

Supplement For Lesson 4

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 know how SignWriting handles non-manual markers.
- I am able to demonstrate the iconicity of SignWriting.
- I understand how directionality affects SignWriting.
- I am able to read the numbers 21–30.
- I am able to show the meaning and form of the symbol group in the timing category.
- I understand which types of handshapes are in Symbol Groups six and seven.
- I am able to draw the side palmshape in all forms.
- I am able to draw and demonstrate what fill three means.
- I am able to read, write, and sign half of the ASL handshapes in symbol group three.
- 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.

Non-Manual Markers




You should think I'm being silly with bothering to mention this by now but here goes.





A non-manual marker is anything not (non-) on the hands (manual), which we have seen quite a bit already. Things like the  meaning a yes or no question verses  meaning a question to answer.


The Iconicity of SignWriting

When selecting a symbol for index finger extended, you could use a symbol like  and just learn that it means index finger extended. Given enough arbitrary symbols, this could be just as effective in recording ASL even if it took a little more memory at first. There is nothing wrong with choosing to do this.



Instead, most of SignWriting has been designed to remind the reader and writer of what the item is. All of the handshapes, movement, and faces have been designed to look like the actual hands, movement, and faces involved.

The handshapes even move where the fingers are drawn to match. When you see  and , they both look very like your hand: in one case with the closed fingers to the left of your index and in the other with the fist to the left of your index. Which is why the finger moves on , it now looks like where your actual finger is.

When looking at movement, knowing that  is up while  is forward is an arbitrary remembering of stems, both  and  are to the left and look like it.

And as for faces, you don't even really need to be told that  means eyebrows up, it just looks like it.

This has the additional side-effect that ASL words which are iconic are also iconic in SignWriting.

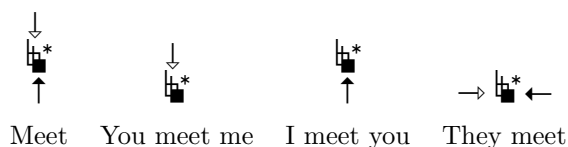
looks like it might mean house,  looks like a tree, and  looks like you are showing a fire.

Directionality in SignWriting

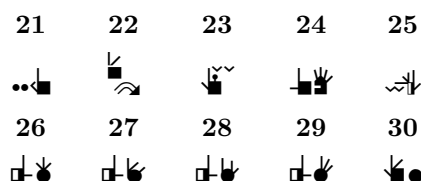
Most languages do something called conjugate — that is change their form depending on either who is performing the action (the actor), or who the action is being perform on (the patient), or both.

English is of the first type — I *spea*k to myself, she *spea*ks to me, I *spea*k to her, and she *spea*ks to herself. If you know who the actor is then you can conjugate correctly regardless of the patient.

ASL is of that third type, that conjugates based on both.



The Numbers 21 through 30



The Timing Category

We informally call this category timing though it's official name is “Dynamics & Timing” and has one base symbol in it. The symbol groups can be thought of as three groups of ten, and here is where knowing the categories in order starts to help.

Symbol		
Group	Name	Example
21	Timing	◀

With there only being one, and it having the same informal name (and official name) you should be able to remember it fairly easy but you technically don't have to yet.

Symbol Groups Six and Seven

The sixth Symbol Group we informally call six, though it's official name is “Baby Finger”. Symbol Group Baby Finger (Six) have all the handshapes where either the baby finger is extended or all fingers except the baby finger are extended.

The seventh Symbol Group we informally call seven, though it's official name is “Ring Finger”. Symbol Group Ring Finger (Seven) have all the handshapes where either the ring finger is extended or all fingers except the ring finger are extended.

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”

The Side Palmshape

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

The Third Fill

Hand Symbols



Any symbol drawn in the third fill means that the signer's palm is facing away from 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 three, even if the hand was open you would only see the back of your hand — leaving fill three completely filled symbol.

Movement Symbols



Any symbol drawn in the third fill means that the both hands are doing the movement together, so these are all both hands moving.

Everything Else



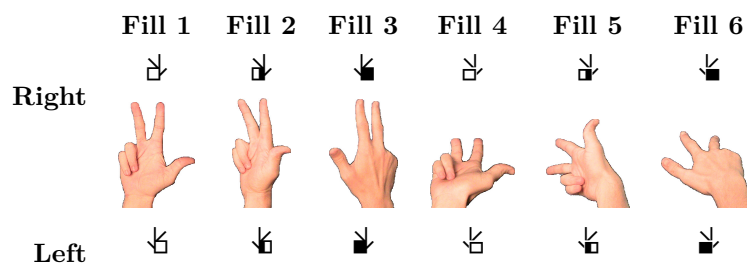
The fills for other categories tend to be a bit more variable. Here we have double-fast, left eyebrow raised, and slow comma.

First ASL Handshapes From Symbol Group Three

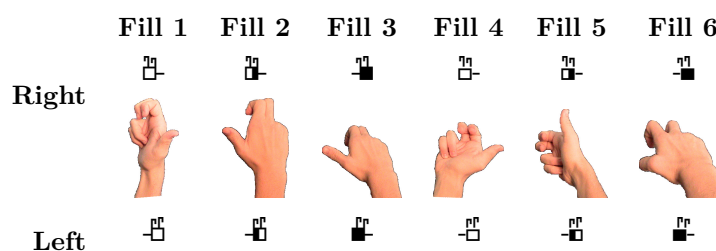
The twelve handshapes in Symbol Group Three used by ASL in order are: *Index Middle Thumb*; *Index Middle Bent*, *Thumb Straight*; *Index Middle Thumb Bent*; *Index Up*, *Middle Hinge*, *Thumb Side*; *Index Middle Thumb Cup*; *Index Middle Thumb Circle*; *Index Middle Unit*, *Thumb Side*; *Index Middle Unit Hinge*, *Thumb Side*; *Index Middle Cross*, *Thumb Side*; *Middle Thumb Circle*, *Index Up*; *Index Middle Thumb*, *Angle*; and *Middle Thumb Angle Out*, *Index Up*.

In case you hadn't noticed before, the *italic* handshapes are the ones we are covering in this lesson.

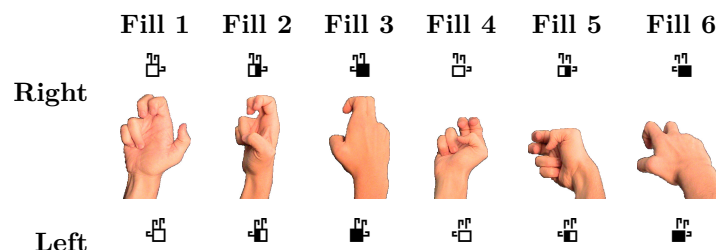
The Index Middle Thumb Handshape



The Index Middle Bent, Thumb Straight Handshape

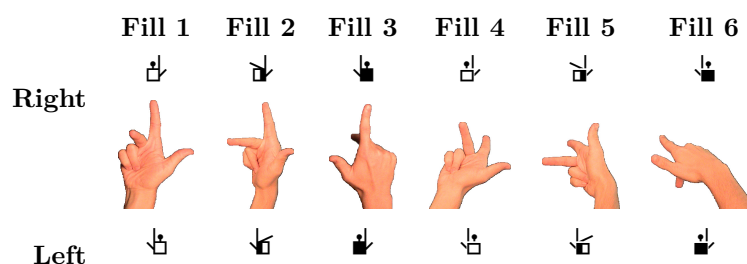


The Index Middle Thumb Bent Handshape



The Index Up, Middle Hinge, Thumb Side Handshape

This symbol introduces a new concept in fills 1, 3, 4, and 6.

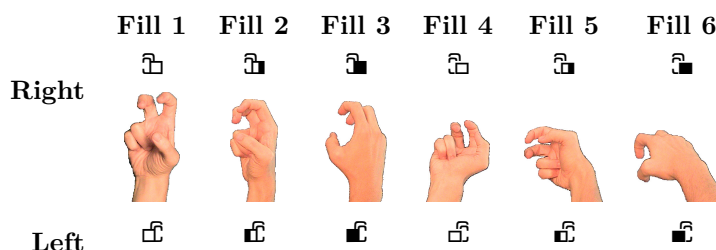


When a finger (or thumb) is pointing at the signer in fill 1, the finger (or thumb) becomes a circle. This convention matches with the diagonal movement that you will learn about later — the circle means it is heading your direction.

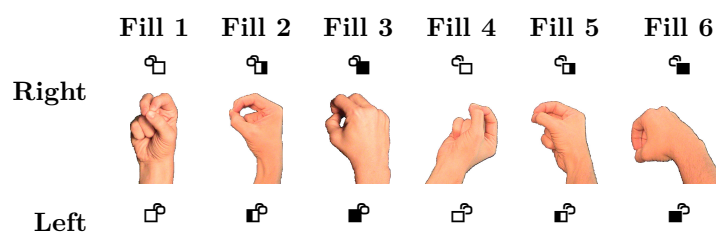
Normally, something heading away from you would be a line, but for handshapes we don't do that for fills 3 and 6. Instead we still use the circle to both match fills 1 and 4 and so that we won't confuse fill 3 with fill 6 or have to make sure our lines in fill 6 are separated "enough" to show.

When writing you are free to use either the circle or to use something that looks more like fills 2 and 5 — whichever is easier for you, just like you can use "g" or "g" in your writing of English. Both are the same letter regardless of what you may see in print.

The Index Middle Thumb Cup Handshape



The Index Middle Thumb Circle Handshape

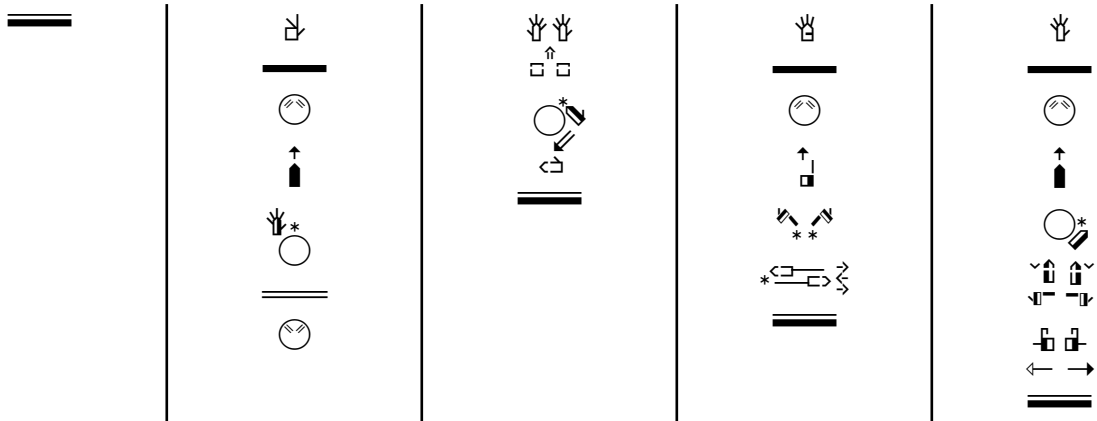


Vocabulary

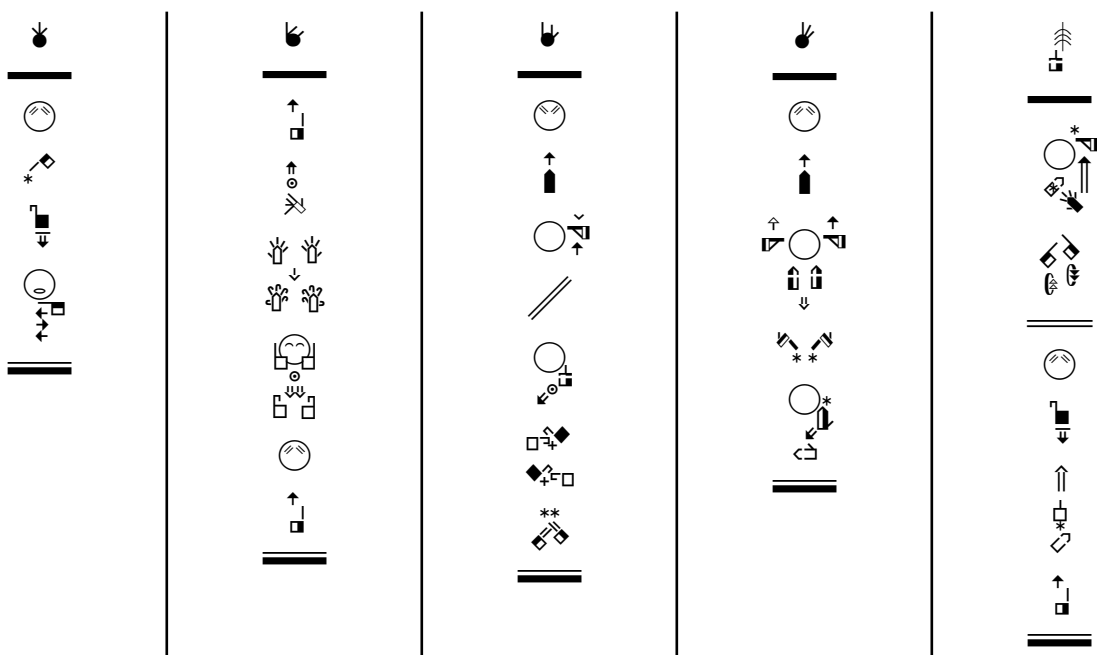
21				
	aunt			
22				
	baby			
23				
	bed			
24				
	bedroom			
25				
	box			
26				
	brush teeth			
27				
	cry			
28				
	daughter			
29				
	angry			
30				
	apologize			

Practice Sheet 4.A





Practice Sheet 4.B



Practice Sheet 4.C

