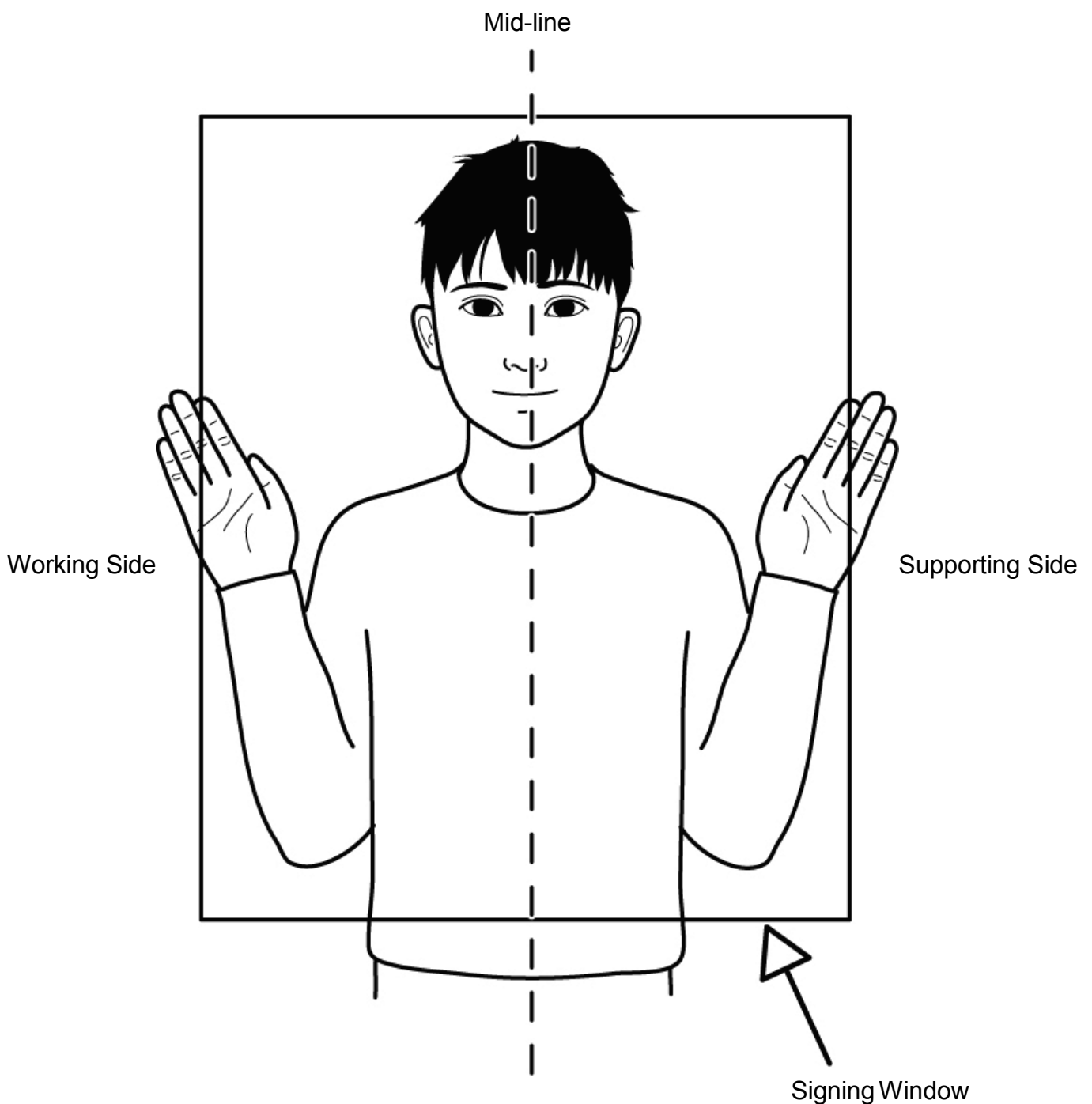


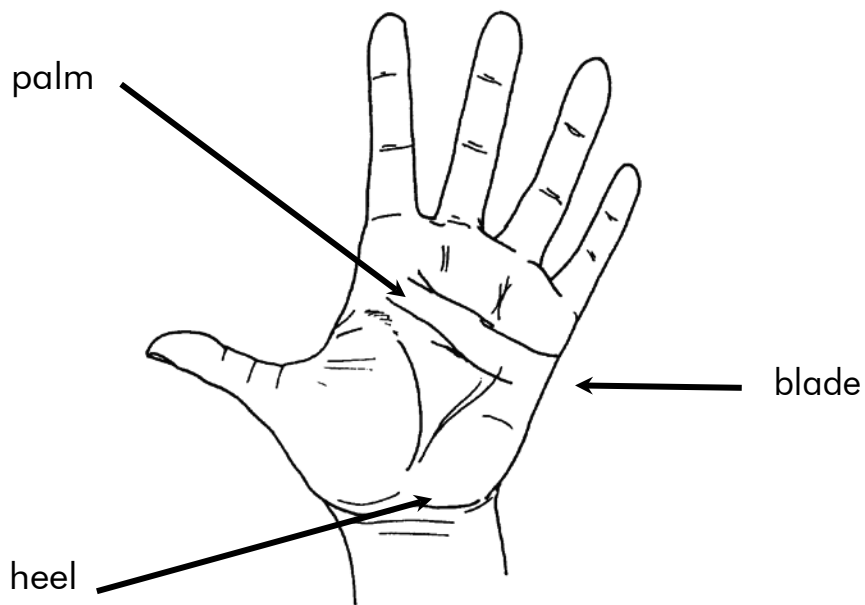
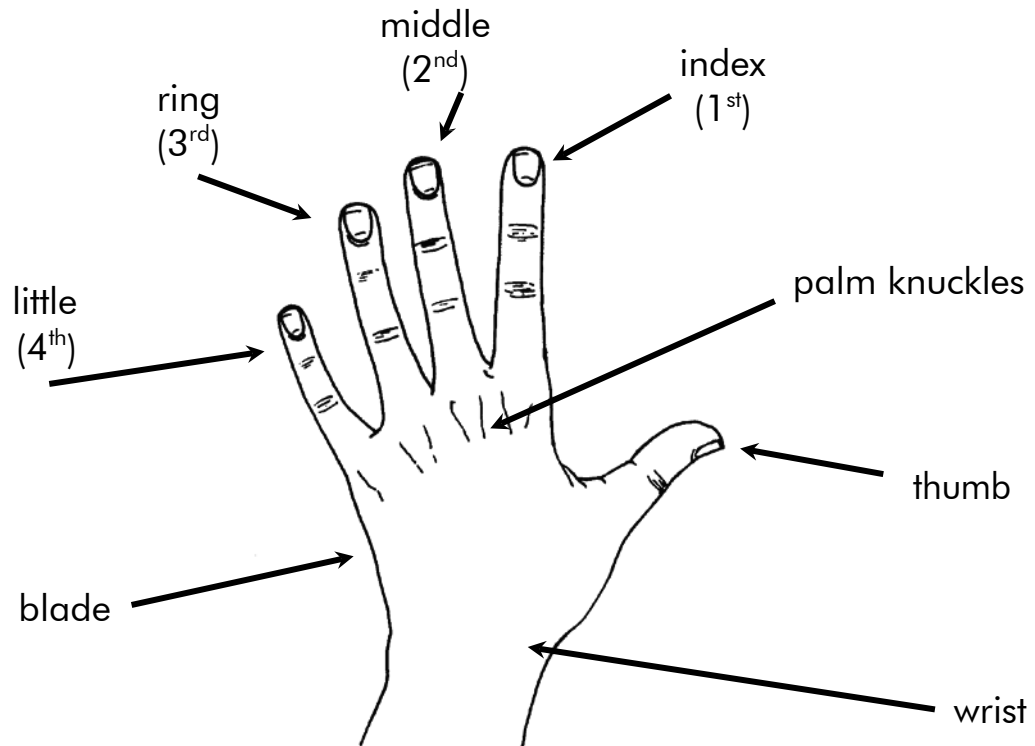
PLACEMENT

All signs start within an area known as the signing window. This extends from the top of the head to the waist and from just beyond each shoulder. The placement of the sign can be used to add meaning, and sometimes moves outside the window. For example, signs relating to the ground or floor or low down on a person (e.g. "socks") would be signed at waist level or at the bottom of the signing window. Signs relating to the sky or ceiling would be signed at the height or at the top of the signing window.

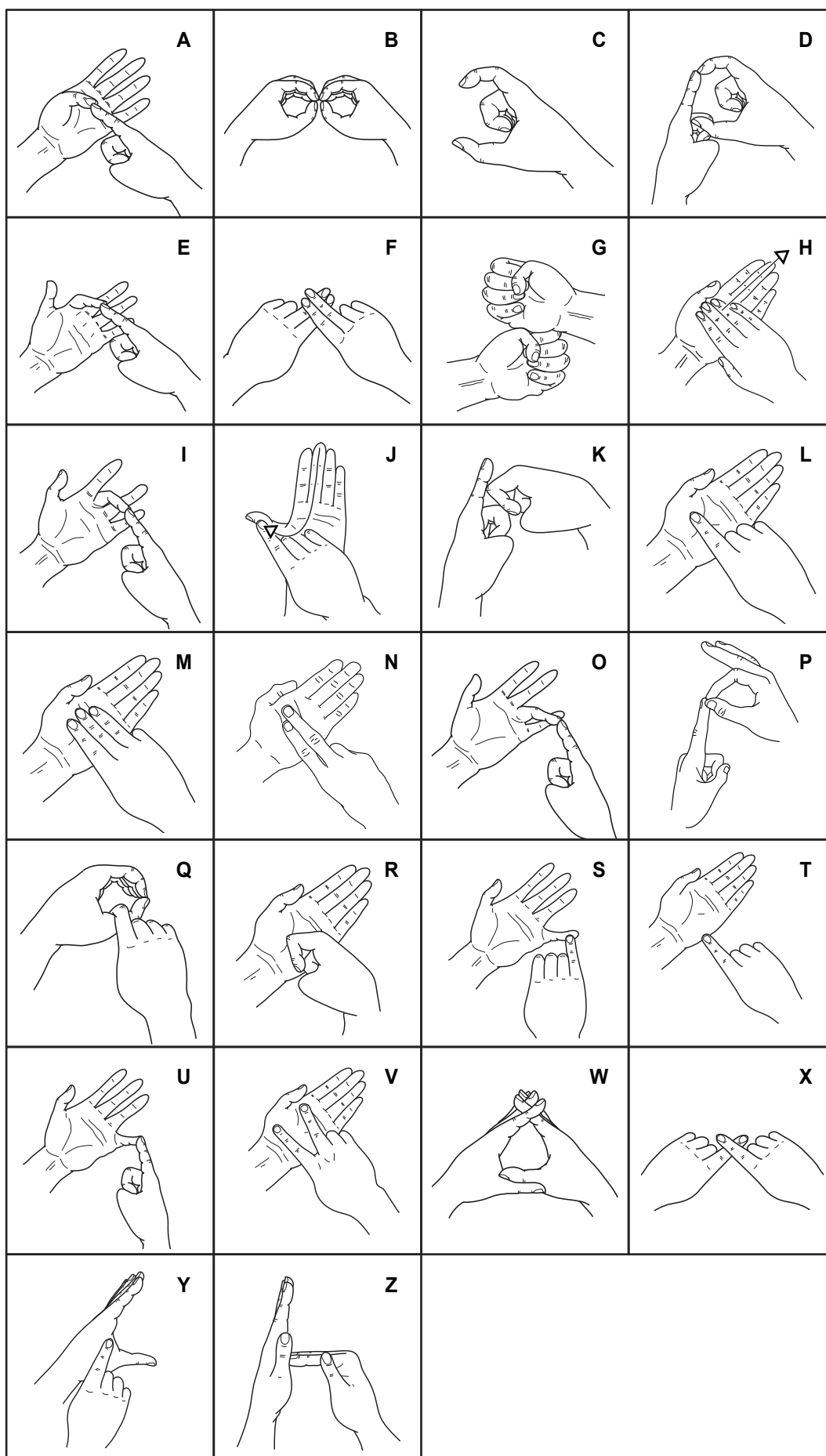
All of the illustrations in all of the SIGNALONG manuals are performed by a right-handed signer. Because we know that there are left and right-handed signers we refer to the "working hand" and "supporting hand" – **REMEMBER YOU NEED TO BE CONSISTENT**, this avoids confusion and gives a point of focus to the person you are signing to.



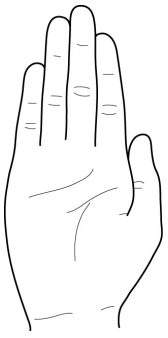
PARTS OF THE HAND



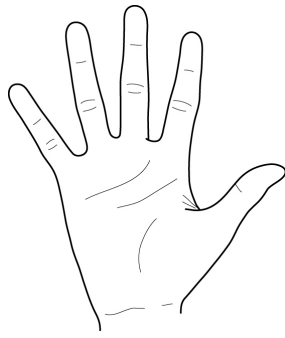
SIGNALONG LETTER SHAPES – based on BSL



BASIC HANDSHAPES



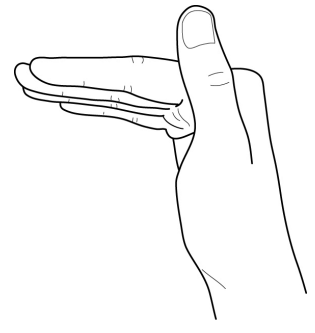
FLAT HAND



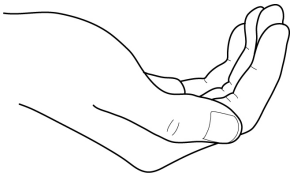
OPEN HAND



CLAWED HAND



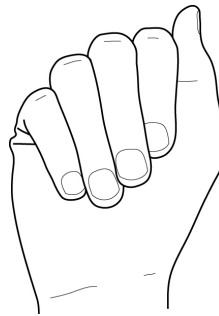
BENT HAND



CUPPED HAND



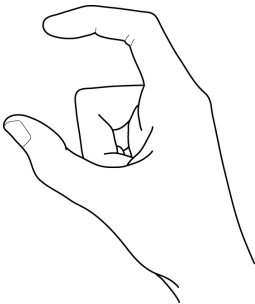
BUNCHED HAND



CLOSED HAND



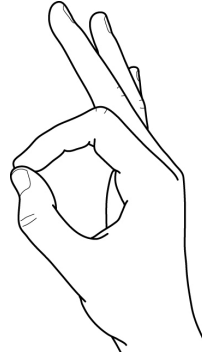
FIST HAND



"C" HAND



FULL "C" HAND



"O" HAND



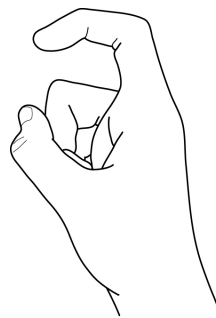
FULL "O" HAND



"M" HAND



"N" HAND



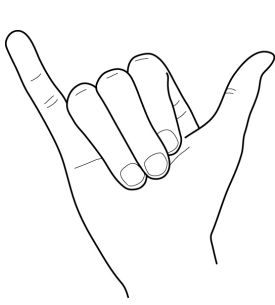
"R" HAND



"V" HAND

The last six shapes are based on the RIGHT handshape of British two-handed fingerspelling, but could also apply to the left hand. All shapes can be further clarified, e.g. working hand slightly bent, or loosely cupped etc. If a finger is described as extended it is generally understood that the rest of the hand is closed.

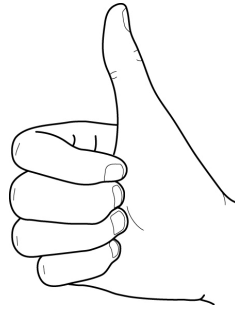
ADDITIONAL HANDSHAPES



"Y" HAND



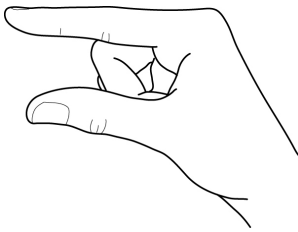
INDEX HAND



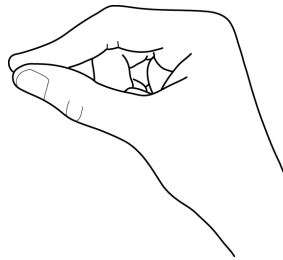
THUMB HAND



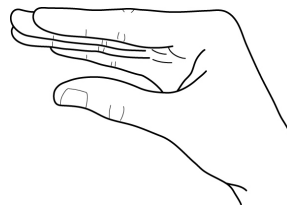
LITTLE FINGER HAND



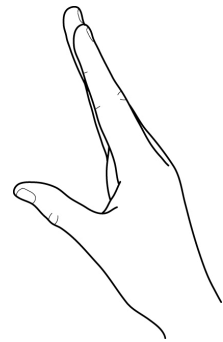
OPEN PINCHED HAND



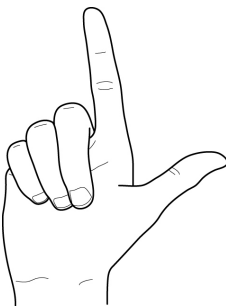
CLOSED PINCHED HAND



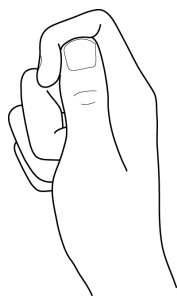
PARALLEL BENT HAND



PARALLEL FLAT HAND



"L" HAND



TUCKED HAND

ORIENTATION

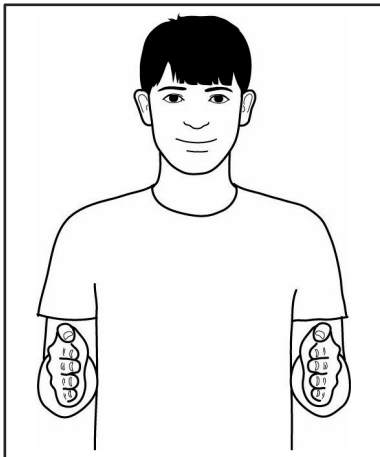
Orientation is a combination of **PALMS FACING** and **HANDS POINTING**.

PALMS FACING

There are SIX directions that the palms can face, these are palms facing:

- **IN** - face the opposite side of the signing window
- **OUT** - face their own side of the signing window
- **UP** - face the top of the signing window or ceiling
- **DOWN** - face the bottom of the signing window or floor
- **FORWARD** - face ahead of the signer
- **BACK** - face towards behind the signer

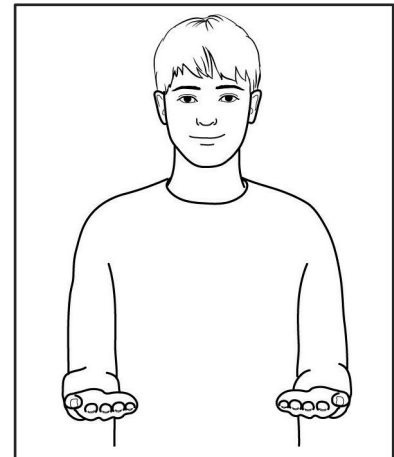
Remember, this is where the **PALM** is facing, and is irrespective of the handshape, if in doubt check using a flat hand before forming the handshape for the sign.



PALMS IN



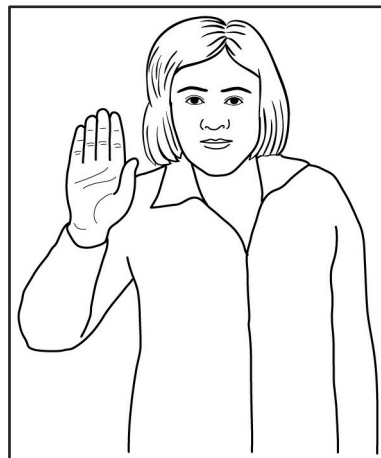
PALMS OUT



PALMS UP



PALMS DOWN



PALM FORWARD



PALMS BACK

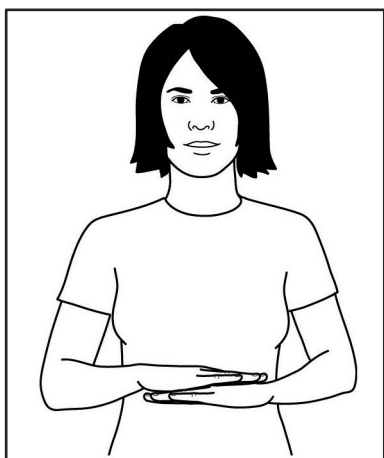
ORIENTATION

HANDS POINTING

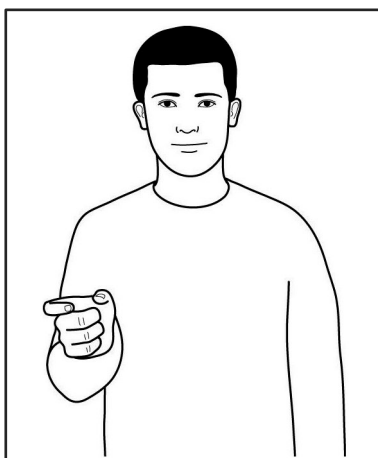
There are SIX directions that the hands can point, these are hands pointing:

- **IN** - points to the opposite side of the signing window
- **OUT** - points to their own side of the signing window
- **UP** - points to the top of the signing window or ceiling
- **DOWN** - points to the bottom of the signing window or floor
- **FORWARD** - points to ahead of the signer
- **BACK** - points to towards behind the signer

Remember, this is where the **HAND** is pointing (from the wrist or heel of the hand to the palm knuckles), **NOT THE FINGERS**, and is irrespective of the handshape, if in doubt check using a flat hand before forming the handshape for the sign.



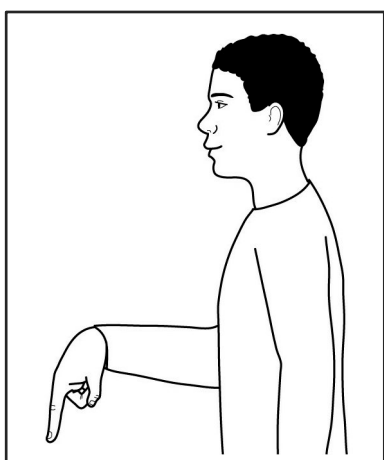
POINTING IN



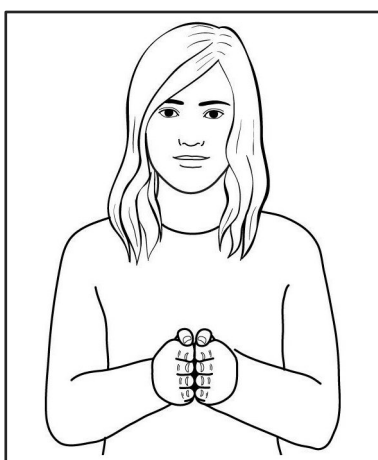
POINTING OUT



POINTING UP



POINTING DOWN



POINTING FORWARD



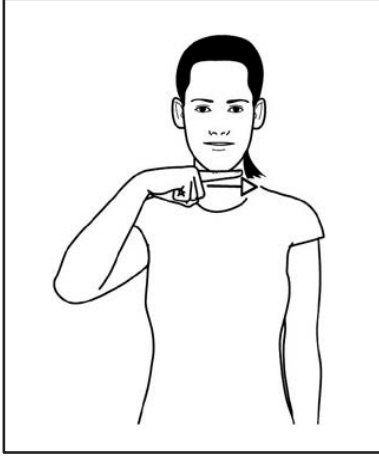
POINTING BACK

DIAGONALS

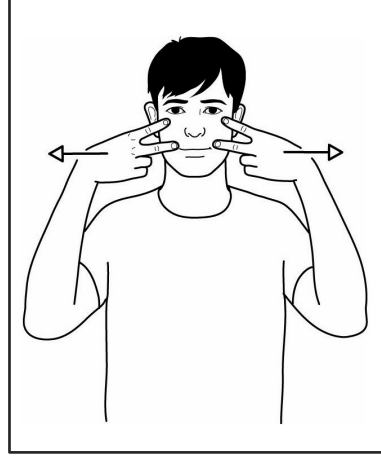
Sometimes an orientation falls between two planes and is described as a diagonal, with a “/” denoting the plane it lies between.

MOVEMENT

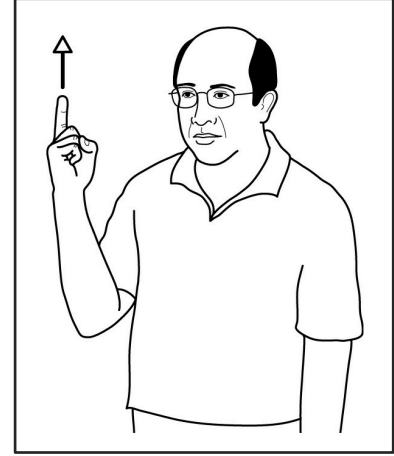
Once the handshape and orientation has been described, the sign can sometimes move. Movement can take place in the same six directions as the palms face and hands point.



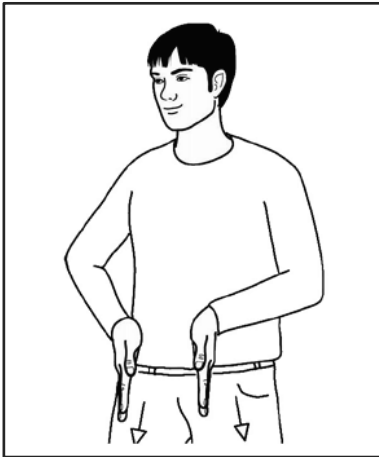
MOVEMENT IN



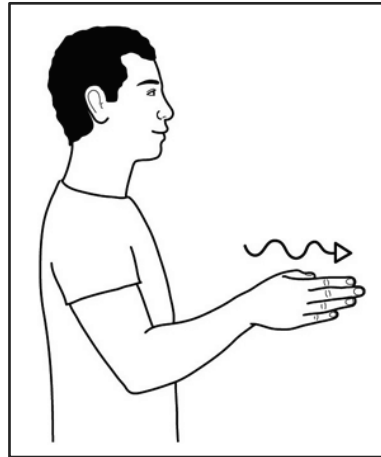
MOVEMENT OUT



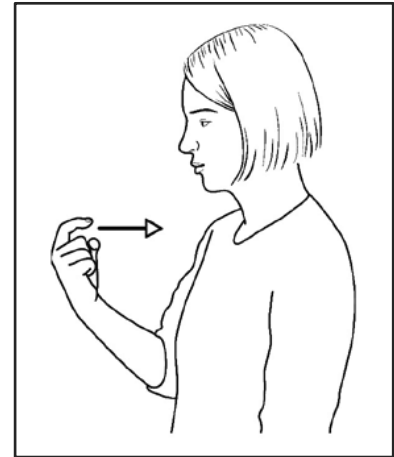
MOVEMENT UP



MOVEMENT DOWN

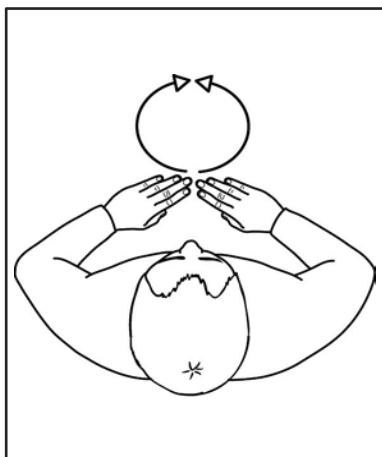


MOVEMENT FORWARD

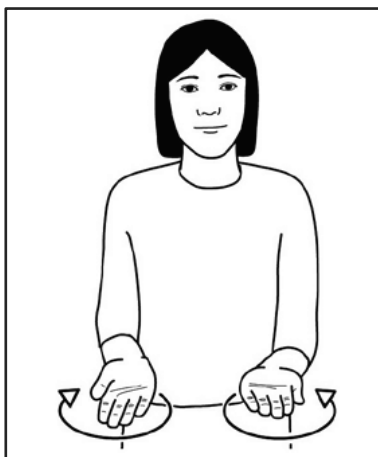


MOVEMENT BACK

CIRCLING



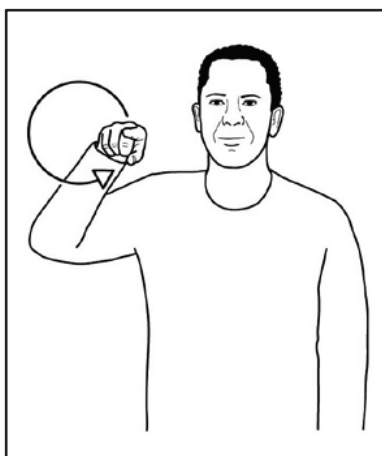
CIRCLING IN
(HORIZONTAL)



CIRCLING OUT
(HORIZONTAL)



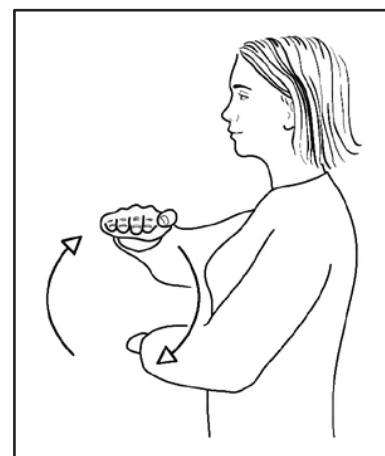
CIRCLING IN
(VERTICAL)



CIRCLING OUT
(VERTICAL)



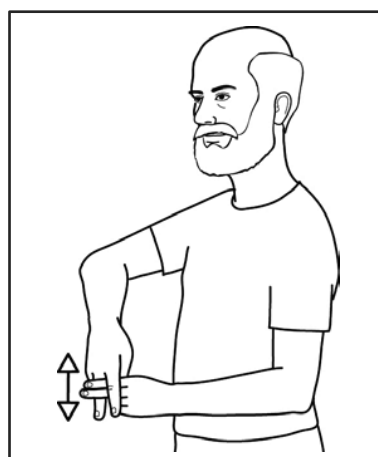
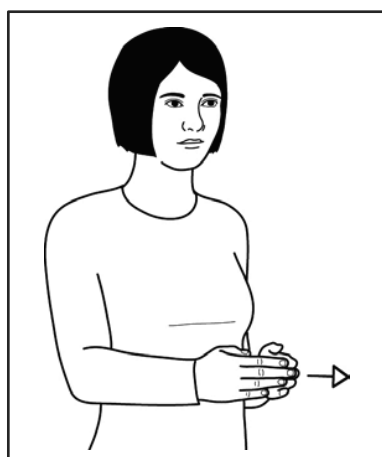
CIRCLING FORWARD



CIRCLING BACK

FORMATION

A formation is when two hands, not necessarily in the same shape or orientation, move as though fixed together.



GUIDE TO MOVEMENT SYMBOLS

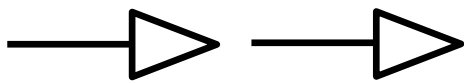
basic arrow to show direction of movement



hand moves backwards and forwards



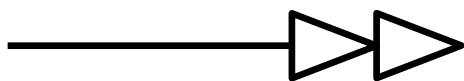
broken movement



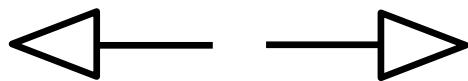
movement in one direction and then the other



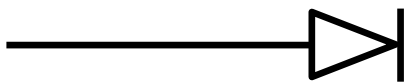
repeated movement



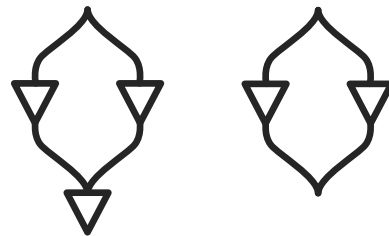
hands move apart



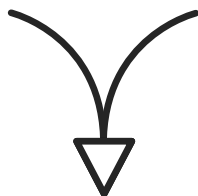
sign ends with stress



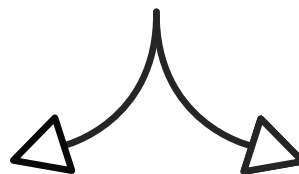
hands or fingers open and then close



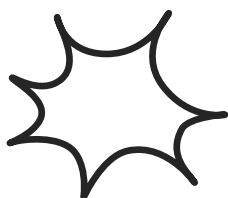
open shape closes



closed shape opens



contact on point drawn



small repeated movements

