

Supplement For Lesson 2

Objectives inspired by, vocabulary transcribed from, and sentences and story by Bill Vicars.

Handshape photos by Adam Frost.

No endorsement implied nor given by either.

Objectives

- I have completed the objectives for this lesson.
- I am able to read each letter of the fingerspelled alphabet.
- I am able to read the numbers 6–10.
- I am able to list the seven categories of SignWriting in order.
- I am able demonstrate the meaning and form of the symbol groups in the hands category in order.
- I understand which type of handshapes are in Symbol Groups one, two, and three.
- I know what palmshape means.
- I am able to draw the Fist palmshape in all forms.
- I am able to draw and demonstrate what fill one means.
- I am able to draw and demonstrate what rotation means.
- I am able to read, write, and sign the ASL handshapes in symbol group one.
- I am able to recognize the vocabulary for lesson.
- I am able to read the practice sentences for this lesson.
- I am able to read the practice stories for this lesson.

The Fingerspelled Alphabet

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
	U	V	W	
	X	Y	Z	








The Numbers 6–10

Six	Seven	Eight	Nine	Ten

SignWriting Categories

Every SignWriting symbol has been assigned to one of seven categories, and each category has between one and ten Symbol Groups within it. This is very similar to knowing whether a letter in English is a consonant or vowel, it's just that SignWriting has a larger vocabulary of groups of base symbols.











In order to be considered literate you will be able to know which categories each base symbol is in. Because the base symbols of SignWriting are organized by category, if you can do the list of Symbol Groups in order then you can also list the categories in order but knowing the order of categories is much more likely to help with knowing the order of the base symbols.




Category	Example	Name	Category	Example	Name
1		Hands	2		Movement
3		Timing	4		Face
5		Body	6		Detail
7		Punctuation			

You can't move on to the next lesson until you can say "hands, movement, timing, face, body, detail, punctuation."

The Hands Category

The first category is called "Hands" and has ten symbol groups roughly based on the first ten numbers in ASL. You will eventually be able to recite the informal names of all thirty symbol groups in order as easily as you can recite the alphabet. The symbol groups can be thought of a three groups of ten, and the first ten are extremely easy to remember.

Symbol Group	Name	Example	Symbol Group	Name	Example
1	One		2	Two	
3	Three		4	Four	
5	Five		6	Six	
7	Seven		8	Eight	
9	Nine		10	Thumb	

It's important to remember that these names are informal.  does not correspond to the ASL number nine though these unofficial names are reminiscent. For instance compare  with . You will learn the official names but for learning SignWriting, we are just asking you to know the informal names in order but not yet — though it would be surprising to not remember them.

The Symbol Groups One, Two, and Three

The first Symbol Group we informally call one, though it's official name is "Index". Symbol Group Index (One) consists of all handshapes where the index finger features prominently. If there are other fingers, they are a group of fingers and secondary to the handshape.

The actual handshapes and their order will be covered a little later in this lesson.

The second Symbol Group we informally call two, though it's original name is "Index Middle". Symbol Group Index Middle (Two) consists of all handshapes with the index and middle finger extended and no other fingers extended.

The actual handshapes and their order, as with the remaining symbol groups is category one, will be covered in future lessons.

The third Symbol Group we informally call three, though it's official name is "Index Middle Thumb". Symbol Group Index Middle Thumb (Three) consists of all handshapes with the index, middle fingers, and thumb extended and no other fingers extended.

Before you can consider this lesson complete, you need to be able to list off the symbol groups as: "one, two, three".



That shouldn't be too hard for you.

Palmshapes








Each hand shape has a palmshape at it's root, the shape you draw first before decorating it with fingers. Each palmshape represents how tightly the "missing" fingers are held together. They come in two primary types of fist and heel.

In the fist type are fist (meaning that the missing fingers are held tightly), circle (meaning that the missing fingers are held loosely), side (meaning that the fingers are open and held firm and not actually missing), cup (meaning that the fingers are open and relaxed and not actually missing), and flat (meaning that the hand is all the way open).

In the heel type are fist (meaning that the missing fingers are held tightly), and flat (meaning that the hand is all the way open).

























The heel palmshapes are technically redundant, but are important in correctly expressing meaning by (and to) someone who is fluent in ASL. As an example: point your fingers straight forward, open your hand and pretend you are placing your palm on an imaginary table with your palm pointing straight down. This can be either  or . Both are correct recordings of this handshape and position, but (depending on the word and context) one will be the most correct. If looking up an unfamiliar sign it may help to consider both options.

We will spend some time on each of these palmshapes, but here are examples of each so you know what you are looking at.

Fist		Circle	
Side		Cup	
Flat			
Fist Heel		Flat Heel	

The Fist Palmshape

Yes, I am aware that we just talked about this but . . . the fist palmshape represents holding the hand tightly.

	Fill 1	Fill 2	Fill 3	Fill 4	Fill 5	Fill 6
Right Hand						
						
Left Hand						
						

The first row is what the right hand will look like in most of this manual. The second row is an approximation of what it will look like when you write it. The third row is what the left hand will look like in most of this manual. The fourth row is an approximation of what it will look like when you write it.

Most of the lessons will not show you how to hand print the glyphs, and we don't have to because hand printing is as systematic and the rest of SignWriting. Whenever you are trying to print a handshape, there are four phases: palmshape, fingers, palm fill, and floor.

For phase 1 we start with the palmshape: are you drawing the square fist, the rectangle of a side or flat heel, or the half square of the fist heel; the full circle or the partial circle of a cup; or are you drawing the five sided flat? And before you write it down, which rotation are you going to need?

For phase 2 we have three considerations: for fills 1 and 4: move on to the next phase; for fills 2 and 5: draw a line down the middle, and then draw an "X" through the correct half to indicate the shading; for fills 3 and 6: draw an "X" in the palmshape to indicate full shading.

For phase 3 we decorate the edges with any fingers that may exist. If the fingers extend outside of the palmshape, then that part is simple enough but pay attention to things like is it up or to the side, and which corner is it next to? If the fingers push into the palmshape (like with number 4) then draw the finger crossing that side of the palmshape—with the finger being both in and sticking out a little. If there aren't any fingers, like in these examples, then just move on to the final phase.

For phase 4 we have three considerations: for fills 1–3, we are already done; For fills 4–6 and handshapes without finger (or with only internal fingers) we draw a line through the top portion of the glyph which sticks out on both ends; for fills 4–6 and handshapes with fingers, we draw a line through the fingers.

SignWriting has a cursive form which is aimed at ease and speed of writing and, just like with cursive in English, tends to be a personalized and assumes that you know enough of the language to "fill in" the extra pieces. If you find yourself wanting to write just a bit faster, you can take a look at <https://www.signwriting.org/lessons/cursive/handwriting/>.

The First Fill

Hand Symbols



Any symbol drawn in the first fill means that the signer's palm is facing the signer. For all the hand symbols, the empty portion represents the signer's palm and the filled portion represents the back of the hand. So for fill one, if the hand was open you would be able to see all of your palm and none of the back of your hand — leaving fill one an empty symbol.

Movement Symbols



Any symbol drawn in the first fill means that the right hand is doing the movement, so for all of these the right hand is doing the moving.

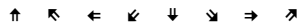
Everything Else





The fills for other categories tend to be a bit more variable. Here we have fast, eyebrows up, and comma.




Rotation

In some cases, rotation does not provides semantic information so only one rotation exists: 

For most symbols, rotation is simply one of eight directions: 

And some symbols have mirroring: 

For symbols that represent something parallel to the wall, the symbol represents the direction if you were holding the paper parallel to the wall in front of you. For instance,  means your index finger is pointing up while  means that your index finger is pointing to your left.

For symbols that represent something parallel to the floor, the symbol represents the direction if you set the paper on the floor in front of you. For instance,  means your index finger is pointing forward,  means that your index finger is pointing to your left, and  means your index finger is pointing back toward yourself.

























ASL Handshapes From Symbol Group One

The five handshapes in Symbol Group One used by ASL in order are: **Index; Index on Circle; Index on Angle; Index Bent; and Index Cup.**

























Before we introduce these handshapes, let's review how to write them. First phase is palmshape in the correct rotation; second phase is the base fill, possibly for the correct half of the palmshape; third phase is fingers, which for most of these handshapes is one line on the correct corner for the fill, but for index on angle is three fingers on the correct corners for the fill; fourth and final phase is the line for phases 4, 5, and 6.

For the first few of these we will be showing some examples of what the final form may look like, and we are confident that you can handle the rest on your own.

The Index Handshape



















	Fill 1	Fill 2	Fill 3	Fill 4	Fill 5	Fill 6
Right Hand						
						
						
Left Hand						

The Index on Circle Handshape



















	Fill 1	Fill 2	Fill 3	Fill 4	Fill 5	Fill 6
Right Hand						
						
						
Left Hand						

As you practice to write these don't forget to practice rotations as well!



















The Index on Angle Handshape

	Fill 1	Fill 2	Fill 3	Fill 4	Fill 5	Fill 6
Right Hand						
						
Left Hand						


























The Index Bent Handshape


































	Fill 1	Fill 2	Fill 3	Fill 4	Fill 5	Fill 6
Right Hand						
						
Left Hand						

The Index Cup Handshape









































	Fill 1	Fill 2	Fill 3	Fill 4	Fill 5	Fill 6
Right Hand						
						
Left Hand						

Vocabulary








































6		address				
						
7		alone				
						
8		b				
		boy				
9						
10		brother				
						
						

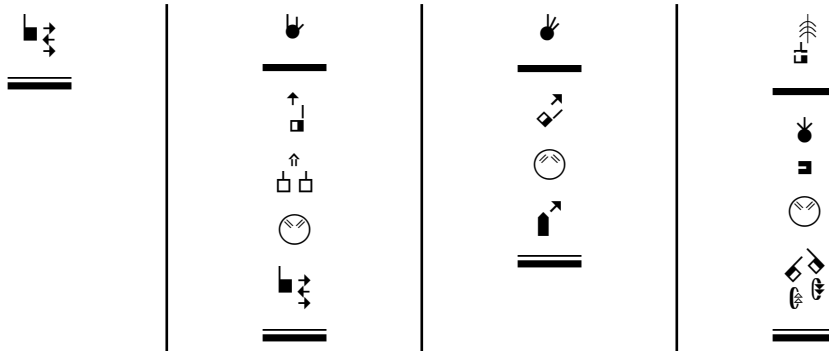
				
hey	lady	marry	r	w
				
how	life	married	single	wife
				
how many	live	mom	sister	woman
				
husband	male	only	something	x
				
i (letter)	man	parents	t	z
				
j	marriage			
				
just				
				
k				
				

Practice Sheet 2.A

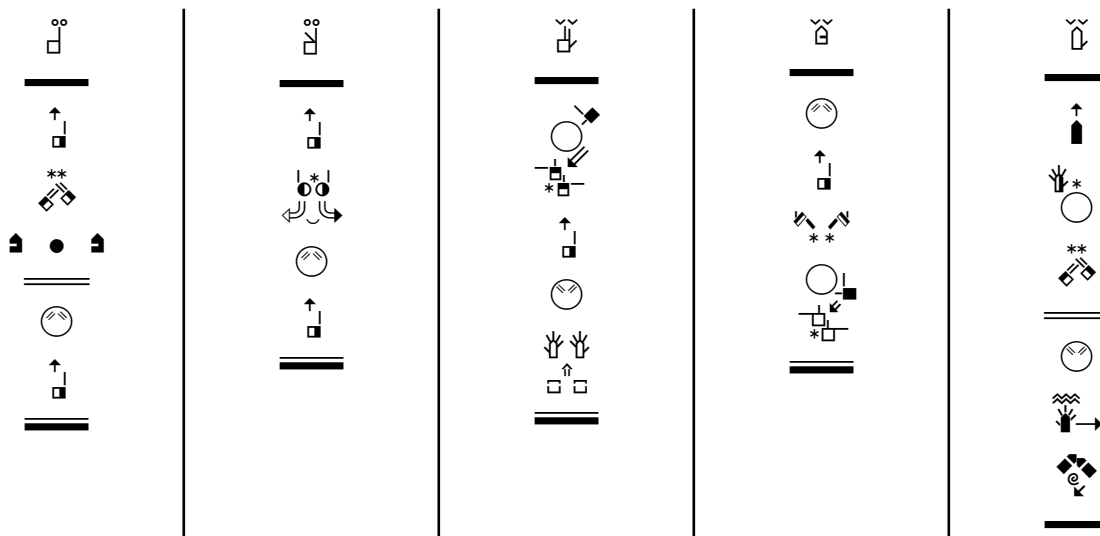
				
				
				
				
				
				
				
				

Practice Sheet 2.B

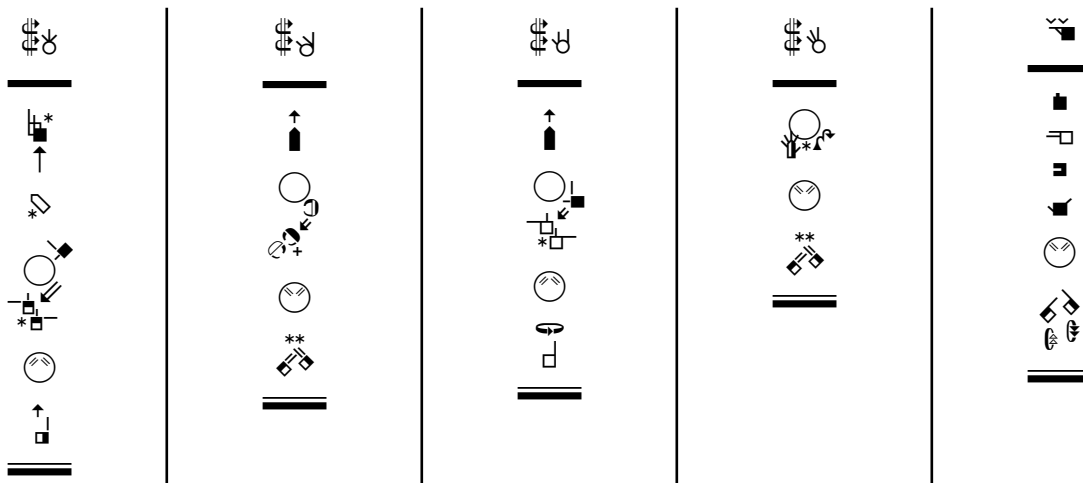
				
				
				
				
				
				
				
				



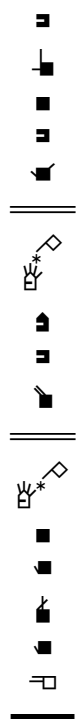
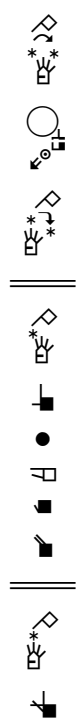
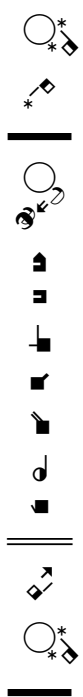
Practice Sheet 2.C



Practice Sheet 2.D



Story 2.A



Story 2.B

