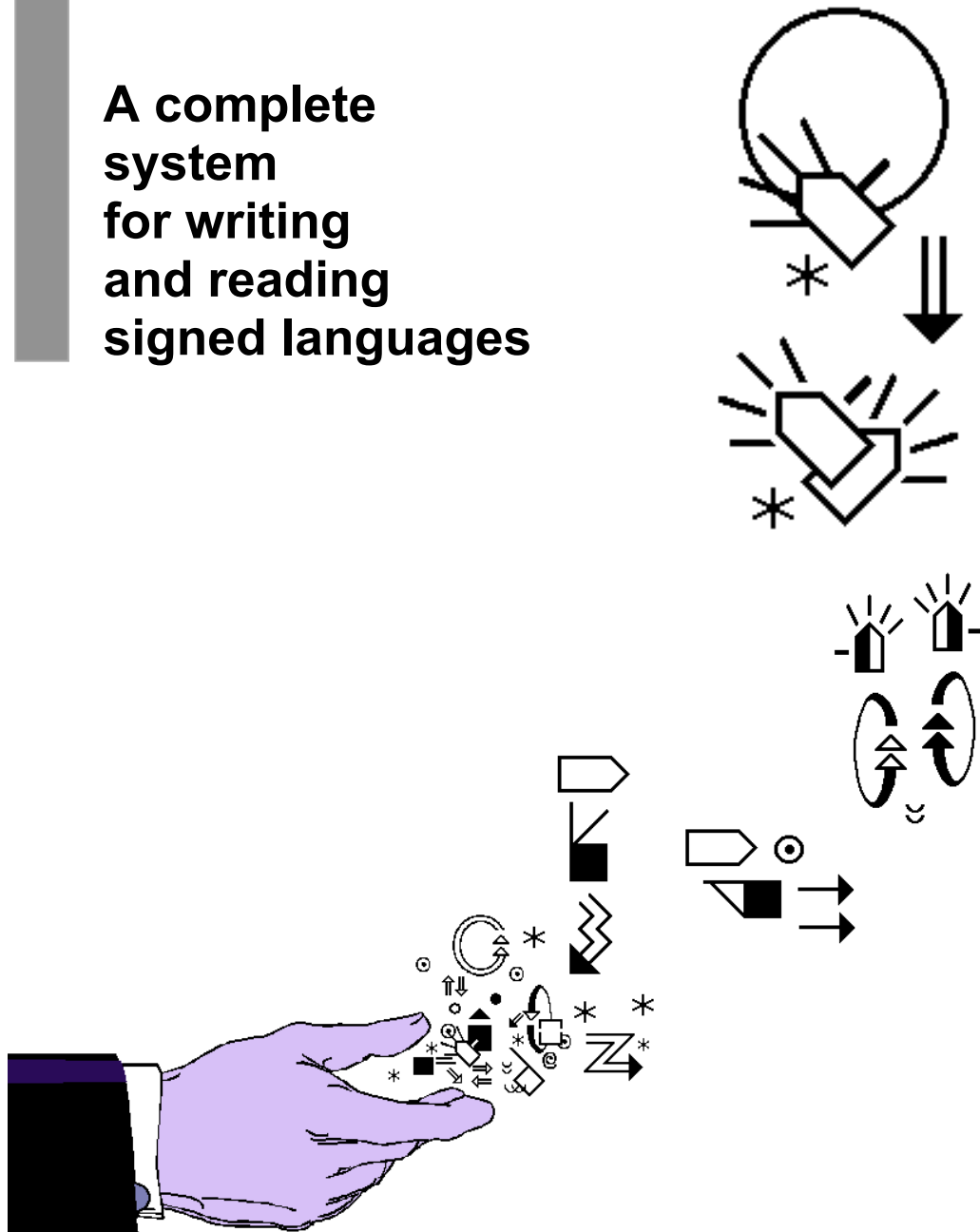


SignWriting[®]

A complete system for writing and reading signed languages



Spanish Sign Language (LSE)
English Version



ABOUT THESE LESSONS

SignWriting® was invented by Valerie Sutton, director of The Center for Sutton Movement Writing Inc., a non-profit educational organization founded in 1974 in California (USA). In 1988 this organization established The Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting and developed the SignWriter® software, designed by Richard Gleaves, and has published a variety of teaching materials including books and a video series. In Spain SignWriting is referred to as SignoEscritura® and the software is referred to as SignoEscritor®.

The lessons in this book are an amplification of the *Primeras Lecciones de SignoEscritura*, published (©1999) by the University of Alicante (Spain) by Irma María Muñoz Baell (University of Alicante) and Steve and Dianne Parkhurst (PROEL and SIL International). The Parkhursts saw the need to complete the lessons (expanding the book from four lessons to 13), and in doing so they claim responsibility for any errors in this material.

This English version is a translation of the materials produced in Spanish with sample signs and texts from Spanish Sign Language (LSE)--and more particularly from the Madrid dialect. The purpose of the English version is to illustrate the teaching methodology. It is not meant to be used as a guide to learning LSE, nor is it expected that signers who do not know LSE will understand the signed texts. The examples used here are not intended to imply that they are the "correct signs." We recognize that there is great variation in how signers of LSE sign, and we encourage Deaf writers to express themselves freely in their own language without artificial rules as to which signs may or may not be used.

Various people have helped in the development of this material. As mentioned above, Irma Muñoz translated (from English into Spanish) the majority of the *Primeras Lecciones*, which form the basis of the first half of this book. José Mari Reseco Parejo, Nolasco Marante and Roberto Benito (all Deaf) wrote most of the stories in this book and helped choose the LSE examples. Others that helped in the development of these materials include Valerie Sutton, inventor of SignWriting; Carlos Vázquez López, José Luis Fernández and María Jesús Carmona Alcalá of the Federación de Sordos de la Comunidad de Madrid; Gemma Piriz; Eva de Andrés Sanz; Chana Franchy, literacy specialist with SIL; and the nearly 300 people who gave input after taking the course at the Centro Prádez of the Confederación Nacional de Sordos de España (CNSE), the Federación de Sordos de Madrid, the Asociación de Sordos de Alcalá de Henares, among others, during the first three years that it has been taught in Spain (1998 - 2001). Many thanks to you all.

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Steve and Dianne Parkhurst's remarkable textbook **SignoEscritura (SignWriting)**, first published in 2001 in Madrid, Spain, by PROEL, is considered to be one of the world's leading instruction reference manuals teaching SignWriting. No serious SignWriting student can be without it! The lessons are presented in a logical, visual and easy-to-follow format. Available in both Spanish and English, the entire book is free on the web for download, chapter by chapter, or download one complete doc: <http://www.SignWriting.org/spain>.

Spanish and English versions are available for purchase too. Go to the SignWriting Shop: <http://www.SignWriting.org/shop>

Steve Parkhurst's beautiful illustrations grace the pages of this book, and the clean sharp images of the SignWriting symbols are made possible by specially developed TrueType fonts designed and created by the Parkhursts themselves. This makes the SignWriting literature examples in Spanish Sign Language a pleasure to read.

So it is with gratitude, that I thank the Parkhursts for this artistic treasure. It is an historic work...one of the first textbooks written in the early years of SignWriting, laying the groundwork for newer textbooks to come. I use it daily with my own SignWriting students and we all refer to it, and highly recommend it!

Valerie Sutton
Inventor, SignWriting
August 18, 2007

NEW SOFTWARE IN 2007

Since the publication of **SignoEscritura** in 2001, SignWriting software has gone through enormous changes. The world's computer operating systems switched from MS DOS to Windows XP and Mac OS X, and the old SignWriter DOS and SignWriter Java programs became out-of-date. A new brilliant computer program

called **SignPuddle™**, developed by Steve Slevinski, is now our standard software for SignWriting. SignPuddle provides a free and easy way for SignWriting users to compose dictionaries and literature directly on the web. Or you can run it on your own computer, using the PocketPuddle, a USB Flash Drive, or with SignPuddle Servers.

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