AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Fist Letters: A, S, T, M, N and E



These six letters all start with a closed hand. Read where the thumb goes, then name each handshape.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Look at the thumb

A: a fist with the thumb resting against the side of the pointer finger.

S: a fist with the thumb across the front of the fingers.

T: the thumb tucked between the pointer finger and the middle finger.

M: the thumb tucked under three fingers. N: the thumb tucked under two fingers.

E: the fingertips curl down to rest on the thumb, which is tucked across the palm.

Write the letter for each handshape.

















Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Two-Finger Letters: U, V, R and K



Four letters use two fingers up. Read what makes each one different, then name each handshape.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Look at the two fingers

U: the pointer and middle fingers stand up, pressed together.

V: the pointer and middle fingers stand up and spread apart, like a peace sign.

R: the pointer and middle fingers cross.

K: the pointer and middle fingers spread apart and the thumb touches the middle finger between them.

Write the letter for each handshape.

















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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Sideways and Down Letters: G, H, P and Q

G and H point to the side. P and Q tip down. Name each handshape.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

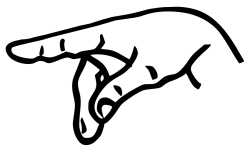


Which way do the fingers point?

G: the pointer finger and thumb point to the side. H: the pointer and middle fingers point to the side, together.

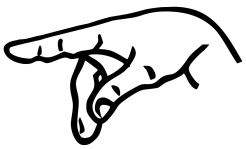
Q: like G, but the fingers point down. P: like K, but the hand tips over so the middle finger points down.

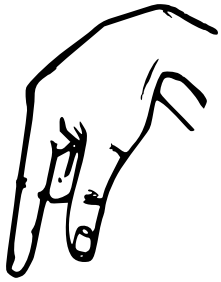
Write the letter for each handshape.

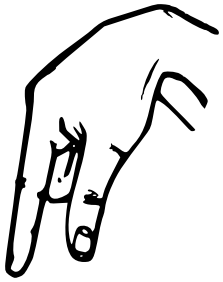












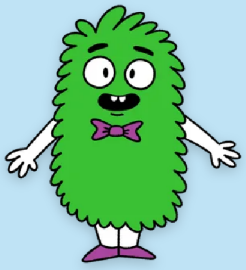




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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Letters That Move: J and Z

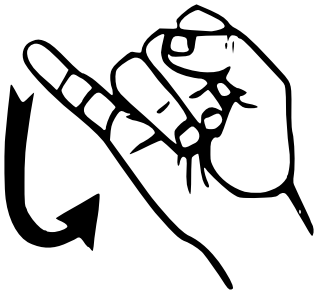


J and Z are the only letters that move. Trace the path each one draws in the air.

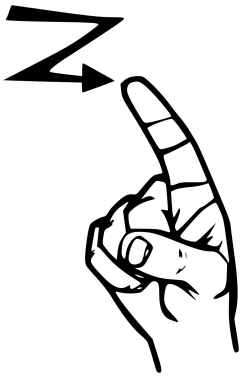
Name: _____ **Date:** _____

J starts as an **I** (only the pinky up) and the pinky draws a **J** in the air. **Z** uses only the pointer finger, which draws a **Z** in the air.

Make each handshape, then trace the letter it draws.



J



Z

Circle the answer.

Which finger draws the J? **pinky** **pointer** **thumb**

Which finger draws the Z? **pinky** **pointer** **thumb**

J starts with the handshape for which letter? **A** **I** **L**

How many letters in the ASL alphabet move? **2** **5** **26**

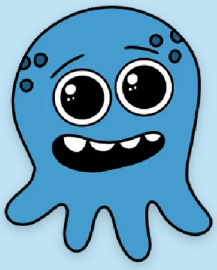
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Sort the Handshapes

Write each letter in the group that fits its handshape.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Letters

A E G H J K M N P Q R S T U V Z

Write each letter in the group that fits its handshape. Make each one with your hand to check.

Closed fist	Two fingers up	Points to the side	Tips down	Moves

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Fist Letters: A, S, T, M, N and E

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Look at the thumb

A: a fist with the thumb resting against the side of the pointer finger.

S: a fist with the thumb across the front of the fingers.

T: the thumb tucked between the pointer finger and the middle finger.

M: the thumb tucked under three fingers. N: the thumb tucked under two fingers.

E: the fingertips curl down to rest on the thumb, which is tucked across the palm.

Write the letter for each handshape.



E



A



S



M



N



S



A



T

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ANSWER KEY · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Two-Finger Letters: U, V, R and K

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Look at the two fingers

U: the pointer and middle fingers stand up, pressed together.

V: the pointer and middle fingers stand up and spread apart, like a peace sign.

R: the pointer and middle fingers cross.

K: the pointer and middle fingers spread apart and the thumb touches the middle finger between them.

Write the letter for each handshape.



R



V



R



U



V



U



K



K

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ANSWER KEY · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Sideways and Down Letters: G, H, P and Q

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.

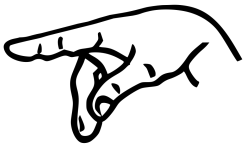


Which way do the fingers point?

G: the pointer finger and thumb point to the side. H: the pointer and middle fingers point to the side, together.

Q: like G, but the fingers point down. P: like K, but the hand tips over so the middle finger points down.

Write the letter for each handshape.



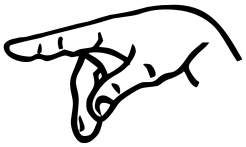
P



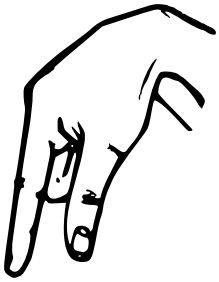
G



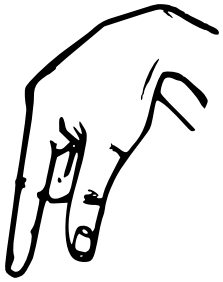
H



P



Q



Q



H



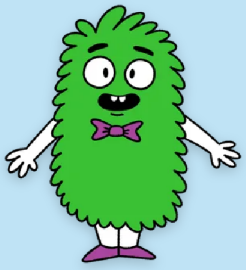
G

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ANSWER KEY · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

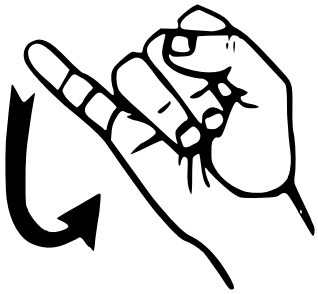
Answer Key: Letters That Move: J and Z

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.

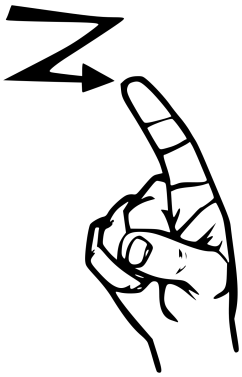


J starts as an **I** (only the pinky up) and the pinky draws a **J** in the air. **Z** uses only the pointer finger, which draws a **Z** in the air.

Make each handshape, then trace the letter it draws.



J



Z

Circle the answer.

Which finger draws the J? **pinky** pointer thumb

Which finger draws the Z? pinky **pointer** thumb

J starts with the handshape for which letter? A **I** L

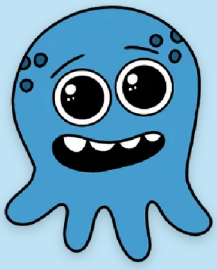
How many letters in the ASL alphabet move? **2** 5 26

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Sort the Handshapes

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Letters

A E G H J K M N P Q R S T U V Z

Write each letter in the group that fits its handshape. Make each one with your hand to check.

Closed fist	Two fingers up	Points to the side	Tips down	Moves
A	K	G	P	J
E	R	H	Q	Z
M	U			
N	V			
S				
T				

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