

Tutorial 4 Signs

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Learning Outcomes

By the end of this tutorial, you should be able to:

- Describe signs based on relevant parameters
- Compare and contrast signs in different languages

Data analysis

Just like consonants and vowels, signs can be described according to a number of parameters (or primes): handshape, orientation, location, and movement. Signs may differ only in one parameter (in the case of minimal pairs) or may differ along more than one parameters.

For this activity, you will need to search for and examine signs from various sign languages from the link <https://www.spreadthesign.com/en.us/search/>. Type in the sign, then click the corresponding language/country (you might need to click on +more). The first one is already done as an example. (**TIP:** It might be good to have the two signs on different windows and arrange them side by side to see the differences.)

SIGN (language)	SIGN (language)	Differences
HOME (Spanish; Spain)	HOME (French; France)	Path movement (3 taps vs. 2 taps)
HOME (Spanish; Spain)	HOME (Lithuanian)	
HOME (Spanish; Spain)	HOME (Latvian)	
HOME (French; France)	HOME (Spanish; Mexico)	
HELP (Bulgarian)	HELP (Danish)	
HELP (French; France)	HELP (Turkish)	
HELP (Lithuanian)	HELP (English; USA)	
HAT (English; UK)	HAT (Spanish; Argentina)	
HAT (Spanish; Argentina)	HAT (Spanish; Spain)	
HOPE (Spanish; Spain)	HOPE (Bulgarian)	
HIDE (Polish)	HIDE (Czech)	

Getting a handle on some key terminology¹

The link below takes you to an online game to help you practice the terminology related to the description of sign. This is a locked question game with ten questions; there is also a timer function which will show you how much time it took you to finish the game.

https://www.flippity.net/sh.php?k=1_8h0qTen52g5-EjaJPmZ9VsgHJbn3lWi68wqZZz6vLM

¹ Thank you to Professor Nathan Sanders for creating and providing access to this online resource.