SignWriting Sign Languages Are Written Languages!



American Sign Language Hand Symbols

by Adam Frost and Valerie Sutton

SignWriting

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ISBN: 978-0-914336-82-2 First Edition

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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

This manual is posted on the web: SignWriting Lessons Books http://www.SignWriting.org/lessons/books

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Published by The SignWriting Press http://www.SignWriting.org/shop

Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting http://www.SignWriting.org/deaf

Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc. an educational 501c3 non-profit organization Box 517 •La Jolla • CA • 92038-0517 • USA 858-456-0098 • SignWriting.org • SignBank.org





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

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Nout The Authors

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10 Hand Symbol Groups

in the International SignWriting Alphabet 2010



Group 1: Index Finger

Group 2: Index & Middle Fingers

Group 3: Index, Middle & Thumb

Group 4: Four Fingers

Group 5: Five Fingers

Group 6: Baby Finger

Group 7: Ring Finger

Group 8: Middle Finger

Group 9: Index & Thumb

Group 10: Thumb

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 View Parallel 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 halfdark 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

01-01-001

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	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

01-01-002

	d	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
K		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

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01-01-006



Index Bent

01-01-007

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01-01-011

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	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

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	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
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ŋ ŋ D	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
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Index Middle Unit, Cup

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

Index Middle Cross

01-02-013

L L	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
X	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

<u>N</u>	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

	29_	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
		Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
		Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	η η [Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
S	חח 	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
		Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane



Index Middle Thumb Bent

22-	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
ח □ ח	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
┦┑ □∎⊐	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
קק ב	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

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	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

Ĵ	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ĵ	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

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

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L L	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

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	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

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d	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
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۲	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
C	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
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The second secon	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
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	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

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01-03-035

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	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

01-04-001

Ч <u>Ч</u>	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
H	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

Four Fingers Spread Bent

01-04-002

<u>ال</u>	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ŷ?	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
17,	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



Four Fingers Unit

01-04-004

Â	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ê	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

Four Fingers Unit Bent

01-04-007

	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



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

01-05-001

₩¥	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
الز	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
 \mathbf{x}	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

01-05-003

ک	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, Four Bent Heel

		Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	E	Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	ξÌ	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
TOTE	\	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

01-05-005

ک لک	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

		Palm Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
	E COR	Palm Diagonal Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	Ĵ	Thumb Up Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Parallel to Floor Plane
m	ES.	Palm Diagonal Down Front View Heel of Hand Hand Projects Forward Relating to Floor Plane
	دي.	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 Cup

	Ð	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
E C	Ð	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	3	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	٤D	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Ð	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	3	Back of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane

Five Fingers Spread Cup Open

Ð	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Ð	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
ĒD	Side of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
Ē	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

01-05-015

	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

Flat Heel

01-05-017

	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

01-05-019

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



	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
J	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
T	T	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	T	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	D	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

\square	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
7	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
1	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

01-05-043

	0	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
		Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
		Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
TT.	\mathbf{C}	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

	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

<u>к</u>	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

K	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Y	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
V	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
С С	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
う し	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

01-06-007

	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

01-06-008

	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 01-06-013

	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

01-06-021

- JJA	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

01-06-022

	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

01-06-023

· ↓	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

01-06-024

	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

01-06-027

	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

	Y	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	d	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
V		Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Ś	Palm of Hand Top View Parallel Floor Plane
	Ó	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

А	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
Y	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
, <mark>'</mark>	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

	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 Hinge

01-08-012

	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 9



Group 9: Index Thumb All Hands With Two Action Fingers: Index Finger & Thumb

Middle Ring Baby on Circle

01-09-002

Å	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
<u> </u>	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
л Л	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

01-09-008

	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

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
A A	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, Thumb Bent

01-09-020

	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

01-09-021

	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 Hook

	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 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

01-09-031

9	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
9	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
9	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

Ē

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

Ĵ	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
	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

01-09-036

	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

Г

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

01-10-001

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
C	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
	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

	Palm of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Side of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
	Back of Hand Front View Parallel Wall Plane
P	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 01-10-016

	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
\bigstar	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...



Heel of Hand or Top View? Use Either Symbol Front View ... OR... Top View Front View ... OR... Top View 印 Front View ... OR... Top View 。 い



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.













Some ASL signs as examples:



箫

∱ ₿















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.



, + + 	Some ASL signs as examples:	=
	Jewish grow soft soft soft give to you lose money poor waste gay dissolve twelve	=
 	↑ ≫	: ب الم الم
₩¥	╅ ^{╲╱} ╲ ╅ _┍ ╡	

e ≮









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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



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SignWriting Instruction

SignWriting.org/lessons • SignWriting.org/shop



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



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/



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SIGNWRITING ASL HAND SYMBOLS