

Handshape					
k		•	closed fist		
Thumb			Fingers		
q	.	closed	q	.	closed
w	/	in palm	u	⌒	hooked
e	<	curved	o	⌒	curved
r	\	“3D”	s	\	bent
t	—	horizontal	g		straight
y		vertical			

Palm Orientation (Position)		
l	☒	forward
ç	☒	backward
c	☒	up
v	☒	down
z	☒	medial
x	☒	distal

Movement								
Arm and wrist			Hand			Non-Manual Expressions		
à	⊥	forward	û	⊥	open	í	⤴	negative head shake
á	⊥	backward	ü	⊥	close	î	⤵	positive head shake
â	⊕	forward and backward	À	⊕	open and close	ï	↪	tongue in cheek
ã	↑	up	Á	⌒	flex fingers at base	ò	↪	tongue out
ä	↓	down	Â	⌒	flex fingers at tips	ó	<	blow air out
è	↕	up and down	Ã	✎	open and close fingers	ô	☒	raspberry
é	→	right	Ä	⌒	drum fingers	õ	↪	chin wag
ê	←	left	È	⌒	rub fingers	ö	☒	suck in cheeks
ë	↔	right and left	É	⌒	bend wrist	ù	☒	puff out cheeks
ì	+	in	Ê	⌒	lateral movement of wrist	ú	☒	open mouth
í	⇄	out	Ë	⌒	rotate wrist	û	+	wink
î	↗	up and to the right	Ï	⌒	rotate forearm	ü	☒	rotate body
ï	↖	up and to the left	<p>EliS – Escrita das Línguas de Sinais – Cheatsheet (made 2025/11)</p> <p>Based on https://nulpoints.github.io/elis/ by Nulpoints, itself excerpted from "<i>Princípios Básicos da EliS: Escrita das Línguas de Sinais</i>" by Mariângela Estelita Barros and "<i>Um texto escrito em Libras/ELiS: O sistema de escrita das línguas de sinais (ELiS) como recurso para registrar enunciados sinalizados</i>" by Freitas, Barros, and Fernandes. Translation by Nuno Raposo.</p> <p>The font used after the ASCII transcription of each symbol can be found at the above link, along with additional resources.</p> <p>Each symbol is presented first as ASCII, then in the specialized EliS font, e.g. “k” and “•” for “closed fist”.</p>					
ò	↘	down and to the right						
ó	↙	down and to the left						
ô	⌒	arc						
õ	⌒	flex/extend arm						
ö	○	circular (vertical)						
ù	○	circular (horizontal)						
ú	○	circular (frontal)						

Location											
Head			Body			Limb			Hand		
Q	☐	face	H	Π	neck	\	L	whole arm	@	☐	palm
W	☐	top of head	J	☐	body	Z	└	shoulder	#	☒	back
E	⊥	side of head	K	≡	thorax	X	└	armpit	\$	≡	fingers
R	└	ear	L	└	side	C	└	upper arm	%	☐	side of fingers
T	=	forehead	Ç	☐	abdomen	V	└	elbow	&	☒	in between fingers
Y	≡	eyebrow				B	└	forearm	*	☒	phalanges
U	≡	eye				N	└	wrist	-	☐	fingertip
I	≡	cheekbone				M	Π	leg			
O	└	nose	<div>General Spelling Indications</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Handshapes are shortened with the assumption that unwritten fingers follow the last finger given. For example : “tg” is equal to “tgggg”.If hands share parameters (H,P,L,M), write them once. If hands share all parameters, use “/” to signal a two-handed symmetric sign.								
P	≡	upper lip									
S	└	teeth									
A	≡	mouth									
D	☐	cheek									
F	≡	chin	<div>Two-handed Semi-Symmetrical Signs</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">When one or more but not all parameters (H,P,L,M) are shared between both hands.Write shared parameters once, differing parameters twice.If “q” is before a thumb letter (one of “qwerty”) it is part of the previous handshape.It is easier to read the handshapes backwards – the last thumb symbol (one of “qwerty”) is the start of the second handshape.								
G	≡	below chin									

	Spelling									
	Handshape (= H)		Position (= P)			Location (= L)		Movement(= M)		
One-handed	H		P			L		M		
Two-handed symmetrical	/H		P			L		M		
Two-handed asymmetrical	H(nd)/H(d)		P(nd)P(d)			L(nd)L(d)		M(nd)M(d)		
Two-handed semi-symmetrical	H(H)		P(P)			L(L)		M(M)		
	See text above for an in-depth explanation . The “()” indicates optionality but is not to be written.									
With supporting hand	H		P			L (Hand, nd, e.g. “@”)		M		
Compound	Sign 1						Sign 2			
	H	P	L	M	b	H	P	L	M	

“nd” = non-dominant, “d”= dominant,

“b” = unity punctuation mark, see punctuation table p.3

Punctuation		
Symbol		Meaning/use
b	∴	Unites two parts into a single sign. Can be used for independent signs, or dependent signs such as a compound.
-	-	Absence of movement in a hand, for two-handed signs.
/	//	Indicates an identical handshape for the other hand in a two-handed sign. Precedes the handshape.

Diacritics		
Symbol(s)		Meaning/use
pdh	✋✋	Un-fan fingers, used after handshape.
iaf	✋✋\	Contact between thumb and indicated finger. Repeat symbol to designate the finger. (e.g. “a” is index, “aa” is middle, etc...)
>	>	Right side of location. Use before location.
<	<	Left side of location. Use before location.
'1, '2, '3	— -- ---	Contact once, twice or thrice at location. Use before location.
m	:	Repeat movement. Use after movement.
n	..	Alternate movement. Use after movement.

Superscripts		
Combine the symbol “ ” (vertical bar) with the following parameters to produce a superscript symbol.		
Symbol		Meaning/use
+ Position e.g. ç z x c v	☒☒☒☒☒☒	Use after handshape to indicate where hand/fingers are pointed to.
+ Movement e.g. á é ó í ú...	↗↘↙↘↙...	Use after movement to indicate additional or more detail to movement.
+ Digit e.g. 1 2 3 4 5	12345	Use after location to indicate a specific finger as location, or a specific finger performing a movement.

Diacritics (Undocumented, meaning is guessed at)		
Symbol		Meaning/use
§	☒	Use after limb location to indicate inside part of limb.
k	•	Standalone handshape symbol for a closed fist.
¡ ²³ œ¼	###\###	(Font only) consolidates multiple finger symbols with the closed fingers diacritic.

A Keyman keyboard layout is available at

<https://nulpoints.github.io/elis/elis.kmp>

For ease of access, all Movement symbols are available through a second layer activated through the right Alt key, as shown here.

