

## Mundbilder in der GebärdenSchrift

### WOEHRMANN'S SPEECHWRITING

includes two sections...

#### **1. Mundbildschrift** (exact translation: Mouth Picture Writing)

A standardized writing system for picturing the sounds of human spoken language (speech). Compared to the International Phonetic Alphabet, Mundbildschrift is not as detailed and complete but easy to read and sufficient enough to support even young deaf students in their articulation process to develop better spoken language skills. It is used like a spelling system for writing complete words in mouth pictures, and can be applied to any spoken language.

Mundbildschrift is not written in SignWriting. But it is much easier to understand and to read the symbols for mouthmovements as they are used in SignWriting if you are familiar with Mundbildschrift.

You find a detailed discription of every symbol in a chart in the PDF Document with all the information you need to learn more about that. Just follow the link to my symposium folder "paper" .

Now let us focus on "Mundbilder in SignWriting documents"

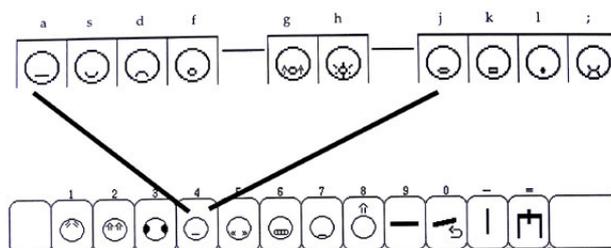
#### **2. Mundbilder in SignWriting-Documents** (writing what is seen, when Lip Reading)

A standardized writing system for picturing the way the lips look when a person speaks words. These symbols do not represent sounds but can be associated with spoken words, that are seen on the lips when "Lip Reading". In my classroom, these symbols are always written to support the reader in reading SignWriting documents fluently.

For writing "**Mundbilder in GebärdenSchrift**" "articulatory mouth movements" I developed a system of notation using the Sutton SignWriting mouth symbols that could be found in the symbolset of the SignWriter DOS computer program.

## Typing Group 27, Part 1

with the SignWriter® Computer Program



(Foto : Mundbilder aus DOS) damals ..

In order to add some new additional "mouth symbols" I needed for my idea I kind of combined tiny elements or given symbols and got this way a software supported option to write what I wanted the reader to know. Using these symbols, and then giving the structure of how to write the way spoken German words look on the mouth while speaking. I call this "Mundbilder in GebärdenSchriftschrift", or "*articulatory movement writing*".

In contrast to the symbols of Mundbildschrift, the "mouth-symbols" in SignWriting documents are strictly separated from any auditory impression of spoken language. They are based exclusively on visual aspects. This distinction is important to understand the difficulties in lipreading. The deaf cannot hear what the speaker says. The severely hearing impaired person receives only a very vague acoustic impression of spoken language. The deaf child sees the speaker and his lip-movements, but has to guess the meaning of the message, which is much easier in the company of information coming from the hands.

Although some symbols from Mundbildschrift are also used in SignWriting documents, they may not be interpreted in the same way.

There are **no differences** between long and short vowels, voiced or voiceless, and oral or nasal sounds and there is no symbol for "H". Accordingly, the assignments made here as well as in lip-reading in part are ambiguous and require some oral language skills in the corresponding sign language associated with spoken language.

Right now the symbolset for “Mundbilder in SignWriting” consists of only 18 different symbols compared to almost 50 symbols in “Mundbildschrift”.

In the following table you see all the symbols that are in use for Speechwriting in SignWriting.

In order to give some orientation and to allow a scribe to find the symbol quickly and easily I added letters to the symbol that can be associated with this articulatory movement.

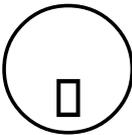
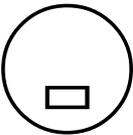
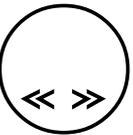
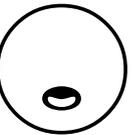
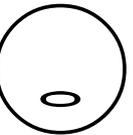
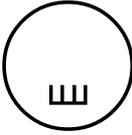
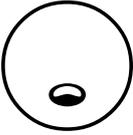
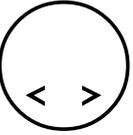
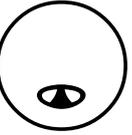
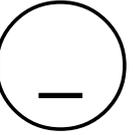
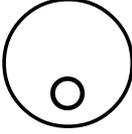
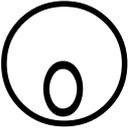
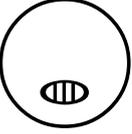
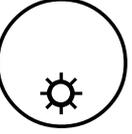
					
a, aa, ah, ha	ä, hä,	b, bb, p, pp	ch,	d, t, n, nn,dt, nt,tt,	e,ee, he, eh,
					
f, ff, v, w, ph	g, gg, rr, k, ck, r, rr, rk, kr, ch, chr, c	i, ie, hi, ih,	j	l, ll	m, mm
					
o, oo, ho, oh, ö,	o	s,ss,ß,z,c	sch, g,	u, hu, uh, ü, hü, üh,	th (engl)

Table shows Mundbilder in SignWriting documents

## **Spelling rules for Mundbilder in SignWriting documents**

I defined the following spelling rules for writing Mundbilder in SignWriting

We write the Mundbilder from left to right.

The head circles of the Mundbilder slightly overlap. This is an indication of a sequence of movements when speaking.

We only write the complete set of Mundbilder for a given sign if we can observe the signer mouthing the whole word. This will always happen within a performance following exact signed German (LBG)

Frequently, however, it is not necessary to write all the Mundbilder and indications being sufficient so that omissions are normal and usual, without impeding the flow of reading when the key difference between alternative meanings of the gesture was considered in the mouth images.

Mundbilder offer readers the chance to capture the intentioned concept exactly and quickly. Especially during translation exercises and LBG - dictations more mouth pictures are better than less. The higher the linguistic competence of the learner, the less mouth images are necessary ... the weaker the language skills, the more mouth images are desirable.

Always remember that your decision to choose the adequate Mundbild has to follow in sign writing documents purely visual cues of the mouth movements of the signer. Especially in the beginning scribes are in trouble and make many spelling mistakes, because they focus too much on the spelling of the corresponding German word.

Similar to the syllables in the spoken language, it is often helpful, to vary the overlap of the head circles slightly to allow the reader a better orientation. (The head circles may / can / should not overlap at this point but only touch).

A rule violation occurs when a number of mouth images is written so that the tip circles overlap, although units (syllables / sounds / mouth images) are in between from whatever reason omitted.

In other words, it is entirely at the discretion of the writer, how many mouth images he considers desirable, appropriate, necessary. However, once omissions occur, they must be made clear through a gap between

the head circles at the corresponding location. Otherwise, the expectations of the reader is injured and leading to a "stutter" effect when reading.

Especially in compound terms, it is often the case that the hands start to perform the first part and afterwards the second part of a sign. Here it is advisable to provide a visual cue, even with the head circles of the Mundbilder. For this reason, you should place the Mundbilder according to the manual instructions of the first term and the second term: eg "house" and "boat" or "tree" and "house".

Basically, there is no rule violation to write the complete Mundbilder in a compound noun in a series centered over the two parts of the sign.

But I strongly recommend that the head circles between the two parts of a compound term provide guidance and thus represent a good reading aid.

This means that the overlap at the connecting point is smaller. The head circles are just touching but not overlapping.

I am the editor for the German dictionary in SignPuddle. Here I can check new entries regarding these rules. For writers who create new entries in the dictionary, it is simply helpful to know these rules and to use the Mundbilder accordingly.