

Supplement For Lesson 7

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 understand how dominant hand affects SignWriting.
- I am able to read the numbers 1,000–999,999.
- I understand how the “ABCOS15” handshapes fit into ASL SignWriting.
- I am able to demonstrate the meaning and form of the symbol groups in the detail category.
- I know which base symbols are in Symbol Groups wall and diagonal.
- I am able to draw the fist heel palmshape in all forms.
- I am able to draw and demonstrate what fill six means.
- I am able to read, write, and sign one third of the ASL handshapes in symbol group five.
- I am able to recognize the vocabulary for this lesson.
- I am able to read the practice sentences for this lesson.
- I am able to read the practice story for this lesson.

Dominant Hand and SignWriting

We covered this long ago back in lesson one. The full answer is that dominant hand can either have no effect on SignWriting or completely mirror all the handshapes and directions of each word.

If your dominant hand happens to be right, then the sign for clean happens to be  and that is

the way we consistently write it. But the sign for clean is also  and when reading something written by someone else we must also accept this spelling. Why? As you become more comfortable with ASL and SignWriting you will internalize it as being in your voice — you will process speech/signing as if you are the one speaking/signing. So if someone has written you a note and it happens to be left hand dominant, that just means that it is how that person thinks. Normally you might expect a disclaimer along the lines of “pending teacher approval” but in this case I’m going to say that if your teacher does not accept it then they are wrong — it must be acceptable.

Which brings up the question as to why these supplements don’t include both spellings? Primarily it is because of space — twice as many pages for sample sentences and stories and also the fear about overwhelming the reader. A secondary reason is that it is well established that right hand dominant is the “standard” spelling — if you find a book in ASL it will be right hand dominant.

So what effect does dominant hand have on SignWriting, usually none. In cases where it does, here is the effect.

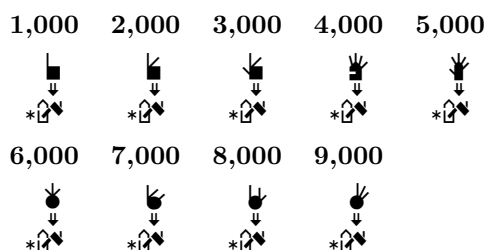
- Each movement arrow is mirrored.
- Many movement arrows have their fill changed to reflect the change in handedness.
- Each hand is mirrored.
- Each symbol is moved to reverse the horizontal spacing — vertical spacing remains the same.
- Noses and other items that we only have one of remain unchanged.

The Numbers 1,000 Through 999,999

In SignWriting you will almost exclusively be written as a vertical list of the digits for zero through nine. This is just like English using digits to write out large numbers. This lesson will, in contrast to normal usage,

be showing the full words — instead of 1,234 you will see one thousand two hundred thirty four. Just like in English, writing the full words takes more space but given the goal of this supplement it is required.

In future lessons we will eventually switch to using digits, as you would normally see in SignWriting, but you must remember to interpret the digits and use the correct signs when speaking in ASL.



The “ABCOS15” Handshapes and ASL SignWriting

The simple takeaway from “ABCOS15” is that SignWriting has \square , $\hat{\square}$, \odot , \circ , \square , \square , and Ψ ; but there is so much more to consider.

English, at least American English, now has words and phrases which were originally borrowed from other languages like RSVP, je ne sais quoi, adios, lariat. As these words and phrases become more anglicized, the pronunciation and even the meaning adjusted. RSVP is a literal request for a response regardless of the response, but for most speakers of American English it means respond but only if you are coming. *La reata* literally means “the rope” but was merged into a single word, had the last syllable dropped, and the stress moved forward, as well as becoming a special form of its original meaning.

English is not the only language to do these types of things. In fact, this is so common it would be rather strange for ASL to *not* do this. The difference is that while ASL *can* borrow from other sign languages, it is *more likely* to borrow from English spelling and/or pantomiming in spaces not occupied by current words. This is how we start with and still have initialized words in ASL as well as words that are visually descriptive, but as native speakers become more comfortable with the concept and make it their own the handshapes will move from “well formed letters” into some basic handshapes which, movements, and locations. That is, words that start with \square or Ψ , are likely to become \square over time; many words that start with both hands moving are likely to simplify to either a dominant hand moving while the non-dominant hand remains stationary or both hands making the same movement; and words that start around the waist are likely to move up over time.

For the dominant hand, the number of handshapes available is rather larger — these lessons cover what has been identified as the basic handshapes for the dominant hand and it’s just over eighty. For the non-dominant hand, these handshapes are likely to simplify to this much smaller set of about seven shapes both because these are the standard shapes and because native speakers learning new words aren’t interested in the exact shape as they learn to speak but in maintaining correct understanding.

The Detail Category

We informally call this category detail, though it’s official name is “Detailed Location” and it has one base symbol in it with the same name.

Symbol Group	Name	Example
29	Detail	

The Symbol Groups Wall and Diagonal

The thirteenth Symbol Group we informally call wall, though it's official name is "Straight Wall Plane". Symbol Group Straight Wall Plane (Wall) has all types of vertical movement — up and down though left and right movement can also be shown. Each of these arrows have a pair of tails, to remind us of a rocket ship blasting off vertically.

Base Symbol	Example	Base Symbol	Example
Single Straight Movement, Wall Plane Small		Single Straight Movement, Wall Plane Medium	
Single Straight Movement, Wall Plane Large		Single Straight Movement, Wall Plane Largest	
Single Wrist Flex, Wall Plane		Double Straight Movement, Wall Plane	
Double Wrist Flex, Wall Plane		Double Alternating Movement, Wall Plane	
Double Alternating Wrist Flex, Wall Plane		Cross Movement, Wall Plane	
Triple Straight Movement, Wall Plane		Triple Wrist Flex, Wall Plane	
Triple Alternating Movement, Wall Plane		Triple Alternating Wrist Flex, Wall Plane	
Bend, Wall Plane Small		Bend, Wall Plane Medium	
Bend, Wall Plane Large		Corner, Wall Plane Small	
Corner, Wall Plane Medium		Corner, Wall Plane Large	
Corner, Wall Plane with Rotation		Check, Wall Plane Small	
Check, Wall Plane Medium		Check, Wall Plane Large	
Box, Wall Plane Small		Box, Wall Plane Medium	
Box, Wall Plane Large		Zigzag, Wall Plane Small	
Zigzag, Wall Plane Medium		Zigzag, Wall Plane Large	
Peaks, Wall Plane Small		Peaks, Wall Plane Medium	
Peaks, Wall Plane Large		Travel Rotation, Single Wall Plane	
Travel Rotation, Double Wall Plane		Travel Rotation, Alternating Wall Plane	
Travel Rotation, Single Floor Plane		Travel Rotation, Double Floor Plane	
Travel Rotation, Alternating Floor Plane		Travel Shaking, Wall Plane	
Travel Arm Spiral, Wall Plane Single		Travel Arm Spiral, Wall Plane Double	
Travel Arm Spiral, Wall Plane Triple			

The fourteenth Symbol Group we informally call diagonal, though it's official name is "Straight Diagonal Movement". Symbol Group Straight Diagonal Movement (Diagonal) has all ways the movement that is both horizontal and vertical at the same time. It is shown to be primarily vertical but the movement away from

you will have an extra line — like looking at the tail of a jet moving away from you. Movement towards you will have an extra circle — like watching the nose of a jet coming straight at you.

Base Symbol	Example	Base Symbol	Example
Diagonal Away Movement Small		Diagonal Away Movement Medium	
Diagonal Away Movement Large		Diagonal Away Movement Largest	
Diagonal Towards Movement Small		Diagonal Towards Movement Medium	
Diagonal Towards Movement Large		Diagonal Towards Movement Largest	
Diagonal Between Away Small		Diagonal Between Away Medium	
Diagonal Between Away Large		Diagonal Between Away Largest	
Diagonal Between Towards Small		Diagonal Between Towards Medium	
Diagonal Between Towards Large		Diagonal Between Towards Largest	

Before you can consider this lesson complete, you need to be able to list off the symbol groups as: “one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, thumb;” “contact, finger, wall, diagonal.”

Some additional help when remembering the second set of base symbols. Contact and finger you will just have to remember, but now point to the wall and rotate your arm till your index finger points down to the floor.

This is the order followed by the base symbols in the second set — wall first, floor last. You can consider this lesson complete when you can remember “contact, finger, wall, diagonal,” but you should be able to guess that the next symbol is floor because “wall first, floor last.”

The Fist Heel Palmshape

The Fist Heel Palmshape only comes as fill 2 which in the case of the primary rotation means palm up. The idea is that when you are focused on the heel, you can see both the palm and the back of the hand at the same time so fills 1, 3, 4, and 6 cannot occur. The reason fill 5 is missing is because of the physiology of human arms — you won’t be using the heel handshape with palm towards the signer.

	Fill 1	Fill 2	Fill 3	Fill 4	Fill 5	Fill 6
Right	—	■	—	—	—	—
Left	—	■	—	—	—	—

The Sixth Fill

Hand Symbols



Any handshape symbol drawn in the sixth fill means that the signer’s palm is facing down. 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 six the palm is completely filled in.

Everything Else



















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The fills for other categories tend to be a bit more variable. Here we have the left eyebrow raised by itself.




First ASL Handshapes From Symbol Group Five

The twenty one handshapes in Symbol Group Five used by ASL in order are: *Five Fingers Spread*; *Five Fingers Spread Heel*; *Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent*; *Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent Heel*; *Five Fingers Spread Bent*; *Five Fingers Spread Bent Heel*; *Five Fingers Spread Cup*; *Five Fingers Spread Cup Open*; *Five Fingers Spread Hinge*; *Flat Hand*; *Flat Heel*; *Flat, Thumb Side*; *Flat, Thumb Side Heel*; *Cup*; *Cup, Thumb Side*; *Cup, No Thumb*; *Circle*; *Hinge*; *Hinge, Thumb Side Hinge*, *No Thumb and Angle*.











The Five Fingers Spread Handshape

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




The Five Fingers Spread Heel Handshape

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

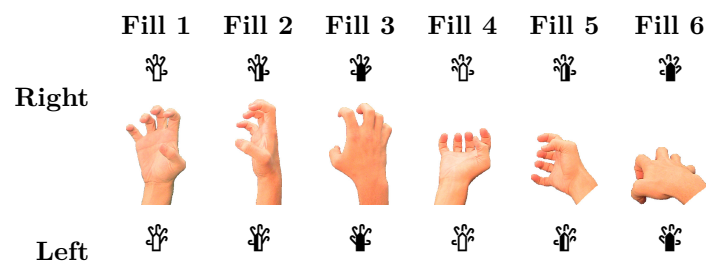
The Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent Handshape

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

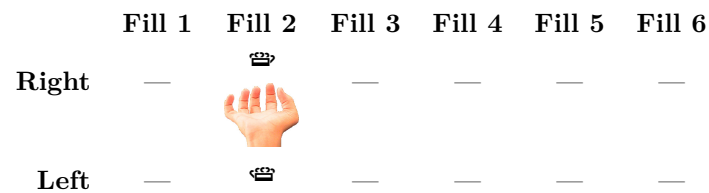
The Five Fingers Spread, Four Bent Heel Handshape

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

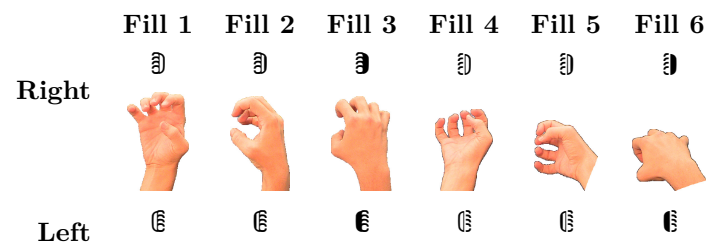
The Five Fingers Spread Bent Handshape



The Five Fingers Spread Bent Heel Handshape

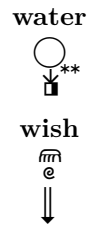
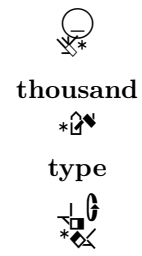
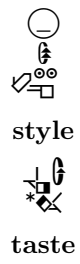
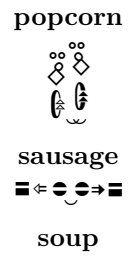
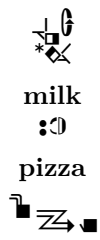


The Five Fingers Spread Cup Handshape

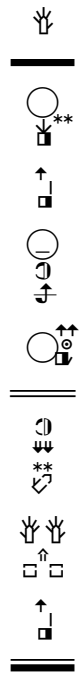
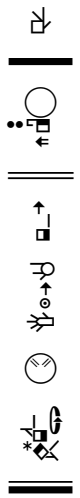
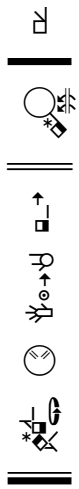


Vocabulary

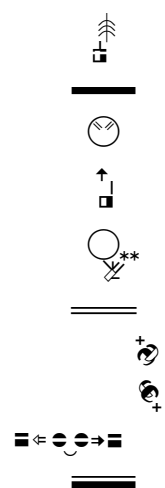
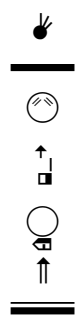
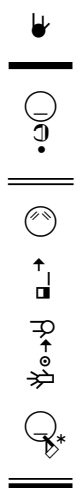
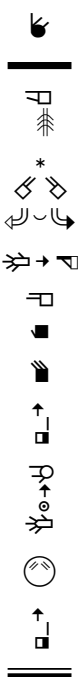
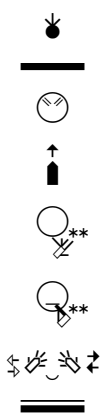
1,000	6,000		cup	
		bologna		full
*	*			
2,000	7,000	candy	drink	hamburger
*	*	cereal	eat	hotdog
3,000	8,000			
		cheese	egg	kind (an in type)
*	*			
4,000	9,000	cookie	food	
*	and		full	
5,000	apple			
*				



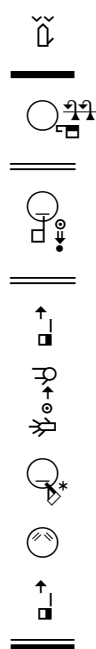
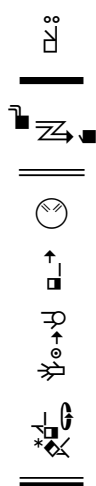
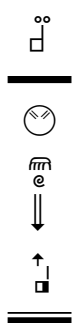
Practice Sheet 7.A



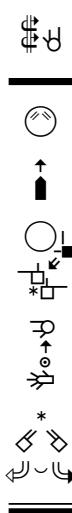
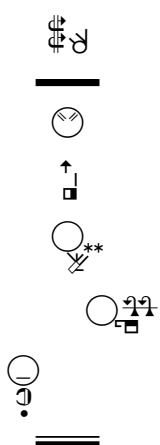
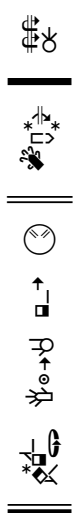
Practice Sheet 7.B



Practice Sheet 7.C



Practice Sheet 7.D



Story 7

