

YOUNG, YOUTHFUL

Place the fingertips of both open hands on the chest, several inches apart, and brush upward several times. Origin: blood flowing quickly through the body

Usage: feel young again

That teacher seems youthful.

OLD, AGE

The right "C" hand grasps an imaginary beard at the chin and moves slightly down into an "S" position. To indicate great age, the "S" hand is moved slightly back and forth as it moves downward.

Origin: Age is signified by a beard. Usage: How old is that gentleman? We have a collection of old books. Age before beauty!

CRIPPLED, LAME

Point both index fingers down and move them up and down

Origin: represents two legs hobbling along

Usage: a lame boy

The accident left him crippled.

TIRED, WEARY, EXHAUSTED

The fingertips of the bent hands are placed at each side of the body just above the waist and then dropped slightly.

Origin: The body is bent forward. Usage: tired after working all day

My brain is weary after studying so much. The man seemed completely exhausted.

PALE

Sign "WHITE"; then direct the hand toward the face and

Origin: having a white face

Usage: After a long illness she looked thin and pale.



THIN, LEAN, GAUNT

Touch the right cheek with the right thumb and the left cheek with the right index finger; draw the hand in this position down the cheek.

Origin: showing the hollow cheeks

Usage: a thin face

a lean and strong young man gaunt and starved

FAT, OBESE, CHUBBY, PLUMP

The curved "FIVE" hands face the cheeks and are then drawn slightly away from the face to indicate puffy cheeks. Origin: the face is fleshy

Usage: a fat cat

a strong woman but not obese a chubby baby cheeks rosy and plump

SICK, ILL, DISEASE

Touch the forehead with the middle finger of the right hand and the stomach with the middle finger of the left

Origin: Both head and stomach are not well.

Usage: became sick after eating; ill and in the hospital; childhood disease; sick of studying (in this idiomatic usage both hands are given a twist)

PAIN, ACHE, HURT

The index fingers are jabbed toward each other several

Note: This sign is generally made in front of the body but may be placed at the location of the pain, for example: headache, toothache, heartache, etc.

Usage: suffered pain after the accident; aching all over; my knee hurts; have an earache

SORENESS

Place the tip of the thumb of the "A" hand at the chin and twist it back and forth.

Usage: After exercising I felt sore all over.