

Appendix C

Sign Language for Emergency Situations**Table of Contents**

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*Note: All of the signs listed are from the **Joy of Signing** published by Gospel Press.*

HOW TO SIGN

American Sign Language (AMESLAN)

American Sign Language is a form of language used by people who are deaf or who have a hearing impairment. Concepts and ideas are represented through the use of manual signs, fingerspelling, and symbols. Each country has its own version of the manual alphabet. For example, some countries use one hand while others use both hands for the alphabet. AMESLAN uses only one hand.

Speed, motion, and force of signs

The speed of the sign influences the meaning of the sign. You can speed up or slow down the sign to alter the meaning. For example, the sign “hurry” is moved more rapidly when one is saying, “Hurry, we’re leaving now,” than when saying, “Don’t hurry, we have plenty of time.” Another example is the sign for “require” which becomes “demand” when made more forcibly. The more forceful the sign and the stronger the facial expression, the stronger the feeling in either the positive or negative direction.

Direction of the Sign

The same sign made in different directions can give opposite meanings. For example, the sign “give” is motioned towards the person signing to mean, “give to me;” however, when it is motioned away from the person signing, it means “give to you.”

Understanding Signs

It is not uncommon for new or beginning signers to have difficulty understanding other persons signing to them. People who are deaf or have a hearing impairment and who use sign language will be patient with you when you do not understand them.

Plurals and Tenses

When signing to adults, there is usually no need to show the plural and tense of words that you are signing. Sometimes a sign can be repeated several times to represent the plural form.

Characteristics of AMESLAN

1. Whenever possible, it condenses and often makes use of facial expression and body language rather than words to convey ideas.
2. Omits articles. For example, a, an, and the.
3. Often uses just one sign plus body and facial expression for a complete statement or idea. For example, happy.
4. Uses one sign concept to cover several English words.
5. Shows tense by context or by adding such signs as: past, finished, later, not yet, and after a while.
6. Presents shorter sentences in various word orders, any of which are acceptable.
7. Uses little fingerspelling.

Finger spelling

Hand positioning:

- The palm of the hand should face the person(s) with whom you are communicating.
- Hold your arm in a comfortable position.
- The hand should not block your lips.

Flow and Rhythm:

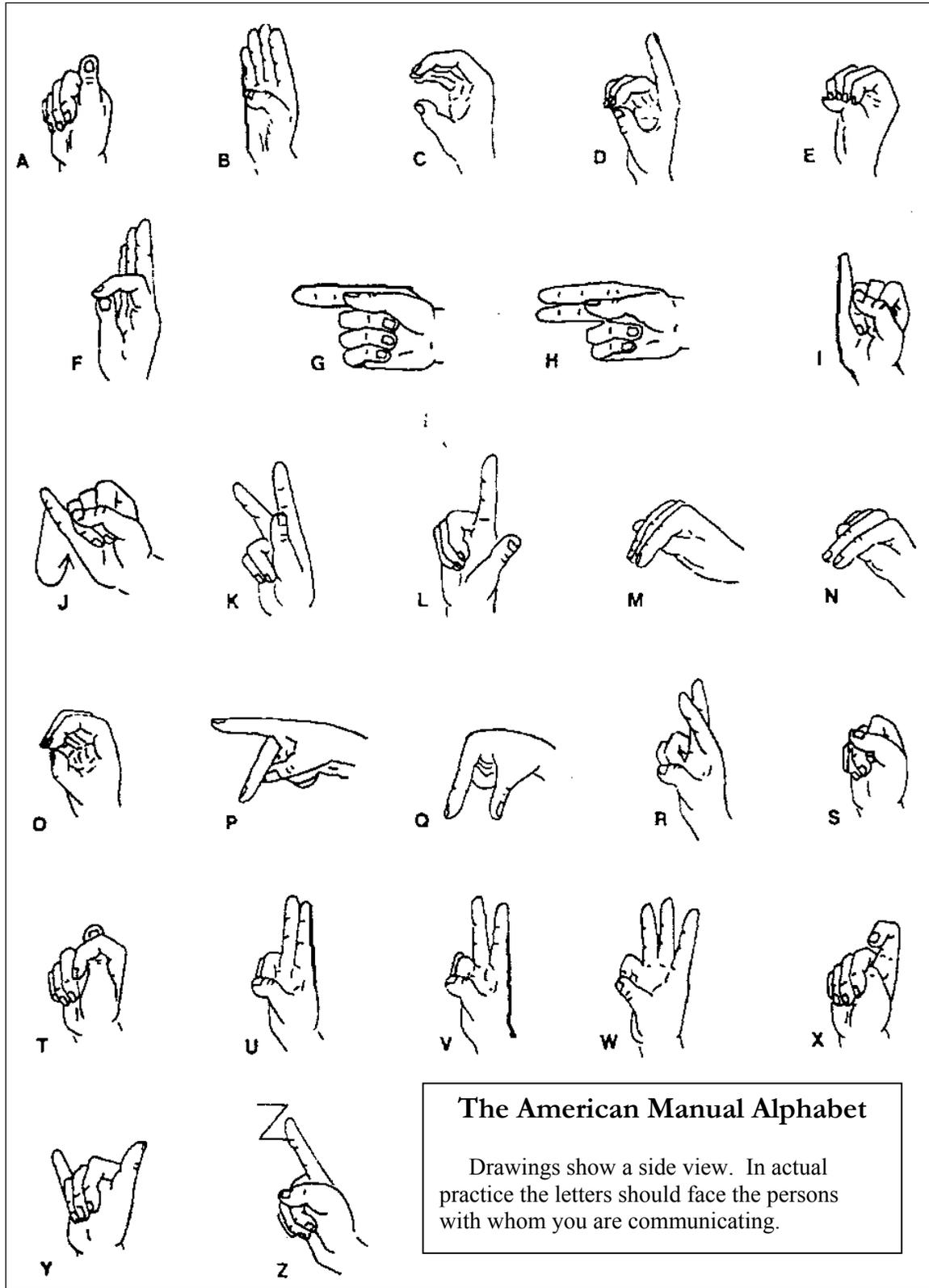
- Each letter should be signed clearly, distinctly, and crisply with a slight pause between words. The pause is indicated by holding the last letter of the word for several seconds.

Vocalization:

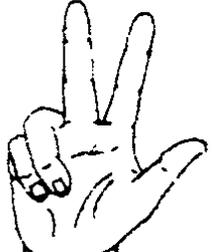
- The words you finger spell should be spoken at the same time. The individual letters should not be spoken.

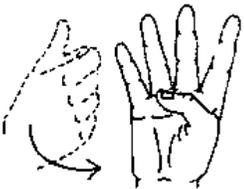
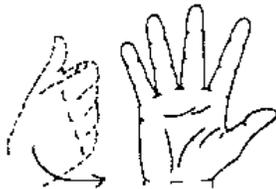
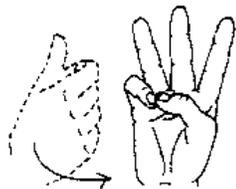
Double letters in a word:

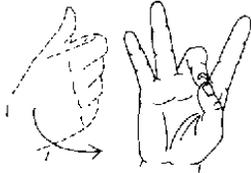
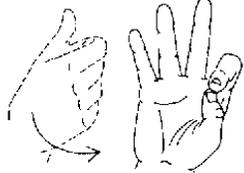
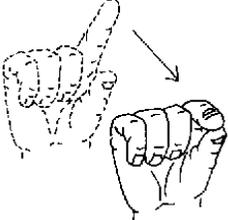
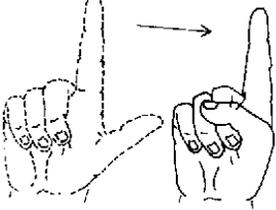
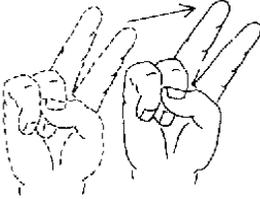
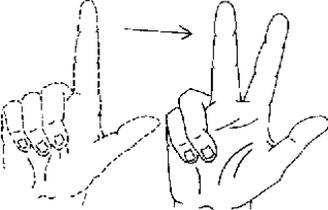
- The hand is opened slightly in between the first and second letter.

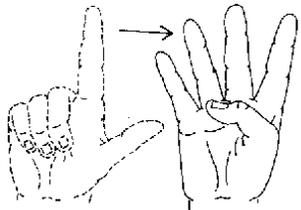
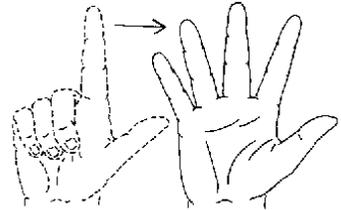
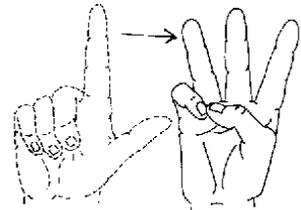
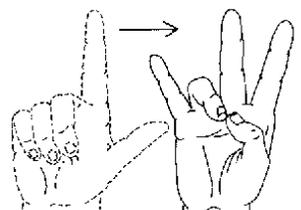
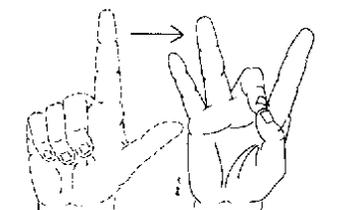
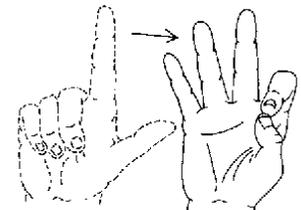
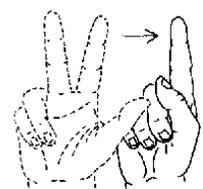
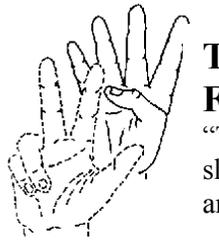
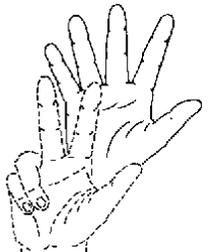


Numbers

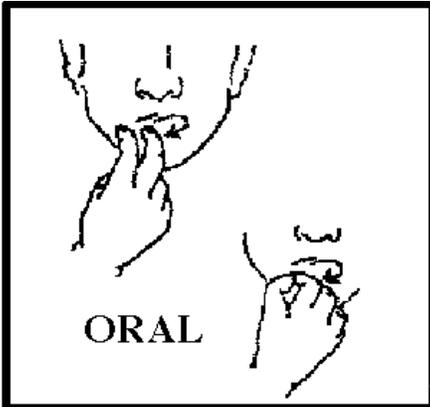
	<p>ONE</p> <p>Hold up the index finger.</p>	<p>FOUR</p> <p>Hold up the four fingers (separated).</p>	
	<p>TWO</p> <p>Hold up the index and the middle fingers.</p>	<p>FIVE</p> <p>Hold up all five fingers (separated).</p>	
	<p>THREE</p> <p>Hold up the index finger, middle finger, and thumb.</p>	<p>SIX</p> <p>Touch the tip of the thumb with the tip of the little finger (other fingers spread).</p>	

	SEVEN Touch the tip of the thumb with the tip of the fourth finger (other fingers spread).		TEN Shake the right "A" hand, thumb pointing up.
	EIGHT Touch the tip of the thumb with the tip of the middle finger (other fingers spread).		ELEVEN Hold the "S" in front of you (palm in) and snap the index finger up.
	NINE Touch the tip of the thumb with other fingers spread.		TWELVE Hold the "S" in front of you (palm in) and snap the index and middle fingers up.
	THIRTEEN – Sign "TEN" (palm in) and "THREE" (palm out).		
	FOURTEEN		FIFTEEN
			SIXTEEN

		
SEVENTEEN	EIGHTEEN	NINETEEN
	TWENTY – Bring the thumb and index finger together (other fingers closed).	
	TWENTY-ONE – Extend thumb and index; close the thumb, leaving index finger up.	
	TWENTY-TWO - Sign “TWO” and swing it in and arc to the right.	
	TWENTY-THREE – Extend thumb and index; lift the middle finger to make a “THREE.”	

			
TWENTY-FOUR	TWENTY-FIVE	TWENTY-SIX	
			
TWENTY-SEVEN	TWENTY-EIGHT	TWENTY-NINE	
	THIRTY – Sign “THREE”; move slightly to the right and sign “ONE.”		THIRTY-THREE – Sign “THREE” and swing it in an arc to the
	THIRTY-ONE – Sign “THREE”; move slightly to the right and sign “ONE.”		THIRTY-FOUR – Sign “THREE”; move slightly to the right and sign “FOUR.”
	THIRTY-TWO – Sign “THREE”; move slightly to the right and sign “TWO.”		THIRTY-FIVE – Sign “THREE”; move slightly to the right and sign “FIVE.”

Sign Language



SPEECHREADING, LIPREADING, ORAL

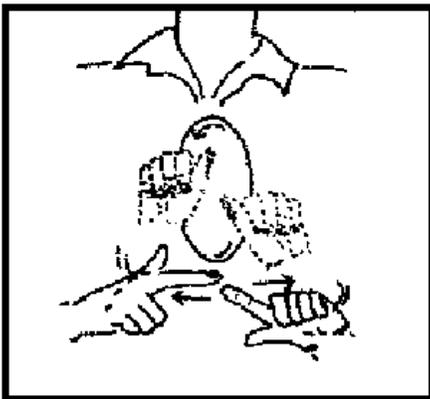
Describe a circle around the lips with bent “V”, palm facing in. Some use an “O” for “oral.”

Origin: The sign for “READ” is directed to the lips.

Usage: Spearheading is not easy.

Some people are easier to lipread than others.

She comes from an oral background.



AMESLAN (American Sign Language)

Place the “A” hands in front of you, palms out, and circle the arms alternately forward the body; form the “L” positions and draw them apart in a twisting motion.

Origin: Signs make with an “A” and “language” made with an “L.”

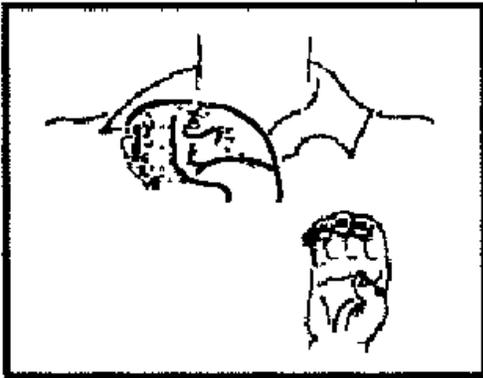
Usage: The term AMESLAN was coined by Lou Fant.

**RED**

Draw the inside tip of the right index finger down across the lips (sometimes made with an "R").

Origin: Red as the lips.

Usage: Joy has a new red Cutlass.

**CROSS**

Draw a cross with the right "C" hand (down first, then across).

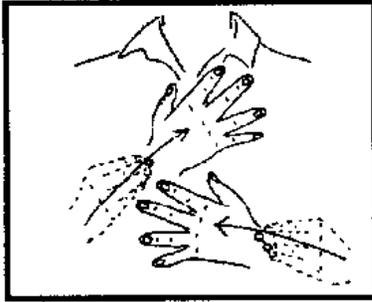
Usage: The cross is the symbol of Christianity.

Note: The sign for Red combined with the sign for Cross makes Red Cross.

Note: Numerous signs that follow contain the signs AND and/or SAME to complete the thought or idea. The picture of the thought or idea includes the sign for AND and/or SAME.

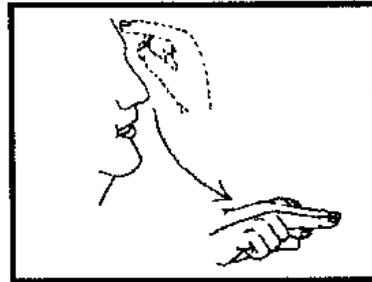
AND – Place the right hand in front of you, fingers spread apart and pointing left (palm facing you); draw the hand to the right, closing the tips of the fingers.

SAME – place both index fingers side by side, touching each other with palms down.



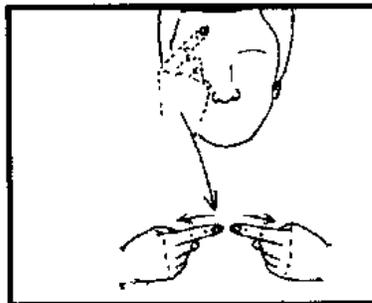
AFRAID, SCARED, FRIGHTENED, TERRIFY

Hold both “AND” hands in front of the chest, fingers pointing toward each other; then open both hands and move the right hand toward the left and the left hand toward the right, palms facing self.



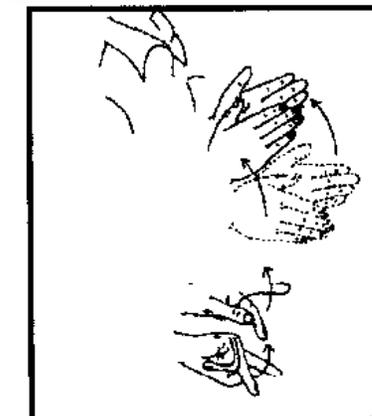
AGREE, CORRESPOND

Touch the forehead and then sign “SAME.”
 Origin: Thinking the same
 Usage: I agree with you.
 The stories of the two witnesses did not correspond.



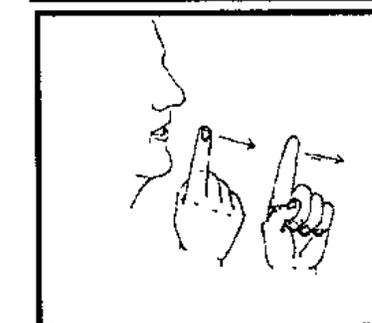
DISAGREE

Touch the forehead with the index finger; then sign “OPPOSITE” (index fingers pointing toward each other pulled apart).
 Origin: Thinking opposite.
 Usage: Disagree without becoming disagreeable.



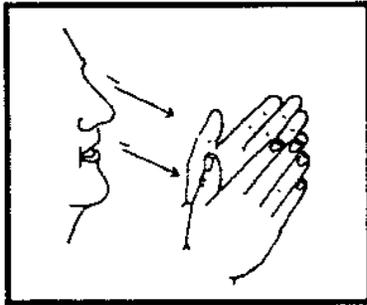
ALLOW, LET, MAY, PERMIT

Both open hands with fingers pointing forward, palms facing in, are bent upward from the wrist until fingers point slightly upward and outward (the heels of the hands being closer together than the tips of the fingers).
 Usage: We don’t allow that.
 Let me help you with the suitcase.
 You may go now.
 Pets are not permitted in our building.
 Note: “PERMIT” is often signed with the “P” hands.



ANSWER, REPLY, RESPOND

Place the tip of the right index finger, palm-facing left, at the lips; place the left index, pointing up, in front of it; move both hands out ending with the index fingers pointing forward. (“Reply” and “Response” are often made with the “R’s”)
 Usage: Answer my letter, a quick reply; an intelligent response.

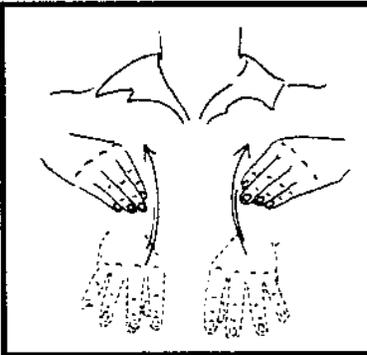


ATTENTION, CONCENTRATE

Place open hands at either side of the eyes; then move both hands forward. (Note: This sign is used for such phrases as: “pay attention,” “put your mind on it,” “apply yourself.”)

Origin: Like blinders on a horse preventing one from looking to the right or the left.

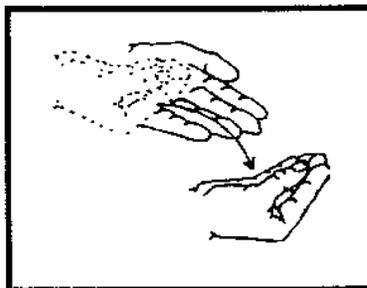
Usage: Please pay attention.



BLANKET

Place the open “AND” hands in front of you close to the body, tips pointing down; draw the hands up and to the neck, closing them as in the final “AND” position.

Usage: blue wool blanket.



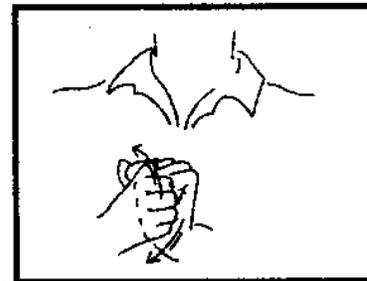
BUY, SHOPPING, PURCHASE

Place the back of the “AND” hand into the left palm and lift it out to the right, still in the “AND” position. (For “SHOPPING” repeat the sign several times.)

Origin: Putting out money.

Usage: Money cannot buy everything.

We were out shopping all afternoon.



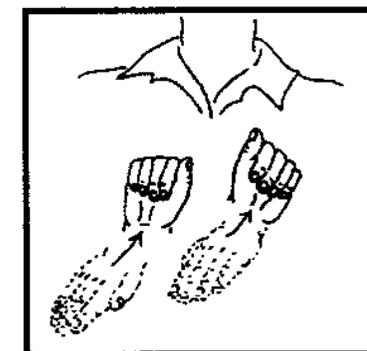
CROWDED, CRUSHED

Place the “A” hands together, palm to palm; while they are touching, twist the right hand toward you and the left hand away from you.

Origin: Squeezed together.

Usage: The room was crowded.

My clothes were crushed.



DEPART, LEAVE, WITHDRAW

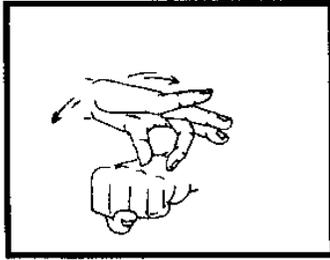
Place the open hands in front of you toward the right, palms down, with fingertips pointing forward; draw both hands back and up into “A” positions.

Origin: Hands moving away as if one is withdrawing.

Usage: The train departs at 10:30.

What time are you leaving?

She withdrew from the room.

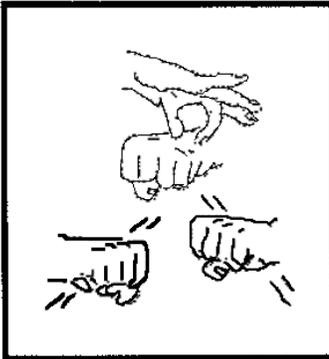


EARTH, TERRESTRIAL

Place the thumb and middle finger of the right hand on the back of the left hand near the wrist and rock the right back and forth.

Origin: The earth rotating on its axis.

Usage: The earth is 8,000 miles in diameter.
On this terrestrial ball.

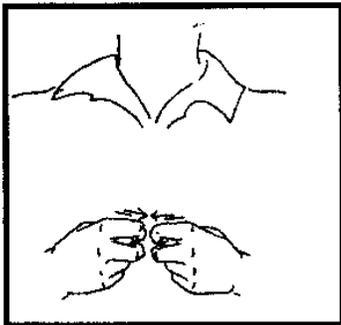


EARTHQUAKE

Sign "earth" and finish with the "S" hands.

Origin: A natural combination of signs.

Usage: Earthquakes are frightening.



ELECTRICITY, PHYSICS

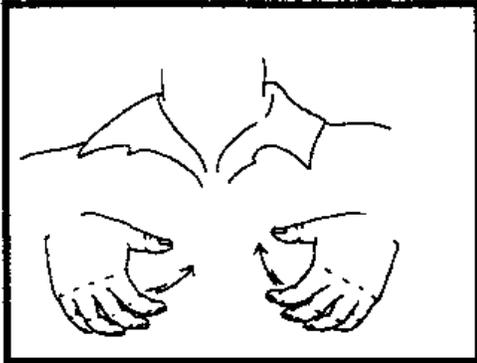
Bend the index and middle fingers of both hands and strike the joints together.

Origin: Indicating electrical charge.

Usage: Lightning cut off our electricity.
Physics is a science.

Note: For electricity, use only the index fingers of each hand.

Emotions



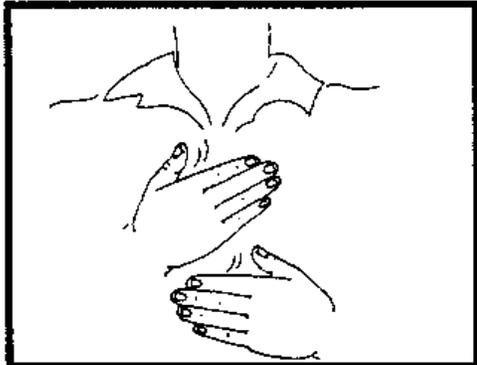
ANGER, WRATH

Place the curved "FIVE" hands against the waist and draw up against the sides of the body.

Origin: Tearing the clothes in anger.

Usage: He spoke in anger.

The preacher talked about the wrath of God.



HAPPY, GLAD, REJOICE, JOY

The open hands pat the chest several times with a slight upward motion.

Origin: Patting the chest shows happiness.

Usage: Feel happy.

Glad to hear the news.

The good news made people rejoice.

Full of joy.



SAD, DEJECTED, SORROWFUL, DOWNCAST

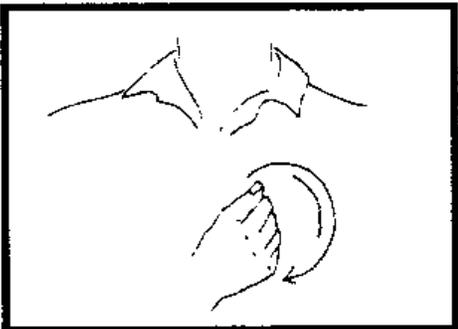
Hold both hands in front of the face, fingers slightly apart and pointing up, then drop both hands a short distance and bend the head slightly.

Origin: Long-faced and gloomy.

Usage: A sad face.

Dejected because he left.

A sorrowful event.



SORRY, REGRET, APOLOGIZE

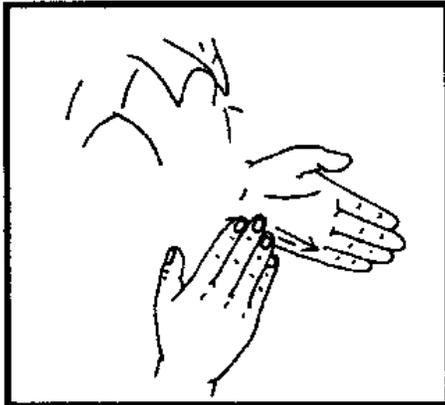
Rub the "A" hand in a circular motion over the heart.

Origin: Indicating pressure on the heart.

Usage: I'm sorry.

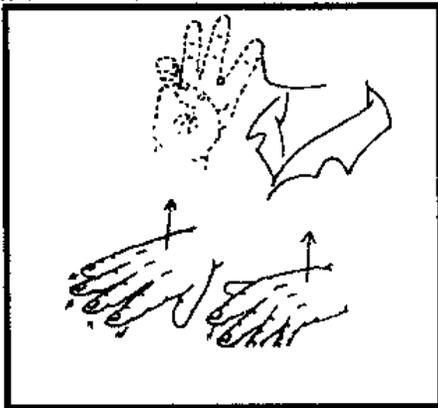
I regret my words.

Did you apologize?



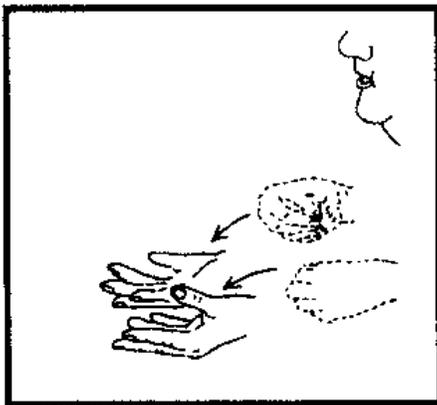
EXCUSE, FORGIVE, PARDON, EXEMPT, WAIVE

Stroke the edge of the left palm with the right fingertips.
 Origin: Wiping off the guilt.
 Usage: Excuse me please. He asked forgiveness. The governor granted a pardon. Your course is waived. The organization is tax exempt.



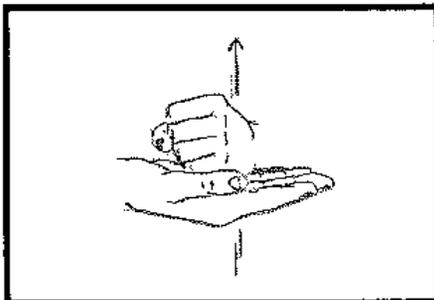
FLOOD

Sign "WATER"; then place both "FIVE" hands in front of you palms down and fingers pointing forward, wiggle the fingers as the hands are raised.
 Origin: The water level is rising.
 Usage: The flood caused much damage.



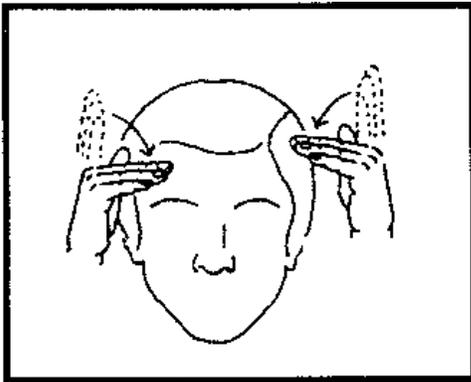
GIVE, DISTRIBUTE

Both "AND" hands facing down are turned in and up forward, ending with palms open and facing up. For "DISTRIBUTE" the sign is broadened at the end.
 Usage: I'll give what I can.
 Miss Rumford distributed the papers.
 Note: This sign can be directed toward you to show someone is giving to you.



HELP, ASSIST, AID

Place the right open hand under the left "S" which is facing to the right; lift both hands together.
 Origin: Offering a helping hand.
 Usage: Please help me.
 I need your assistance.

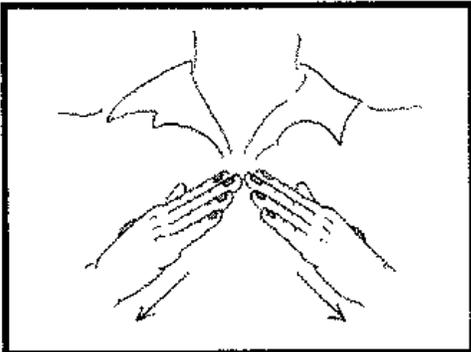


HOPE, EXPECT

Touch the forehead with the index finger; then raise the open palms so they face each other, the right hand near the right side of the forehead and the left hand at the left. Both hands bend to a right angle and unbend simultaneously.

Origin: Thinking and beckoning for something to come.

Usage: Hope for the best; expect changes.

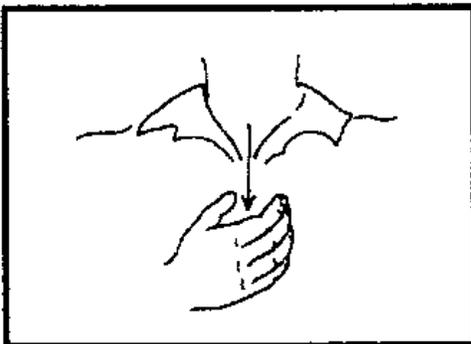


HOUSE

Place the tips of the open hands together and then trace the form of a roof.

Origin: A natural sign showing the roof of a house.

Usage: What makes a house a home?

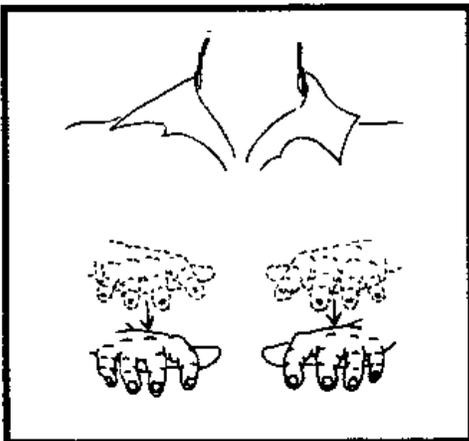


HUNGRY, CRAVE, STARVED

Place the "C" hand just below the throat, palm facing in, and draw it down.

Origin: The passageway to the stomach.

Usage: Hungry for a ham sandwich.
She had a craving for pickles.
Starved for food and for attention.

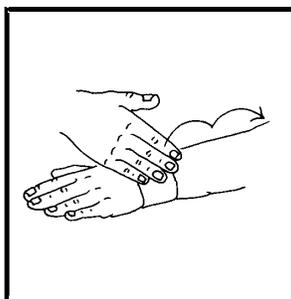


ICE, FREEZE

Place both "FIVE" hands in front of you, palms down, and drop them slightly, coming to a sudden stop as the fingers bend.

Origin: The water coming down suddenly freezes.

Usage: The rain is changing to ice.
I'm freezing and want some hot chocolate.
The lake is frozen and skating is allowed.



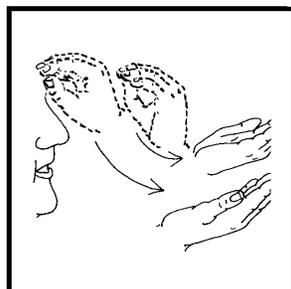
IMPROVE

Place the left arm in front of you and strike the side of the little-finger of the right open hand on the left wrist; move up in stages striking the arm each time.

Origin: Moving upward in stages.

Usage: Your interpreting is improving every day.

She was very sick but is doing better now.



INFORM, INFORMATION, NEWS, NOTIFY

Place the “AND” hands at the forehead; move them down and away from you, ending with open palms up.

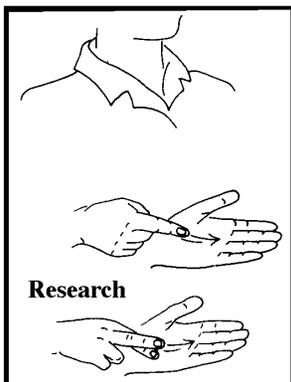
Origin: Knowledge is passed on to others.

Usage: Be sure to inform your lawyer.

The information came through the newspaper.

Did you receive any news?

We notified all members.



INVESTIGATE, INSPECT, RESEARCH, EXAMINE, CHECK

Place the tip of the right index into the left palm and move it forward toward the fingers.

Origin: As if digging into the hand.

Usage: Let us investigate.

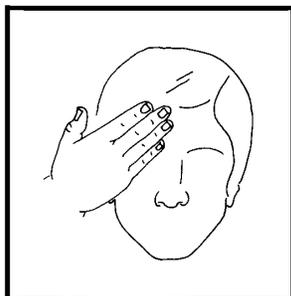
Inspected by the government.

He examined the dollar bill carefully.

A research project.

They had to check my background.

Note: “RESEARCH” is often signed with the right “R.”



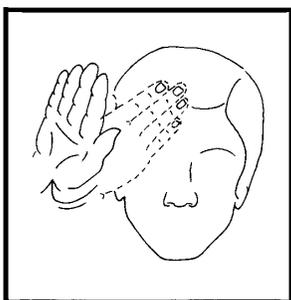
KNOW, KNOWLEDGE

Pat the forehead.

Origin: A natural sign indicating knowledge.

Usage: Know thyself!

A little knowledge can be dangerous.



DON'T KNOW, DIDN'T KNOW

Sign “KNOW” and then turn the palm out away from the head.

Usage: We really don't know everything.

He didn't know the answer.



BREAKFAST

Sign "EAT" and "MORNING." Some prefer to initial the sign by placing the "B" (palm slightly in) in front of the mouth and moving it slightly upward.

Usage: What time is breakfast?

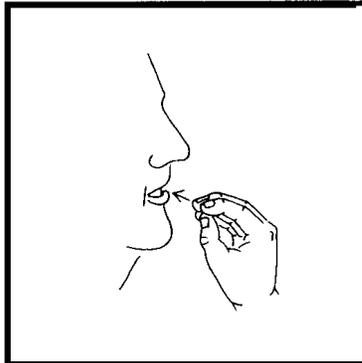


MORNING

The fingertips of the left hand are placed in the crook of the right arm; the right arm moves upward (palm up).

Origin: Shows the sun coming up.

Usage: See you in the morning.



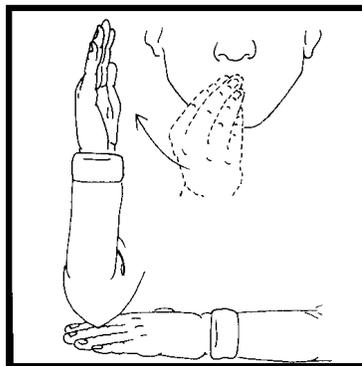
EAT, FOOD

The "AND" hand is thrown lightly toward the mouth several times.

Origin: Food is put into the mouth.

Usage: May I eat with you today?

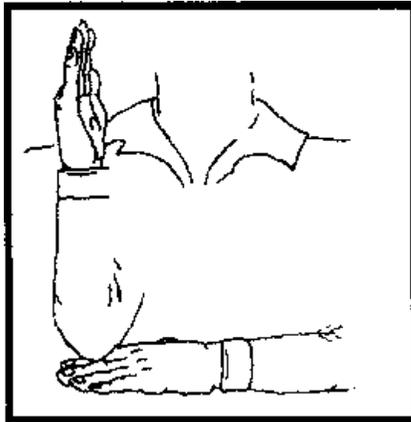
The food is cold.



LUNCH

Sign "EAT" and "NOON." Some prefer to initial the sign by placing the "L" in front of the mouth, palm left.

Usage: Mrs. Kahl invited several people for lunch.

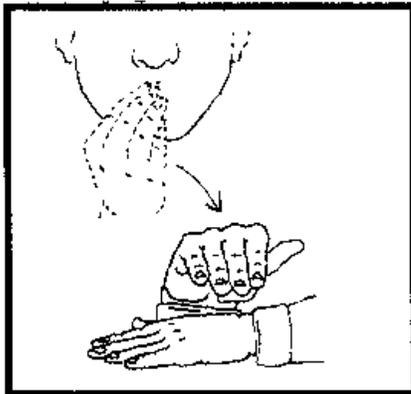


NOON

The fingertips of the left hand, palm down, support the right arm which is held straight up with the open palm facing left. (Or, sign "12" while the right hand is up.)

Origin: Indicated that the sun is overhead.

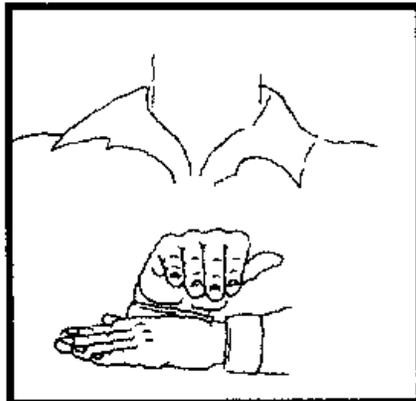
Usage: The luncheon starts at noon.



DINNER

Sign "EAT" and "NIGHT." Some prefer to initial the sign by placing the "D" in front of the mouth, palm in.

Usage: It will be a formal dinner at 8.



NIGHT

The wrist of the right bent hand rests on the back of the left open hand.

Origin: Indicated that the sun had gone down over the horizon.

Usage: Went to a meeting every night.



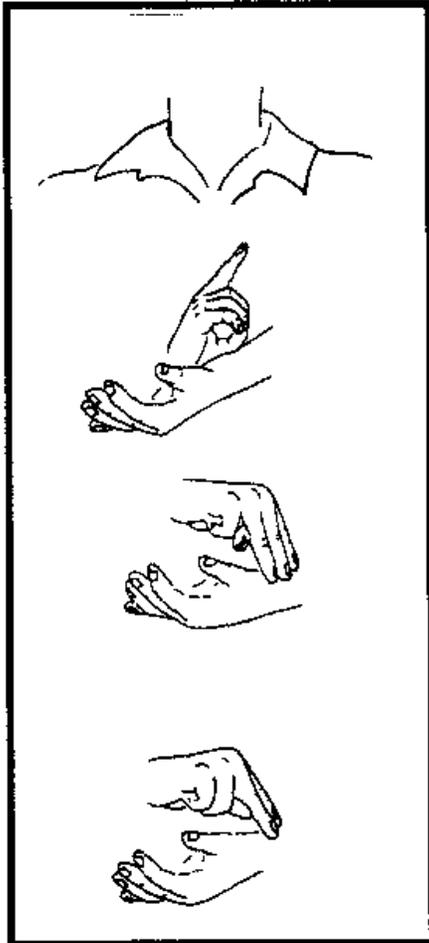
DRINK

Place the "C" hand in front of the mouth, palm facing left, and make a motion as if pouring a drink into the mouth.

Origin: Natural motion of drinking.

Usage: What would you like to drink?

MEDICAL



DOCTOR, PHYSICIAN

Place the right "D" on the inside of the left wrist.

Origin: The medical doctor taking a pulse.

Usage: See your doctor once a year.

MEDICAL

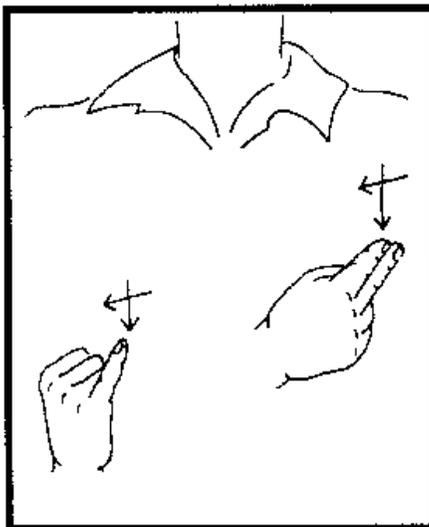
Place the right "M" on the left wrist.

Usage: A well-known medical center.

NURSE

Place the right "N" on the left wrist.

Usage: The night nurse works from 11 to 7.



HOSPITAL

Make a small cross on the left upper arm with the right index and middle fingers.

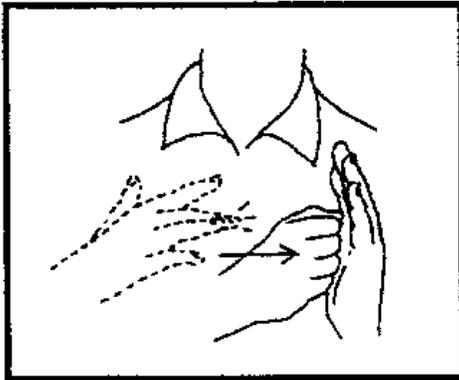
Origin: A cross on the sleeve.

Usage: A large 300-bed hospital.

INFIRMARY

Make the sign for "HOSPITAL" using an "I."

Usage: Our school infirmary was moved to a new building.

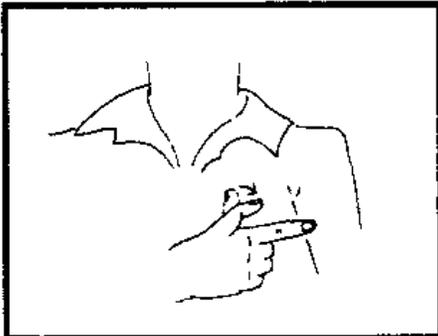


HEART ATTACK

Point to the heart with the middle finger; strike the left open palm with the right fist.

Origin: Indicates the heart and then the action of attack.

Usage: How can you prevent having a heart attack?

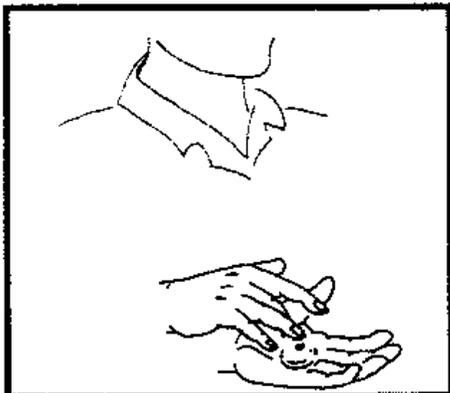


INJECTION SHOT

With the right hand in the "L" position, place the tip of the index finger against the left upper arm and crook the right thumb.

Origin: The action of injecting the needle.

Usage: Injection for allergy; a typhoid shot; The doctor gave him a hypodermic.

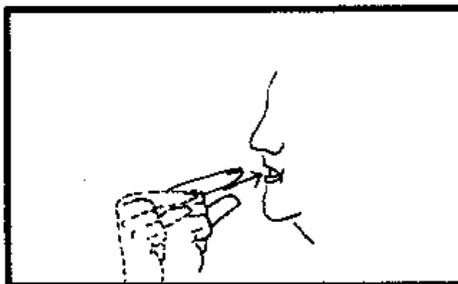


MEDICINE

Rub the tip of the right middle finger in the left palm.

Origin: Mixing the medicine in the palm.

Usage: Take the medicine at mealtime.



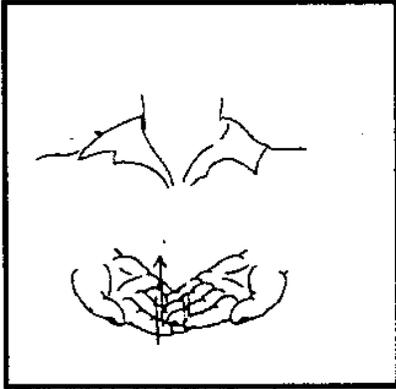
PILLS, TAKING A PILL

Place the thumb against the index finger and open them as you move the hand quickly toward the mouth.

Origin: As if popping a pill into the mouth.

Usage: Time for your pills.

Have you taken your pills?



NO MATTER, NEVERTHELESS, ANYHOW, IN SPITE OF, REGARDLESS, EVEN THOUGH

Brush the tips of both open hands up and down several times, palms facing up.

Usage: Everyone is welcome, no matter what your age.

She had a headache; nevertheless, she worked.

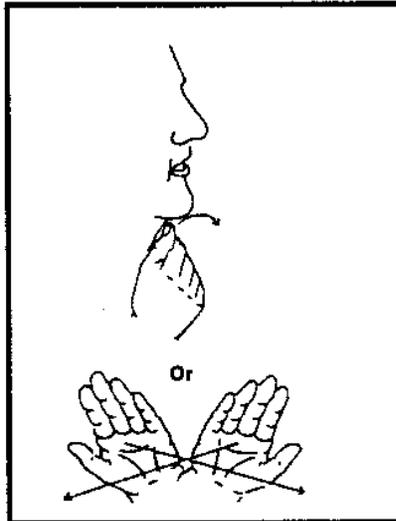
I'm going anyhow.

He came in spite of his negative feelings.

I'll buy the TV regardless of cost.

He came even though he had a bad cold.

Any color is alright; it doesn't matter.



NOT, DON'T, DOESN'T, DIDN'T

Place the thumb of the right "A" hand under the chin and direct it forward.

Or more formally: Cross the open hands before you, palms down, and draw them apart.

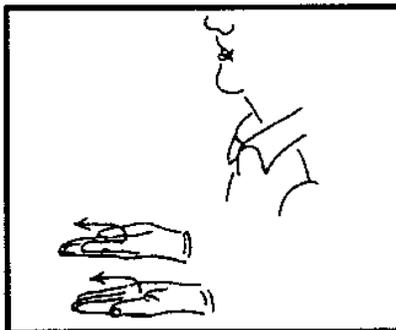
Origin: Natural sign for the negative.

Usage: I'm not planning any trips soon.

Don't wait for me because I have to work late.

Bill doesn't smoke anymore.

He didn't think it was a good time for him.

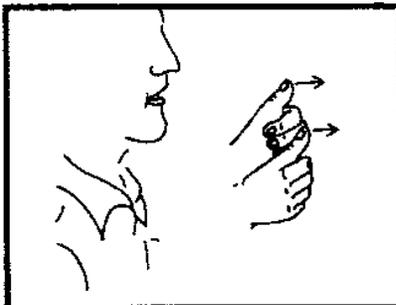


OFFER, PRESENT, PURPOSE, SUGGEST, RECOMMEND, MOTION

Place the open hands in front of you, palms up and fingers pointing forward, move the hands up and forward in this position.

Origin: Lifted and offered.

Usage: Offered a job; want to present an idea; propose a new plan; what can you suggest? Whom do you recommend? I make a motion.

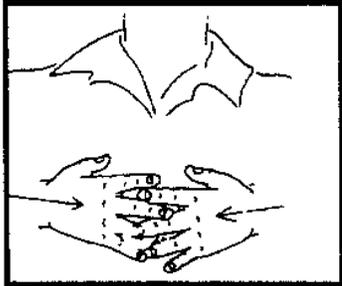


POSTING A NOTICE

Direct both "A" hands forward as if placing thumbtacks in a wall.

Usage: We wanted to inform everyone so we posted a notice.

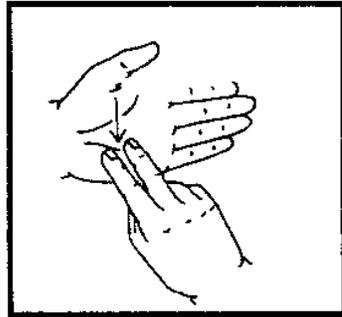
We put it up on the bulletin board.



PREGNANT

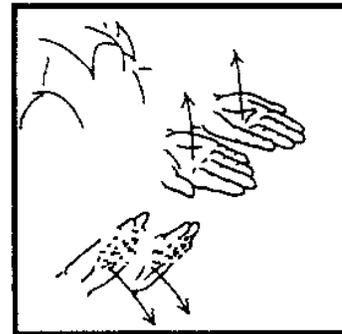
Place the fingers of the right "FIVE" hand and through the left "FIVE" hand.
Usage: 3 months' pregnant

Note: The sign for pregnant should be done over the stomach area, as if you were pregnant



READ

Hold the left hand in front of you palm up, fingers pointing to the right; point the right "V" to the top and move downward.
Origin: Left hand represents book and right represents eyes scanning the page.
Usage: "Reading maketh a full man." (Francis Bacon)



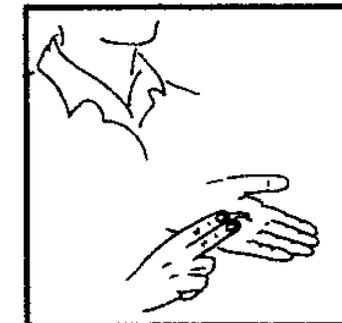
RISE, BE SEATED

Both open hands move up with palms up, or move down with palms down.
Origin: The natural motion of asking people to rise or to be seated.
Usage: Will the audience please rise.
Everyone be seated please.



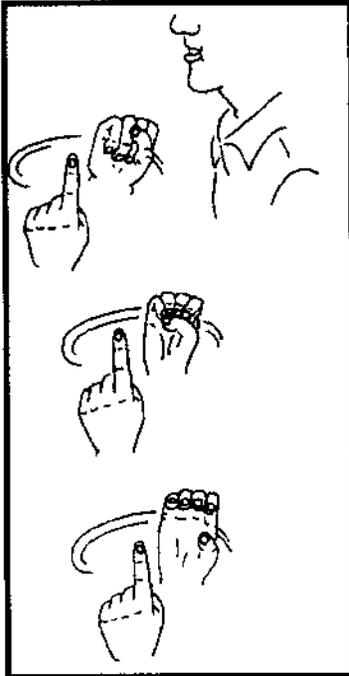
SHIELD, SHELTER

Place the left "S" in front of you. The right open hand (palm out) moves clockwise as if shielding the left fist.
Origin: Raising a shield for protection.
Usage: A shelter in the storm.
The mother always shielded the child.



SIGNATURE

Hold the right "U" in front of you, palm in, turn it and place it face down on the left palm which is facing up.
Origin: Left hand represents the paper, right represents signature.
Usage: I need your signature.
Please sign your name



SITUATION

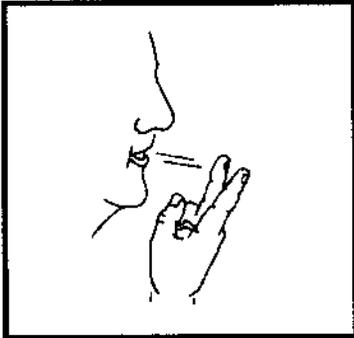
Hold up the left index finger; circle it with the right "S" from left to right.
 Origin: Being in the middle of something
 Usage: Finding yourself in a difficult situation.

ENVIRONMENT

Sign as above, using the "E" hand.
 Usage: Living in a good environment.

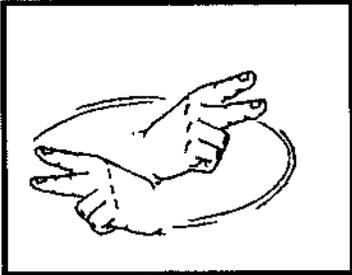
CIRCUMSTANCE

Sign as above, using the "C" hand.
 Usage: I would like to explain the circumstances of the case.



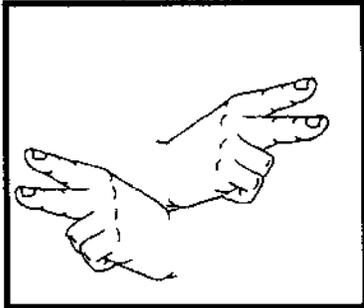
SMOKING

Place the right "V" at the lips.
 Origin: The natural motion of smoking a cigarette.
 Usage: Smoking in bed often causes fires.



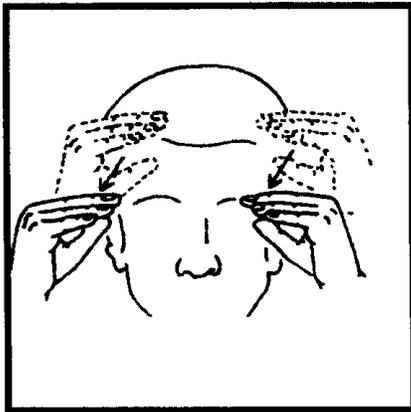
TAKE CARE OF, SUPERVISE

Make the sign for "KEEP" and circle it from right to left.
 Origin: Four eyes watching over an area.
 Usage: Virginia will take care of the children.



KEEP

Place the right "V" hand, palm leftward, on the wrist of the left "V" hand, palm rightward.
 Origin: Hands in the position of "seeing," represented by four eyes watching.
 Usage: Will you keep that car for a while?

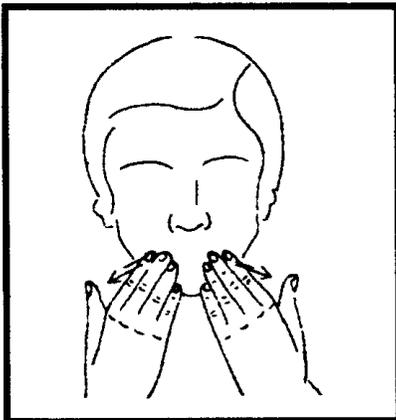


TEACH, INSTRUCT, EDUCATE

Place both open “AND” hands in front of the forehead facing each other; bring them forward, away from the head, into closed “AND” positions.

Origin: Taking something from the mind to pass to others.

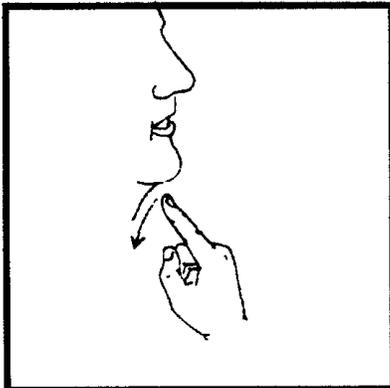
Usage: Teach me to sign well; instruct me to play tennis; educate people in college.



THANK, THANK YOU, YOU'RE WELCOME

Place the tips of the open hands against the mouth and throw them forward, similar to throwing a kiss. (May be made with one hand.)

Usage: Thank you for the birthday card.
You're welcome. Esther thanked Will for the flowers.

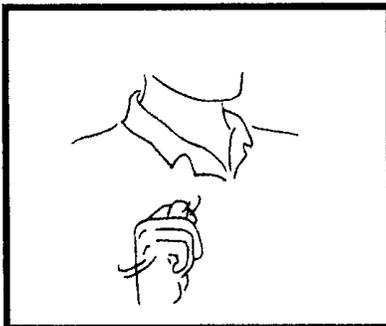


THIRSTY

Draw the tip of the index finger down the throat.

Origin: The throat is dry.

Usage: Thirsty for cold water.

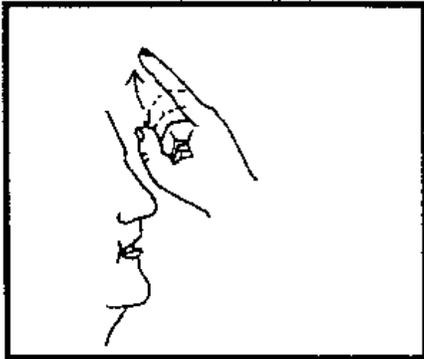


TOILET, BATHROOM

Shake the right “T.”

Usage: The toilet needs repair.

New rug in the bathroom.



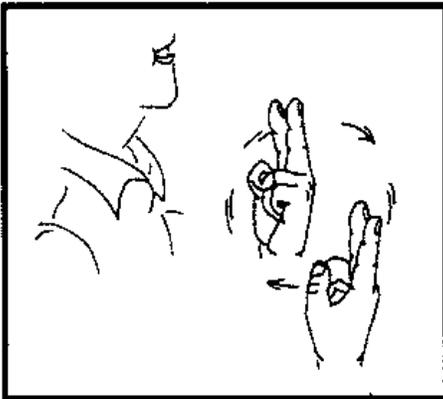
UNDERSTAND, COMPREHEND

Place the “S” hand in front of the forehead, palm facing self, and snap the index finger up.
 Origin: Suddenly the light goes on.
 Usage: Do you understand French?
 I can’t comprehend the universe.



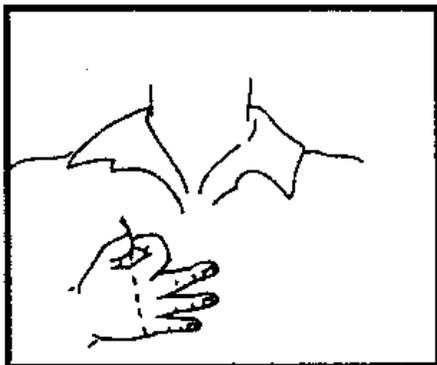
MISUNDERSTAND

Touch the forehead with the index finger of the “V” hand and then with the middle finger of the “V” hand.
 Origin: The thought is turned around.
 Usage: I’m sorry for the misunderstanding.



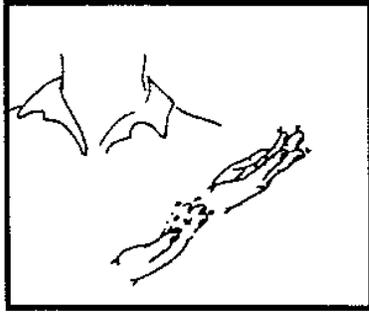
VISIT

The “V” hands, pointing up and facing you, are rotated up-out-down-in-around each other.
 Origin: Represents people in circulation.
 Usage: Why not visit the Smithsonian Institute?



VOLUNTEER, APPLY

With the thumb and forefinger of the right hand grasp your lapel (or clothing) and pull it forward.
 Origin: Putting oneself forward.
 Usage: Dennis volunteered to chair the committee.
 If you want a job you’ll have to apply for one.



WAIT

Hold the left open hand, palm out, a little away from the left side. Hold the right hand in the same position nearer the body, fingers pointing toward the left wrist. Wiggle the fingers of both hands.

Usage: Ray waited patiently for Joyce.

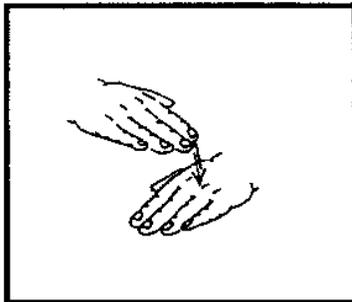


WALK

Open hands, palms down, are moved in a forward-downward motion alternately.

Origin: Representing feet walking.

Usage: Brisk walking is good exercise.

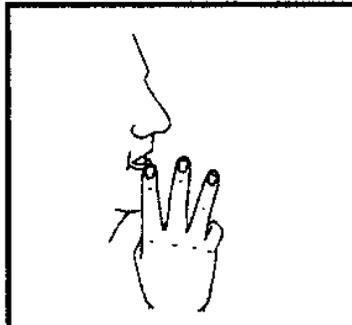


WARN

Tap the back of the left hand several times with the right open hand. Sometimes the right index finger is also raised as if in warning.

Origin: As if tapping someone quickly to give warning.

Usage: The policemen gave the driver a warning.

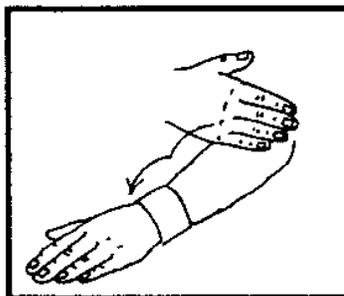


WATER

Strike the side of the mouth several times with the index finger of the "W" hand.

Origin: The initial letter at the lips indicating drinking water.

Usage: Man cannot live without water.



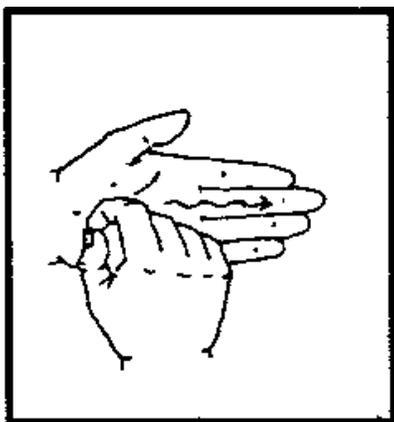
WORSEN, DETERIORATE

Place the left arm in front of you and strike the little-finger side of the right open hand at the inside of the left elbow, moving it down in stages and striking the arm each time.

Origin: Going downhill.

Usage: His health deteriorated.

The patient's condition is worsening.



WRITE

Pressing the tip of the right thumb and forefinger together, other fingers closed, write in the left palm.

Origin: Natural motion of writing

Usage: Write to your Congressman.

