

SignWriting Lesson

Axial Movement

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There are two types of Axial Movement:

1. Rotation Movement of the Forearm
2. Flexing Movement of the Wrist

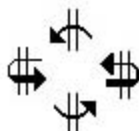
Rotation

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**.



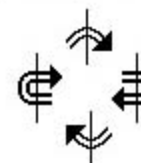
Right forearm is up. Rotation describes the curve of the baby finger side, forward, and then side again. The forearm does not travel, but simply rotates in place.



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**.

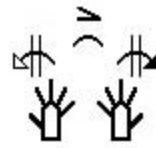
Rotation, Forearm Up
Forearm Parallel with Front Wall



class

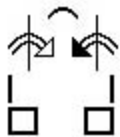


close

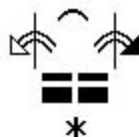


finish

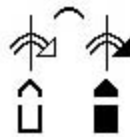
Rotation, Forearm Forward
Forearm Parallel with Floor



happen



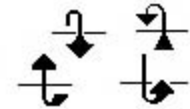
break



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.



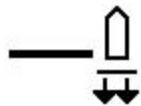
ASL Sign For "Yes-Yes"
Wrist Flexing Down Twice



ASL Sign For "Flag"
Wrist Flexing Forward
and Back Towards the Chest



chat



before



basketball