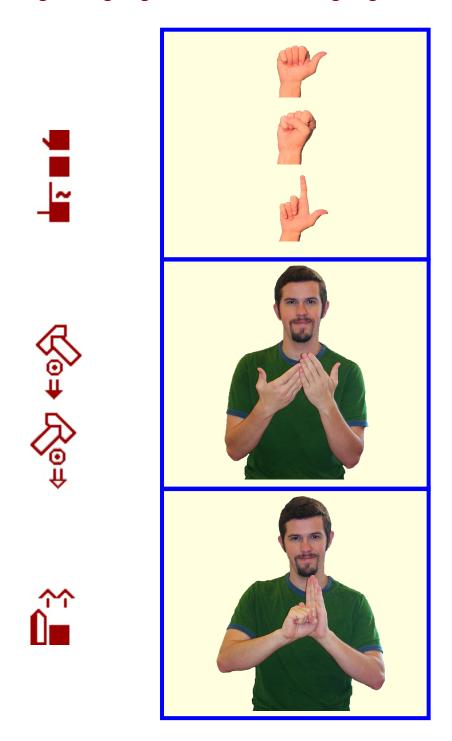
SignWriting

Sign Languages Are Written Languages!



American Sign Language Hand Symbols

by Adam Frost and Valerie Sutton

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

This book documents the hand symbols used in American Sign Language (ASL) based on the International SignWriting Alphabet 2010 by Valerie Sutton

All photos are photographed by Adam Frost.
All photos are of Adam's own hands!

All symbols were enlarged and graphically perfected by Adam Frost.

The ISWA 2008 and 2010 are two symbolsets made possible by the encouragement and software development of Stephen E. Slevinski, Jr

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ASL Hand Symbols

Adam Frost & Valerie Sutton



All hand photos are photographed by Adam Frost. All hand photos are of Adam's own hands. All symbols were enlarged and graphically perfected by Adam too!



This book uses some of the hand symbols of the **International SignWriting Alphabet 2010** by Valerie Sutton

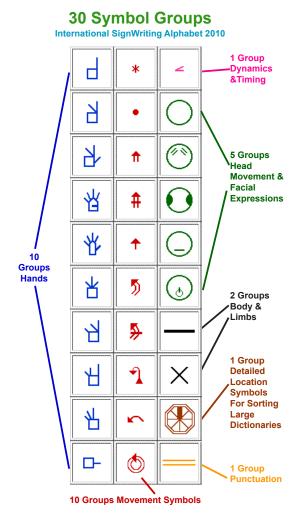
Table of Contents

Ten Hand Syr	mbol Groups	01
Expressive Fr	ont View	02
Expressive To	pp View	03
Hands Relate	to Center	04
Wall Plane &	Floor Plane	05
Hands Pointin	ng to the Side	06
Chapter 1: G	roup 1: Index	07
01-01-001	Index	8
01-01-002	Index on Circle	09
01-01-006	Index on Angle	10
	Index Bent	
	Index Cup	
	·	
Chapter 2: G	roup 2: Index Middle	13
01-02-001	Index Middle	14
	Index Middle Bent	
	Index Middle Unit	
	Index Middle Unit, Cup	
	Index Middle Unit, Hinge	
	Index Middle Cross	
	on Is Meaningful	
Tinger Bireott	on to wearing an	20
Chapter 3: G	roup 3: Index Middle Thumb	21
	Index Middle Thumb	
	Index Middle Bent, Thumb Straight	
	Index Middle Thumb Bent	
	Index Up, Middle Hinge, Thumb Side	
	Index Op, Middle Thinge, Thurib Side	
	Index Middle Thumb Circle	
	Index Middle Unit, Thumb Side	
	Index Middle Unit Hinge, Thumb Side	
	Index Middle Orlit Fillige, Thamb Side	
	Middle Thumb Circle, Index Up	
	Index Middle Thumb, Angle	
	Middle Thumb Angle Out, Index Up	
Finger Direction	on Is Meaningful	
Chapter 4: C		
	roup 4: Four Fingers	
	Four Fingers Spread Bont	
	Four Fingers Spread Bent	
	Four Fingers Unit	
	Four Fingers Unit Bent	
Finger Direction	on Is Meaningful	40
Chapter E. C	roup 5: Five Fingers	44
	Five Fingers Spread Heal	
	Five Fingers Spread Heel	
	Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent Local	
	Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent Heel	
	Five Fingers Spread Bent	
	Five Fingers Spread Bent Heel	
	Five Fingers Spread Cup	
	Five Fingers Spread Cup Open	
UT-U5-U12	Five Fingers Spread Hinge	5()

01-05-015	Flat Hand	51
01-05-017	Flat Heel	52
	Flat, Thumb Side	
	Flat, Thumb Side Heel	
	Cup	
	Cup, Thumb Side	
	Cup, No Thumb	
	Circle	
	Hinge	
	Hinge, Thumb Side	
	Hinge, No Thumb	
01-05-058	Angle	62
Chapter 6: Gre	oup 6: Baby Finger	63
	Index Middle Ring	
	Index Middle Ring on Circle	
	Index Middle Ring, Bent	
	Index Middle Ring, Unit	
	Index Middle Ring, Unit Hinge	
	Baby Up	
01-06-021	Baby Thumb	70
01-06-022	Baby Thumb on Hinge	71
01-06-023	Baby Index Thumb	72
01-06-024	Baby Index Thumb on Hinge	73
01-06-027	Baby Index	74
Chanton 7: Cm	our 7. Ding Finger	75
	oup 7: Ring Finger Index Middle Baby on Circle	
01 07 002	Track Middle Baby on Onoic	
Chapter 8: Gre	oup 8: Middle Finger	77
01-08-002	Index Ring Baby on Circle	78
01-08-002 01-08-010	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle	78 79
01-08-002 01-08-010	Index Ring Baby on Circle	78 79
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012	Index Ring Baby on CircleIndex Ring Baby on AngleMiddle Hinge	78 79 80
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gre	Index Ring Baby on CircleIndex Ring Baby on AngleMiddle Hinge	787980
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro	Index Ring Baby on CircleIndex Ring Baby on AngleMiddle Hinge	78808182
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-008	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge oup 9: Index Thumb Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle	7880818283
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016	Index Ring Baby on CircleIndex Ring Baby on AngleMiddle Hinge oup 9: Index ThumbMiddle Ring Baby on CircleMiddle Ring Baby on AngleIndex Thumb Side	7880818283
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Ground of the control of the co	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Oup 9: Index Thumb Middle Ring Baby on Circle Index Thumb Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent	788081828384
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the control of the con	Index Ring Baby on CircleIndex Ring Baby on AngleMiddle HingeMiddle Ring Baby on CircleMiddle Ring Baby on CircleMiddle Ring Baby on AngleIndex Thumb SideIndex Thumb Side, Thumb BentIndex Thumb Side, Index BentIndex Thumb Side, Index Bent	78808182838485
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green on the street of the street on	Index Ring Baby on Circle	7880818283848586
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016 01-09-021 01-09-026 01-09-030	Index Ring Baby on CircleIndex Ring Baby on AngleMiddle HingeMiddle Ring Baby on CircleMiddle Ring Baby on CircleMiddle Ring Baby on AngleIndex Thumb SideIndex Thumb Side, Thumb BentIndex Thumb Side, Index BentIndex Thumb Side, Index Bent	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016 01-09-020 01-09-021 01-09-026 01-09-030	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Oup 9: Index Thumb Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Hook Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under Index Thumb Circle	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016 01-09-020 01-09-021 01-09-030 01-09-031 01-09-032	Index Ring Baby on Circle	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the strength of the str	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Hook Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the strength of the st	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Oup 9: Index Thumb Middle Ring Baby on Circle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Hook Index Thumb Hook Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the street of	Index Ring Baby on Circle	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016 01-09-021 01-09-026 01-09-030 01-09-031 01-09-032 01-09-032 01-09-033 01-09-034 01-09-036 01-09-037	Index Ring Baby on Circle	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016 01-09-021 01-09-021 01-09-031 01-09-032 01-09-033 01-09-033 01-09-034 01-09-036 01-09-040	Index Ring Baby on Circle	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the strength of the str	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Hook Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Hinge Index Thumb Angle roup 10: Thumb Thumb	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the street of	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Hook Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Hinge Index Thumb Thumb Thumb	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the street of	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Hook Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Hinge Index Thumb Hinge Index Thumb Hinge Index Thumb Hinge Index Thumb Angle roup 10: Thumb Thumb Thumb Heel Thumb Side Diagonal	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Green of the street of	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Hinge	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016 01-09-021 01-09-026 01-09-030 01-09-031 01-09-032 01-09-032 01-09-037 01-09-037 01-09-040 Chapter 10: G 01-10-001 01-10-002 01-10-005 01-10-007	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Hinge Large Index Thumb Hinge Index Thumb Angle roup 10: Thumb Thumb Thumb Thumb Side Diagonal Thumb Side Bent Thumb Side Bent Thumb Side Bent Thumb Between Index Middle	
01-08-002 01-08-010 01-08-012 Chapter 9: Gro 01-09-002 01-09-016 01-09-021 01-09-021 01-09-021 01-09-031 01-09-032 01-09-033 01-09-033 01-09-034 01-09-037 01-09-040 Chapter 10: G 01-10-001 01-10-005 01-10-007	Index Ring Baby on Circle Index Ring Baby on Angle Middle Hinge Middle Ring Baby on Circle Middle Ring Baby on Angle Index Thumb Side Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent Index Thumb Side, Index Bent Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under Index Thumb Circle Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Cup Index Thumb Hinge	

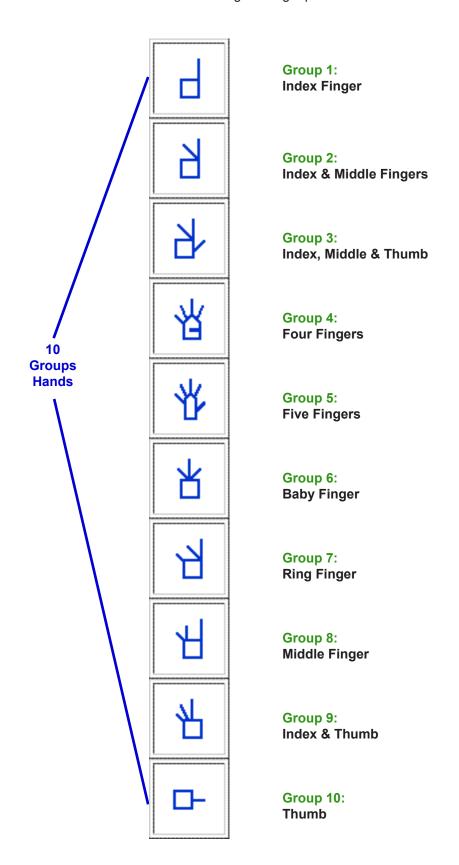
Chapter 11: Heel of Hand or Traditional Top View?	103
Flat Hand, Heel of Hand or Top View	
Five Hand Straight & Bent, Heel of Hand or Top View	
Fist, Heel of Hand or Top View	
Chapter 12: Instruction, Exceptions & Sign Examples	107
Two Ways to Write Thumb Towards Reader	
Rootshapes & Action Fingers	
Action Fingers Directed Toward The Face & Body	
Sign Examples	
Action Fingers Directed Up	
Sign Examples	
Action Fingers Directed Out, Away From The Body	
About The Authors	115

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10 Hand Symbol Groups

in the International SignWriting Alphabet 2010



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

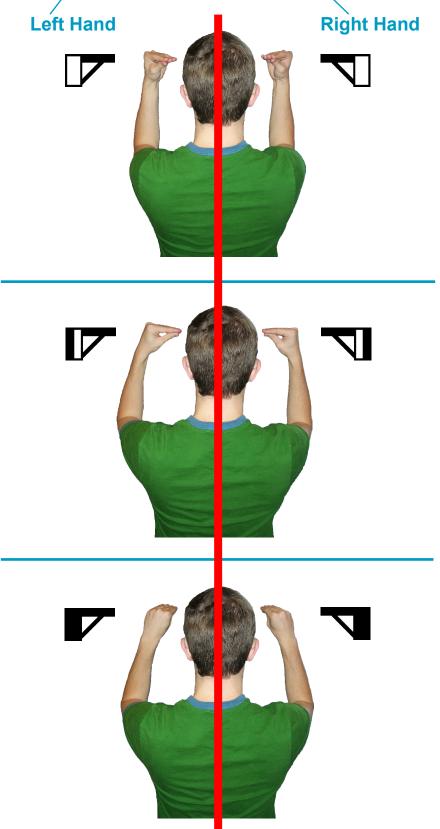
Top ViewParallel with Floor Plane

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.





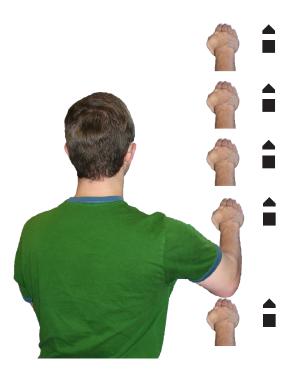
The Wall Plane

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

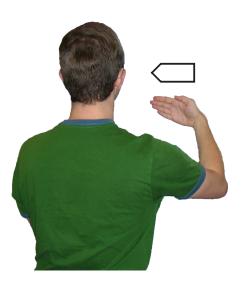
Hand symbols parallel to the Floor look the same whether they are high above the head, in the middle in front of your chest, or low at hip level. You can FEEL the position of the palm facing. It remains the same symbol no matter how high or low it is.





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 Easer 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.





Chapter 1



Group 1: Index
All Hands With One Action Finger:
The Index Finger

Index

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Index on Circle

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
O	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index on Angle

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Index Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Index Cup

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane





Chapter 2



Group 2: Index Middle
All Hands With Two Action Fingers:
Index Finger & Middle Finger



Index Middle

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
7 ₇	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Unit

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Unit, Cup

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Unit, Hinge

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



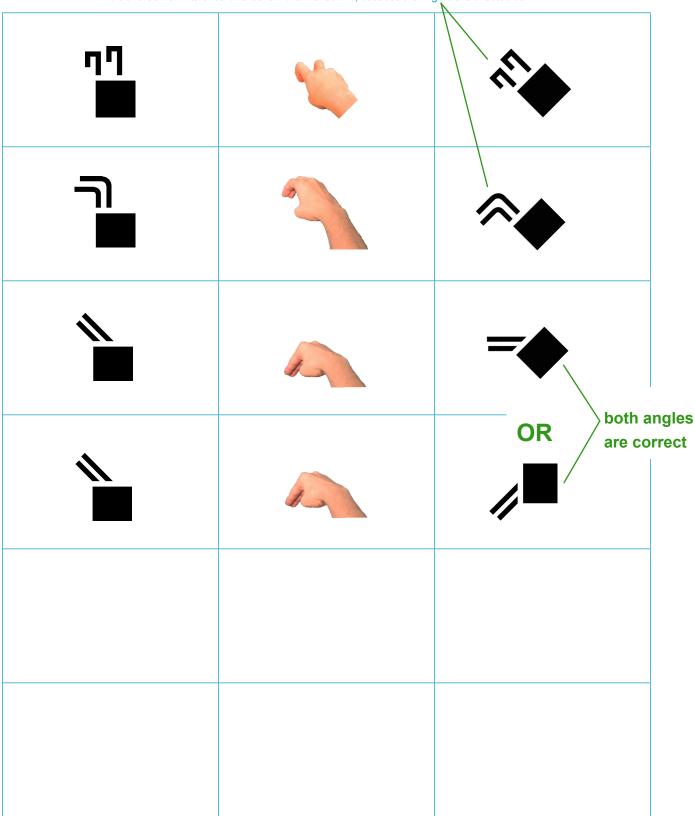
Index Middle Cross

4	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



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.







Chapter 3



Group 3: Index Middle Thumb
All Hands With Three Action Fingers:
Index Finger, Middle Finger & Thumb



Index Middle Thumb

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Bent, Thumb Straight

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
7 ₁	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
7 ₁	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
77 - 1	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Thumb Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
77	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
η η □ ■=	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Up, Middle Hinge, Thumb Side

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Thumb Cup

Ъ	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
3	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Thumb Circle

9	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
91	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
9	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Unit, Thumb Side

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Unit Hinge, Thumb Side

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Cross, Thumb Side

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
\ \ \ \	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Middle Thumb Circle, Index Up

01-03-027

4	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
4	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
c	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
C	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Thumb, Angle

01-03-034

=	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
1	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
=	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Middle Thumb Angle Out, Index Up

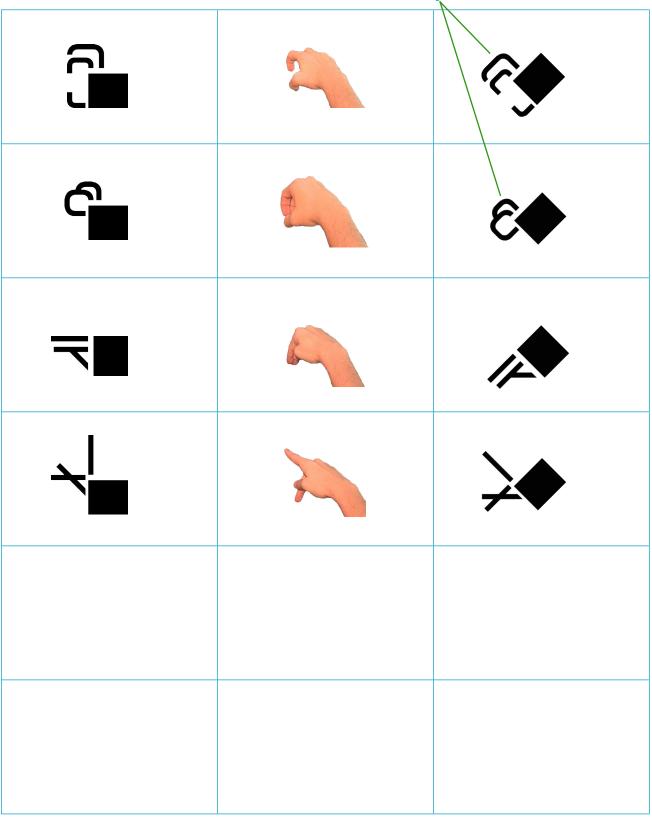
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	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Finger Direction Is Meaningful

Different 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.







Chapter 4



Group 4: Four Fingers
All Hands With Four Action Fingers:
Thumb Must Be Across Palm



Four Fingers Spread

Ä	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
4	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
当	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Four Fingers Spread Bent

H	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
1772 E172	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
7777	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Four Fingers Unit

A	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
A	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ĝ	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

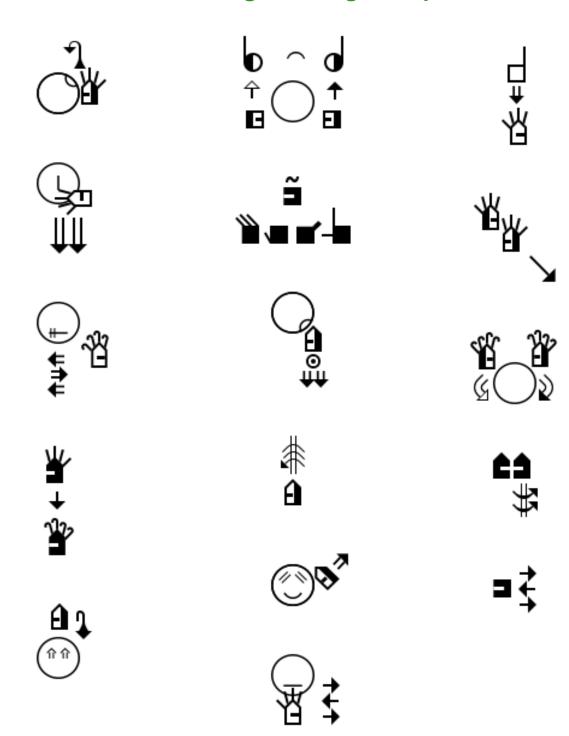


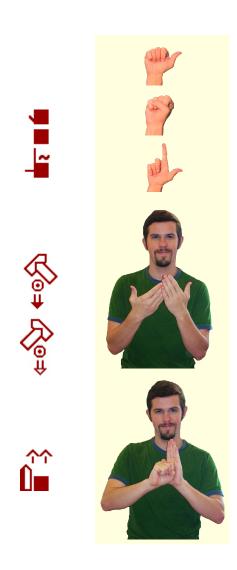
Four Fingers Unit Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
SALL	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Some Signs Using Group 4





Chapter 5



Group 5: Five Fingers
All Hands With Five Action Fingers:
5 Fingers Spread or Together

Five Fingers Spread

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Five Fingers Spread Heel

	Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Palm Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane



Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
72	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent Heel

	C(3)	Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
		Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	ê <u></u>	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	CO	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
7000	\ <u>(\)</u>	Palm Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
		Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane



Five Fingers Spread Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Five Fingers Spread, Bent Heel

	ركك	Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
		Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	ξΠ	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
		Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	<u>ردی</u>	Palm Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
RIFE		Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane



Five Fingers Spread Cup

3	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
3	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
3	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
ED	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
ED	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Five Fingers Spread Cup Open

3	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
3	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
3	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
ΞD	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
ED	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Five Fingers Spread, Hinge

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
•	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Flat Hand

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Flat Heel

	Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Palm Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane



Flat, Thumb Side

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Flat, Thumb Side Heel

	Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
/	Palm Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane



Cup 01-05-034

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Cup Thumb Side

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
7	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Cup No Thumb

1	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
1	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Circle

O	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
G	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Hinge 01-05-050

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Hinge, Thumb Side

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



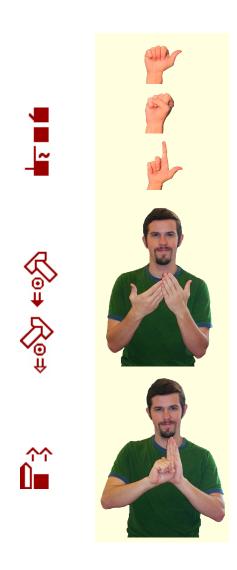
Hinge, No Thumb

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Angle 01-05-058

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Chapter 6



Group 6: Baby Finger
Hands That Focus on the Little Finger
Little Finger Down or Up

Index Middle Ring

01-06-001

A	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Ring on Circle

01-06-002

8	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
8	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
8	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ŏ	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Ring, Bent

01-06-006

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Ring, Unit

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Ring, Unit Hinge

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Baby Up

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Baby Thumb

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Baby Thumb on Hinge

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Baby Index Thumb

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Baby Index Thumb on Hinge

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Baby Index

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane





Chapter 7



Group 7: Ring Finger
Hands That Focus on the Ring Finger
Ring Finger Down or Up

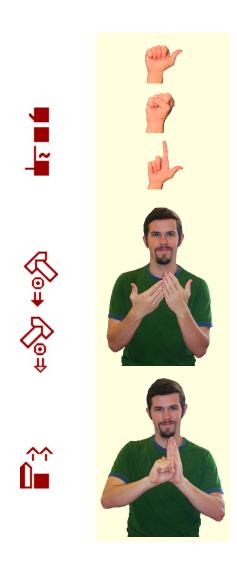


Index Middle Baby on Circle

01-07-002

8	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
S	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
Ö	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane





Chapter 8



Group 8: Middle Finger
Hands That Focus on the Middle Finger
Middle Finger Down or Up



Index Ring Baby on Circle

01-08-002

4	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ó	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Ring Baby on Angle

01-08-010

4	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
4	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Middle Hinge

01-08-012

4	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
4	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Chapter 9



Group 9: Index Thumb

All Hands With Two Action Fingers:

Index Finger & Thumb



Middle Ring Baby on Circle

8	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

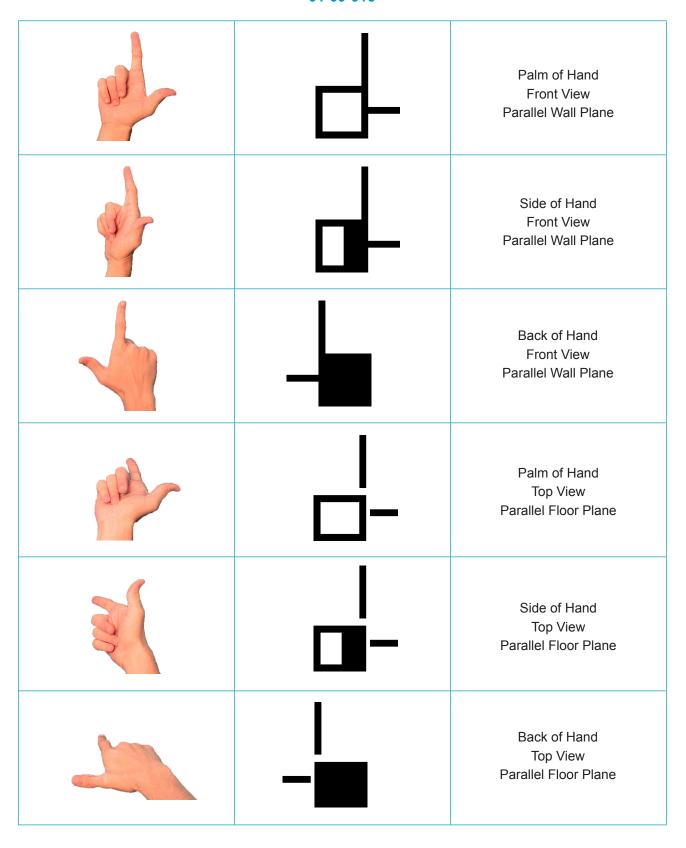


Middle Ring Baby on Angle

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
4	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
4	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Side





Index Thumb Side, Thumb Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Side, Index Bent

		Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
S. S		Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
		Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
		Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
		Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	7	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Hook

1	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
5	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
1	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Curve, Thumb Under

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Circle

9	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
9	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
C	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
C	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
C	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Cup

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Cup Open

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Hinge Large

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Charles and the second	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Hinge

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Thumb Angle

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane





Chapter 10



Group 10: Thumb

Tight Fists With One Action Finger:

The Thumb



Thumb

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ç	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Thumb Heel

	Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Palm Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane



Thumb Side Diagonal

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
5 /	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Thumb Side Bent

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Thumb Between Index Middle

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

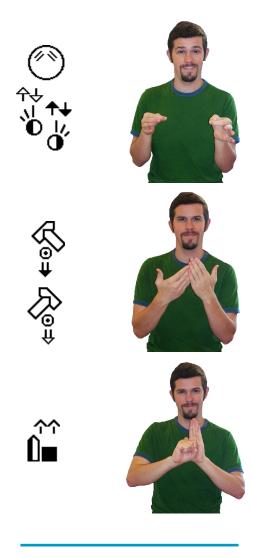
Fist 01-10-015

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Fist Heel

	Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
To the second se	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Palm Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane





Chapter 11

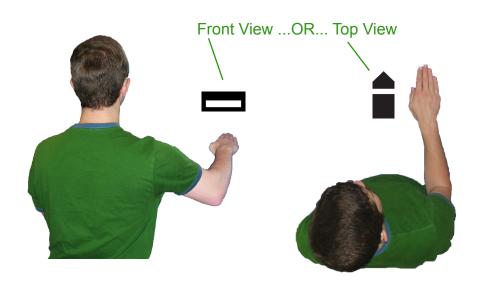


Heel of Hand or Top View?
Fists and Flat Hands from Two Perspectives
2 Ways to Write Some Positions

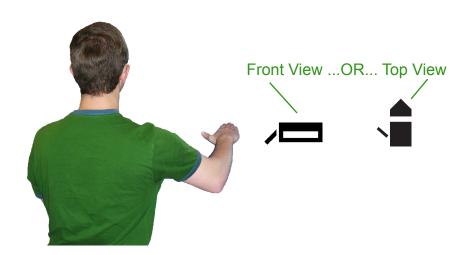
Heel of Hand or Top View?

Flat hands with the fingers pointing straight forward, with the arm parallel to the Floor Plane, can be written from the Front View with the Heel of Hand, or from the traditional Top View:

Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape ...use either symbol...

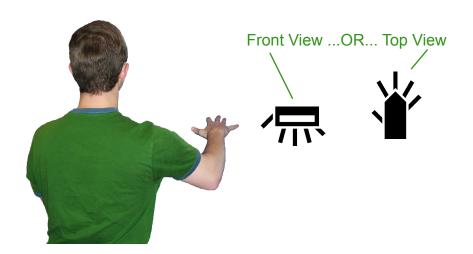


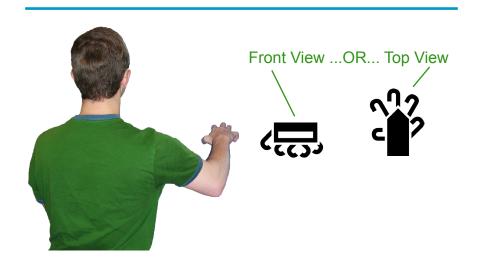
Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape ...use either symbol...

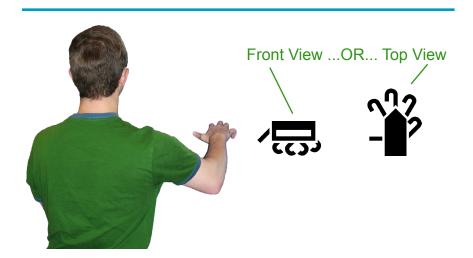




Heel of Hand or Top View? Use Either Symbol



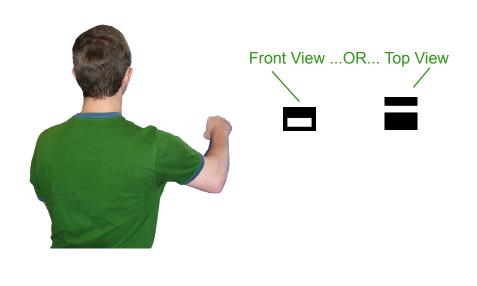




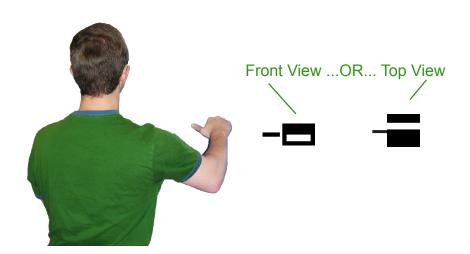
Heel of Hand or Top View?

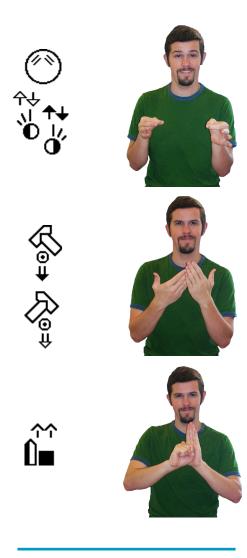
Fists with the knuckles directed straight forward, with the arm parallel to the Floor Plane, can be written from the Front View with the Heel of Hand, or from the traditional Top View:

Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape ...use either symbol...



Two Ways to Write The Same Handshape ...use either symbol...





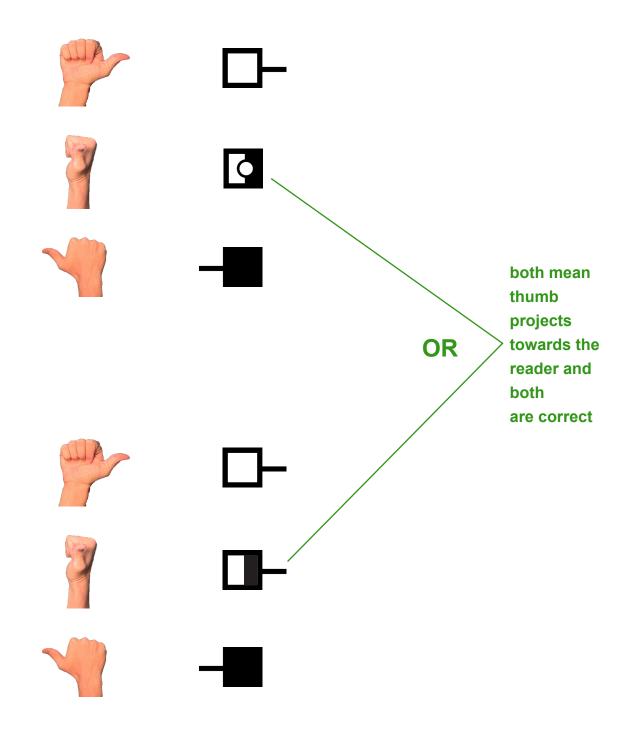
Chapter 12



Instruction & Exceptions
More Information About Hand Symbols
Examples of Written Signs

Two Ways to Write Thumb Towards Reader

The side view of the Thumb Hand (see page 272) 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:





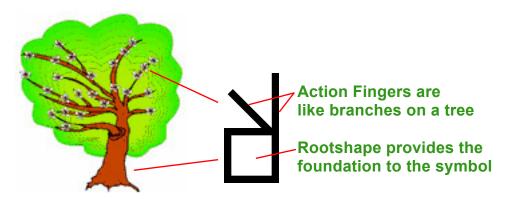
Rootshapes

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.



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.



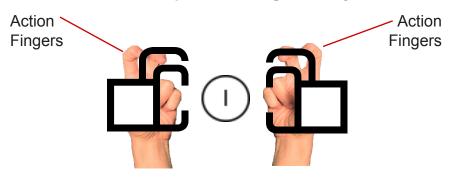


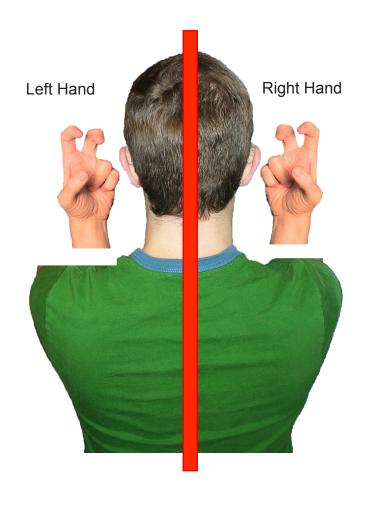
Action Fingers Directed Towards The Face & Body

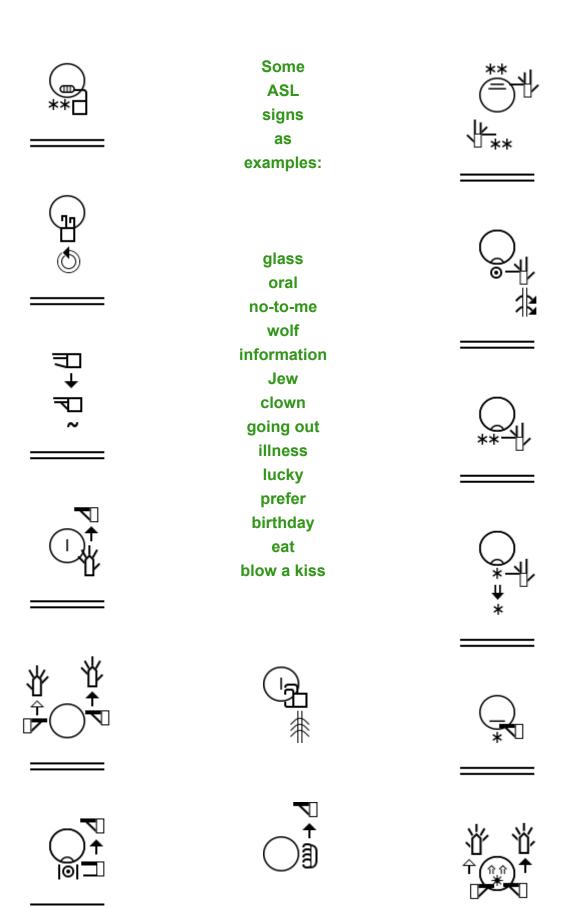
Finger direction relates to the Center of the Body. Action Fingers that bend at the knuckle joint in Angle, Hinge, Cup or Curve hand positions direct the fingers into the Center of the Body. The white palm shows the palm is facing the body, with a slight hint that the palm is slightly turned toward the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

Fingers Are Directed Toward the Center

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





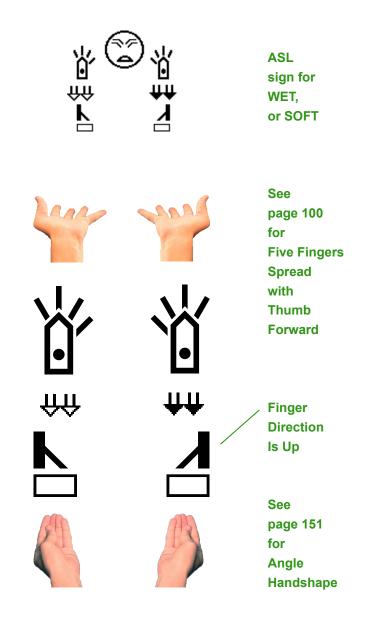


Action Fingers Directed Up

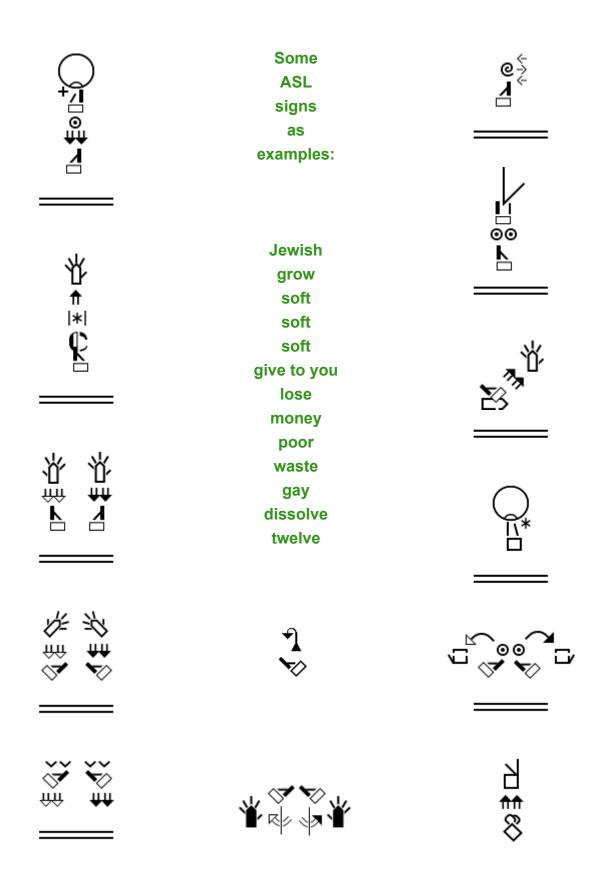
Angle Hand Symbols

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.

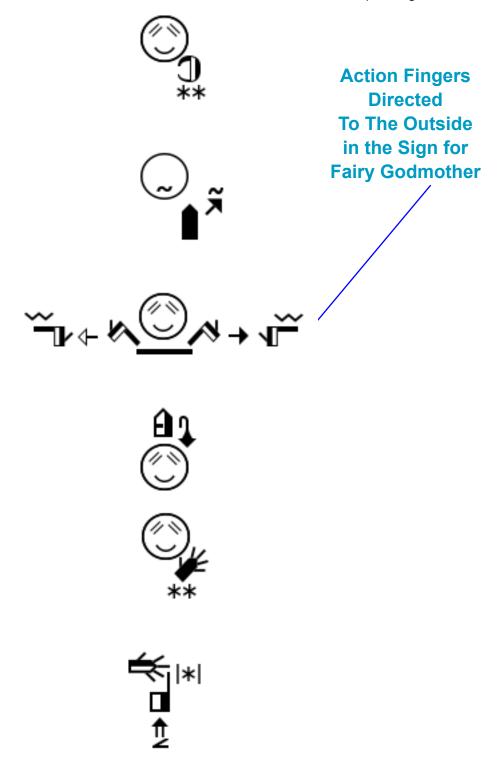






Action Fingers Directed Out Away From The Body

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.

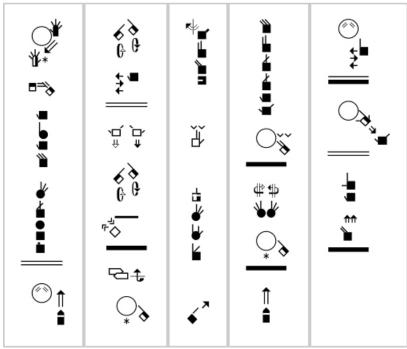




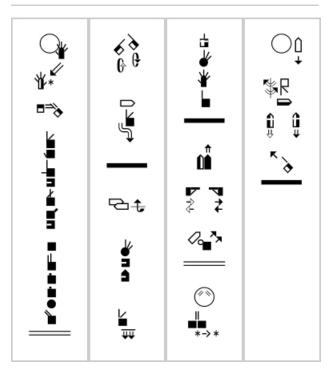
About The Authors



Adam Frost



Valerie Sutton





SignWriting Instruction

SignWriting.org/lessons • 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

This 300-page sprial-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



2 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
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