

Supplement For Lesson 5

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 SignWriting handles eye-gaze.
- I understand how SignWriting handles roles.
- I am able to read the numbers 30–99.
- I am able to show the meaning and form of the symbol groups in the face category in order.
- I understand the types of handshapes which are in Symbol Groups eight, nine, and thumb.
- I am able to draw the cup palmshape in all forms.
- I am able to draw and demonstrate what fill four means.
- I am able to read, write, and 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.







Eye-gaze

Eye-gaze in SignWriting is extremely straightforward: there are symbols for it that match the movement you will be learning in future lessons. So  means looking up while  means looking straight ahead.

SignWriting Roles

In most SignWriting the words are centered in columns, but in the story for lesson four you may have noticed that some portions of the sentence were off center. This change in lanes indicates a change in signing roles. When SignWriting is written in a column on the right, it refers to the speaker turning to the right to sign to or for the imaginary person identified in that space, with a similar meaning when the words are in a column to the left.

In live signing you can technically have any number of roles in a particular conversation — memory permitting. So a person could turn to the right a little for one person and turn fully to the right for a second person, and have two more people on the left, maybe take a step forward for another person, ... There are

SignWriting symbols which allow for the full expression of all the different roles one could take like , , , and . So, to refer to someone on the far right you could use  followed by the phrase being signed for/to that person followed by  to indicate a return to normal signing space.

But roles are such an intrinsic part of signing that this is too cumbersome for conversational SignWriting, so in conversational SignWriting — and by conversational we not only mean the SignWriting used on a daily basis by native ASL speakers but also the SignWriting that you are learning — two roles are supported and some sentences may require adjustment to fit within this framework.

This should not be surprising, it is no different than adding “he said” and “she said” to written sentences in English instead of just modulating our voice when speaking. My *exact words* might be “I knew Bill was there so I knocked on the door. What are you doing at my house?” and the difference in my voice clearly indicates that I went to Bill’s house and he asked the question. The words are ambiguous, I could have gone to my house and asked Bill why he was there, but a change in voice can indicate something different. But

when I write this down what I write is “I knew Bill was there so I knocked on the door. He asked me ‘what are you doing at my house?’”

In a similar way



means when the person on the right said teach, I said/say teach, and the person on the left said teach.

These lanes can also be used to increase the number of people being referred to in a single conversation.



Though, we will try and avoid referring to that many people or places in a single conversation.

The Numbers 31 through 99

In *general* just place the individual digits in a row. Sometimes when writing short numbers, you may write them vertically especially if you are copying down numbers as seeing them. Both of the following are acceptable ways to write the number 38.



You may even find names fingerspelled horizontally this way, just like you would capitalize a person’s name in English.

In page numbers and other similar contexts you will also find the numbers 10–29 written horizontally as individual digits even though it is bad signing. The real reason it’s acceptable for page numbers is because it simplifies typesetting, but don’t sign that way even though you will see it on documents made by native signers on <http://www.signwriting.org>!

The Face Category

We informally call this category face, though it’s official name is “Head & Face” and has five categories in it.

Symbol Group	Name	Example	Symbol Group	Name	Example
22	Head	○	23	Eyes	⊗
24	Middle	⊙	25	Mouth	⊖
26	Tongue	⊕			

These symbol groups constitute the bulk of the last set of ten symbol groups and they mostly move from the top of the head down. The symbol group tongue also has a few extras like neck, hair, and excitement but is still part of the tongue symbol group.

Symbol Groups Eight, Nine, and Thumb

The eighth Symbol Group we informally call eight, though it's official name is "Middle Finger". Symbol Group Middle Finger (Eight) has all the handshapes where either the middle finger is extended or all fingers except the middle finger are extended.

The ninth Symbol Group we informally call nine, though it's official name is "Index Thumb". Symbol Group Index Thumb (Nine) has all the handshapes where either the index finger and thumb are extended or everything except the index and thumb are extended. This consideration of the thumb is very different from the prior three symbol groups and is helpful to remember when trying to find an unfamiliar handshape. It is also why many of these handshapes are not part of symbol group one even though you may think to look there as well.

The tenth Symbol Group we informally call thumb, and it's official name also happens to be "Thumb". Symbol Group Thumb have all the handshapes where the only modifier from fist is thumb, as well as the remaining fist shapes.

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."

You may find yourself accidentally called the tenth symbol group ten, but keep at it until you can remember that it's thumb.

The Cup Palmshape

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

You may have noticed that we didn't put an "X" in the filled in portion for fills 2 and 5. If that confuses you too much, feel free to add an "X" in as well but the author has found in his own writing that an additional line is sufficient and an "X" tends to look messier.

The Fourth Fill

Hand Symbols



Any symbol drawn in the fourth fill means that the signer's palm is facing up. 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 four, if the hand was open you would see all of your palm — leaving fill four a completely empty symbol.

Movement Symbols



Any movement symbol drawn in the fourth fill means that there is no arrowhead, allowing for creation of larger arrows by placing these next to any arrows in the other fills.

Everything Else

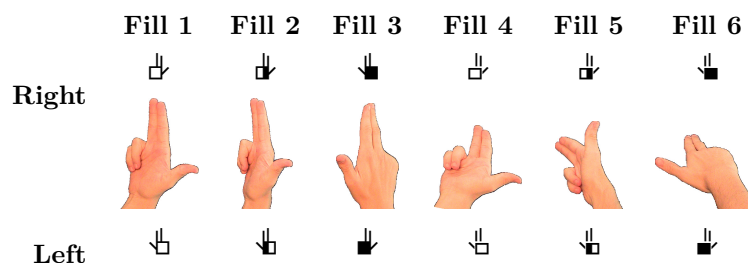


The fills for other categories tend to be a bit more variable. Here we have an alternate form of double-fast, eyebrows raised without a face, and tense comma.

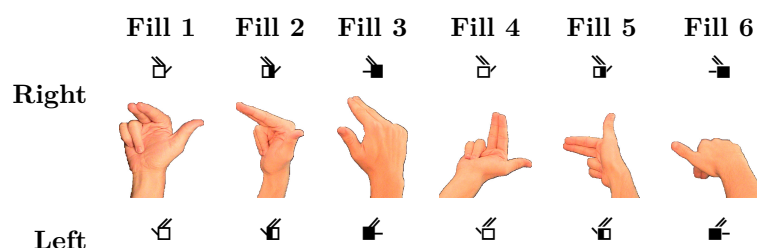
ASL Handshapes From Symbol Group Three

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*.

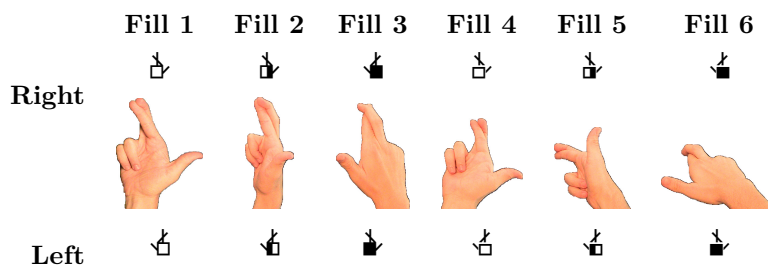
The Index Middle Unit, Thumb Side Handshape



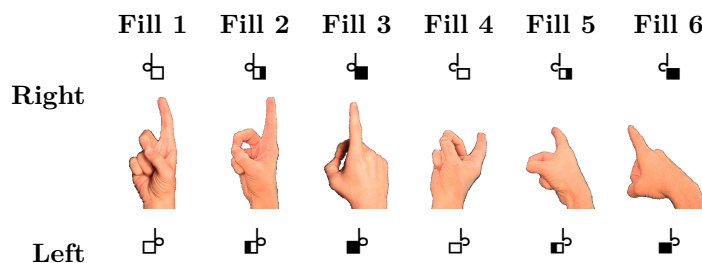
The Index Middle Unit Hinge, Thumb Side Handshape



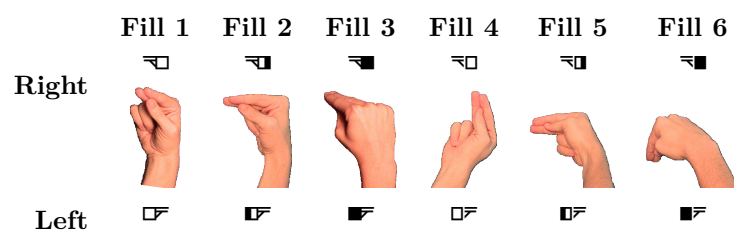
The Index Middle Cross, Thumb Side Handshape



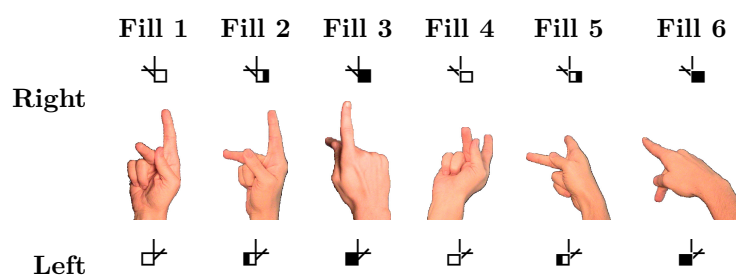
The Middle Thumb Circle, Index Up Handshape



The Index Middle Thumb, Angle Handshape



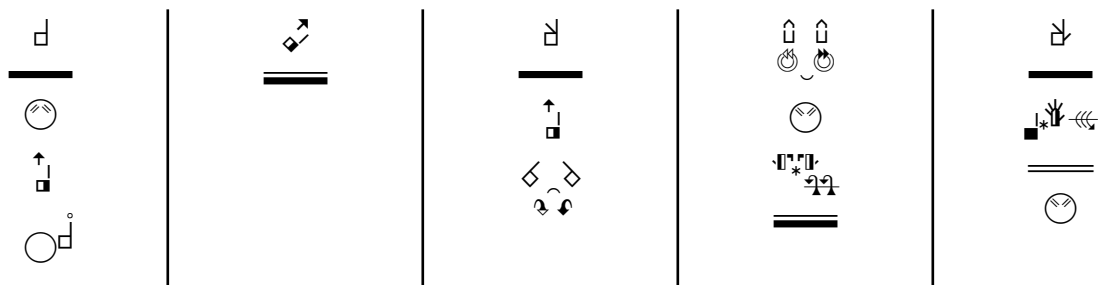
The Middle Thumb Angle Out, Index Up Handshape

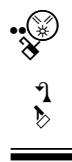
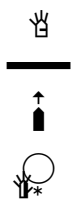
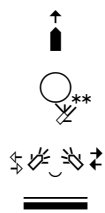


Vocabulary

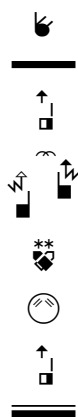
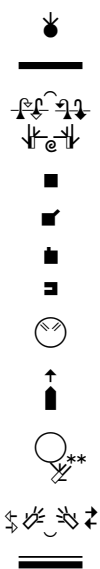
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doctor 		play 	store 	

Practice Sheet 5.A

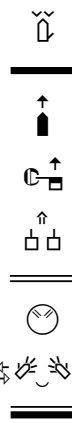
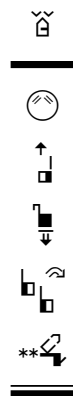
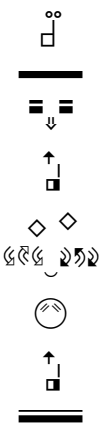




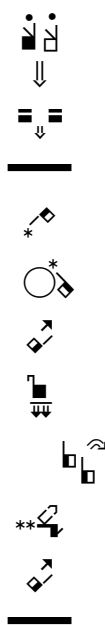
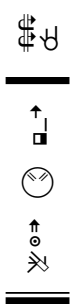
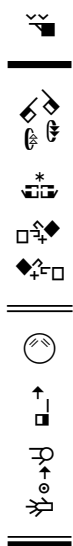
Practice Sheet 5.B



Practice Sheet 5.C



Practice Sheet 5.D



Story 5