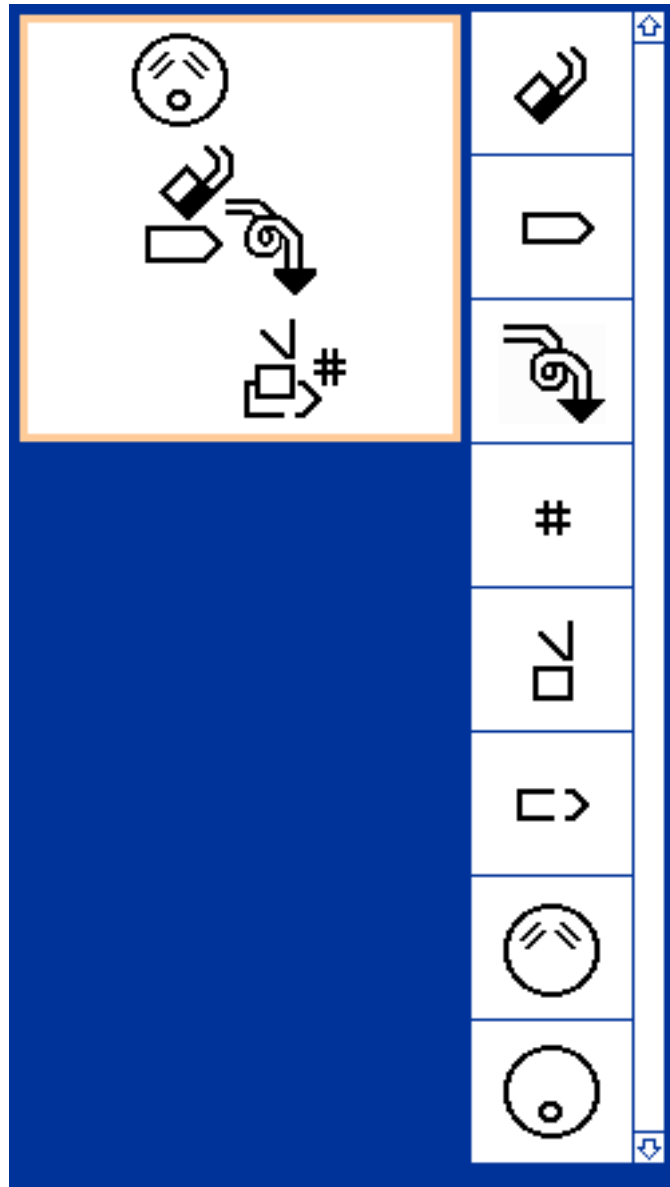


SignWriting

Sign Languages Are Written Languages!



Manual 5

SignWriting Literature Composition

by
Valerie Sutton & Adam Frost

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Valerie Sutton & Adam Frost

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

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

This manual is posted on the web:
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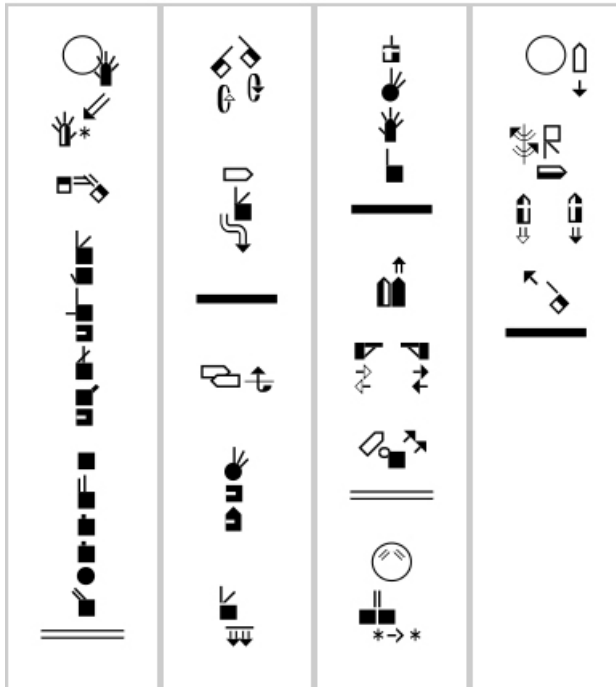
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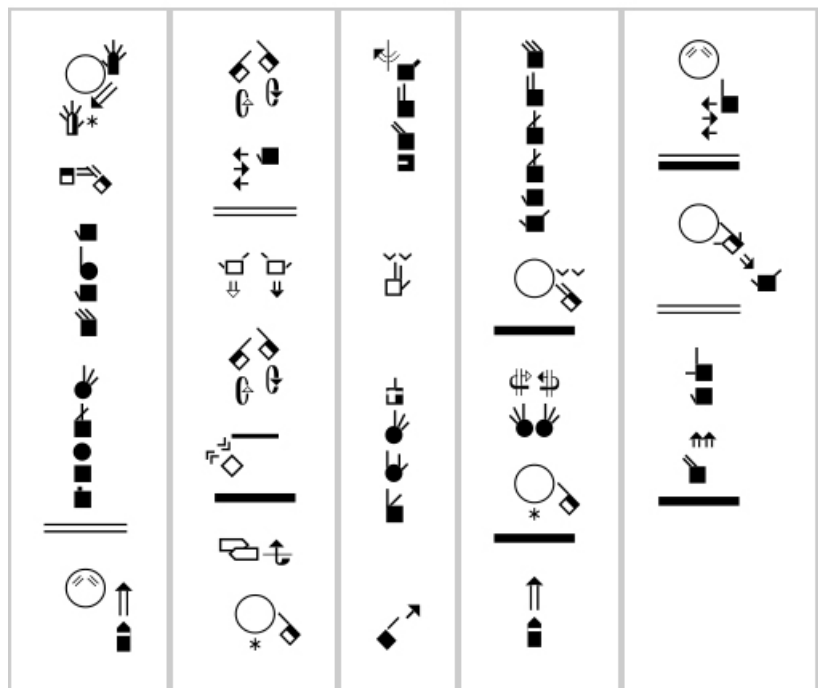


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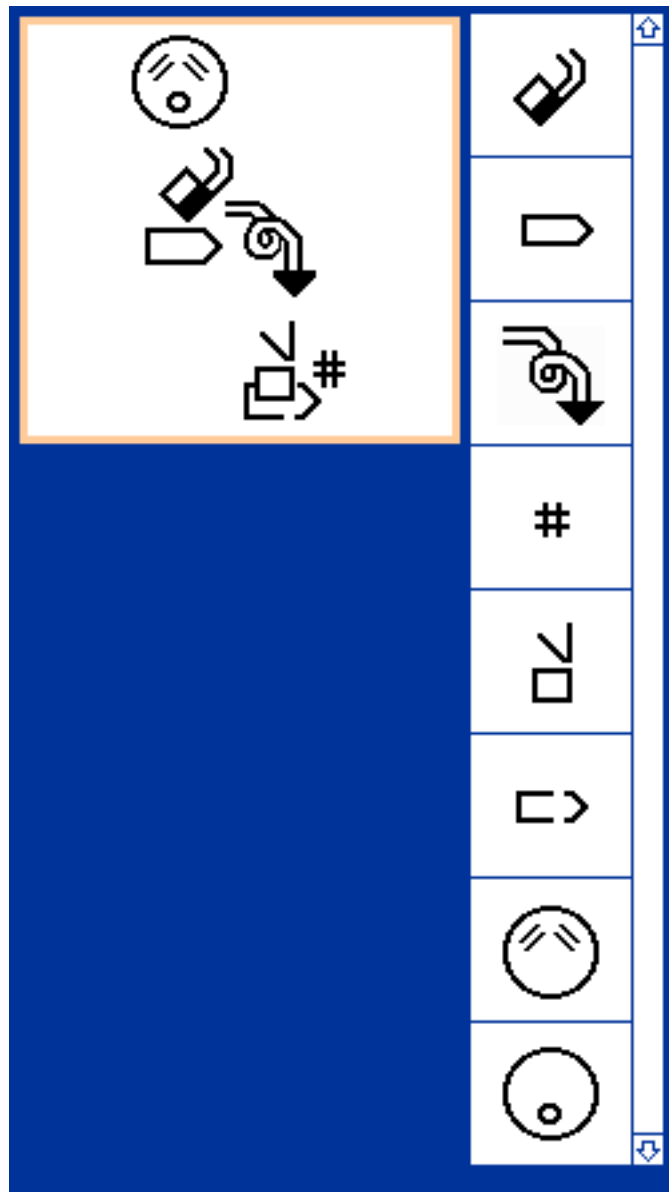
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Chapter 1



SignSpelling Writing Guidelines

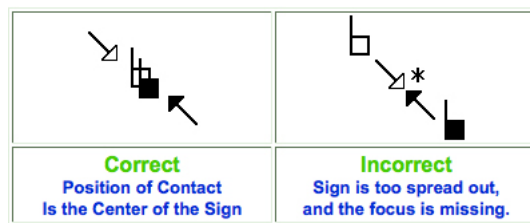
Symbol Relationships Within Signs

Writing Easy-to-Read Compact Clusters

SignSpelling Rule 1: Write the Position of Contact

Write the **Position of Contact** first. Never place a Movement Symbol or Contact Symbol between two Hand Symbols that are contacting each other. Write the two Hand Symbols very close to each other, making it look like it does in real life. There should be **very little space** between two contacting Hand Symbols.

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



The Position of Contact is important because it **holds the meaning in a sign**. The eye focuses on the Position of Contact when reading. This was tested with a group of Deaf adults who were skilled in SignWriting (the DAC), and it was found that when the Position of Contact was not written, readers had to piece the sign together slowly, but when the two hands were written close together in the contacted position, like a unit, the sign was read faster.







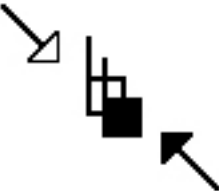
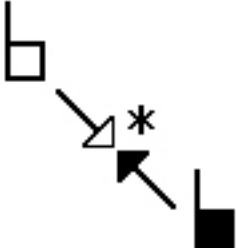


Writing the Position of Contact also **creates smaller signs in width and height**, which makes writing in vertical columns more centered and compact, making the columns themselves less wide.

Writing the Position of Contact shows the hands together as a unit. Since you can see the two hands are touching by their close placement, the single Touch Contact Star is no longer necessary. It is not wrong to write the single Touch Contact Star, but it is not necessary either. This simplifies the writing of signs.

Double Touch Contact Stars are written no matter what, because Double Touch, or Touch-Touch, is a movement, not a position. It is only single Touch Contact Stars that can be and are frequently eliminated because we write the Position of Contact.

Spelling Rule

Always Write the Position of Contact

Correct	Not Correct
	
	
	
	
	



This writing is missing the position of contact...

We tested with Deaf people in the US and they read signs faster when the two hands are shown contacting each other...

Note: When you write the two hands close to each other in the Position of Contact, a single Touch Contact Star does not have to be written, because it is clear that there is contact...



Writing the Two Hands Contacting Each Other



became this over time....



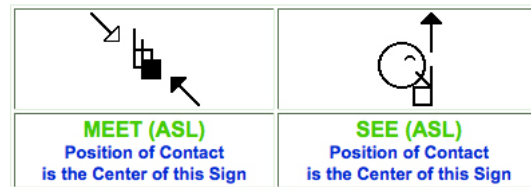
should follow that same pattern... write the position of contact... the movement relates to that position



SignSpelling Rule 2: Every Sign Has A Center

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

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



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



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

