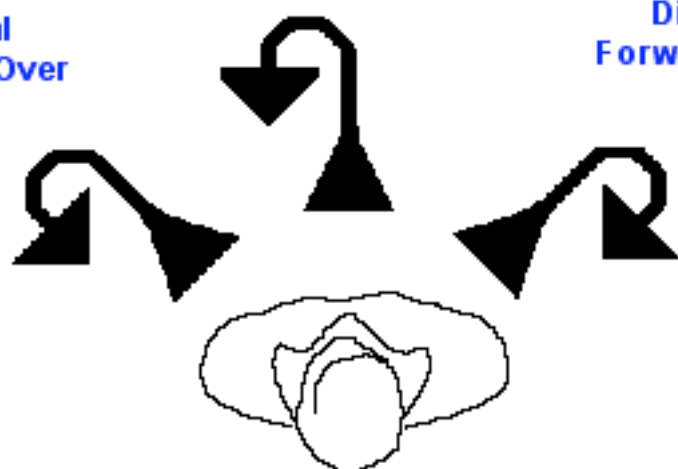


8. Back-Under-Over

Forward & Over

Diagonal
Forward & Over

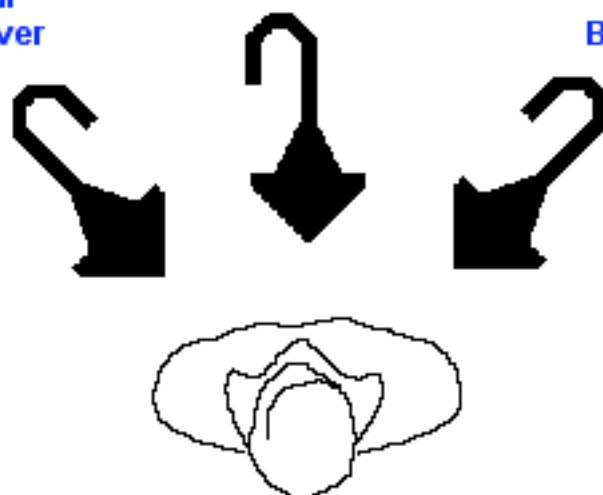
Diagonal
Forward & Over



Back & 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



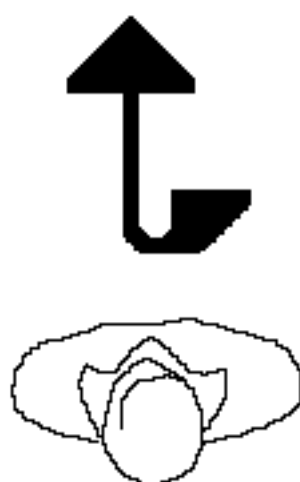
7. Back-Loop-Under



8. Back-Over-Under

Forward & Under

Diagonal
Forward & Under

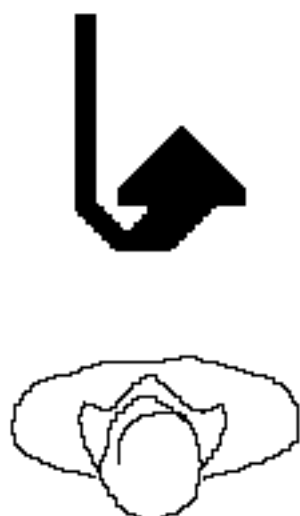


Diagonal
Forward & Under



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



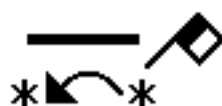
Side-Back-Side



Forward-Back Curved Arrows

The curves are parallel with the floor.

across



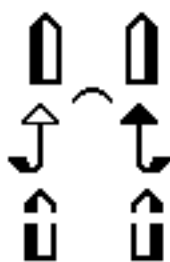
we

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

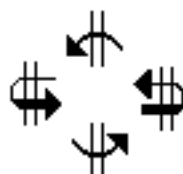
Rotation

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**.



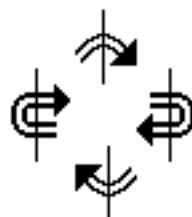
Right forearm is up. Rotation describes the curve of the baby finger side, forward, and then side again. The forearm does not travel, but simply rotates in place.



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

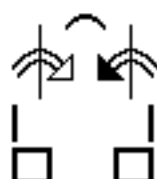


close

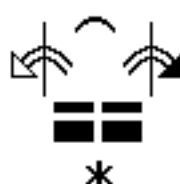


finish

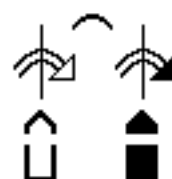
Rotation, Forearm Forward
Forearm Parallel with Floor



happen



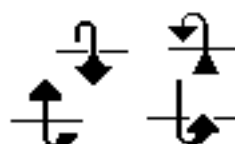
break



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.

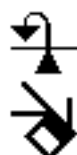


Right forearm is side, parallel with the floor. Rotation describes the curve forward, down and under. The forearm does not travel, but stays in place.



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

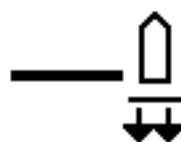


ASL Sign For "Flag"

Wrist Flexing Forward and Back Towards the Chest



chat



before



basketball



**Circular
Movement**

Circular Movement

Arm Circles

Arm circles are written with dotted lines. 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

Double Wrist Circles
Forward-Back
 Sagittal & Floor Planes



1. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



1. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



2. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



2. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



3. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



3. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



4. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



4. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Side Wall



5. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Floor



5. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Floor



6. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Floor



6. Forward-Back Circle
 Parallel with Floor



who



hearing person



beautiful

Arm & Wrist Circles

festival



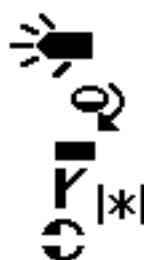
people

coordinate



hot

improve



involve

use



worried



**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

Forehead



Neutral
Forehead



Wrinkled
Forehead

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

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



Right Eye Open



Left Eye Open



Eyes Squint



Right Eye Squints



Left Eye Squints



Eyes Closed



Right Eye Closed



Left Eye Closed



Eyes Squeezed
Tightly Together



Bug Eyes



Eyes Half Open



Right Eye Half Open



Left Eye Half Open



Eyes Half Shut



Right Eye Half Shut



Left Eye Half Shut



Eyelashes



Right Eyelash



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**



**Rectangular Open
Mouth Horizontal**



**Oval Open Mouth
Vertical (Yawn)**



**Rectangular Open
Mouth Vertical**



Kiss



**Kiss Protrudes
Forward**



**Lips Sucked In
Pressed Together**



**Upper Lip Over
Lower Lip**



**Lower Lip Over
Upper Lip**



**Double Wrinkles
Around Mouth**



**Double Wrinkles
Right Side Mouth**



**Double Wrinkles
Left Side Mouth**



**Single Wrinkles
Around Mouth**



**Single Wrinkle
Right Side Mouth**



**Single Wrinkle
Left Side Mouth**



Tense Lips



**Tense Lips
Protrude Forward**



**Tense Lips
Sucked Back**



**Lip Corners
Both Up**



**Lip Corner
Up Right**



**Lip Corner
Up Left**



**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



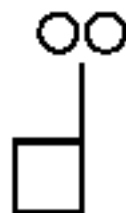
Back of Head



Excited



Hair



The Head

The Head

The Head can be seen from different viewpoints:



Front View



Back View



Side View



Side View



Top View
Facing
Front



Top View
Facing
Diagonal



Top View
Facing
Diagonal



Contact Center
Front of Face



Contact Center
Back of Head



Contact Center
Side of Head



Contact Center
Side of Head



Contact Center
Top of Head



Contact Center
Top of Head



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

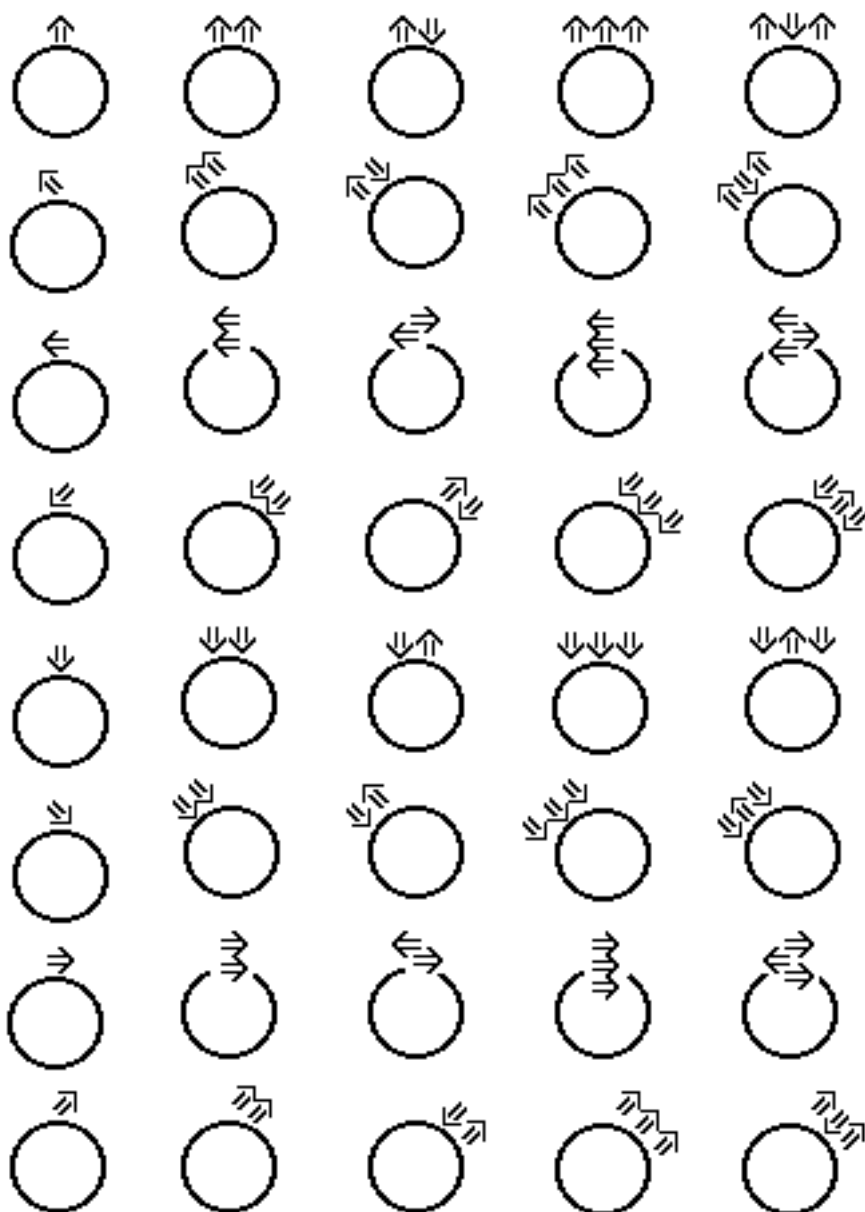


Touching
Side of Head
Down Diagonal

Head Movement

Face-Direction Movement Symbols

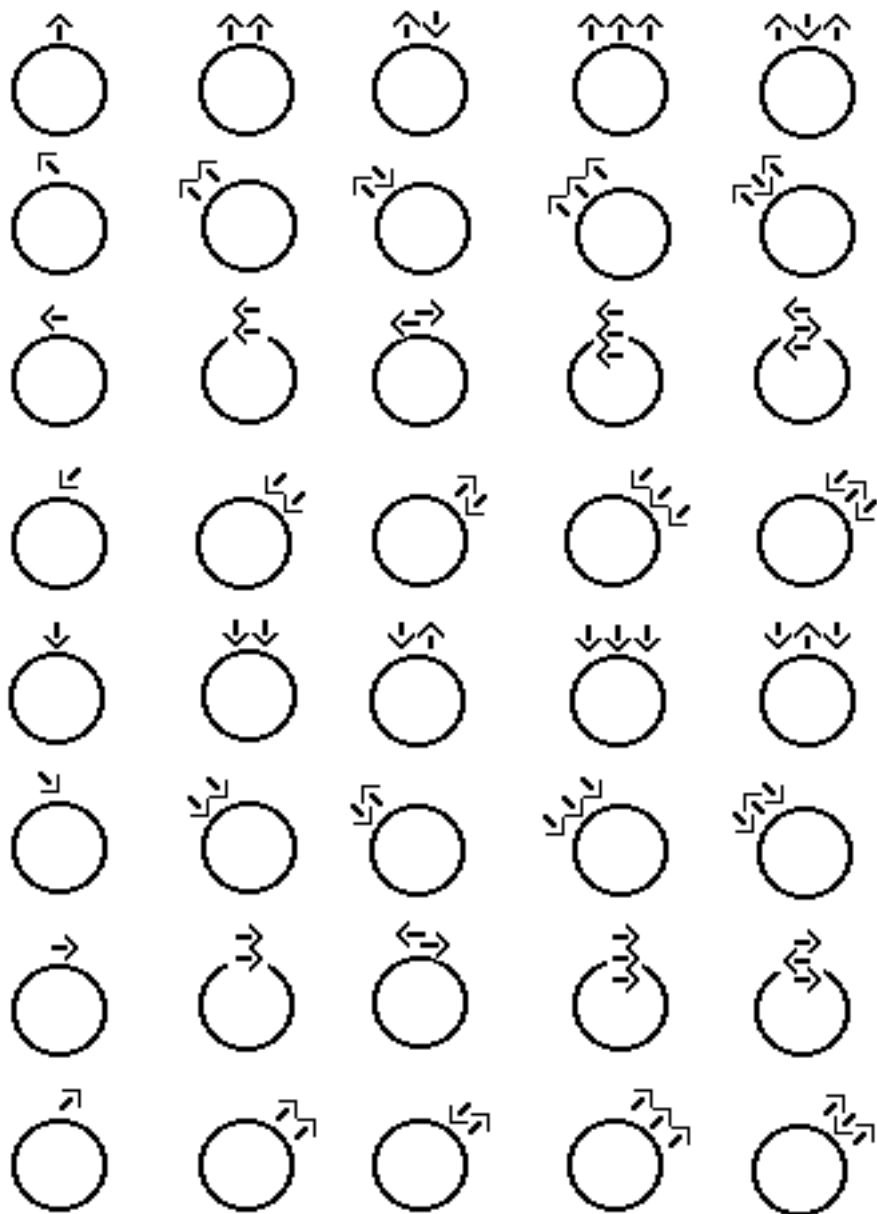
The nose moves in the direction of the arrows.
The neck bends and stretches as the nose moves.



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

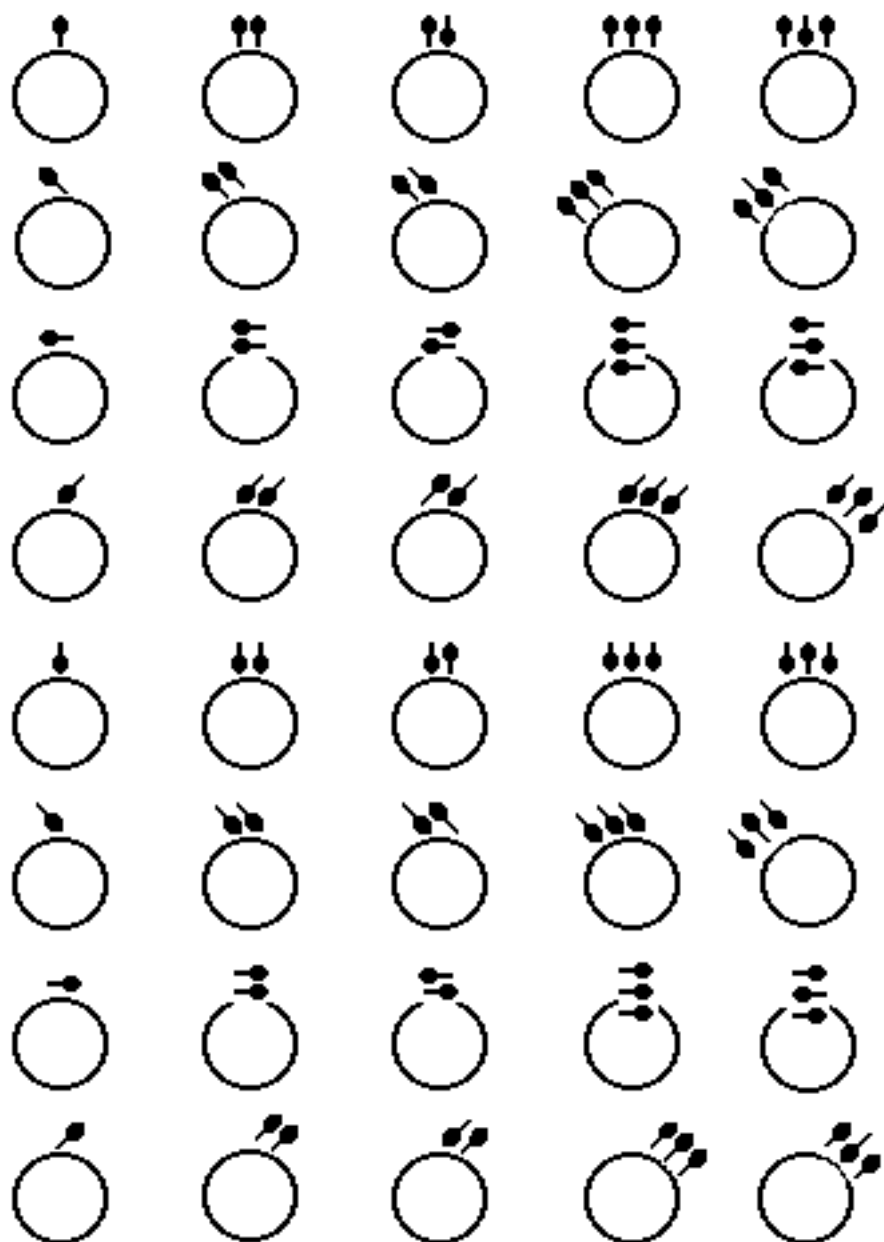


Torso Tilts Back & Forth
Body Rocks Back & Forward & Back

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 un-even-alternating:



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



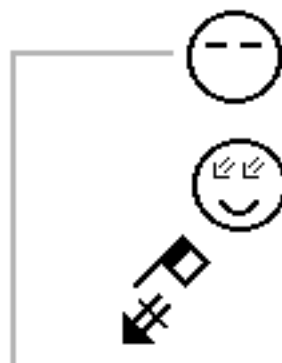
3. **Facial Dynamics** show tense or relaxed facial muscles. The Tense Symbol is used for lips that press together, for raised cheeks, and for squeezed eyes.



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



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



Movement Dynamics



Simultaneous Line

Both hands move at the same time.



Alternating Lines

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



Un-Even Alternating

One Moves While The Other One Is Still

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



Slow Movement



Smooth Movement



Fast Movement



Fast Movement with Emphasis



Tense Movement



Tense Movement with Emphasis



Relaxed Movement



Relaxed Movement with Emphasis

Handshape Dynamics

Writing Classifiers

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

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

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

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



Facial Dynamics

Related To Handshape Dynamics

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

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



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

The **lip 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 **lip 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 **lip 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.

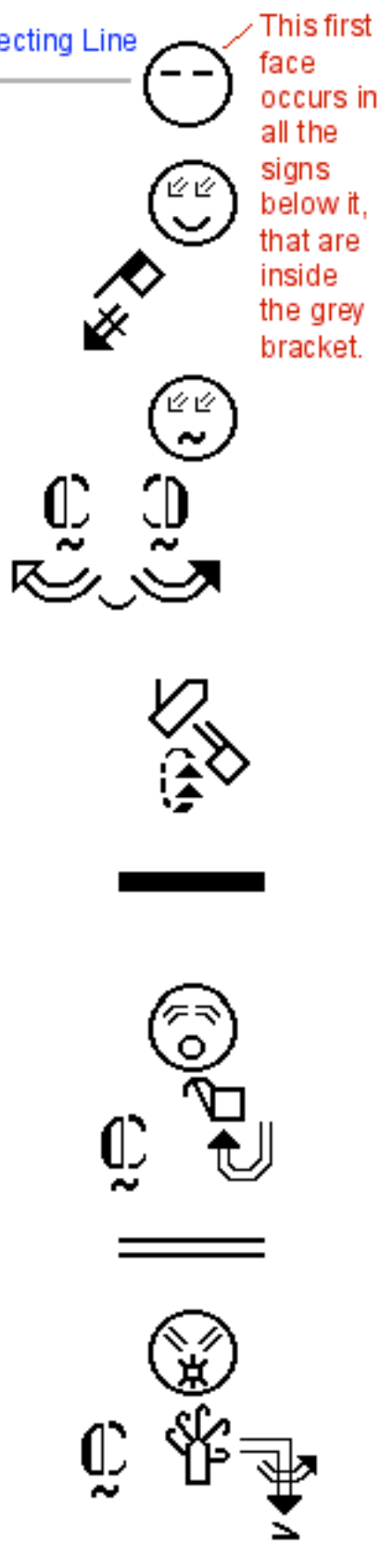
When one symbol influences a group of symbols or signs, the symbol that is influencing the group is written first. Then a line is written, like a bracket, connecting the symbol with the group it influences.

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



Punctuation Dynamics

Sign Language sentences with feeling!

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

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

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

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

