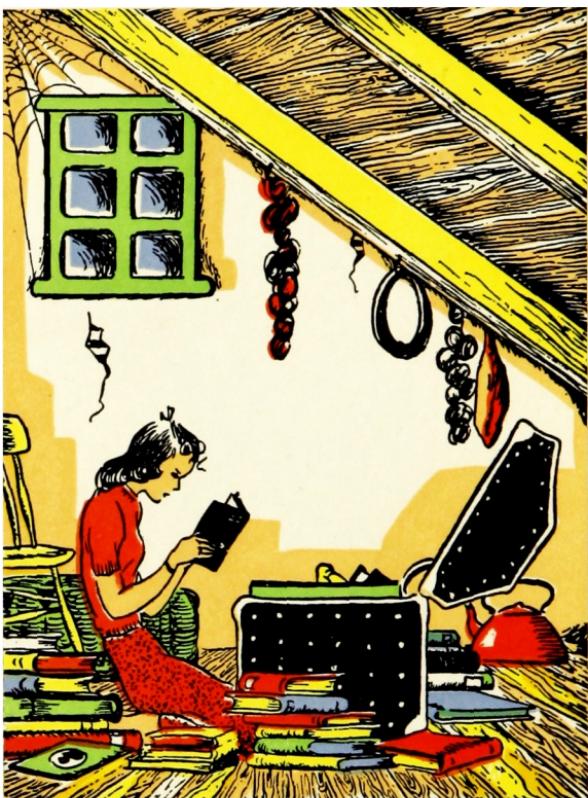


# A HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE *of the Deaf*



By L. W. MICHAELS  
D. PH.D.



**FROM MY BOOKS**

*Marie S. Abbott*

Marie Seehaek



# A Handbook of the Sign Language of the Deaf

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Prepared Especially for  
Ministers, Sunday School Workers  
Theological Students and  
Friends of the Deaf

By

J. W. Michaels, B. Ped.  
Missionary to the Deaf

Home Mission Board  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Atlanta, Ga.

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Published by  
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Atlanta, Ga.

## Dedication

The preparation of  
this book has been a la-  
bor of love and its dedication  
to the Home Mission Board is  
a token of appreciation for what the  
Board is doing for the deaf mutes  
of our land in helping the deaf  
to hear and the dumb to  
speak the story of  
the Cross.

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## Introduction

This little HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE is prepared especially as a help for Ministers of the Gospel and Sunday-school teachers who may come in contact with deaf persons whom they may wish to interest in religious matters. It will also be a worthy study for Theological students, who contemplate taking up missionary work at home and abroad. Heathens can more readily understand motions than the speech of strangers.

The book will fall into the hands of intelligent people, and it is our belief that when one has learned to follow the delineations of a few words herein, even enough as to say, "*I am glad to see you,*" the deaf friend will be ever ready to help the learner in his efforts to learn more.

It is claimed by some of the hearing in the profession of teaching the deaf that it is impossible for a new comer to learn and retain the sign-language, unless he is in constant association with deaf persons. However, this may be we have an instance where such does not hold good with intelligent persons such as we have in our ministers and other religious workers. Recently we were commenting on this claim with a prominent member of our Home Mission Board when he surprised us by going over the Double-Hand Alphabet (the English) as easily as if he had been in constant practice for years, but he said he had learned them when he

was a young man some forty years ago and that it had been years since he had had occasion to use them. Disuse will cause rust, it is true, but polishing up will bring things back to normalcy.

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### SCRIPTURAL MENTION OF THE DEAF.

God created the deaf [Exodus 4:11] and He also created for them a language by which they might hear through the eye. [Isaiah 42:18 and 43:8] and in Leviticus 19:14, He admonishes us that we should not neglect the deaf and again in Isaiah 29:18 we find that the deaf will hear THE WORD. Then came the Lord Jesus Christ and “unstoppable the ears and untied the tongue of the deaf.” Mark 7:34-35. Jesus here used the sign language. Since Christ’s time we hear of no more miraculous opening of the ear, or the untying of the tongue, but the mind has been and is continually being enlightened and chiefly by means of the sign-language and so the deaf now hear (see) the WORD and the Gospel preached.

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### THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE SIGN- LANGUAGE.

The sign-language is universally used by the deaf people, and though all nations do not use the same mode of signs, one having a knowledge of the signs herein delineated

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will experience little, if any difficulty in understanding other modes, and of being understood by those who use a different mode.

### NATURALNESS OF THE SIGNS.

Most signs are natural. They are made up by imitating the appearance and the action of persons, animals and things. An intelligent person after a brief association with a deaf friend will soon observe the naturalness of the language and will be able to invent motions to express himself intelligibly. Very often a whole phrase, clause or sentence is expressed by a single movement of the hand and the head.

Samples of some of these will be given herein.

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### THE SIGNS USED IN THE UNITED STATES.

The sign-language used by the deaf in the United States was brought to them by Dr. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet who became interested in a little deaf girl, Alice Cogs-



THE THREE IMMORTALS AMONG THE DEAF.

1. De l'Epee
2. Gallaudet
3. Clerc

well, in New England. He felt a call from the Lord to enlighten this little girl as well as many more deaf persons. He went to England in quest of methods of teaching the deaf. At that time there was a monopoly on the art of teaching the deaf in England and not being willing to comply with the English conditions Dr. Gallaudet went over to Paris, France. Here he met the Abbe Sicard, who was in charge of the School for the Deaf, founded in 1755 by the Abbe De L'Epee, by whom it is said the signs used in France were invented. After a brief stay in Paris, Dr. Gallaudet returned to New England accompanied by an educated deaf young man, Laurent Clerc, and in 1817, founded a school for the deaf in Hartford, Connecticut. From this beginning schools for the deaf have been established in all the states in the United States. Many of the large cities have also started what are called Day-Schools for the deaf. At present there are approximately one hundred schools for the deaf in the United States.

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#### NEW METHODS OF TEACHING THE DEAF.

During the last half century NEW METHODS have been introduced in teaching the deaf, especially the PURE ORAL and the LIP

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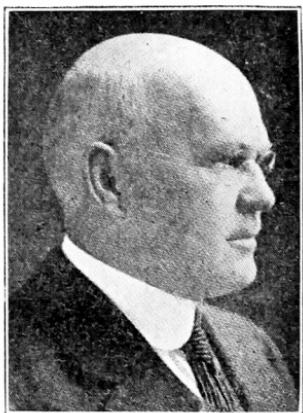
## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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READING method, which is but another and more difficult sign-language expressed by the vocal organs and the movements of the lips. This method requires a great deal of patience and time to learn and in the end proves of little, if any benefit to the learners. They say that their peculiar utterances can not be understood by the hearing people, and that it is difficult for them (the deaf) to understand the rapid movements of the lips of the hearing people and they become so much discouraged that they return to the sign-language and the pencil and pad to be understood.

Then, the orally taught deaf people, omitting those who became partly deaf from disease, are usually behind in educational matters, compared with those who were educated by the COMBINED SYSTEM, i. e. Where signs, and the method best adapted to the individual are used. Not one out of a hundred, and we might say, out of a thousand of the orally taught deaf persons can read the sermons or addresses delivered from the rapidly moving lips from the pulpit or the platform. Therefore, the sign-language and the manual alphabet are used in the chapels for all religious sermons and lectures for the deaf. Parents of deaf children, however, usually prefer that their children be taught by the oral method.

## THANKS DUE DR. B. D. GRAY.



**DR. B. D. GRAY.**

The thanks of the deaf people the world over are due Dr. B. D. Gray, corresponding secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, because of his great interest in the mission for the deaf, and the issuing of this little Handbook of the Sign-Language which will be placed with

religious workers that they may be able to help the deaf spiritually and in whatever way they can for their betterment. Without his earnest inquiry as to the condition of the deaf people in every phase of life, and his earnest efforts to help them from a religious standpoint through their missionary, there would be no Baptist Missionary for the Deaf. Verily he takes his place as one of the benefactors of the deaf in the world.

## THANKS DUE TO DR. J. F. LOVE.

When Dr. J. F. Love was corresponding secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, some twenty years ago, he graciously espoused the course of a missionary to the deaf in the State of Arkansas and your present missionary for the deaf was called to take up the work in that State alone. Later on he suggested that the mission be extended to all the Southern States. This led on to the Home Mission Board's, through Dr. B. D. Gray's efforts, creating the present position of missionary to the deaf. Dr. Love, now Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, still takes interest in the deaf in foreign lands.

Great thanks are due him, and he will be reverenced by all deaf people who may know of these facts.

All hail to these two benefactors of the deaf—Dr. B. D. Gray and Dr. J. F. Love.



DR. J. F. LOVE.

Our thanks are tendered to Mr. Edward I. Holycross, of Columbus, Ohio, and to Mr. L. J. Bacheberle, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for the loan of several cuts used herein.

NOTE.

It is not claimed that this book contains all the words that could be put in signs, nor is it claimed that the delineations herein are exactly like other deaf persons would describe them but they are depicted as the author uses them and he claims to be in the third generation from Gallaudet and Clerc, who introduced the language into the United States. Very few people use the same voice in talking, and so for signs.

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L. B. DICKERSON

Our thanks are due Mr. L. B. Dickerson, deaf linotypist,  
of Atlanta, Ga., for the excellent work herein.

## Some Instructions for the Student

1. **IMPORTANT**—The student is advised to learn the motions as delineated herein slowly and carefully in the beginning put on speed later.

2. The Manual or One-Hand Alphabet, a sketch being herein given, should be thoroughly mastered before one begins to learn the signs. To learn the alphabet in a very short time, follow this plan:

Make the letter "a" with the fingers, look closely at it. Relax your fingers and make the letter again, repeat two or three times, then add the letter "b," using the same precaution, add "c." Now close your eyes and make "a, b, c." If you feel satisfied you have them fixed in your mind, go on with "d, e, f," using the same precaution as in "a, b, c." Then repeat with your eyes closed—"a, b, c, d, e, f." Then add three more letters, repeat the whole and so on until you finish the list. In this way many have learned how to make the letters in less than one hour's time.

Having learned the letters you should practice in spelling the following words, wherein all the alphabet is contained:

ADZ, FAN, MAP, COW, BOX, JAR, SKY, HAT, quill, glove.

3. The words delineated in the vocabulary are as near as possible, one syllable words that have signs.

4. Remember that SYNONYMS take the same sign, for instance: "want," "desire" and "wish" are all indicated by the sign for "want."

5. The signs for the Parts of Speech are not necessarily used in conversation or lecturing with signs. But when you find it necessary, use the following motions:

Article—Indefinite—*A* or *An*—Move the hand with the index finger only sticking up, in a round about way in front of you.

Article—Definite—*The*—Shake the index finger toward the subject or object.

NOUN—Draw the palm of the right hand over the back of the left hand, then reverse, and draw the palm of the left hand over the back of the right hand.

The *cases of nouns* are denoted as follows:

NOMINATIVE—Take hold of the fingers of the left hand with the index finger and thumb of the right hand and move both hands simultaneously outward, as if the right hand is leading the left hand along.

Possessive—Push the palm of one hand toward the possessor or object, or if to say: "my" or "mine" move the palm against the breast.

OBJECTIVE—Move one hand forward and as you do so turn the palm of the hand upward.

DEGREE—*The Comparative*—Put the fingers of one hand with the thumb sticking up, to the lips and move the hand upward to the level of your head.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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**SUPERLATIVE**—Same as comparative, but move the hand somewhat above the level of the head.

**ADVERB**—Place the palm of the right hand on the back of the left hand and then move the right hand palm up to and against the left shoulder.

**VERB—*Transitive***—Hold the hands so that the palms will face the sides of the cheeks, and move both hands forward simultaneously as far as convenient.

**VERB—*Intransitive or Passive***—Hold the hands as in *transitive verb* and let them drop backward over your shoulders.

**PRONOUN**—Pass the thumb of one hand clear under the palm of the other hand, which means substitute.

**PREPOSITION**—Strike the thumb of one hand between the divided index and middle fingers of the other hand.

**CONJUNCTION**—Make a link with the index fingers and thumbs of both hands.

**TENSE**—Only the *present-tense* is used in the vocabulary.

**PRESENT TENSE**—Hold both hands with the palms turned up before you raise them up a little and let them drop back to a stationary position.

**FUTURE TENSE**—Hold either hand with the palm near the side and move it straight forward as far as convenient.

**PAST TENSE**—Throw either hand backward over your shoulder.

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**THE PRESENT - PERFECT**—Hold the left hand in front of you with the palm toward you. Make a quick motion downward and near the tips of the fingers of the left hand with the right hand, then repeat the *present tense* motion.

**FUTURE PERFECT TENSE**—Make the future tense motion and then make the quick downward motion as in *Present Perfect Tense*.

**PAST PERFECT TENSE**—Make the quick downward motion as in *Present-Perfect Tense*, and add the Past Tense motion.

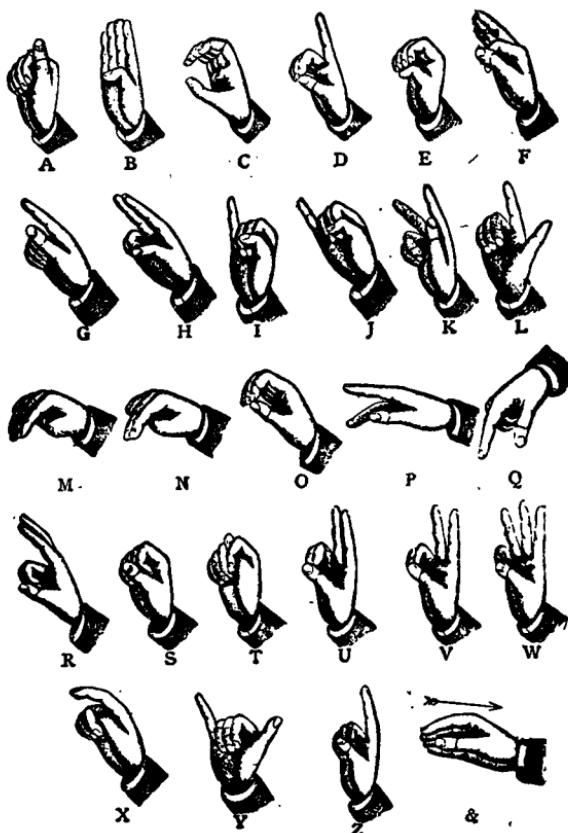
**NUMBER—*Singular***—Hold up the index finger only.

**PLURAL**—Close the fingers of one or both hands in the palms and relax them two or three times.

**PUNCTUATION MARKS** are made in the air using the index finger as you would a pencil in making them on paper.

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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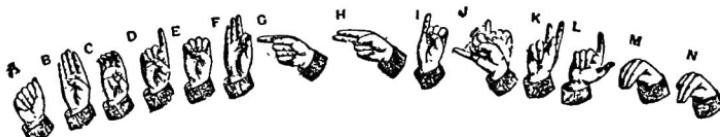
SINGLE-HAND ALPHABET USED IN FRANCE  
AND AMERICA

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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J. W. MICHAELS,  
Missionary to the Deaf.



Learn the manual alphabet and be able to converse with your deaf friends, is the appeal of the deaf everywhere.



## **ATTENTION:**

For practice, see the Lord's Prayer Pose Illustrations, pages 145 to 162.



## Vocabulary

The Delineations of the words are directed by POSES, the most important of which is POSE No. 1. Follow the POSES slowly and put on speed gradually.

*“Practice makes perfect.”* Follow the maxim.

### A

#### A OR AN—

1. Hold the index finger in front of you.
2. Move the finger in a round about way.

#### ABOUT—

1. Close the fingers around the thumb of the left hand.
2. Move the index finger of the right hand around the left hand two or three times.

#### ABOVE—

1. Hold your left hand before you with the back of the hand turned up.
2. Close the fingers of the right hand in the palm of the hand.
3. Have the thumb sticking up.
4. Move the right hand around over the left hand in a circular manner.

#### ABRAHAM—

1. Hold your right hand up about the level of your head.
2. Close the fingers and thumb as if clinching a knife.
3. Bring the hand down and outward, as if to stab some one.
4. Quickly seize the right forearm near the wrist with the left hand to prevent the stabbing.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### ACHE—

1. Extend both index fingers.
2. Close the other fingers and thumbs in the palms of the hands.
3. Hold the hands over the place that aches.
4. Jab the index fingers toward each other two or three times.

### ACORN—

1. Put the index finger point to the first joint of the thumb.
2. Put the tip of the thumb to your teeth.
3. Act as if biting.  
*(Note same sign for all nuts, spell variety).*

### ACROSS—

1. Hold your left hand with the palm turned down.
2. Pass the right hand across and over the left hand.

### ACTIVE—

1. Have the palms of both hands on your sides near the waist.
2. Assume a lively attitude.
3. Move the hands upward along your sides.
4. Vigorously wiggle your fingers as you move the hands upward.

### ADAM—

1. Hold the closed fist of the right hand in front of you.
2. Move the hand in a sudden jerking way above the level of your head—*Disobey or Disobedient.*
3. Add the sign for *Man.*

**ADORE—**

1. See admire and worship.

**ADMIRE—**

1. Put the palms of the hands to the breast one above the other.
2. Move the hands outward.
3. Close the fingers around the thumbs.
4. Have a pleasant and admiring look.

**ADMIT—**

1. Bow the head in an affirmative manner.

**AFRAID—**

1. Hold both hands out before you with the palms turned down.
2. Draw the hands back toward you in a trembling manner.
3. Draw up the shoulders a little.
4. Have a frightened look.

**AFRICA—**

1. Draw the index finger along your eye brown—*black*.
2. Press your middle finger against the nose—*negro*.
3. Close the fingers of the right hand with the thumb on the index finger.
4. Move the right hand in a circle over the back of the left hand.

**AFTER—**

1. Hold your left hand near your right side, palm toward you.
2. Put the fingers of the right hand on the back of the left hand.
3. Force the left hand back a little with the right hand fingers.
4. Move the right hand out forward in a straight forward way.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### AFTER—(*to follow*).

1. Hold the left hand with the thumb sticking up in front of you.
2. Put your right hand with the thumb sticking up right back of the left hand.
3. Move the left hand in a zigzag way forward.
4. Let the right hand follow the left hand.

### AGAIN—

1. Hold the left hand with the palm turned up.
2. Strike in the palm of the left hand with the tips of the right hand fingers.

### AGAINST—

1. Hold the left hand with the palm facing you and the fingers turned up.
2. Strike in the left palm with the tips of the right hand fingers.

### AGAINST—(*to lean against*.)

1. Put the head against the palm of one hand.
2. Lean the elbow of the arm against something. *Or*
1. Press the fingers of the right hand against the left forearm.

### AGO—

1. Throw the right or the left hand backward over your shoulder.  
*(a little while ago).*
1. Touch the tip of the index finger with the tip of the thumb—*(little)*.
2. Throw the hand backward over the shoulder.

### ALAS—

1. Throw up your hands with the palms facing outward.

2. Bring the hands together and wring them.
3. Have a distressed countenance.

**ALL—**

1. Let your index fingers and thumbs touch each other full length in front of you.
2. Hold the hands up to the level of your eyes.
3. Move the hands in a circular movement until the little fingers touch each other.  
*(Note.—Same sign for whole or entire).*

**ALMOST—**

1. Hold the left hand with the palm turned in before you and a little out from the breast.
2. Pass the right palm upward along the back of the left hand, barely touching the left hand.

**ALONG—**

1. Have the index finger pointing downward.
2. Move the finger forward in a zigzag manner.

**AM—(to-be).**

1. Touch the breast with either index finger.
2. Hold both hands with palms up in front of you.

*(Note.—Some would put the index finger across the lips and move the finger outward).*

**A**MERICA—

1. Close the fingers in the right palm, with the thumb resting on the index finger.
2. Move the hand in a broad circular manner before you.

**A**MIDST—

1. Hold the left hand with the palm turned up in front of you.
2. Move the right hand fingers in a circle above the left palm.
3. Let the tips of the right fingers strike in the middle of the left palm.

**A**MONG—

1. Hold the left hand before you with the fingers parted and turned upward.
2. Pass the right index finger among the left hand fingers in an entwining manner.

**A**ND—

1. Draw the right hand from your left and close the fingers around the thumbs.

**A**NOTHER—

1. Close the fingers of the right hand in the palm.
2. Let the thumb of the hand stick up.
3. Hold the hand direct in front of you.
4. Move the hand to the right a foot or two in a quick movement.

**A**PE—

1. See monkey.

**A**PPLE—

1. Rub the fist of either hand on your cheek (*for color.*)

2. Act as if biting pieces off of the fist, as in eating an apple.

**ARM—**

1. Pass the palm of either hand from the shoulder down to the wrist of the other arm.

**ARMS—**

1. See gun.

**AROUND—**

1. Hold the left fist in front of you.
2. Move the index finger of the right hand around it.

**AROUND—(*indicating place*).**

1. Point the index finger around the corner or place.

**ARRIVE—**

1. Drop the back of the right hand in the palm of the left hand.
2. Quickly move both hands out forward in a bouncing manner.

**As—**

1. Extend both index fingers out parallel before you.
2. Move both hands simultaneously to the right then to the left. *Or*  
Strike the index fingers together two times.

**ASIA—**

1. Put the index fingers to the temples and push the skin up.
2. Move the letter “a” in a circle before you in a round about way.

**ASK—**



1. Put the finger tips of both hands together as if to prayer.
2. Move the hands out before you and draw them toward you.

**ASSIST—**

1. Put your right palm under your left forearm or hand.
2. Lift the left forearm or hand upward.

**AT—**

1. Hold your left hand with the back turned to your face.
2. Touch against it with the fingers of the right hand. *Or*
1. Move both hands with palms turned down simultaneously to one side.

**ATTACK—**

1. Hold the palm of the left hand in front of you.
2. Strike against the left palm with the fist or tips of your right hand fingers.

**AUNT—**

1. Close the right hand fingers in the palm.
2. Rest the thumb on the index finger.
3. Move the hand up and down near the right temple.

**AUTOMOBILE—**

1. Just make motion of turning the steering wheel of an automobile.

**AWFUL—**

1. Cluster the fingers of both hands around the thumbs.
2. Put the hands to the lower part of the cheeks.
3. Move the hands upward along the cheeks to the temples, meanwhile relax the fingers from the thumbs.
4. Have a frowning or frightened look.

**AWKWARD—**

1. Make an ugly face.
2. Pass the hooked index fingers up and down your cheeks one after the other.
3. Shrug your shoulders.
4. Walk in a limping and crooked way.

**B**

**BABY—**



1. Put your right hand on your left forearm.
2. Move the forearm and hand up and down as you do a baby.

**BAD—**

1. Put the fingers of one hand to the mouth.
2. Throw the hand downward in a vehement manner in front of you and as you do so turn the palm downward.



BALL—(*to dance*).

1. Move the index and middle fingers of the right hand around in the palm of your left hand, wiggle the fingers as you do so.
2. Go through motion of waltzing.  
*Or*

BALL—(*baseball*).

1. Make motion of striking with a baseball bat.

BALL—

1. Hold your left fist in front of you.
2. Pass the right palm over it.
3. Make motion of throwing up and catching a ball.

BAPTIZE—

1. Hold the palms facing each other in front of you.
2. Move the hands downward toward the left.

BARN—

1. Make a peak by placing the tips of the fingers of both hands together held up in front of you.
2. Move the hands apart slantingly a little, then downward perpendicular and parallel to each other.
3. Hold the back of one hand with fingers parted and pointing upward, near your mouth.
4. Pass the back of the hand up and down before the mouth and chew.  
(*The motions used would indicate house and eating hay*).

BATH—

1. Make the sign for “water.” (*See water*).
2. Rub from the breast down to your waist with the palms of both hands.

BE—

1. Hook the right index finger and move it to the left before you. *See am.*

BEAT—(*in a contest*).

1. Close the fingers of both hands in the palms.
2. Let the thumbs stick up.
3. Hold the left hand in front of you.
4. Hold the right hand a little behind the left hand.
5. Push the left hand thumb over with the right hand thumb.

BEAT—(*Punish*).

1. Strike two times with the right fist in the palm of the left hand. *Or*

BEAT—

1. Imagine you hold some one or thing by the collar with the left hand, and a whip or stick in your right hand.
2. Strike under the left hand with the imaginary whip or stick.

BEAUTIFUL—

1. See pretty.

BECAUSE—

1. Put the fingers of the right hand to the forehead.
2. Move the hand up above the head.
3. Close the fingers in the palm of the hand.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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BEFORE—(*before a certain time*).

1. Hold the left hand with the back of the hand facing you.
2. Put the back of the right hand against the back of the left hand.
3. Draw the right hand toward you and move the left hand forward from you.

BEFORE—(*to confront*).

1. Hold the left hand palm facing you.
2. Suddenly place the right hand palm before the left hand palm.

BEG—

1. Hold your left forearm in front of you with the palm of the hand turned downward.
2. Put your right hand under the left forearm near the wrist.
3. Move the hands in this position in a round about way.
4. Meanwhile draw in and extend the fingers of the right hand.

BEHAVE—

1. Put your index finger across your lips—*silence*.
2. Quickly put the right palm in the left palm crosswise in front of you.
3. Turn the hands over so the left hand will be uppermost. As you make the turn separate the hands.
4. Now turn both hands out in front of you with the palms down and move the right hand to the right and the left hand to the left—*quiet*.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### BEHIND—

1. Hold the left hand with the fingers closed and thumb sticking up before you.
2. Suddenly put the right hand with the thumb sticking up behind the left thumb.

### BEHIND—(*one's back.*)

1. Throw one hand behind you.

### BEHIND TIME—

1. Hold your right hand near your side with the palm turned inward.
2. Move the hand back and forward two or three times.

### BELow—

1. Hold the left hand before you with the palm turned down.
2. Put your right hand with the thumb sticking up under the left palm.
3. Move the right hand in a little circle under the palm.

(*Note.—If under house, table, box, chair, paper, etc. add point toward the object or make the sign for the object.*)

### BENCH—

1. Support the left forearm with the right hand near the wrist.
2. Move the right hand to near the left elbow and support.
3. Put both hands, with the palms together in front of you.
4. Move the right hand to the right and the left hand to the left.

## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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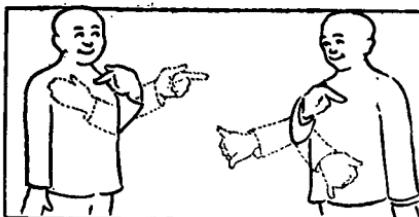
### BENEATH—

1. See below and under.

### BERRY—

1. Put the tip of your index finger on the middle joint of your thumb.
2. Put the thumb to the mouth.
3. Smack your lips as if tasting.
4. Go through motion of picking berries and putting to the lips.

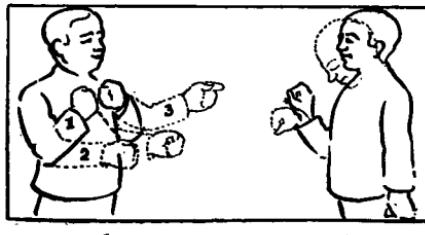
Live picture conservation between deaf friends on meeting. It is faster than short-hand.



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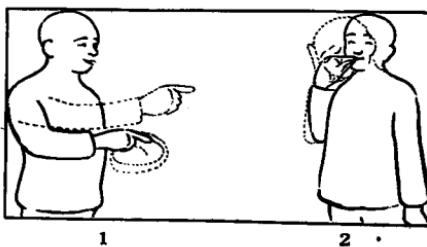
1. I am glad to see you.
2. So am I glad to see you.



1

2

1. Are you well?
2. Yes, I am well.



1. Where have you been?
2. I have been at home.

**BESIDE—**

1. Pass the palm of one hand down along your side.
2. Point the index finger down by the same side.

**BESIDES—**

1. See sign for *Another*.

**BETWEEN—**

1. Hold your left hand with the thumb and index finger extended.
2. Put the soft part of the right hand between the thumb and index finger of the left hand.
3. Move the hand left and right without taking it off of the left hand.

**BEYOND—**

1. Put the fingers of the right hand on the back of the left hand held before you.
2. Move the right hand outward and forward.

**BIBLE—**

1. Touch the palm of the left hand with the middle finger of the right hand.

2. Touch the palm of the right hand with the middle finger of the left hand.
3. Put the palms together.
4. Open the palms as you do in opening a book.

BID—(*a command.*)

1. Put the index finger to the lips.
2. Move it outward in a semi-circle manner toward the object.
3. Have a stern look.

BID—(*as an offer.*)

1. Hold one palm up and move it forward.
2. Let the hand drop.

BIG—

1. With the fingers bent in a little put the palms together.
2. Move them apart in a large stretch.

BIRD—

1. Put the back of your hand to your mouth.
2. Move the index finger up and down from the thumb as a bird does in opening its mouth.
3. Spread out your arms, right to the right, left to the left.
4. Flap the hands and arms as a bird does its wings.

BITE—

1. Put the side of your index finger in the mouth and bite.

**BITTER—**

1. Put the index finger to the lips.
2. Scrough your lips and move the hand quickly away.
3. Frown. *Or*
  1. Jab the index finger toward the mouth.
  2. Scrough the lips and frown.

**BLACK—**

1. Pass the tip of the index finger along the eye brow. (*Eye brows are usually black*).

**BLIND—**

1. Put the points of the index and middle fingers over the closed eyes.

**BLOW—(*wind.*)**

1. Blow out breath.  
(*To strike*)—Strike with the fist of one hand in the palm of the other hand.

**BLUE—**

1. With the thumb resting in the palm of one hand, hold the hand before you.
2. Move the hand in a twisting and round about way before you.

**BOAST OR BRAG—**

1. Close the fingers partly in the palm of the right hand.
2. With the sticking up thumb of the hand strike against the breast two or three times. Have a proud expression.

**BOAT—**

1. Make a trough by putting the little fingers and soft parts of the hands together.

## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Move the trough thusly made forward in an up and down or wavy way.  
*(For ship)*—Stick up three fingers.  
*(For steam boats)*—Put the right hand to the left elbow and revolve the hand.

### BOOK—

1. Put your palms together.
2. Open the palms as you do a book.

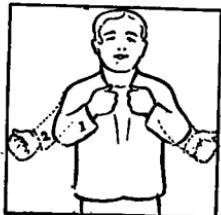
### BORROW—

1. Extend the index and middle fingers of both hands.
2. Put the right hand on top of the left hand.
3. Move the right hand up and down two times.

### BRASS—

1. Put the index finger lengthwise under your nose.
2. Twist the hand around one or two times.
3. Smell the finger and move it downward. Frown.

### BRAVE—



1. Put both clinched fists to your breast.
2. Move them out forward in a bold-defiant way.

### BREAD—

1. Hold the left palm facing you.
2. Use your right hand as a knife to cut bread.

3. Draw the right hand along the back of the left hand, letting the little finger of the right hand touch the back of the left hand. (*See Bread in Lord's Prayer*).

BROTHER—

1. Put the right hand to the forehead.
2. Strike the index fingers together lengthwise.

BROWN—

1. Draw the index finger over your eye-brow.
2. Put the palm of one hand to the shirt front.
3. Draw the hand out, meanwhile close the fingers around your thumb.
4. Mix the fingers of both hands in a round about way.

BUILD—

1. Put the palm of the right hand on the back of the left hand.
2. (*Change*)—Put the palm of the left hand on the back of the right hand.
3. Repeat the movements and as you do so let the hands rise upward above the head.

BURN—

1. Go through the motion of lighting a match.
2. Hold the lighted match under the left hand as if setting something on fire.
3. Wiggle the fingers of both hands upward.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### BUY—

1. Strike the back of your right hand in the palm of your left hand.
2. Move the right hand out forward, and let some imaginary thing fall out of the hand.
3. Make motion of taking something with the right hand.

### C.

### CABBAGE—

1. Strike the sides of your head with the ball of your hands simultaneously.

### CAKE—

1. Make motion of beating egg or battering with a spoon.
2. Make a small circular motion with the index fingers in front of you.
3. Make one-quarter cut, as in Pie.
4. Sign *eat*. Pleasant look.

### CALF—

1. See *cow*—Indicate height by moving the palm so high from the ground.

### CAN—

1. Hold the clinched fists before you.
2. Move them up and down in a firm jolting manner to a stationary point near the waist.

### CANDY—

1. Pass the index finger of one hand in a twisting manner from the far corner of your lips to the other corner and beyond.
2. Smack your lips as if pleased with the taste.

CANADA—

1. Take hold of your coat lapel and pull it down two or three times.

CAP—

1. Put the index finger of the right hand to your right temple.
2. Move the finger in a semi-circle around to your left temple.
3. Make motion of taking hold of a cap brim in front of your forehead.

CARELESS—

1. Hold the right hand with the index and middle fingers extended and parted.
2. Move the hand right and left before your eyes.

CATHOLIC—

1. Make a cross in the air with the index finger in front of your forehead.

CARPENTER—

1. Imagine you hold a carpenter's jack plane in your hands.
2. Push the hands to the right as you do in shaving a board.
3. Put the palms to the breast and move them down simultaneously to the waist.

CARRY—

1. Hold both hands near your breast with the palms turned up.
2. Move the hands forward and a little to one side.

CAT—

1. With the index fingers and thumbs of both hands extended, put them to your mouth.

2. Let the tips of the index fingers and thumbs touch over the middle of the lips.
3. Draw the right hand to the right and the left hand to the left simultaneously.
4. Stroke the back of the left hand with the right hand palm.

**CHALLENGE—**

1. Close the fingers in the hands, with the thumbs sticking up.
2. Hold the thumbs near each other.
3. Raise the hands a little and let them drop in a sudden thump to a stationary position a little further outward.
4. Have a bold expression.

**CHANGE—**

1. Imagine you hold something in both hands held out in front of you.
2. Change places of the hands. Left hand going in the place of the right and vice versa. *Or*  
You can use the index fingers and change places.

**To CHANGE THE MIND—**

1. Touch the forehead with the tip of the index finger.
2. Sign the change.

**CHARITY—**

1. Touch over the heart with the index finger of the right hand.

2. Stroke on some imaginary object in front of you. Use the same hand.

Also

1. Pull downward under your left coat sleeve with the right hand—*poor*.
2. Move the right hand outward, palm up and act as dropping something—*give*.

CHASE—

1. Hold the left hand with the thumb sticking up before you.
2. Hold the right hand with the thumb sticking up a little behind the left hand.
3. Move the left hand out forward in a zigzag manner.
4. Let the right hand follow as if trying to catch up to the left hand.

CHINA—

1. Put the index fingers to your temples near the corners of the eyes.
2. Push the skin up the temples with the index fingers to make slanting eyes.
3. Put one index finger back of your head and move it downward in a curly way for queue.

CHEAT—

1. Hold the left hand out before you so the palm of the hand will face you.
2. Make a snatch downward from the palm of the left hand with the right hand fingers.

CHRIST—



1. Touch the palm of your left hand with the middle finger of your right hand.
2. Then touch the palm of your right hand with the middle finger of your left hand. (*Showing print of the nails.*)

CLAIM—

1. Point the index finger toward the object if in view.
2. Slap or bring the palm of the same hand against your breast. Earnest expression.

CLIMB—

1. Imagine there is a ladder, pole or tree near you.
2. Take hold of it and go through motion of climbing.

CLOCK—

1. Touch the back of your left hand with the right index finger.
2. Hang the right hand over the left hand.
3. Move the right hand left and right in a swinging manner, imitating the movement of a clock's pendulum.

*For watch*—Touch on the back of the left hand and make motion of taking a watch from your vest pocket.

COAL—

1. Pass the index finger of one hand along the eye-brow—*black*.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Strike on the back of the other hand—*hard*.
3. Add the sign for burn.

### COAT—

1. Take hold of your coat lapel and give it a pull or two.
2. Pass the palms of your hands one after the other along your arms from shoulder down.

### COAX—

1. Touch in an upward manner under the left forearm with your right index finger—*tempt*.
2. Look intently at the object. Evil or pleasant expression as the case may be. Same sign for tempt.

### COFFEE—

1. Close the fists, both hands.
2. Put the right fist on top of the left so the right hand little finger will be on the left thumb and index finger.
3. Turn the right hand in a grinding and circular manner as if grinding coffee.

### COLD—

1. Hold the closed fists to your sides near the breast.
2. Shiver, meanwhile shake the hands and draw them closer to you.
3. Have a frowning or disagreeable expression.

### COMB—

1. Use the fingers as a comb's teeth and draw them downward on the head as you do a comb.

COMPANY—

1. With the fingers closed hold the right hand in front of you.
2. Relax one finger after the other, meaning *several*.
3. Bring both hands up to the breast with the palms outward.
4. Move the hands out forward with the fingers bent inward a little.

COMPASSION—

1. See *Pity*.

CONTAIN—

1. Hold your left hand before you with the palm toward you.
2. Push the fingers of the right hand downward between the thumb and palm of the left hand.

COPPER—

1. See *brass*.

CORD—

1. Place the index fingers on each other lengthwise.
2. Move them around each other.
3. Draw them apart left and right as far as convenient, still moving the fingers in a revolving manner.

COUNTRY—

1. Hold the left forearm in front of you.
2. Pass the right hand under it in a circular movement.
3. Spread both hands in a waving way broadcast before you.

**COUSIN—**

1. Strike the index fingers together two times.
2. Show sex male or female.

**COW—**

1. With the index fingers and thumbs of both hands extended put the thumbs to your temples.
2. Move the hands back and forward—for horns.
3. Go through motion of milking a cow.

**CRADLE—**

1. Go through motion of pushing an imaginary cradle backward and forward.

**CRAZY—**



1. Touch the forehead with the index finger.
2. Move the finger in a circle over the forehead two or three times.

**CRIME—**

1. Make the sign for bad.
2. Jab the index fingers toward each other over the heart—*sin*.

**CROSS—**

1. Hold the right palm before your face and draw in the fingers.
2. Move the hand downward and up, as if scratching the face, repeat.

**CROW—**

1. Pass the index finger over the eye-brow—*black*.

2. Pass the hooked index finger over the nose.
3. Flap the arms and hands as in *bird*.

CROWD—

1. Press your closed fingers together and move them in a round about way before you. Give a close expression.

CRUCIFY—

1. Touch the middle of the left palm with the right middle finger.
2. Touch the middle of the right palm with the left middle finger.
3. Spread out the arms sidewardly forming the cross.

CRY—

1. Put the index fingers to your eyes.
2. Drag them down your cheeks as if tracing tears.
3. Have a crying face.

CUNNING—

1. Pass the indexfinger under your left hand held out before you.
2. Look shy.

CURSE—

1. Close the middle, third and little fingers of the right hand.
2. Put the thumb and index finger of the same hand to the mouth and throw the hand down vehemently as throwing some thing to the ground. Frown.

CUT—

1. Use your index finger as a knife blade and draw it over the place cut. *Or*
1. Use your right hand as an ax and your left forearm as a tree.
2. Strike in a cutting down way against the left forearm.

D

DAMP—

1. Hold both hands with palms upward before you.
2. Cluster the fingers around and part them from the thumbs. Repeat twice.

DARK—



1. Pass the palms before the eyes, letting the hands eclipse in front of the eyes.
2. Close the eyes.

DAUGHTER—

1. Sign female and baby.
2. Show height.

DAY—

1. Point the hand as far out to the right as convenient.
2. Move the hand upward in a semi-circle above your head and on to the left, as if following the sun.

DEER—

1. Have all the fingers of both hands extended and wide apart.

2. Put the thumbs to the temples.
3. Move the hands backward and forward imitating the movement of a deer's horns.

**DEDICATE—**

1. Hold both hands with the palms turned up before you.
2. Move them upward as if lifting something.
3. Cluster the fingers around the thumbs as you make the movement upward.
4. Bring the hands to a stop and relax the fingers as if leaving something.
5. Have a reverent expression.

**DENY—**



1. Put one or both thumbs to your mouth.
2. Move the hands downward and outward in a vigorous manner.
3. Have a frowning look.

**DEVIL—**

1. Extend and part the index and middle fingers of both hands, other fingers closed.
2. Hold the hands near the sides of the eyes, and draw in and extend the fingers two or three times.
3. Have an evil look.

**DESIRE—**

1. Move the tip of the right index finger upward over your heart.
2. Extend both hands outwards with palms upward.

3. Bend in the fingers a little.
4. Draw the hands toward you two or three times.

**DIAMOND—**

1. Hold an imaginary diamond between your index finger and thumb.
2. Turn the hand this way and that.
3. Look intently at the hand.
4. Have a pleasant look.

**DIE—**

1. Put the palm of one hand on the breast.
2. Give a heavy sigh and close the eyes.
3. Extend the hand from the breast and let it drop downward slowly.

**DINNER—**

1. Put the elbow of your right arm in the palm of your left hand.
2. Hold the right forearm perpendicular —*noon*.
3. Point to the mouth and chew, as if eating.

**DIRTY—**



1. Put the back of either hand to your chin.
2. Wiggle the fingers outward.
3. Have an unpleasant look.

**DISOBEY—**

1. Hold the right forearm with the fist clinched before you.
2. Move the forearm upward in a sudden jerk above your head.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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Do—

1. Hold both hands before you with the fingers bent down.
2. Move the hands right then left two or three times.
3. Wiggle the fingers.

Dog—

1. Snap the thumb and middle finger.
2. Pat on the front part of the hip.

DOLL—

1. Draw the hooked index finger from your forehead down over your nose and chin and sign baby.

DOOR—

1. Hold the backs of both hands before you so that the index fingers will touch each other full length.
2. Move the right hand backward from the left, as opening a door.

DRAW—

1. Spread both hands out before you as far as you can with the palms up.
2. Close the fingers in the palms of the hands, as if taking hold of something.
3. Pull the hands toward you.

*(To Draw a Crowd)—*

1. Hold both hands out before you with the palms downward.
2. Draw the hands toward you, meanwhile close the fingers around the thumbs.

*(To draw a picture.)*

1. Use your little finger as a pencil or brush.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Move the little finger over the palm of the right hand.

### DREAM—

1. Put the tips of the fingers of one hand to your forehead.
2. Close the eyes.
3. Move the hand upward, revolving or turning it as you do so.

### DRESS—

1. Give your coat lapel or waist front a pull or two.
2. Pass the palms of your hands from shoulders down as far as convenient.

### DRIVE—

*(To drive a horse.)*

1. Imagine you hold reins in your hands.
2. Check them up and click.

*(To drive away.)*

1. Hold both hands with the palms turned outward near your waist.
2. Push the hands outward as if you would do in shooing chickens away. *Or*
1. Hold one hand before you with the elbow bent and palm outward.
2. Push the hand outward as if pushing some one aside.

### DROWN—

1. Sign water.
2. Pass your right hand downwards between the thumb and fingers of the left hand.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### DRUNKARD—



1. Have the thumb and little finger of the right hand extended.
2. Put the thumb to your mouth.
3. Go through motion of drinking.

### DRY—

1. Draw the hooked index finger from one corner of the mouth to the other corner.

### DUTCH—

1. Put the tips of the middle finger and thumb of one hand together with the index finger extended.
2. Move the hand from and back to your cheek two or three times.

## E

### EAGLE—

1. Pass the hooked index finger across the nose—*beak*.
2. Spread out the arms full length right and left.
3. Flap the arms and hands as in *bird*.
4. Bend in the shoulders and bow the head. Arms still flapping.
5. Hold the arms stationary and turn the body in a round about way for *soaring*.

### EAR—

1. Just touch or slightly pull the ear.  
*(Note.—All limbs of the body are indicated by touching or passing a hand over them).*

EARN—

1. Strike the right wrist on the left wrist two or three times.
2. Sign “*do.*”
3. Make a scoop-in movement with the palm of your right hand over and along the palm of your left hand.

EAT—

1. With the fingers of one hand clustered around the thumb.
2. Put them to your mouth and go through motion of chewing and swallowing.

EDUCATE—

1. Cluster the fingers around the thumbs of both hands.
2. Put the backs of the hands to the forehead.
3. Push the hands forward outward and extend the fingers as you do so.
4. Repeat two or three times.

EGG—

1. Use your index and middle fingers as a knife or spoon.
2. Strike on an imaginary egg held between the thumb and index finger of the left hand.
3. Go through the motion of pulling or breaking an egg shell and dropping the contents.

EGYPT—

1. Press your middle finger against your nose—*flat nose.*

2. Make a peak by putting the palms together with the finger tips only touching.
3. Move the hands apart in a slanting way, right hand to the right, left to the left—*Pyramid*.

**EITHER—**

1. Hold the index finger and thumb of the left hand up before you.
2. Look intently at them, and touch first the index finger then the thumb held before you with the index finger of the right hand.

(Same for Or)

**ELEPHANT—**

1. Pass the back of your right hand outward and downward from your nose.
2. Move the hanging down hand and arm from side to side—imitating the elephant moving its trunk.
3. Imitate the heavy strutting walk of an elephant, using your hands for the forefeet.

**ENCOURAGE—**

1. Rub the palms of your hands together toward the object or imaginary object.
2. Have an earnest look.

**ENDEAVOR—**

1. Hold the right fist a little behind the left fist held out in front of you.
2. Push both hands simultaneously forward two or three times.

END—

1. Hold the left hand with the little finger extended only.
2. Strike at and just hit the end of the little finger of the left hand with the tip of the right hand index finger.  
2ND:
  1. Move the index finger of the right hand along the index finger of the left hand.
  2. Let the right index finger pass downward at the end of the left index finger.

ENGLAND—

1. Lap the fingers of the right hand over the back of the left hand.
2. Pull the hands toward you. Repeat the pull two or three times.

EVENING—

1. Hold the left forearm before you.
2. Move the palm of your right hand in a downward way over the left forearm.

ENVY—



1. Put the index finger of either hand between your teeth and act as if biting.
2. Frown or have an evil look.

EUROPE—

1. Put the tips of your fingers on the back of the thumb of one hand—forming “E.”
2. Move the hand around in a circular movement in front of you.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### EVERY DAY—

1. Have the fingers closed and thumb sticking up.
2. Put the thumb against the cheek and move it out, repeat two or three times.

### EXCUSE—

1. Pass the palms of the right hand fingers over the palms of the left hand fingers quickly several times.

### EYE—

1. Put the index finger up to the eye.

## F

### FAR—

1. Put the palm of the right hand on the back of the left hand held before you.
2. Move the right hand out as far as convenient from the left hand.

### FARM—

1. See country.

### FAST—

1. Hold the left hand up before you with the palm facing to the right and the fingers sticking up.
2. Move the right palm in a swift movement forward and pass the left palm.

### FAT—

1. Let your right thumb rest against your right cheek and the right index finger against the *left* cheek near the chin.
2. Fill the cheek with breath.
3. Move the right hand up the cheeks in a forced manner.

4. Then touch the shoulders with their respective hands and move the hands outward and backward—*Stout.*
5. Extend your chest as you do so.

**FATHER—**

1. Close both hands.
2. Put the right hand to the forehead (*male.*)
3. Put the left hand a little above and outward from the head.
4. Move both hands simultaneously to the left and as you do so spread out the fingers. (*For grandfather,* move the hands and spread out the fingers two times.)

**FEEL—**

1. Pass the index finger upward over the heart. (*For emotion.*) Or  
Feel around with the fingers.

**FEMALE—**

1. Move the tip of the thumb from near the temple, downward along your cheek to near the chin.

**FENCE—**

1. (*Farm fence*)—Entwine the fingers and move them in a circle before you.
1. (*Paling fence*)—Hold the fingers up before you and move the hands downward. Repeat several times.

**FEW—**

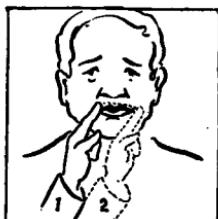
1. Relax the fingers one after the other from the closed fist.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### FIB—



1. Pass the index finger of either hand from one corner of the mouth to the other in a brushing way.

### FIERCE—

1. See cross. Have a stern look.

### FIGHT—

1. Strike out the fist one after the other.  
Look cross.

### FIND—

1. Make motion of picking up something with the index finger and thumb.
2. Have a surprised appearance.

### FINE—

1. Pass the palm of the right hand over the palm of the left hand held before you.



FEAR

### FIRE—

1. See *burn*.

### FISH—

1. Put the right hand fingers against the left wrist.

2. Wag the left hand as a fish does its tail.

**FLAT—**

1. Press the palms of both hands downward.
2. Move them sideward, right to the right and left to the left.

**FLEA—**

1. Dampen your index finger with your lips.
2. Swat the finger on some part of the arm.
3. Pretend you have something between the thumb and the index finger and mash it.
4. Move the hand out in a jumping manner, relax the fingers as if something got away.

**FLOOR—**

1. Hold both hands with the palms turned down.
2. Knock them together so the index fingers will touch each other lengthwise.
3. Point to the floor.

**FLOUR—**

1. Hold the left palm up before you.
2. Move the right palm in a circular movement around in the left hand, as if grinding or mashing.
3. Go through motion of picking up something with the right fingers and thumb from the left hand palm.
4. Mash between the fingers and thumb as if testing the fineness.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### FLOWER—

1. Cluster the fingers around the thumb of one hand.
2. Put the hand to the nose and smell as you do a flower. (*Spell variety.*)

### FLY—

1. (*Housefly*)—Make motion of swiping in a fly with the right hand on the left forearm.
1. (*To fly*)—Extend the arms right and left and flap them as a bird does its wings.

### FOND—

1. Hook the left and right index fingers together. Repeat.

### FOOL—

1. With the thumb and little finger extended, pass the thumb before your forehead two or three times. Or once vigorously.
2. Look cross.

### FOOT—

1. Push the right hand across the palm of your left hand.
2. Squeeze the left fingers over the right hand to prevent its going across the left palm.
3. Point to the foot.

### FOR—

1. Put the index finger to the forehead and quickly point it outward and forward. Or
1. Put the fingers of the right hand on the forehead and move the hand upward above your head—(*because.*)

**FORGET—**

1. Draw the fingers of your right hand from near the left temple along your forehead to the right temple.

**FORGIVE—**

1. Pass the palms of the fingers of the right hand over the palms of the left hand then pass the fingers of the left hand over the palm of the right hand.

**FRANCE—**

1. Put the thumb on the index finger of either hand, all other fingers extended.
2. Move the hand to one side in a sudden movement.

**FREEZE—**

1. Hold both hands before you with the palms turned down and the fingers extended.
2. Bend the fingers inward and downward in a quick movement.
3. Sign *cold*. Frown.

**FRESH—**

1. Strike upward with the back of your right hand in the palm of your left hand.

**FRIEND—**

1. See *fond*.  
(For lady friend, add *female*, for gentleman friend, add *male*.)

**FRIDAY—**

1. With the thumb resting on the index finger, other fingers extended, move the hand in a round about way in front of you.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### FORM—

1. Hold your left index finger up before you.
2. Put the knuckle of the hooked right index finger against it.
3. Draw the right hand toward you.

### FRY—

1. Use your left hand as a frying pan.
2. Put the right hand in the left palm, turn the right hand over a few times as you turn fish or meat over in a frying pan.

### FUTURE—

1. Hold your right hand near your sides with the fingers pointing outward.
2. Move the hand straight forward as far as convenient.

## G

### GATHER—

1. Extend your right hand with the palms turned down.
2. Move the fingers around the thumb, as if taking hold of something.
3. Draw the hand toward you and put it between the left forearm held in front of you and your breast.
4. Repeat the movements two or three times.

### GAS—

1. Pass the index and middle fingers of your right hand up between the index and middle fingers of your left hand.
2. Smell the right fingers.
3. Show unpleasant smell. Turn the hand to one side.

GATE—

1. See *door* and *fence*.

GENTLE—

1. Put the index finger of the left hand across your lips.
2. Move the hand in a dragging manner slowly downward.
3. Pass the hand under the palm of the other hand held near your breast.

GENTLEMAN—

1. Put the fist to the forehead—(*male*).
2. Move the hand down to the breast—simultaneously extend the fingers.
3. Touch the breast with your thumb tip.
4. Move the hand out forward.

GET—

1. Hold both hands in front of you with the palms facing each other and fingers spread out.
2. Close the fingers and draw the hand toward you.

GERMANY—

1. Cross the hands over your wrists.
2. Move the hands forward and back without moving the hands from the wrists.

GHOST—

1. Put the flesh parts between the thumbs and index fingers nearly together.
2. Draw the hands apart near the mouth.
3. Breathe upon the hands and draw them apart, closing the fingers around the thumbs as you do so.

GIRL—

1. Pass the tip of the thumb from near the temple along the cheek to the chin  
*—female.*
2. Show height, by moving the hand up from the ground or floor.

GIVE—

1. Close the fingers around the thumb, either hand.
2. Move the hand forward as far as convenient.
3. Relax the fingers and drop the hand as giving something.  
*(Usually move the hand toward the object given to, if present).*

GLAD—

1. Pat the right hand over the heart. Have a pleasant expression.



GLOBE—

1. Pass the palm of the right hand over and around the closed fist of the left hand held in front of you.

GLORY—

1. Hold both hands, with palms down, as far as possible out sidewardly.
2. Draw the hands toward you, meanwhile wiggle the fingers and move the hands up and down.
3. Turn the head and close the eyes as if to screen the eyes.

GOAT—

1. Make motion of stroking a long goatee with the right hand.
2. Touch the forehead with the index and middle fingers.
3. Throw the hand backward over your head.
4. Butt against the palm of the left hand with your right fist.

GO—

1. Hold the extended index fingers pointing direct at each other, in front of you.
2. Move the fingers forward revolving one over the other as you make the movement.

For *went*, use the past-tense.

GOD—



1. Point the index finger, with the tips of the thumb and middle finger touching each other, heavenward.
  2. Extend your eyes heavenward.
3. Move the hand down before your face slowly, spread out the fingers as you do so.
  4. Bow the head reverently.

GOLD—

1. Catch hold of the lower end of the ear with the index finger and thumb of one hand.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Extend the thumb and little finger of same hand other fingers resting in the palm, move the hand out forward.

Good—

1. Put the fingers of one hand to the lips.
2. Move the hand outward, as if kissing the hand.



GOSPEL—

1. Make the sign of the Bible—*see Bible*. Or the sign of Jesus.
2. Cluster the fingers around the thumbs, both hands.
3. Put the backs of the hands to the forehead.
4. Move them out forward and as you do so relax the fingers from the thumb—(*Bible teaching*).
5. Repeat the movements two or three times.

GOVERNOR—

1. Move the right index finger in a circle near your right temple.
1. Put the tip of the index finger against the temple.

GRACEFUL—

1. See *beautiful*.

GRASS—

1. With the index finger of the right hand extended and thumb resting on the middle finger, twist the hand in a round about way in front of you—*green*.

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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THE DE L'EPEE MONUMENT AT VERSAILLES, FRANCE.  
Erected by France in 1812. De l'Epee is in the  
act of making the sign for God. The first  
sign he invented.

2. Close the fingers around the thumb of the same hand.
3. Force the hand upward between the fingers and thumb of the left hand, and spread out the fingers as they pass upward.

**GRAVE—**

1. Make an oblong square with the index fingers toward the ground.
2. Point downward.
3. Put the hands together so the index fingers will touch each other full length hold the hands out from you as far as you can.
4. Move the hands toward you, and as you do so let them fall apart a little forming an oblong mound.

**GRAZE—**

1. Sign grass and eat.

**GREECE—**

1. Draw the index finger of the right hand straight down from the forehead over the nose. Straight nose.

**GREEN—**

1. With the index finger extended and thumb resting on the middle finger, move the hand in a round about way before you.

**GREEDY—**

1. Make the sign of *eat*.
2. Act as if cramming the mouth. Extend the cheeks.

**GREENLAND—**

1. Index finger of right hand extended and thumb resting on the middle finger, move the hand in a round about manner.
2. Sign *cold*.

**GRIEVE—**

1. Rub the closed fist over the heart.
2. Press both fists together in a twisting manner.
3. Have a grieved expression.

**GRIND—**

1. Hold the left turned up palm in front of you.
2. Put the right palm in the left palm.
3. Move the right palm in a crushing and circular way around on the left palm.

**GROW—**

1. Close the left fingers around the right hand and fingers.
2. Force the right fingers up through the grip of the left fingers.
3. Show height, by moving the hand, palm down, up from the ground to the proper height—or from over the palm of the other hand.

**H**

**HALF—**

1. Draw the right index finger across the second joint of the left index finger.

**HAND—**

1. Pass the right index finger around the left wrist.
2. Show the hand.

HANDKERCHIEF—

1. Wipe before the mouth with the fingers.
2. Sign *white*, viz.: Put the palm of the hand to the shirt front and draw it outward, close the fingers.

HAPPY—

1. Pat over the heart with the right hand.

HARD—

1. Strike on the back of the left fist with the right fist.

HAT—

1. Make motion of taking hold of your hat brim in front of your forehead.

HASTE—

1. With the index and middle fingers of both hands extended and thumbs resting on the third fingers, hold the hands near your breast.
2. Move the hands simultaneously forward in an up and down movements.

HATE—



1. Hold the backs of both hands near your breast, palms facing outward.
2. Push the hands out forward.
3. Have a frowning look and avert the head.

HAVE—

1. (*To show possession*) Put the back of your right hand in the palm of the left hand held out before you.

2. Move the hands up to and against your breast.
1. (*As an auxiliary*) Hold the left hand with the palm facing you.
2. Strike downwards with the right hand pass the left hand fingers.

**HE—**

1. Put the hand to the forehead.
2. Move the hand out with the index pointing toward the object.

**HEAD—**

1. Put the fingers of one hand on top of the head.
2. Move the hand down to the neck.
3. Tap on the side of the head with the fingers.

**HEART—**

1. Put the tips of the index fingers at a point near the top of the heart.
2. Move the hands in a semi-circle downward so the fingers will come together at the bottom of your heart.
3. Pat over the heart.

**HEAVEN—**

1. Look heavenward.
2. Raise both hands above your head, letting the tips of the fingers touch.
3. Move the hands sideward and downward until they get to the level of your head or shoulders.
4. Quickly hold the left forearm a little above the level of your head in front of you.

5. Pass the right hand upward under the left forearm.

**H**EAVY—

1. Hold both hands with the palms turned up before you near the waist.
2. Lift them upward in a difficult movement. Have a frown.
3. Let both hands fall back to near the waist with a sudden drop.

**H**EN—

1. Put the back of the index finger and thumb to the mouth, and move the index finger up and down as a hen does its mouth when cackling.

**H**ER—

1. Pass the thumb along the cheek from near the ear to the chin.
2. Point the index finger toward the object.
3. Turn the hand over for *objective case*. Push the hand toward her for *possession*.

**H**ERS—

1. See *her*.

**H**ELL—

1. Sign *bad*. Point downward. unpleasant look.

**H**ELP—

1. Put the right palm under the left forearm.
2. Left the forearm up.

**HIDE—**

1. With the fingers closed, press the thumb against your lips—right hand.
2. Move the hand downwards and pass it under the palm of your left hand.

**HIGH—**

1. Move the right hand as far up above the level of your head as you can.  
(If very high point the index finger way up.)

**HILL—**

1. Move both hands with the palms facing toward and fingers extended and held at an angle of about 45 degrees upward, then downward and upward again.

**HIM—**

1. Make the sign for *he* and turn the hand over for the *objective case*.

**HIS—**

1. Make the sign for *he* and push the palm of the hand toward the object for *possession*.

**HIT—**

1. (*To hit with the fist*) Strike in the left palm with the right hand.  
(*To hit with an instrument*) Pick up the imaginary instrument and throw toward the object or hit toward it.  
(*To hit with a gun shot*) Make motion of holding a gun pull the trigger, and hit in the palm of one hand with the point of the index finger of the other hand.

HOG—

1. Put the back of the right hand to the chin.
2. Move the fingers of the right hand outward on the palm of the left hand—*as a hog rooting.*
3. Show height by moving the palm up so high from the ground.

HOLY—

1. Hold your left hand with the palm facing you.
2. Pass the right hand palm along the left hand palm from the wrist across the fingers.

HOLLAND—

1. Index and middle fingers extended and thumb resting on the third finger.
2. Move the hand from your cheek outward and back two or three times.

HOME—

1. Make the sign for *eat.*
2. Lean the side of the head in the palm of the hand.
3. Close the eyes as if to sleep.

HOP—

1. With the index finger hooked, move the middle finger up and down in the palm of the other hand.  
Or hop on one foot.

HORSE—

1. Put the extended index and middle fingers of both hands to the side of the head near the ears.

2. Move the fingers forward and back as a horse moves its ears.

**HOUR—**

1. Move the index finger of the right hand in a circle over the left palm.

**HOUSE—**

1. Make a peak by bringing the finger points together in front of you.
2. Move the hands apart in a slanting way about eight inches each.
3. Move the hands down perpendicular about a foot or two.

**HOT—**

1. Put the palm of your hand with the fingers bent into the mouth.
2. Breathe hot breath in the hand.
3. Move the hand quickly from the mouth and throw it downward in a jerking manner.

**HUG—**

1. Go through motion of hugging some imaginary person or thing.

**HUMBLE—**

1. Draw the index finger of one hand across your lips.
2. Pass the hand down and under the palm of the other hand held near the breast.

**HUNGRY—**

1. Make the sign for eat.
2. Scrape the fingers of the hand downward from your throat to near the stomach.

**HURRY—**

1. See sign for *haste*.

I

ICELAND—

1. Make the sign for *ice* or *freeze*.
2. Pass the palm of the right hand under the left forearm held before you.

IDEA—

1. Touch the forehead with the tip of the little finger.
2. Move the finger upward in a curly manner.

IDENTIFY—

1. Take a good look at the object.
2. Tap the forehead two or three times with the palm of the fingers. Use the right hand.

IDLE—

1. Have the little fingers extended only.
2. Strike the hands against the upper arm.

IGNORANT—

1. Strike the backs of the index and middle fingers of one hand against the forehead.
2. Have a dull look.

INDUSTRIOUS—

1. Have the little fingers extended only.
2. Strike the right wrist over the left wrist several times.
3. Move the hands around as you make the strikes.

INK—

1. Pass the tip of the right little finger over the eye-brow for *black*.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Dip the little finger between the index finger and thumb of the left hand.
3. Go through motion of writing.

### INTEND—

1. Press the tips of the index and middle fingers of the right hand in the palm of the left hand several times.
2. Change position of the fingers each time you make the press.

### INQUIRE—

1. Make the interrogation mark several times in the air.
2. Look intently.

### INVITE—

1. Hold the right hand with the palm up out as far as you can get it.
2. Draw the hand toward you in an inviting manner.

### IRELAND—

1. Tap on the back of your left hand with the index and middle finger of the right hand.

### IRON—

1. Touch the teeth with the index finger of the right hand—*hard*.
2. Strike in a gliding manner on the thumb and index finger of the left hand with the right fist.

### ISLAND—

1. Move the extended little finger only around over the left hand.

### ITALY—

1. Make a cross before the forehead with the little finger of the right hand.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### JAPAN—

1. Put the index fingers to the temples near the eyes.
2. Push the skin up to make slanting eyes.
3. Make the letter “J.”

### JEALOUS—

1. Put the index finger between your teeth.
2. Make out you are biting.
3. Have an evil expression.

### JESUS CHRIST—

1. Touch the centre of the left palm with the middle finger of the right hand.
2. Touch the center of the right palm with the middle finger of the left hand.
3. Spread the arms out right to right, left to left—*Sign of the cross.*

### JOLT—

1. Hold both hands out in front of you.
2. Move them in a sudden and quick manner forward and back again. Let the body jolt.

### JOY—

1. Pat with both hands over the heart or on the breast.
2. Have a glad smiling look.

### JUDGE—

1. Put the tip of the index fingers and thumbs of each hands together.
2. Hold the hands before you and move them up and down one after the other several times.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### JUMP—

1. Put the tips of the index and middle fingers of the right hand on the side of the index finger of the left hand.
2. Move the right hand out forward in a jumping manner, as a bird jumps from a fence to the ground.

### JUST—

1. Sign Judge and bring the hands to a sudden pause.

## K

### KEEP—

1. Sign borrow.

### KICK—

1. Go through motion of kicking with the foot. *Or*

Hold the left palm downward and strike in it with the back of your right hand in a pushing out manner.

(*Horse or cow kick*) Kick the foot backward. Can use the fist if wished.

### KILL—

1. Use your index and middle fingers for a knife blade.
2. Make a stabbing motion along the palm of the other hand.
3. Turn the hand over and let it fall forward downward.

### KIND—

1. Hold both hands with the palms turned in near your breast.
2. Move them out forward from you, revolving one over the other as you do so.
3. Have a pleasant look.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### KINDLE—

1. See *fire*.

### KING—

1. Put the thumb on the second joint of the middle finger of the right hand.
2. Put the hand to the left shoulders.
3. Move the hand in a circular manner out before you and down to your right side.
4. Pass the right hand over the left forearm held before you. *Dominion*.

### KNIT—

1. Use grandma's knitting needles and go through motion of knitting.

### KNOW—

1. Touch or tap on the forehead with all four fingers of one hand.
2. Have a knowing look.

### KNOCK—

1. Knock on the back of left hand with the knuckles of the right hand.  
(*To knock down*) Strike a blow in the palm of the left hand with the right fist. Let the left hand fall over.

## L

### LADY—

1. Draw the thumb from near the temple along the cheek to near the chin.
2. Spread out the fingers of the hand.
3. Touch the breast with the tip of the thumb once or twice.

**LAKE—**

1. Make the sign of *water*.
2. Move the extended index finger and thumb of one hand in a round about way in front of you.

**LAMB—**

1. Use your left forearm as the back of a lamb.
2. Make motion of cutting along it with a pair of scissors, using your index and middle fingers for the scissors.
3. Show height by raising your hand up from the ground.

**LAUGH—**

1. Touch the corners of your mouth with the tips of your index fingers and laugh.

**LAW—**

1. Strike the index finger of the right hand in the palm of the left hand.

**LAWYER—**

1. Sign *law*.
2. Add—Put the palms to the breast and move them downward to the waist for *yer*.

**LAY—**

1. Lean the side of your head in the palm of your hand.
2. Make motion of a bed or a couch, by holding the hands near each other with the palms turned down and spreading them out sidewardly, right hand to the right and left hand to the left.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### LAY (*to put away*)—

1. Imagine you have something in your hand.
2. Move the hand toward the place or imaginary place and drop the thing.

### LEAD (*verb*)—

1. Take hold of the left hand fingers with the right hand fingers.
2. Pull the left hand outward or to the right.



### LEAD (*noun*)—

1. Make the sign for *heavy*.
2. Strike under the chin with the back of your right or left hand.

### LEAF—

1. Sign *tree*.
2. Hang the right hand over the left hand and shake the right hand as a leaf shakes in a tree.

### LEARN—

1. Hold both palms before you as an open book.
2. Look intently in them.
3. Make motion of taking some thing from the palm of your left hand with the fingers of the right hand.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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4. Carry the right hand to the forehead and relax the fingers as if leaving something on or in the forehead.

### LEAVE—

1. (*To leave an article*) — Imagine you have something in your hand.
2. Place it in the place you wish to leave it.

(*To leave on a journey.*)

1. Hold both hands near your breast with the palms turned in.
2. Move both hands out and a little downward and push out the fingers.

### LETTER—

1. Put the palm part of the right thumb against your tongue, then press down in the palm of the left hand with the thumb, as if pressing down a stamp.

### LEG—

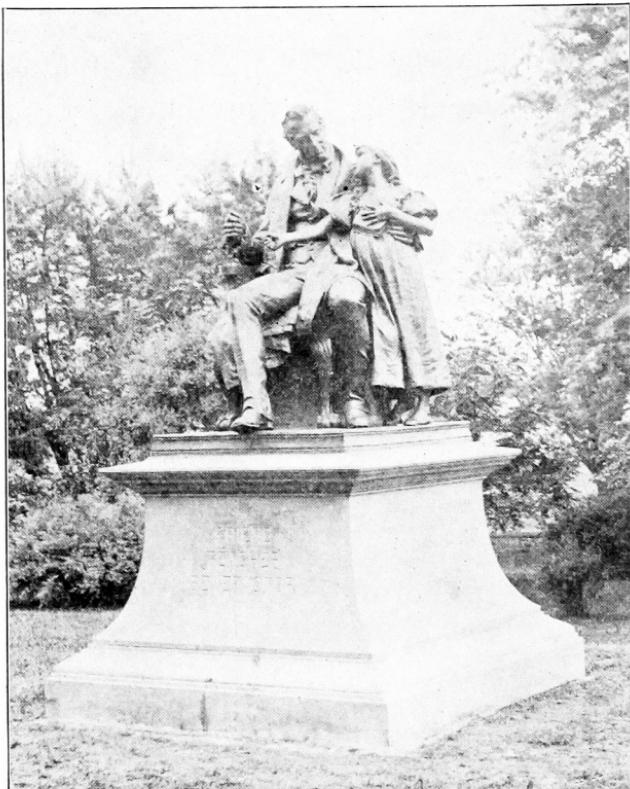
1. Pass your hand downward over the leg.

### LEPROSY—

1. Sign *sick*.
2. Sign *white*, viz.: Put the palm of the hand to the shirt front and draw the hand out closing the fingers around the thumbs.
3. Make a spluttering movement along the back of the left hand with the fingers of the right hand.

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THE GALLAUDET MEMORIAL STATUE.

Erected at Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C., in  
the year, 1889, by the deaf people of North America.  
He is in the act of teaching Alice Cogswell  
the manual alphabet.



LIE—

1. Pass the right index finger from the right corner of the mouth along the lips and beyond the left corner in a quick movement.
2. Have expression of sorrow or regret.  
*(Fib)*—Put the right index finger held perpendicular to the right corner of your mouth, and brush or push it along your lips to and beyond the left corner of the mouth.

LIMB—

1. *(Of the body)*—Pass the hand along the limb.  
*(Of a tree)*—Sign *tree*, and pass the hand from the imaginary trunk outwardly.

LION—

1. Look fierce.
2. Draw the bent in fingers up from near the chin over the face and head.
3. Quickly move both hands with palms outward in front of you and use your fingers as claws.

LOG—

1. Sign *wood*, and move the right hand to the right and left hand left, having the fingers bent downward.

LONESOME—

1. Move the index finger in a round about way in front of you.
2. Have a forlorn look.

LONG—

1. Put the right index finger to the left index finger.
2. Draw the right index finger up the left arm to the shoulder and beyond if you can.

(*Along a road*)—Move your index finger in a zigzag way forward.

LOOK—

1. Put the index and middle fingers to the eyes.
2. Move the fingers in the direction of the object.
3. Have an earnest expression.

LOOKING-GLASS—

1. Hold the palm of one hand up before you.
2. Look in it, moving the head this way and that.
3. Have a pleasant expression.

LOOSE—

1. Let the hands roll one over the other downward.

LOVE—

1. Put the left hand over the heart and the right hand over the left.
2. Give a firm pressure over the heart with the hands.
3. Have a pleasant expression.

**Low—**

1. Move the hand up and down from the ground to the proper height.

**M**

**MAD—**

1. Draw the bent in fingers of the left hand down from the forehead to the chin.
2. Have an ugly or angry look.

**MAKE—**

1. Strike one fist on the other, turning the striking fist this way and that as you strike several times.

**MALE—**

1. Put the hand to the forehead and act as if catching hold of a hat brim.

**MAN—**

1. Make the sign of male.
2. Hold the hand out to or above the level of your head.

**MANY—**

1. Close and relax the fingers of one or both hands several times.

**MARK—**

1. Draw the index finger over the place or imaginary place where the mark ought to be.

**MARRY—**

1. Put the palm of the right hand in the palm of the left hand.
2. Hold tight. Pleasant look.

MASH—

1. Press the balls of the hands firmly together, move the upper hand around a little.

MAY—

1. (*Denoting doubt*)—Hold both hands with palms up before you.
2. Move the hands up and down alternately.
3. Same for *perhaps*.

MAY—

1. (*Denoting consent*)—Hold both hands before you with palms up.
2. Push the hands outward and upward.

ME—

1. Touch the breast with the index finger and let the hand fall in front of you with the palm up.

MEAL—

1. See *flour*.

MEAT—

1. Catch hold of the fleshy part between the index finger and thumb of the left hand with the index finger and thumb of the right hand.
2. Move the hands up and down in a shaking manner.

MEDICINE—

1. Rub the tip of the middle finger of your right hand in the palm of your left hand.

## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Go through motion of taking something from the left palm and putting it to your mouth to taste.
3. Have expression.

### MEDITATE—

1. Rub the index finger in a small circle on the forehead.
2. Rest the hand on the forehead a moment and rub again.
3. Have a thoughtful expression.

### MEND—

1. Sign *make*. Or go through the motion of plying a needle.
2. Show the place.  
*(Also go through motion of sticking on a piece of court plaster.)*

### MERCHANT—

1. Pat the back of the right hand in the palm of the left hand—*money*.
2. Move the right hand out forward and make motion of dropping something—*buy*.
3. Let the tips of the index fingers and thumbs come together and hold the hands near the breast.
4. Move the hands outward and back two times—*sell*.
5. Put the palms to the breast and move the hands downward—for *ant* or *er* as in *lawyer*.

### METHODIST—

1. Hold the palms facing each other.
2. Move them up then down.
3. Clap the hands together as if in great ecstasy.

**MEXICO—**

1. With the middle finger lapped over the thumb, and index finger extended, move the hand in a round about movement, meanwhile draw in and extend the index finger.

**MILD—**

1. Let the little finger of the right hand rest on the fleshy part between the thumb and index finger of the left hand.
2. In this position move the right hand from side to side two or three times.

**MILK—**

1. Go through motion of milking a cow, and drinking from a glass.

**MINE—**

1. Slap the palm of the hand against your breast.
2. Show positive expression.

**MIND (*noun*)—**

1. Tap on the forehead with the index finger.

**MIND (*verb*)—**

1. See *attend*.

**MINUTE—**

1. Have the tip of the right thumb in the palm of your left hand.
2. Move the extended index finger forward in a quick movement a little.

MOCK—

1. With the little fingers and thumbs of both hands extended, move them forward two or three times toward the object.
2. Have a derisive look.

MODIFY—

1. See *change*.

MONDAY—

1. Make the letter “M” and move it around in front of you.

MONEY—

1. Make a circle with the index finger of the right hand in the palm of the left hand.

MONKEY—

1. Scratch upward on both sides.
2. Fill your cheeks with air.
3. Move the body and head from side to side.
4. Look silly.

Moon—

1. Hold the right hand with the palm facing outward and the fingers partly bent forward.
2. Put the hand to the right temple.
3. Make a circle in the air toward the sky. Spread out the fingers and draw the hand toward you. Look upward.

MORNING—

1. With the palm of the right hand turned up, move it up and down under the left hand held before you.

MORE—

1. Hold your left turned up palm before you.
2. Put the tips of the right hand fingers against the left palm.
3. Move the right hand up about six inches. (*For much, move the hand up higher and higher.*)

MOSES—

1. Put both hands to the side of your temples.
2. Draw the hands out right and left, and as you do so let the index finger and thumb of each hand come together.

MOTHER—

1. Make the sign for female.
2. Move both hands fingers closed to the left and upward.
3. Spread out the fingers as you make the movement upward.

MOUNTAIN—

1. Strike on the back of your left fist with your right fist.
2. Move both hands with the fingers extended upward and almost perpendicular.
3. Look upward with awe.

MOUTH—

1. Pass the index finger from corner to corner and around the mouth.

MUCH—

1. See *more*, but move the hand further up and in a more vigorous way.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### MUDGY—

1. See *damp*. Turn the fingers downward and move them up and down a few times.
2. Have an unpleasant look.

### MULE—

1. Put both hands with the fingers extended to the side of your head.
2. Move the hands forward and back as a mule moves its ears.

## N

### NAIL (*verb*)—

1. Imagine you hold a nail between the thumb and index finger of the left hand.
  2. Imagine you hold a hammer in your right hand.
  3. Strike with the hammer on the nail held in the left hand.
- (*Noun*)—Show size of nail by moving the right index finger up and down to the proper length, on the left index finger. Strike with the hammer.

### NEED—

1. Hook the index finger of either hand.
2. Have the finger point downward.
3. Move the hand up and down before you.

### NEEDLE—

Go through the motion of threading a needle. Make size of needle on index finger.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### NEGLECT—

1. Cluster the fingers of both hands around the thumbs.
2. Hold the hands near your breast.
3. Move them out in an up and down movement and relax the fingers as if dropping something. Repeat.

### NEITHER—

1. Hold up before you the index and middle fingers of the left hand.
2. Touch on the tips of the fingers held before you with the index finger of the right one time each.
3. Move the right hand to the right, in a swift movement. Shake the head.

### NEPHEW—

1. Make the sign for male.
2. Hold the index and middle fingers of the right hand near the ear, and move them forward and back.

### NEXT—

1. Put the fingers of your right hand against the inside of your left thumb.
2. Move the right fingers over and against the left index finger.

### NEW—

1. See *fresh*.



NICE

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### NICE—

1. Pass the right palm over the left palm from wrist across the fingers.

### NIECE—

1. Make sign of *female*.
2. Place the right index and middle fingers of the right hand near the ear with the fingers hanging downward.
3. Move the fingers forward and back a little twice.

### NIGHT—

1. Pass the palms of your hands close by the face.
2. Let the hands eclipse before your eyes.
3. Close the eyes—(*See dark.*)

### NOAH—

1. Make the signs of man and boat. Imitation of the *Ark*.

### NOD—

1. Nod the head. Or hold your closed fist near your shoulder; bob it forward.

### NONE—

1. Put the tips of the thumbs and index fingers both hands together.
2. Put both hands to the mouth.
3. Blow on them and as you do so move the hands outward and separate the fingers from the thumbs.

### NONSENSE—

1. See *foolish*.

### NOON—

1. Place the elbow of the right arm in the palm of the left hand.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Hold the right forearm up perpendicular.
3. Look upward.

NOR—

1. See *neither*.

NOT—

1. Hold the right hand out in front of you with the palm turned down.
2. Give the hand a swift movement to the right, (*some would put the thumb to the mouth and move the hand downward, but that means deny.*)

## O

OBEY—



1. Put the fingers of both hands to the forehead.
2. Move the hands forward and downward.
3. Bow the head in a submissive way.

OCEAN—

1. Sign *salt* and *water*.
2. Place the tips of the index finger and thumb of each hand together.
3. Move the hands in a waving and round about way in front of you.

OF—

1. Hold the index finger of either hand out in front of you.
2. Move the index finger in a curved and downward and outward way. Or just spell “*of*.”

**OFF—**

1. Put the right palm on the back of the left hand and let it fall off.

**OH—**

1. Hold the hands up near the sides of your head palms turned out.
2. Have a surprised or distressed expression as the case may be.

**OLD—**

1. Hold both hands with the fingers closed under your chin.
2. Move them downward in a shaky manner.

*(If old person bend in the shoulders.)*

**ON—**

1. Rub the fingers of the right hand on the back of the left hand. Or just place the palm of the fingers on the back of the other hand.

**ONION—**

1. Rub the knuckle of the index finger of the right hand in the eye.
2. Smell the hand and turn the nose away.
3. Have a disagreeable look.

**OPEN—**

1. Place the hands together so the index fingers will touch each other full length.
2. Move the hands apart. See *door*.

**OR—**

1. Hold the thumb and index finger of the left hand in front of you.
2. Touch alternately the thumb and the left index finger with the right index finger.

ORDER—

1. See *tell*.

(*For a written order*)—Go through motion of writing in the hand, and *give*.

OUR—

1. Put the palm of the right hand on your right breast.
2. Move the same hand around to your left breast.

OURS—

1. See *our*. Add *plural*.

OVER—

1. Hold your left hand with the back turned up before you.
2. Pass your right hand over the back of the left hand.

OWL—

1. With the tips of your thumbs and index fingers touching put the hands to the eyes, and look through the O held before you.
2. Extend the eyes as you look.
3. Pass the hooked index finger of one hand over your nose.
4. Flap your hands out sideward as a bird does its wings.

Ox—

1. Sign *cow*, and instead of making the milking movement, whirl an imaginary whip over your head.

P

PAIN—

1. Jab the index fingers toward each other an inch or two apart. See *ache*.

PAINT—

1. Move the right hand with all the fingers spread out up and down the left forearm as you do in painting.

PAIR—

1. Draw the index and middle fingers of your right hand downward through the index finger and thumb of the left hand.

PAPER—

1. Strike the balls of your hands together, and move the hands back and forward over each other, as if rattling paper.

PART—

1. Put the fists together and move them apart. *Or*
2. Draw the right hand with the little finger touching the left palm across the palm of the hand.

PASS—

1. Pass one hand with the fingers closed along by the other hand held out before you.

PASSION—See *desire*.

PEACE—

1. Hold the left hand with the palm turned up, before you.
2. Place the right palm on the left palm.
3. Reverse the hands and place the left palm on the right palm.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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4. Turn both palms downward and move them out in a smooth gliding way.
5. Have an earnest, pleading expression.

### PEEL—

1. Use the left fist as an apple, potato or orange, and the right thumb as a knife blade.
2. Go through motion of peeling an apple.  
*(To peel off bark or skin)*—Pull over the place with thumb and index finger the usual way.

### PEEP—

1. Hold the index and middle fingers up to your eyes and peep through them.

### PERHAPS—

1. See *may*.

### PICTURE—

1. Make the letter “C” right hand, strike it in the palm of the left hand held before you.

### PIE—

1. Cut one-quarter in the palm of the left hand with the right hand.

### PIN—

1. Feel on your coat lapel.
2. Stick the index finger in a gliding way along the back of the left hand.

### PITY—

1. Pass the middle finger of the right hand up over your heart.
2. Stroke the hand outward toward the object.
3. Have a kindly expression.

PLATE—

1. Pluck under the back of the left hand with the middle finger of the right hand.
2. Sign *white*.
3. Make a circle around the left hand with the right index finger.

PLAY—

1. With the thumbs and little fingers extended, shake the hands in a round about way in front of you.
2. Have a cheerful look.  
If idle play—frown.

PLEASE—

1. Rub the palm of the right hand in a circle on the breast two or three times.

PLOW—

1. Hold on tightly to the handles of an imaginary plow in front of you.
2. Click or check up your horse and push the plow along.
3. Push your right hand outward and as you do so turn it over as furrowing.

POLITE—

1. Touch your breast with the right palm move the hand out and downward, then touch the breast with the left hand and move it out and downward. Repeat the movement.

POOL—

1. Sign *water*.
2. With your thumb touching the second joint of your middle finger move the hand in a circle before you.

Poor—



1. Pull under the left fore-arm sleeve with your right hand, let the sleeve slip from the fingers. Pull two or three times.

Potato—

1. Hold the closed fist of your left hand before you.
2. Strike on the back of the fist with the index and middle fingers of the right hand.

For *sweet* potato—Add the sign for *sweet*, i. e. Draw the index and middle fingers downward over your lips.

Pound—

1. Cross the right index over the left index finger.
2. Balance the right finger as if weighing.
3. Hold up the index finger for one—1 pound; 3 fingers—3 pounds, etc.

Praise—

1. Clap the hands toward the object.

Preach---

1. Make sign of the *Bible*.
2. Hold your right hand with the index and thumb tips touching up to the level of your head.
3. Move the hand forward and back, imitating the gestures of a preacher, move your lips meanwhile.

PREACHER—

1. Sign *preach*, and add the *er*. Put the palms on the breast and move them downward.

PRESBYTERIAN—

1. Touch the palm of the left hand with the tips of the right index and middle fingers—for frequent standing in singing and praying.

PRESIDENT—

1. Hold the hands with the palms facing outward near the temples.
2. Move the right hand to the right and left to the left.
3. Close the fingers as you do so.

PRETTY—

1. Take on a pleasant and smiling look.
2. Move the palm of the right hand around your face.
3. Close the fingers around the thumbs as you move the hand around the face. See *beautiful*.

PROMISE—

1. Put your right index finger across your lips.
2. Move the hand above the head a little outward.
3. Spread out the fingers.
4. Have a solemn look.

PROUD—

1. Place the point of the right thumb against your waist in front.
2. Move the hand upward to your breast, dragging the thumb along.
3. Have a haughty appearance.

## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### A FEW OF THE AMERICAN SIGNS



1-Bread. 2-Come in. 3-Money. 4-Hard. 5-I Know. 6-Smell. 7-Can or Able. 8-In. 9-Out.  
10-With. 11-Don't Know. 12-Father. 13-Think. 14-Railroad. 15-Eride. 16-Soldier. 17-Decisive.  
18-Mother. 19-Governor. 20-To-morrow. 21-Run. 22-Selfish. 23-Forgive. 24-Smell. 25-Fun. 26-Yesterday.

PULL—

1. Extend both hands outward.
2. Draw the fingers in as if catching hold of something.
3. Pull the hands toward you. Show resistance.

PUMPKIN—

1. Sign *yellow, large and ball or globe.*

PUNISH—

1. Go through motion of catching hold of some one's collar.
2. Strike downward under the left hand with the index finger of the right hand.  
*(If to punish in hell)*—Point downward.  
*(If in a jail)*—Peep through the crossed fingers held to your eyes. Show sad expression.

PUSH—

1. Push one or both hands outward.

PUT—

1. See *place.*

Q

QUARREL—

1. Look cross.
2. Hold the index fingers points direct opposite each other.
3. Move the hands simultaneously back and forward as advancing and retreating.
4. Move the lips as if talking, but utter no voice.

**QUICK—**

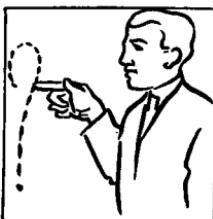
1. See *hurry*.

**QUIET—**

1. See *peace*.

**QUIT—**

1. Hold the left palm out before you.
2. Strike down in the palm with the right hand so the little finger of the left hand will strike in the palm.



ASKING A QUESTION

**R**

**RAILROAD—**

1. Hold the left hand with the index and middle fingers extended and turned up.
2. Move the index and middle fingers of the right hand in a gliding way along on the back of the left hand index and middle fingers extended and back turned up.

**RAIN—**

1. Hold the hands up above your head a little outward with the palms turned down.
2. Let the hands come down slowly meanwhile wiggle your fingers for rain drops.

**RAISE—**

1. Make the sign of *grow* and *keep*.

RAT—

1. Lap the middle finger over the index finger, both hands.
2. Put the fingers so fixed on the sides of your nose and move them up and down.
3. Skin or turn up your nose a little. Point to a rat hole if convenient.

READ—

1. Hold the palms of both hands before you, as you do a book.
2. Pass your eyes across and back a few times as if reading a book.

RECEIVE—

1. Hold both hands out in front of you. Palms up.
2. Draw the fingers around the thumbs.
3. Move the hands to your breast. Same for accept.

RED—

1. Move the index finger downward across your lips.

RICH—



1. Hold your left palm in front of you.
2. Pat in the palm with the back of the right hand.
3. Move the right hand up as far as convenient. The further up, the richer the person or thing is.

RIDE—(*to ride a horse*).

1. Straddle the left index finger with the index and middle fingers of the right hand.

2. Move both hands forward in an up and down gait.

*To ride in the cars*—Sign *railroad*.

*To ride in an auto*—Sign *automobile*.

RIDICULOUS—

1. See sign for *foolish*.

RING—

1. Make a large circle with the index finger.
2. Make motion of putting on a ring.
3. Make motion of ringing a bell.

RIPE—

1. Hold both palms out in front of you.
2. Draw the fingers around the thumbs and relax them two or three times.

RISE—

1. Hold both hands out before you with the palms turned down.
2. Rise the hands slowly upward.

*Or for sun-rise.*

1. Hold the left forearm before you.
2. Slowly rise the right hand with the fingers closed up from under and outside of the forearm.

*Or to get up from bed.*

1. Lay the index finger in the palm of the left hand.
2. Rise it up slowly.

RIVER—

1. Lap the middle fingers over the index fingers both hands—forming the letter “R.”
2. Move the hands in an outward zigzag manner.

ROAD—

1. Hold the palms facing each other about a foot apart in front of you.
2. Move the hands simultaneously forward in a zigzag manner.

ROCK—

1. Touch the teeth.
2. Strike on the back of your left fist with the right fist.
3. Sign small or large as the case may be.

ROPE—

1. Lap the middle fingers over the index fingers both hands.
2. Put the hands together in front of you.
3. Move the hands right and left meanwhile twist the hands this way and that.

ROT—

1. Draw the fingers against the thumbs of both hands held before you, relax and draw again, and glide the thumbs along over the inside of the fingers as if crushing something soft.
2. Smell the fingers of one hand.
3. Avert the head and move the hand quickly away. Frown.

RUSSIA—

1. Put the hands to your sides with the palms turned downward.
2. Stand a little *akimbo*.

S

SAD—

1. Hold both palms before your face.
2. Move them down to your breast.
3. Have a sad look.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### SAFE—

1. Cross the wrists with the fists closed.
2. Draw them suddenly apart.
3. Have a relieved expression.

### SALT—

1. Strike on the back of your left index and middle fingers with the palm of your right index and middle fingers.
2. Put the fingers to the mouth and taste. Show satisfaction.

### SATURDAY—

1. Make the letter “S” and move it around in front of you.

### SAW—

1. Hold your left forearm before you.
2. Use your right hand as a saw blade. The teeth of the saw being along the little finger.
3. Move the right hand forward and backward over the left wrist.

### SAVE—

1. Put your right palm under the closed left hand.
2. Give it a slight lift.
3. Now put the index and middle fingers of the right hand under the left fist and draw the hands up near the breast.

### SCARCE—

1. See sign for *few*.

### SEA—

1. Make the sign for *salt*.
2. Move the turned down palms in a waving or up and down way out forward from you.

**S**ECRETARY—

1. Hold an imaginary pencil or pen between the index finger and thumb of the right hand.
2. Go through motion of writing across the palm of the left hand.
3. Make the sign for *er*, viz.: Put the palms to the breast and move them downward toward your waist.

**S**EE—

1. Put the index and middle fingers of one hand to your eyes.
2. Point the fingers outward (*toward the object if convenient.*)
3. Extend the eyes toward the object.

**S**ELL—

1. Put the tips of the index finger and thumb together, both hands.
2. Hold the hands near the breast.
3. Move them outward and relax the index fingers from the thumbs as if dropping something.
4. Have a business look.

**S**EIZE—

1. Grab with both hands simultaneously at some imaginary thing in front of you.
2. Hold fast.
3. Satisfied expression.

**S**HARP—

1. Hold your left index finger up as a knife blade.
2. Draw the soft part of the right thumb along the left index finger.

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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3. Move the thumb quickly away and shake it down.
4. Have a satisfied look.

SHE—

1. Make the female sign and point the index finger toward the object.

SHEEP—

1. See sign for *lamb*. Denote height.

SHINE—

1. Hold both hands out before you with the palms downward and a little upward.
2. Draw the hands toward you wiggling the fingers meanwhile.
3. Avert the eyes as if getting them out of bright light.

SHOE—

1. Push the fingers and thumb of the right hand across the palm of the left hand.
2. Close the left hand fingers and thumb around the right hand as you do so.
3. Hold tight with the left hand.
4. Point down to the shoe.

SHOEMAKER—

1. Sign *shoe*.
2. Add the sign for “er.” i. e. Put the palms to the breast and move them downward.

SHOOT—

1. Hold an imaginary gun or pistol in your hands.
2. Take aim and pull the trigger.

**SHOULD—**

1. Place the hooked index finger to the mouth.
2. Throw it downward in an inner curve movement.
3. Have a sort of stern look.

**SICK—**

1. Put all four fingers of your right hand to your forehead, and the left hand fingers to your stomach.
2. Lean the head downward on the fingers.
3. Draw in the stomach.
4. Have a drooping look.

**SILVER—**

1. Make the sign of *white*.
2. Strike the back of the right hand in the palm of the left hand—*money*.
3. Put the palms of the hands near each other and shake them as if rattling silver money.

**SIN—**

1. Jab the points of the index fingers at each other over the heart.
2. Have a sad look.

**SISTER—**

1. Move the point of the thumb from near the ear down the cheek to the chin—(*female*.)
2. Strike the index fingers together lengthwise.

**SIT—**

1. Press the palms downwards near the sides of your hips.
2. Act as if you would sit.

**S**TAR—

1. Point the index fingers one after the other heavenward.
2. Spread out the fingers of one hand and draw it toward you, wiggling the fingers—for *brightness*. Look upward.

**S**LATE—

1. Pass the point of the index finger along the eye-brow—*black*.
2. Strike on the back of the left fist with the hooked index fingers.
3. Go through motion of writing on something in front of you.

**S**LEEP—

1. Draw the right palm down before your face and as you do so close the fingers around the thumb.
2. Close the eyes.
3. Breathe easily.

**S**MALL—

1. With the palms of the hands facing each other and the fingers bent in, move the hands toward and back from each other two times.

**S**MALL-Pox—

1. Make a boreing touch on various parts of the face with the point of the index finger.
2. Have a horrified look.

**S**MART—



1. Push the index finger of the right hand from the bridge of the nose up across the forehead.
2. Have an intelligent look.

**S**NAKE—

1. Put the back of the index and middle fingers to the mouth.
2. Draw the fingers in and extend them quickly as a snake does its fanged tongue.
3. Move the index finger in a rapid and zigzag way forward.
4. Have a frightened expression.

**S**NOW—

- Put the palm of the right hand to your shirt front.
2. Draw the hand outward meanwhile close the fingers around the thumb—*white*.
3. Hold the palm up as far as you can in front of you.
4. Let the hands come slowly down in an oscillating movement.
5. Wiggle the fingers as you move the hands downward.

**S**OCK—

1. Go through motion of knitting.
2. Point to the foot.

**S**OFT—

1. Hold both palms in front of you.
2. Close the fingers softly toward the

thumbs two or three times, as if feeling on a piece of sponge or soft ball.

**SON—**

1. Make the sign for *male*.
2. Put right hand on left forearm.
3. Move the arm up and down a little *for baby*. Show height.

**SORRY—**



1. Rub the right fist in a small circle over the heart.
2. Have a distressed appearance.

**SOUR—**

1. Put the index finger on the thumb and make motion of tasting.
2. Scrouge up the lips and move the hand away.
3. Have an unpleasant look.

**SPADE—**

1. Imagine you have a spade in your hands.
2. Put the blade to the ground.
3. Put your foot on top of the spade blade and push down as you do a spade. Throw up dirt.

**SPAIN—**

1. Hook the index fingers of both hands in front of you.

**SPEND—**

1. Put the back of your right hand in the palm of your left hand—*money*.

2. Pass the right hand out forward from the palm of the left hand.
3. Let the right hand fall forward and downward.
4. Relax the fingers as dropping something.

**SPIDER—**

1. Hold both hands near the breast with palms turned outward and fingers bent in.
2. Move the hands upwards wiggling the fingers as you do so.
3. Have a frightened look.

**SPONGE—**

1. Imagine you hold a piece of sponge in your hand.
2. Press your fingers against the thumb softly.
3. Look under the hand as if to see water running through your fingers.

**STONE—**

1. See sign for *rock*.

**STRAW—**

1. See *grass* and *hay*.

**SPREAD—**

1. Put the hands so the index fingers will touch each other lengthwise in front of you.
2. Move the right hand to the right and left hand to the left.  
*(To spread disease!)*—Cluster the fingers around the thumbs of both hands.
2. Move the right hand forward and spread out the fingers, follow this with

the left hand. Repeat the movement two or three times.

STAY—

1. Put the right thumb on top of the left thumb.
2. Press down on the thumb in or toward the place to stay. Or
1. Move the palm of one hand downward over or toward the place to stay.

STEAL—



1. Give a shy look around.
2. Put the right hand under the left forearm.
3. Go through motion of taking something from under the left forearm and putting it under your coat front.
4. Look this way and that.

STRONG—

1. Move the right hand along the left biceps.
2. Bring both fists out in front of you and move them downward in a sudden jolt.
3. Extend the breast and shoulders.

SUN—

1. Look heavenward, moving your eyelids a little.
2. Make a circle in the air about the size of the sun as you see it.
3. Spread out the fingers of the hand, wiggle the fingers briskly and draw the

hand toward you. Avert the head from the brightness.

SUNDAY—

1. Hold both hands with palms turned outward up near the sides of your head.
2. Close your eyes.
3. Move the lips as if in prayer.

SUPPER—

1. Sign *eat* and move your right hand downward over your left forearm near the wrist.

SWEET—

1. Move the fingers of one hand downward over your lips two or three times.
2. Lick your lips a little with the tongue.
3. Have a pleasant look.

SWEETHEART—

1. Pat the right hand under the forearm near the elbow.
2. Look pleased.

Or (*the new sign*)—

1. Put the knuckles of both hands together with the thumbs sticking up.
2. Wiggle or bow the thumbs alternately toward each other. Like sweethearts do their heads when conversing or courting.

SWELL—

1. Put the palm of the right hand on the back of the left hand.
2. Raise the right hand upward slowly.

Or

1. Put the fingers over the part and move them upward.

Also see *proud*.

SWIM—

1. Go through motion of swimming.

T

TABLE—

1. See *spread*, add by touching under the elbow then the wrist of the left arm with the tips of the index and middle fingers of the right hand.

TAKE—

1. Move one hand forward with the palm turned down.
2. Close the fingers over the imaginary object to be taken.
3. Draw the hand toward you.
4. See *carry*.

TASTE—

1. Pick up some imaginary stuff from the left palm with the index finger and thumb of the right hand.
2. Put it to the mouth—smack the lips as if tasting.
3. Show expression as the case may be.

TEA—

1. Hold your left hand with the tips of the thumb and index finger touching each other in front of you.
2. Move the index finger and thumb of the right hand around in between the index finger and thumb of the left hand.

TEACH—

1. Close the fingers of both hands around the thumbs.

2. Put the backs of the hands to the forehead.
3. Move the hands out forward as far as convenient.
4. Relax the fingers from the thumbs as you move the hands out as if giving something out.
5. Repeat the movement two times.

**TELL—**

1. Put the index finger of the right hand to your mouth.
2. Move the hand out forward and downward.

**TEMPERATE—**

1. Put the soft part of the right hand between the index finger and thumb of the left hand.
2. Move the right hand from side to side.
3. Move the head from side to side as you move the hand. Have a grave look.

**TEMPT—**



1. Hold the left forearm in front of you.
2. Touch under the forearm in a sticking up manner with the point of the right index finger several times.
3. Have an evil look.

**TEN—**

1. See numbers illustrated. See index.

**THAT—**

1. Hold the left hand with the index finger pointing toward the object.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Pass the right index finger along the left index finger and toward the object.

### THEY—

1. Make the sign of *male* and *female*.
2. Move the hand out before you and relax or spread out the fingers upward showing *plural*.

### THEIR—

1. Same as *they*. Add push the palm of the hand toward the object or objects, Showing *possession*.

### THEM—

1. Same as *they*. Add turn the hand over and let it fall. Showing *objective*.

### THINK—

1. Put the index finger of the right hand to the forehead.
2. Rub the finger around in a small circle several times.
3. Show a thoughtful expression.

### THIS—

1. Hold your left palm turned up before you.
2. Move the right index finger in a circle over the palm.
3. Bring the finger to a sudden stop, pointing at the middle of the palm.

### THORN—

1. Stick the point of the right index finger against the left hand.
2. Move the left hand quickly away. Rub on the spot the index finger touched it.
3. Show painful expression.

THREAD—

1. Make motion of threading a needle.
2. Revolve one index finger around the other and move the hands apart still revolving the index fingers.

THROW—

1. Go through motion of throwing a rock.  
*(To throw from a horse)—*
1. Straddle the index finger and thumb over the left index finger.
2. Move the hands out forward in an up and down way as if riding horse back.
3. Let the right hand fall or slip off of the left hand.  
*(To throw in wrestling)—*
1. Go through motion of wrestling.
2. Force some imaginary thing in your grasp downward to the ground or floor.

THROUGH—

1. Hold your left hand up before you with the fingers parted.
2. Pass your right hand through the parted middle and third finger of the left hand.

THURSDAY—

1. Make the letters “Th.”

TIE—

1. Go through the motion of tieing a knot.

TIME—

1. Make the letter “t” and move it in a circle around the palm of the other hand.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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To—

1. Hold your left index finger up before you.
2. Move the tip of the right index finger toward and against the left index finger.

TOAD—

1. See *frog*.

TOE—

1. Move your thumb up and down and point to the foot.

TO-DAY—

1. Hold your upturned palms in front of you.
2. Move them up and down a little.
3. Point the index finger of the right hand to the right (east.)
4. Move the right hand with the finger still pointing in a semi-circle upward and over to your left as far as you can get it.

TOMATO—

1. Use your left fist for a tomato.
2. Feel around it with your right hand palm.
3. Tip the lips with your right index finger—for *red*.
4. Draw the right index finger two or three times across the left fist as if cutting slices off of the tomato.

TOMORROW—

1. With the fingers closed and thumb up, put the side of the thumb against the cheek.

2. Throw the hand backward over the shoulder.

TONGUE—

1. Touch the tongue with the index finger of the right hand.

TOWARD—

1. See *to*.

TOWEL—

1. Make a small oblong square in the air with your index fingers.
2. Go through the motion of wiping your face with a towel.

TOWER—

1. See *build*, and point upward.

TOWN—

1. Hold your hands in the form of a peak —i. e.: Let the finger tips of each hand touch.
2. Let the peak point upward.
3. Move the hands in a round-about way.
4. As you make the movement around let the finger tips part and come together again several times.  
*(The peak indicates the tops of houses.)*

TRACK—

1. Use your hands as feet.
2. Press one palm downward after the other two or three times.
3. Point to the foot.  
*(Tracks of animals are expressed in various ways.)*  
*(Railroad track)*—Glide the index and

middle fingers of right hand over the left index and middle fingers.

(*Wagon track*)—Make two circles one with the right hand and the other with the left hand near your sides and point along the road.

(*Automobile track*)—Sign *auto* and point along the road, etc., etc.

**TRAVEL—**

1. Sign *railroad*.
2. Move the index finger in a round-about way in front of you and above your head.

**TREAT—**

1. See *kind*.

**TROUBLE—**

1. Pass the palm of one hand after the other before your face.
2. Have a troubled look.

**TRUNK—**

1. See *box*.

**TRUE—**



1. Push the entire length of one index finger upward across your lips.
2. Have an earnest expression.
3. Strike the hand down on the other hand.

**TRUTH—**

1. Put one index finger to and across the lips.
2. Move the hand upward and outward in a positive manner.

## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### TUESDAY—

1. Make the letter “T” and move it around in front of you.
3. Have a serious look.
4. Strike the hand down on the other hand.

### TURKEY—

1. (*nation*)—Form the crescent “C” and put it to your forehead.

### TURKEY—

1. (*Fowl*)—Sign *hen*.
2. Hang the index finger of one hand down from your nose.
3. Move the finger from side to side.

## U

### UGLY—



1. Have a pouting face.
2. Move the hooked index fingers of both hands up and down alternately along the cheeks.
3. Pass one hooked index finger over the nose.  
See *awkward* .

### UMBRELLA—

1. Go through motion of opening and hoisting an umbrella.
2. Hold an imaginary umbrella over your head.

### UNBECOMING—

1. Make the signs of *not* and *nice*.  
Or put the thumb with the fingers extended to your breast, move it out and

## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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back once or twice and throw the hand down and backward—*ungentlemanly* or *unladylike*.

### UNCLE—

1. Have the index and middle fingers of the right hand extended upward.
2. Move the hand up and down near the ear.

### UNDER—

1. Hold the left hand with the palm turned down in front of you.
2. Put the right hand with the thumb sticking up under the left palm.
3. Move the right hand in a little circle under the left palm.

(*To go under something*)—

Pass the right hand with the thumb sticking up from one side beyond the other side under the palm of the left hand.

### UNTIL—

1. Put the right index finger between the index and middle fingers of the left hand.
2. Move the right hand outward and downward. Have the index finger one-quarter bent down.

### UNTO—

1. See *to*.

### UP—

1. Point upward, or move both hands upward.

### UPON—

1. Hold the left hand up in front of you.
2. Put the right hand upon it.

US—

1. Touch your right breast with your right index finger.
2. Move the right index finger around in a circular motion from the right breast to the left breast.
3. Turn the right hand over so the back of the hand will be downward—to denote *objective case*.

UNITED STATES—

1. Move the right hand from the left shoulder in a sweeping manner to the right.
2. As you make the movement make the capital letters of *U. S.* with the fingers.

USEFUL—

1. Hold your left forearm before you.
2. Put your right palm under the left forearm and give it a lift—*help*.
3. Bring the palms together.
4. Move the palms forward and backward alternately against each other.

V

VAIN—

1. Hold both hands with the index and middle fingers extended and parted up near the side of the head, palms facing backward.
2. Move the index and middle fingers back and forward two or three times.
3. Have a vain or proud expression.

VALE or VALLEY—

1. Hold both hands out sidewardly above the level of your head.

2. Move the hands down and inwardly so the backs of the hands will meet near the level of your waist in front of you, as far out as possible.

VEIL—

1. Place the right hand palm lengthwise on the back of the left hand.
2. Hold the hands up before your eyes.
3. Draw the hands apart right hand going right and left to the left.
4. Pass the hand around to the back of the head. Go through the motion of a woman putting on a *veil*.

VERY—

1. Put the tips of the index and middle fingers of the right hand against the tips of the index and middle fingers of the left hand.
2. Move the hands apart simultaneously. Left hand going left and right, to the right.

VINE—

1. Use your left forearm as a post.
2. Hold it perpendicular before you.
3. Move the index finger of the right hand up and along the forearm in a spirial way.

VINEGAR—

1. Put the tip of your index finger to your lips.
2. Act as if tasting.
3. Scrounge and smack the lips.
4. Show disagreeable taste.

VISIT—

1. Hold the index and middle fingers of both hands extended and parted.
2. Put the right fingers to the right eye and move them out forward.
3. Put the left fingers to the left eye and move them out forward. Repeat the movements two times.

VOTE—

1. Drop an imaginary ticket with your right hand fingers, between the thumb and fingers of the left hand.

VOW—

1. See *promise*.

W

WAIT—

1. Press your index finger against your lips.
2. Hold both hands out forward with the palms up, and the left hand a little further out than the right hand.
3. Wiggle the fingers.
4. Have a patient look.

WAKE—

1. Close the eyes.
2. Put the hands, with the fingers closed around the thumbs, to the eyes.
3. Relax the fingers from the thumbs and open the eyes.

WALK—

1. Use your hands as feet.
2. Move the hands one after the other forward as you move your feet in walking.
3. Use your feet also.

WALL—

1. Let the palms of the hands face each other in front of you about a foot apart.
2. Move the hands upward to a level above your head.  
*(For great walls)*—Move the hands as far apart as convenient.  
*(For walls of a room)*—Pass your hand around with palm outward or toward the wall.

WANT—

1. Hold both hands with palms turned up out before you.
2. Draw the hands simultaneously toward you.
3. Bend in the fingers as you draw the hands toward you.
4. Repeat the movement two or three times.

WAR—

1. Hold both hands in front of you with the palms turned down and the finger tips opposite each other.
2. Move the hands simultaneously to the right vigorously wiggling the fingers—as guns shooting.
3. Move back to the left and repeat two or three times.
4. Have a serious appearance.

WARM—

1. Breathe a warm breath in the palm of one hand.
2. Have the fingers of the hand half bent in.

(*For warm weather*)—Draw the hooked index finger of the right hand from near the left temple across your forehead to the right temple.

WASH—

1. Make the sign of *water*, and go through motion of washing the face and hands.  
(*To wash clothes*)—Go through motion of washing or rubbing on the knuckles, or a washboard as an old woman does in washing clothes.

WASTE—

1. Push the back of your right hand forward over the palm of your left hand, then *vice versa*.
2. Push the back of the left hand forward over the palm of the right hand.
3. Repeat the movements two times.

WATCH—

1. See *attend*.
2. Make motion of pulling a watch out of your vest pocket. Look at the hand as if seeing what time it is.

WATER—

1. Extend index, middle and third fingers upward before you.
2. Move the hand right and left several times.  
(*A drink of water*)—Make motion of drinking from a glass—using the hand as a glass.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### WE—

1. Touch the right breast with the tip of your right index finger.
2. Move the finger in a circular way around to the left breast.
3. Relax fingers forward for *plural*.

### WEAK—

1. Put the tips of the index and middle fingers of the right hand in the palm of the left hand.
2. Press the right hand downward and as you do so bend the index and middle fingers.
3. Repeat two times.
4. Show weak expression.

### WEDNESDAY—

1. Make the letter “W” and move it around in front of you.

### WEEK—

1. Hold your left hand with the fingers spread and far apart before you, (*for 5.*)
2. Lay the thumb and index finger of the right hand in the left palm, (*for 2 more making 7.*)
3. Push the hands out forward, letting the right hands slip off of the left palm a little further out.

### WEAR—

1. Put the wrists of the hands with palms up against their respective sides.
2. In this position move the hands slightly right and left two or three times.
3. Bring the palms together and rub the

fingers back and forward. Let the palms of the fingers touch as you make the movement.

**WELL—**

1. (*Noun*)—Make a circle downward in front of you.
2. Make the sign of *water*, and point downward deep.

**WELL—**

1. (*Adjective*)—Sign *good*. *Or*
1. Pass the palm of your right hand over your left arm.
2. Pass the left palm over the right arm.
3. Bring the fists of both hands down in a sudden jolt in front of you.

**WET—**

1. See *damp*.

**WHALE—**

1. Sign *fish* and *large*.
2. Pass the index fingers up along the sides of your nose and outward as a whale spirming.  
(To denote *Jonah*, add sign of *man* and *swallow*.)

**WHAT—**

1. Strike on the index finger of the left hand with the right index finger.
2. Move the right hand with the palm turned up out in front of you.
3. Move the hand right and left.  
Or just move your index finger in a round-about way in front of you.

**WHICH—**

1. Hold both hands before you with the

fingers closed in the palms and the thumbs sticking up.

2. Move the hands up and down alternately. Looking at one then the other as you do so.

*To show connection—*

1. Hold the left hand with the index finger and thumb touching in front of you.
2. Hook the right index finger between the index finger and thumb of the left hand.

**WHIP—**

1. Make motion of catching hold of some imaginary object with the left hand.
2. Strike downward under the left hand with right hand, using the index finger as a whip or rod.

**WHISKEY—**

1. Put the thumb of one hand with the little finger extended to the lips.
2. Go through motion of drinking.
3. Move the head from side to side.  
*(Same for drunkard.)*

**WHITE—**

1. Put the palm of your right hand to your shirt front.
2. Draw the hand outward closing the fingers around the thumb as you do so. Repeat the movement.

**WHO—**

1. Pass the index finger around the face.
2. Look left and right a little.

**WHOM—**

1. Pass the index finger around the face.

2. Move the hand out forward and turn the palm upward to show objective.

WHOSE—

1. Pass the index finger around the face.
2. Push the palm of the hand toward the object.

WICKED—

1. Sign *bad*.
2. Jab the index fingers toward and pass each other over or near the heart two or three times.

WIFE—

1. Join the hands palm in palm. See *female* sign.

WIN—

1. See *get*. Have pleasant look.

WINE—

1. Have the index, middle and third fingers of the hand extended and upward.
2. Rest the thumb on the little finger.
3. Rub the fingers in a small circle on the cheek.

WIND—

1. Hold the palms up opposite each other.
2. Move them simultaneously right and left.
3. Make wind with your mouth.
4. Turn the palms outward and push them forward, still blowing with the mouth.

WINDOW—

1. Look or point toward a window.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Go through the motion of hoisting a window.

### WISE—

1. Touch the forehead with the point of the index finger.
2. Hook the finger and move it up and down in front of and near the forehead.
3. Have a grave look.

### WOOD—

1. Make motion of sawing on the left forearm, with the right hand as a saw.

### WORLD—

1. Have the thumbs of both hands resting on the respective little fingers.
2. Hold one hand stationary before you.
3. Move the other hand around, beneath and over the hand held stationary.

### WORM—

1. Hold your left hand with the palm turned sideward before you.
2. Push the right index finger in a crawling or zigzag way across the palm of the left hand from the wrist on to and beyond the fingers.

### WORSHIP—

1. Hold both hands with the palms turned out before you.
2. Move the hands simultaneously to the right then to the left two or three times.
3. Bow the head and have a respectable look.

### WRIST—

1. Just touch and show your wrist.

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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### WRITE—

1. Hold an imaginary pencil or pen between the index finger and thumb of the right hand.
2. Go through the motion of writing in the palm of the left hand.

X

Y

### YEAR—

1. Hold your left fist stationary in front of you.
2. Touch on top of the left fist with the right fist.
3. Move the right fist around in a circle and touch the left fist again in the starting place.

### YELL—

1. Partly close both hands.
2. Put the hands to the mouth.
3. Throw them up vehemently above your head.
4. Open your mouth wide as if hollering, but use no voice.

### YELLOW—

1. Extend the thumb and little finger of one hand.
2. Move the hand in a round-about and twisting manner in front of you.

### YET—

1. Extend your thumb and little finger.
2. Hold the hand near your breast.
3. Move the hand out forward a little at

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## HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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a time in a pushing and up and down manner. *Or*

1. Hold your left palm up before you.
2. Touch with the tips of the right hand fingers, first on the ball of the left palm, then about an inch further forward and on until you get to the left hand finger tips.

### YES—

1. Bow the head in an affirmative manner.

### YESTERDAY—

1. With fingers closed and thumb up, put the side of the thumb to the cheek.
2. Move the hand outward.

### YIELD—

1. Touch the breast with the palms of the fingers of both hands simultaneously.
2. Move the hands downward slowly.
3. Bow the head as you do so.
4. Have a pleasant or sad look as the case may be.

### YOKE—

1. Place the thumb and fingers around the back of your head.
2. Force the head downward with the palm.
3. Move the head from side to side.

### YONDER—

1. Throw the back of the hand out toward the object.
2. Point to the object.

### YOU—

1. Point the index finger toward the person or object.

YOUR—

1. Point the index finger toward the object, and push the palm of the hand toward it.

YOURS—

1. Point the index finger toward the objects, and push the palm outward two or more objects.



## LIST OF NUMBERS.

ONE—

1. Hold the index finger up.

TWO—

1. Hold the index and middle fingers up.

THREE—

1. Hold the index, middle and third fingers up.

FOUR—

1. Hold the index, middle, third and little fingers up.

FIVE—

1. Hold all four fingers and the thumb up.

SIX—

1. Place the tips of the thumb and little finger together and hold the hand up.

SEVEN—

1. Place the tips of the thumb and third finger together and hold the hand up.

EIGHT—

1. Place the tips of the thumb and middle finger together and hold the hand up.

NINE—

1. Place the tips of the thumb and index fingers together and hold the hand up.

TEN—

1. Have your thumb sticking up and the fingers closed in the palm.
3. Twist the hand and thumb to the right.  
*(If you use your left hand twist to the left.)*

ELEVEN—

1. Sign *ten*, add sign of *one*.

TWELVE—

1. Sign *ten*, add sign of *two*.

(*Go on in the same process until you get to nineteen.*)

TWENTY—

1. Extend thumb and index finger.
2. Move the hand right or left according to the hand you use.

TWENTY-ONE—

1. Sign *twenty*, add the sign for *one*.  
(*Go on to twenty-nine.*)

THIRTY—

1. Extend thumb, index and middle fingers.
2. Move the hand to the right or left according to the hand you use.  
(*Go on to forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety and ninety-nine.*)

ONE-HUNDRED—

1. Sign *one*, add “C” and so fourth.

*Thousand*—Make the letter *M* with the fingers and touch with it in the palm of the hand.

MILLION—

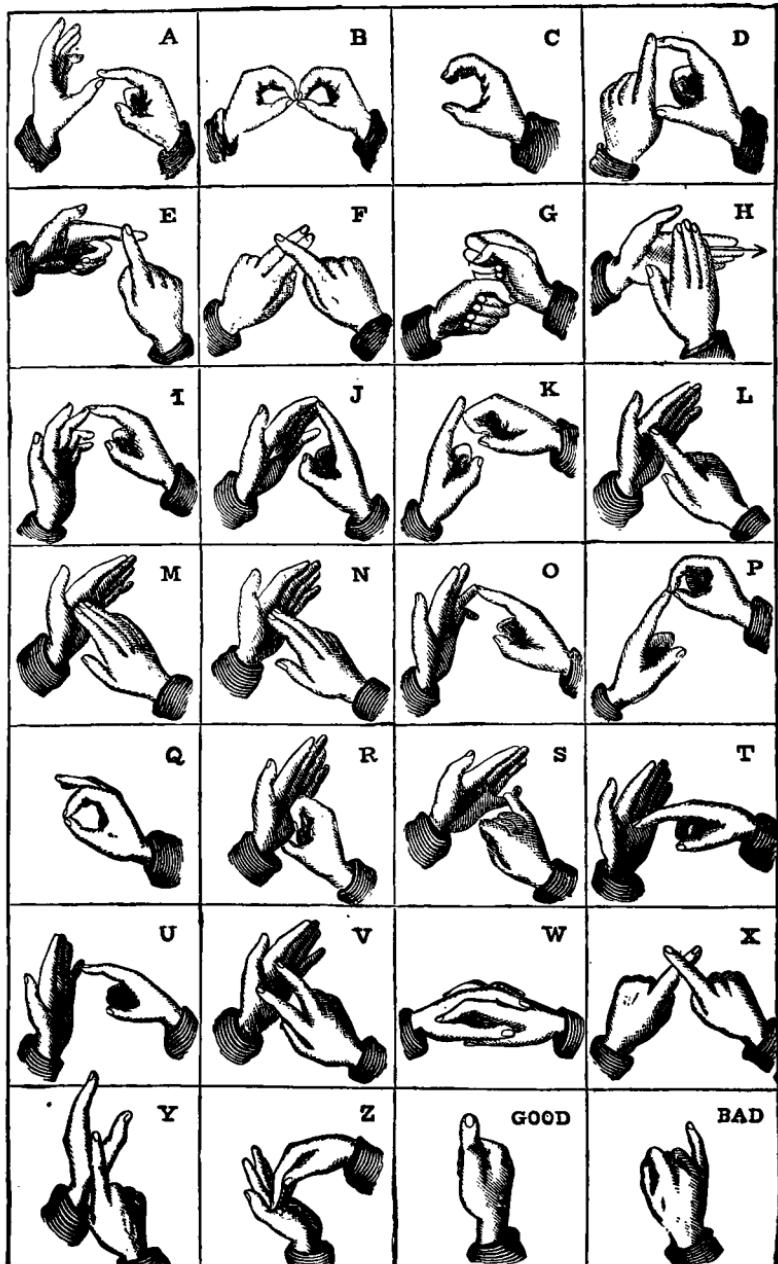
1. Touch the palm two times with “M.”

BILLION—

1. Touch the palm three times, with the “M.”

(*And so on for the infinite numbers.*)

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE



DOUBLE-HAND ALPHABET. USED IN ENGLAND.

## The Lord's Prayer

*With First Pose Illustrations:*

To PRACTICE:

First—Get in *Pose (1)* as shown in the picture, then follow poses 2, 3, etc., as directed. Go slow until you remember the whole then put on speed. These poses learned you need have no trouble in understanding how to go through the vocabulary.



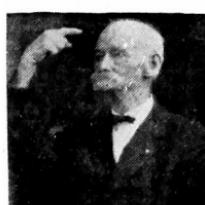
2. Move the palm of the right hand around to the left breast.

OUR (1)

2. Move the hands upward simultaneously toward the left.
3. Spread out the fingers as you make the movement upward.



FATHER (1)



2. Move the index fingers in a circle around the face.
3. Have an earnest look upward.

WHO (1)

2. Move the index finger forward and downward in a brisk movement.



ART (1)



2. Push the fingers of the right hand down between the thumb and fingers of the left hand.

IN (1)

2. Move the hands sideward and downward. Right hand to the right, and left hand to the left.
3. Hold the left forearm in front of you above the level of your forehead.
4. Pass the right hand upward and under the left forearm. Look upward.



HEAVEN (1)



2. Glide the right palm along the left palm toward the right.

HALLOWED (1)

2. Move the hooked index finger to the left.



BE (1)



2. Extend or relax the fingers of the hand and push the palm upward.

THY (1)

2. Strike downward with the right hand index and middle fingers against the index and middle fingers of the left hand.



NAME (1)



2. Extend the fingers and push the palm upward.

THY (1)

2. Move the right hand in a semi-circle to the right side.
3. Hold the left forearm in front of you.
4. Pass the palm of the right hand over the left forearm from right to left. KINGDOM (1) Look upward.



2. Draw the hands toward you.
3. Revolve the index fingers one after the other over each other.

### COME (1)

2. Extend the fingers and push the palm upward.



### THY (1)



2. Let the hands drop slantingly to the left. (Obey).

### WILL (1)

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Move the hooked index finger to the left.



BE (1)



2. Move both hands to the left, then to the right, wiggle the fingers as you do so.

DONE (1)

2. Rub the right hand around on the back of the left hand.



ON (1)



2. Move the right hand around the left hand.

EARTH (1)

2. Move both index fingers to the right or left once.



As (1)



2. Move the little finger forward and outward.

It (1)

2. Move the finger forward and outward. Brisk movement.



Is (1)



2. Push right hand fingers down between the thumb and fingers of the left hand.

IN (1)

2. Move the hands sideward and downward. Right hand to the right and left hand to the left.
3. Hold the left forearm in front of you above the level of your head.
4. Pass the right hand upward and under the left forearm.



HEAVEN (1)



GIVE (1)

2. Move the index finger around to the left breast. Finger pointing outward.



US (1)



THIS (1)

2. Move the right index finger in a circle over the left palm.
3. Bring the finger to a sudden stop over the middle of the palm.

2. Move the hand with the index finger extending in a circle above the head over to the right.



DAY (1)



2. Move the hand around to the left breast. Palm to rest on the breast.

OUR (1)

2. Give the thumb of the hand two short movements up along the cheek.



DAILY (1)



2. Draw the right hand backward or to the right along the back of the left hand.

BREAD (1)

2. Move the hand to the right, meanwhile close the fingers around the thumb.



AND (1)



2. Pass the palm of the right hand along over the left hand. Upward look.

FORGIVE (1)

2. Move the right index finger around to the left breast. Finger pointing outward.



US (1)



2. Pass the palm around to and against the left breast.

OUR (1)

2. Jab the index fingers toward each other.



TRES-  
PASSES (1)

2. Move both hands toward the right or left once.



As (1)

2. Pass the index finger around to the left breast.



WE (1)



2. Pass the palm of the right hand along over the palm of the left hand.

FORGIVE (1)

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Move the hand up and down two times.



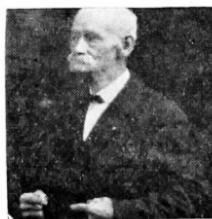
THOSE (1)



2. Move the finger in a circle around the face.

WHO (1)

2. Jab the index fingers toward each other.



TRES-  
PASS (1)



2. Strike the right fingers against the palm of the left hand.

AGAINST (1)

2. Move the index finger around to the left breast.



Us (1)



2. Move the hand to the right, meanwhile close the fingers around the thumb.

AND (1)

2. Pull the left hand out forward with the fingers of the right hand.



LEAD (1)



2. Move the index finger around to the left breast.

Us (1)

2. Move the right hand downward toward the right.



NOT (1)



2. Push the right hand fingers down between the thumb and fingers of the left hand.

INTO (1)

2. Touch under the left forearm two or three times with the index finger of the right hand.



TEMPTA-  
TION (1)



2. Move the hands apart, right going to the right and left to the left.

BUT (1)

2. Lift the left forearm with the right hand.
3. Cross the wrists and suddenly throw them apart as if breaking fetters.



DELIVER (1)



US (1)

2. Pull the bent right index finger from the left index finger held before you.



FROM (1)



EVIL (1)

2. Move the hand from the mouth.
3. Turn the palm downward.
4. Throw the hand down and backward in a brisk manner.

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Move the hand upward from the forehead.—  
(Because.)



FOR (1)



2. Extend the fingers and push the palm upward.

THINE (1)

2. Move the finger outward from the mouth.



Is (1)



2. Shake the finger two times forward.

THE (1)

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

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2. Move the right hand in a semi-circle to the left side.
3. Hold the left forearm in front of you.
4. Pass the palm of the right hand over the left forearm, from right to left. Upward look.



KINGDOM (1)



2. Move the hand to the right, close the fingers around the thumb as you do so.

AND (1)

2. Shake the finger two or three times.



THE (1)



2. Move both hands downward in a firm jolting manner.

POWER (1)

HANDBOOK OF THE SIGN LANGUAGE

---

2. Move the hand to the right, close the fingers around the thumb as you do so.



AND (1)



2. Shake the index finger two or three times outward.

THE (1)

2. Draw both hands toward you, wiggle the fingers as you do so. Look upward.



GLORY (1)



2. Push the hand out forward as far as convenient.

FOREVER (1)

2. Put the palms of the fingers together.



3. Hold them in a peak before your face, in prayer attitude.

4. Move the hands slowly downward to the breast.  
Bow the head reverently as you do so.

AMEN (1)



DOUBLE-HAND ALPHABET











