

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 dynamics & 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 know. 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, or the symbols for shoulders covered in prior lessons.


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, ost 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

The directionality of signs was mentioned in a prior lesson, but there is an additional aspect to directionality that will become apparent in the practice story for this lesson. The SignWriting you have seen up to this point has just been a single column of text, but SignWriting actually exists in three lanes — you’ve only seen the middle one so far.











When speaking in English, if we have spoken about both Jane and Sarah and then say “she” we may need to provide additional information to allow our listener to know which she we are talking about. Often this means that we just state the name again, or hope that it is understood because of context from earlier in the conversation.

In ASL, there are actually multiple forms of “she”.  and  being the two most common but that person way over there () also works as well as that person just a little behind you on the right ().

In live ASL the number of possible “she”s which can exist are technically unlimited, though memory eventually tops out. This allows for verbs like meet to express who is meeting with whom.


						
Meet	You meet me	I meet you	I meet with her on the left	I meet with her on the right	they meet	Her on the left meet her on the right

The Numbers 21 through 30

21	22	23	24	25
				
26	27	28	29	30
				

The Dynamics Category

We informally call this category dynamics 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	Meaning	Example
21	Dynamics	How am I moving?	

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

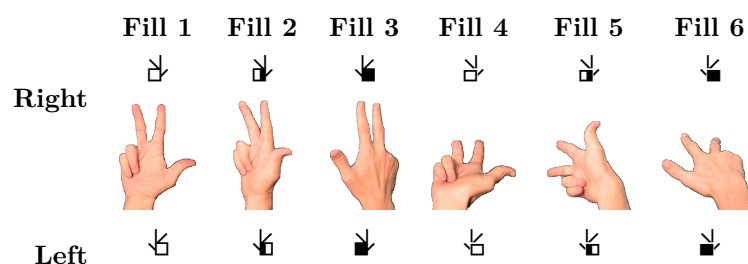


The fills for other categories tend to be a bit more variable. Here we have double-fast, left eyebrow raised, and slow comma.

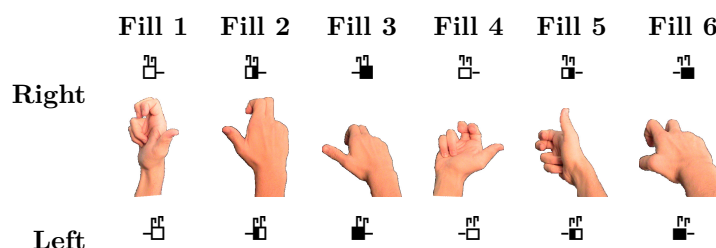
First ASL Handshapes From Symbol Group Three

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.**

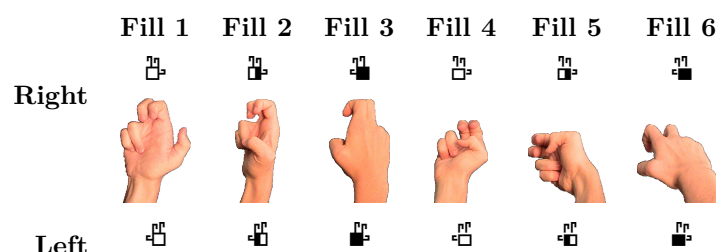
The Index Middle Thumb Handshape



The Index Middle Bent, Thumb Straight Handshape

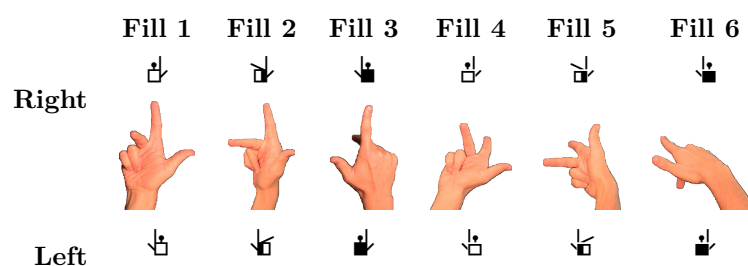


The Index Middle Thumb Bent Handshape



The Index Up, Middle Hinge, Thumb Side Handshape

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

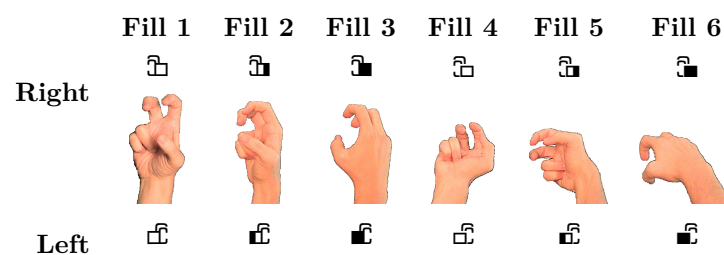


When a finger (or thumb) is pointing at the signer is fill 1, the finger (or thumb) becomes a circle. This convention matches with the diagonal movement that you will learn about later — the circle means it is heading your direction.

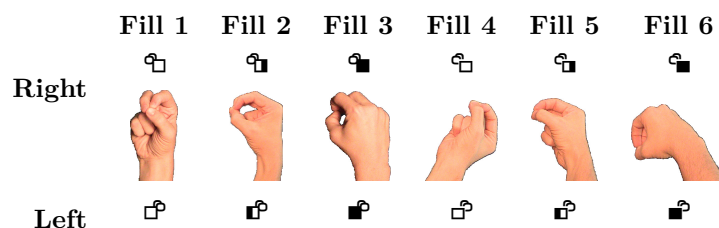
Normally, something heading away from you would be a line, but for handshapes we don't do that for fills 3 and 6. Instead we still use the circle to both match fills 1 and 4 and so that we won't confuse fill 3 with fill 6 or have to make sure our lines in fill 6 are separated "enough" to show.

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



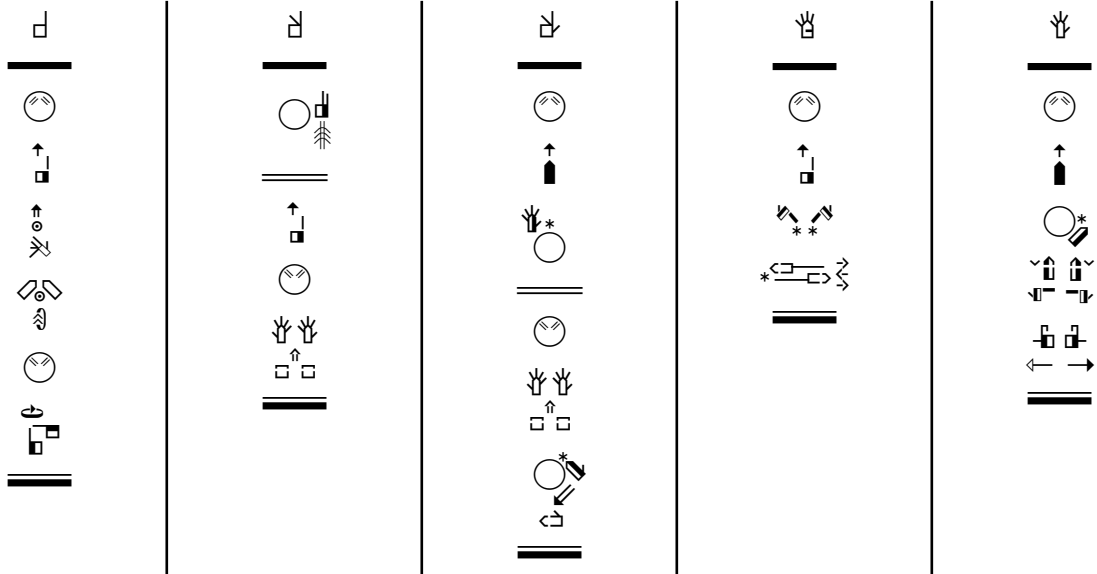
The Index Middle Thumb Circle Handshape



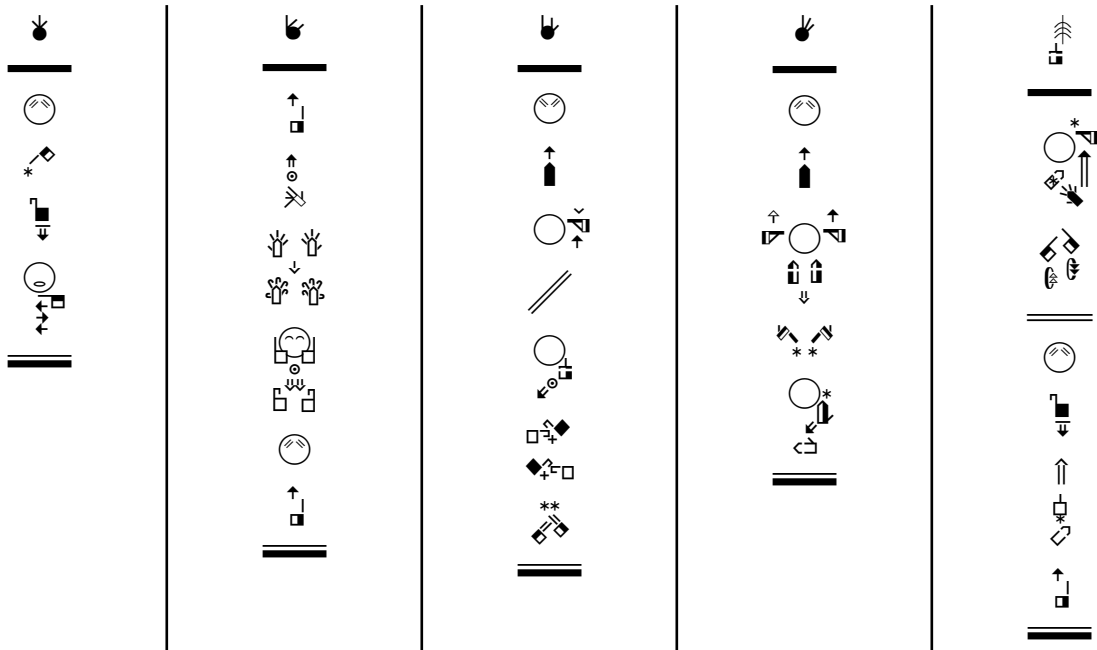
Vocabulary

21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				
30				
angry				
apologize				

Practice Sheet 4.A



Practice Sheet 4.B



Practice Sheet 4.C

