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	ǀ	straight
y	ı	vertical			

Palm Orientation (Position)		
l	☑	forward
ç	▣	backward
c	⊟	up
v	⊟	down
z	⊞	medial
x	�III	distal

Movement								
Arm and wrist			Hand			Non-Manual Expressions		
à	⊥	forward	û	⊥⊥	open	Í	᠊ᠣ	negative head shake
á	⊤	backward	ü	⊤⊤	close	Î	᠊ᠣ	positive head shake
â	‡	forward and backward	À	⊁⊬	open and close	Ï	᠊o	tongue in cheek
ã	↑	up	Á	˥	flex fingers at base	Ò	᠊ᠧ	tongue out
ä	↓	down	Â	˥˥	flex fingers at tips	Ó	‹	blow air out
è	↕	up and down	Ã	V	open and close fingers	Ô	⌶	raspberry
é	→	right	Ä	ᴧ	drum fingers	Õ	⇋	chin wag
ê	←	left	È	ᴧ	rub fingers	Ö	✂	suck in cheeks
ë	↔	right and left	É	∟	bend wrist	Ù	ᴐ	puff out cheeks
ì	⊣	in	Ê	∟	lateral movement of wrist	Ú	◉	open mouth
í	⊢	out	Ë	∟o	rotate wrist	Û	÷	wink
î	↗	up and to the right	Ì	∟	rotate forearm	Ü	⌒	rotate body
ï	↖	up and to the left						
ò	↘	down and to the right						
ó	↙	down and to the left						
ô	⌒	arc						
õ	◿	flex/extend arm						
ö	0	circular (vertical)						
ù	○	circular (horizontal)						
ú	☉	circular (frontal)						

EliS – Escrita das Línguas de Sinais – Cheatsheet (last edited 21.11.2025)

Based on https://nulpoints.github.io/elis/ by **Nulpoints**, itself excerpted from "*Princípios Básicos da EliS: Escrita das Línguas de Sinais*" by **Mariângela Estelita Barros** and "*Um texto escrito em Libras/ELiS: O sistema de escrita das línguas de sinais (ELiS) como recurso para registrar enunciados sinalizados*" by **Freitas, Barros**, and **Fernandes**. Translation by **Nuno Raposo.**

The font used after the ASCII transcription of each symbol can be found at the above link, along with additional resources.

Each symbol is presented first as ASCII, then in the specialized EliS font, e.g. "k" and "•" for "closed fist".

Location

Head			Body			Limb			Hand		
Q	⊟	face	H	⊤⊤	neck	\	ʟ	whole arm	@	□	palm
W	⊓	top of head	J	⊟	body	Z	ʟ	shoulder	#	☑	back
E	⊢⊣	side of head	K	☰	thorax	X	ʟ	armpit	$	⸭	fingers
R	⊔	ear	L	⊓	side	C	ʟ	upper arm	%	⊐⟩	side of fingers
T	=	forehead	Ç	回	abdomen	V	ʟ	elbow	&	☑	in between fingers
Y	⁚⁚	eyebrow				B	ʟ	forearm	*	⊞	phalanges
U	∵	eye				N	ʟ	wrist	_	⯀	fingertip
I	⌣⌣	cheekbone				M	⊤⊤	leg			
O	⊥	nose									
P	±	upper lip									
S	⊤	teeth									
A	⁻	mouth									
D	⚬⚬	cheek									
F	⊔	chin									
G	⊻	below chin									

General Spelling Indications

- Handshapes are shortened with the assumption that unwritten fingers follow the last finger given. For example : "tg" is equal to "tggggg".
- If hands share parameters (H,P,L,M), write them once. If hands share all parameters, use "/" to signal a two-handed symmetric sign.

Two-handed Semi-Symmetrical Signs

- 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.

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

	Sign 1					Sign 2			
Compound	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. |l|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	Use after location to indicate a specific finger as location, or a specific finger performing a movement.

Note: the Symbol column also shows example glyphs (⊡⊙⊞⊟ etc. for Position, ⊤→↙↦⊙… for Movement, 12345 for Digit).

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¤€¼	⪥⪥⪦⪦††	(Font only) consolidates multiple finger symbols with the closed fingers diacritic.

An online keyboard is available at https://nulpoints.github.io/elis/keyboard.html.

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.