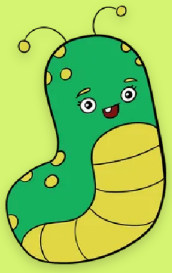
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · THE ASL ALPHABET · GRADES K–5

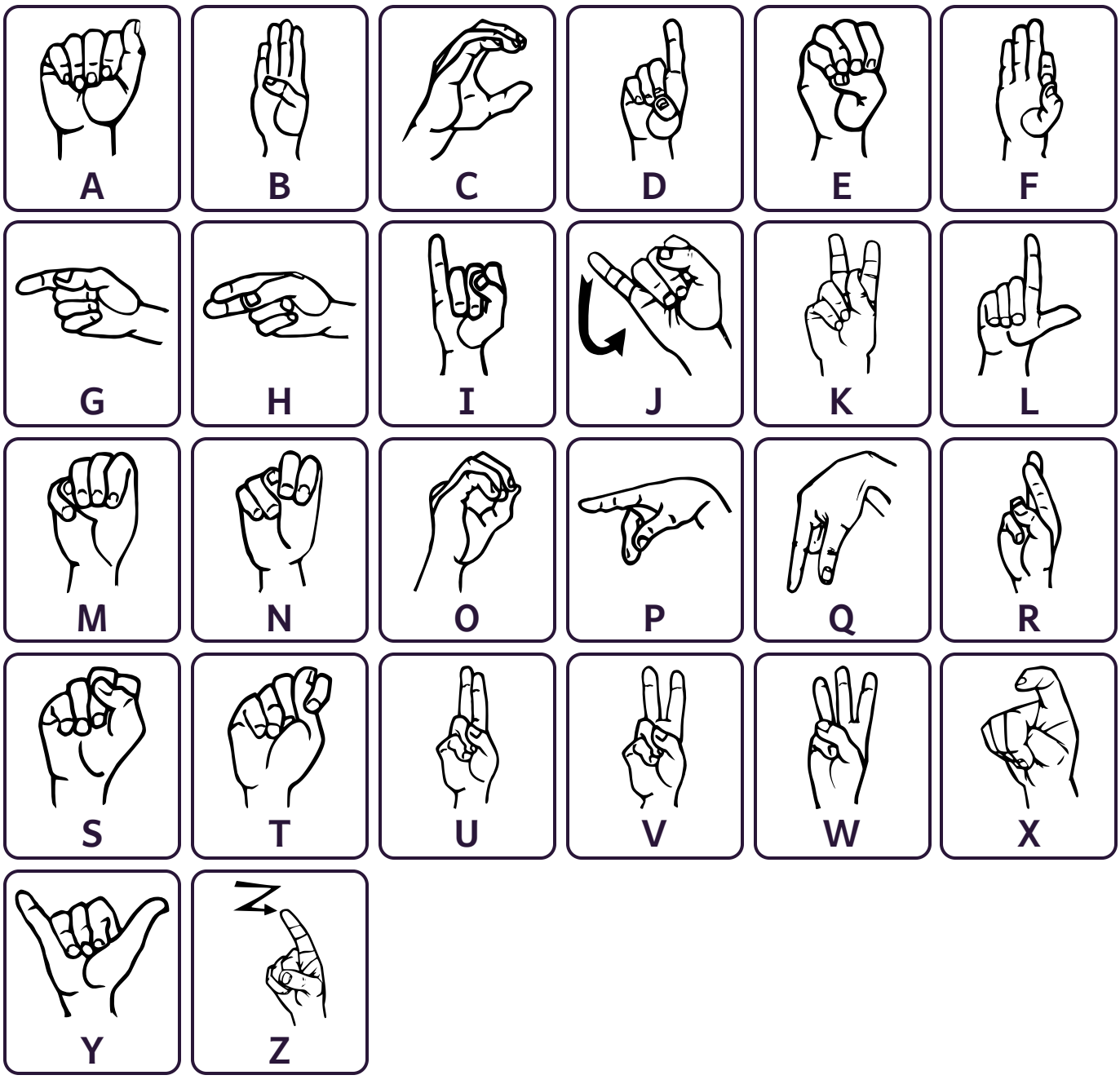
ASL Alphabet Chart

All 26 letters of the ASL fingerspelling alphabet on one page. Hang it up or keep it in a folder.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Each picture shows the handshape for one letter, made with the right hand. Left-handed signers use the left hand. Hold your hand up near your shoulder with your palm facing out for most letters. **J** and **Z** move: follow the arrows.



Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · THE ASL ALPHABET · GRADES K–2

Trace and Sign A to M

Make the handshapes for A to M with your hand, then trace each letter.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



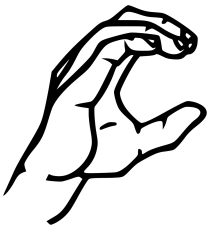
Make each handshape with your hand. Then trace the letter. **J** moves, so draw it in the air too.



A



B



C



D



E



F



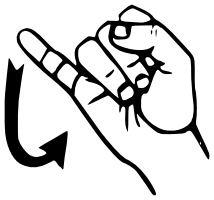
G



H



I



J



K



L



M

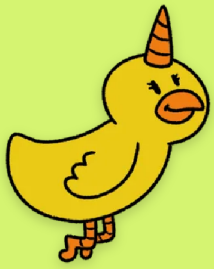
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · THE ASL ALPHABET · GRADES K–2

Trace and Sign N to Z

Make the handshapes for N to Z with your hand, then trace each letter.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



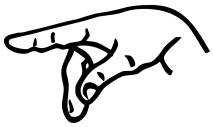
Make each handshape with your hand. Then trace the letter. **J** and **Z** move, so draw them in the air too.



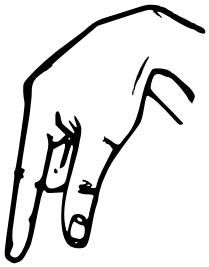
N



O



P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



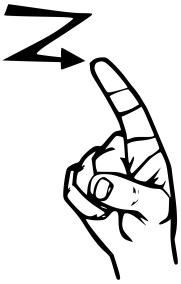
W



X



Y



Z

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · THE ASL ALPHABET · GRADES 1–3

Match the Letter Handshapes

Draw a line from each handshape to its letter.

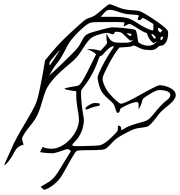
Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Draw a line from each handshape to its letter.















- Y
- B
- W
- L
- I
- C
- O

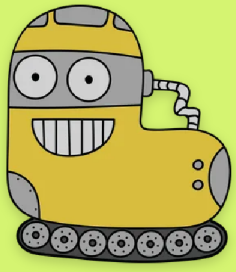
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · THE ASL ALPHABET · GRADES 1–4

Name That Handshape

Look at each handshape and write the letter it makes.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

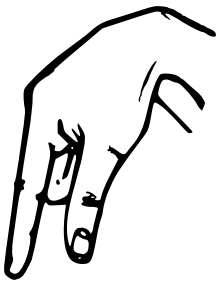


Write the letter for each handshape. Use the ASL Alphabet Chart if you get stuck.





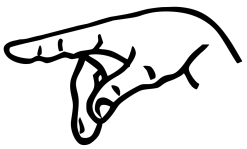




















Art © Kevin Coulston

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.

















Art © Kevin Coulston

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:** _____

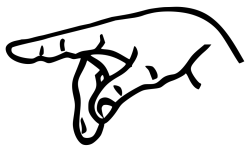


Which way do the fingers point?

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

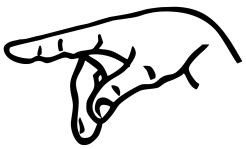
Q: like G, but the fingers point down. P: like K, but the hand tips over so the middle finger points down.

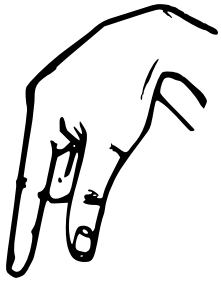
Write the letter for each handshape.

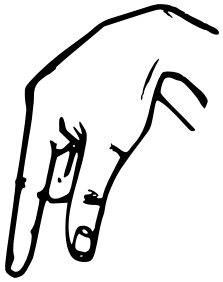














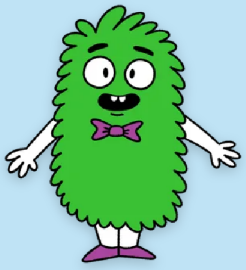


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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · LOOK-ALIKE LETTERS · GRADES 2–5

Letters That Move: J and Z

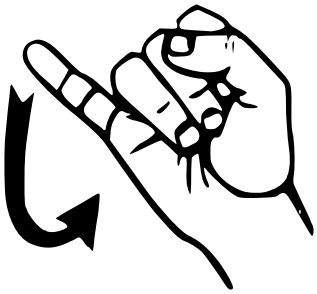
J and Z are the only letters that move. Trace the path each one draws in the air.



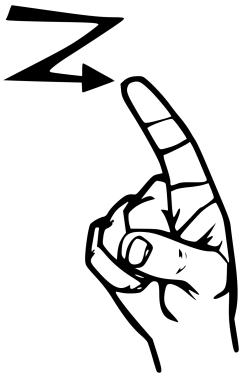
Name: _____ **Date:** _____

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**

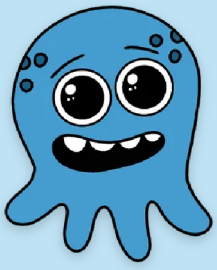
Art © Kevin Coulston

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

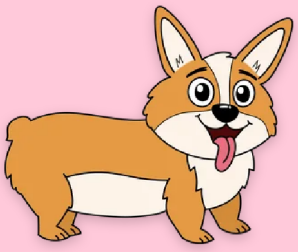
Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES K–1

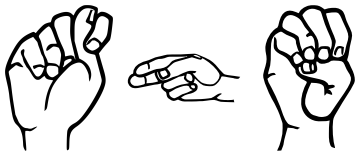
Fingerspelled Sight Words

Each row of handshapes spells a sight word. Write the word.

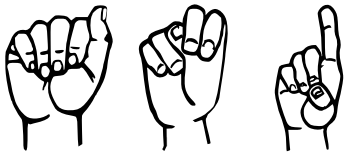
Name: _____ **Date:** _____



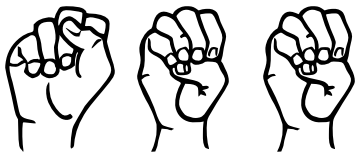
Read the handshapes. Write the sight word.



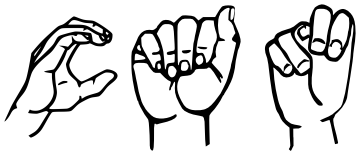
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_____



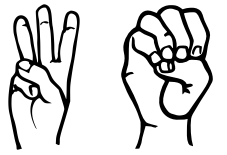
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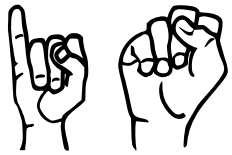
_____



_____



_____



_____



_____

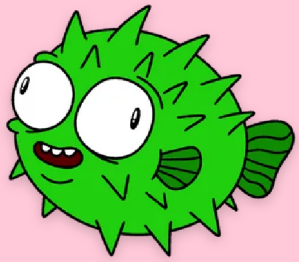
Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–2

Read Three-Letter Words

Read the three handshapes and write the word they spell.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



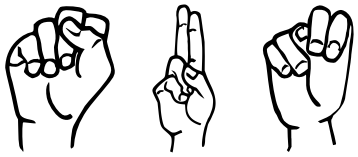
Read the three handshapes. Write the word.



_____



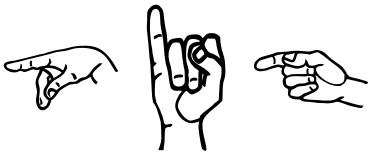
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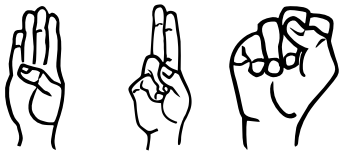
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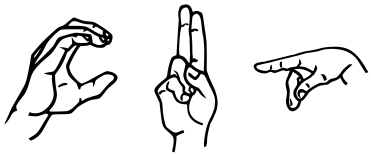
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Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–3

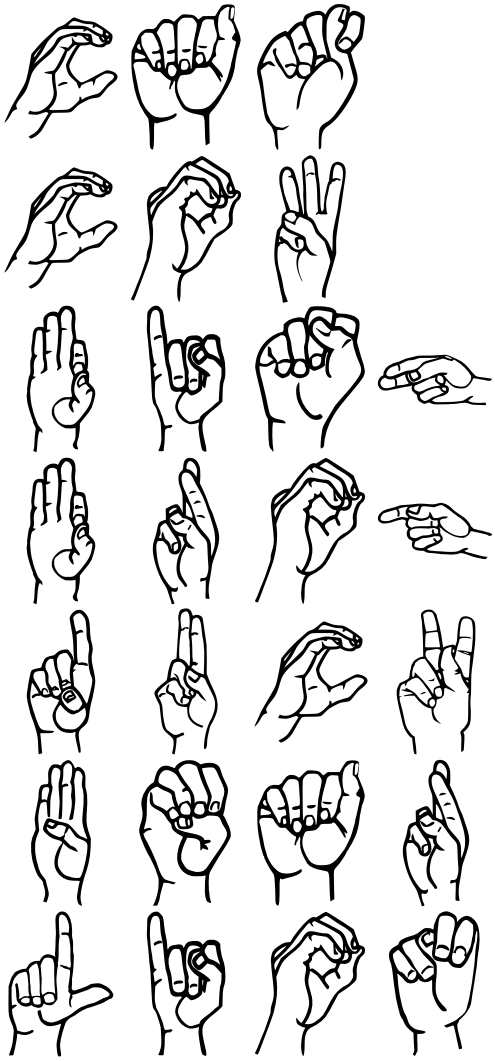
Fingerspelled Animals

Each row spells an animal. Write the word, then draw your favorite one.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Each row spells an animal. Write the word.



_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Draw your favorite animal from the list.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–3

Fingerspelled Colors

Read each color word spelled in handshapes. Write the word, then color the crayon.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

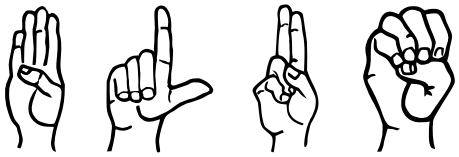


In ASL, colors also have their own signs. Here they are fingerspelled so you can practice reading letters.

Read each color word. Write it, then color the crayon that color.



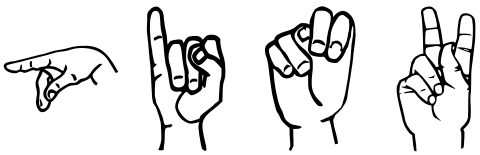
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Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–3

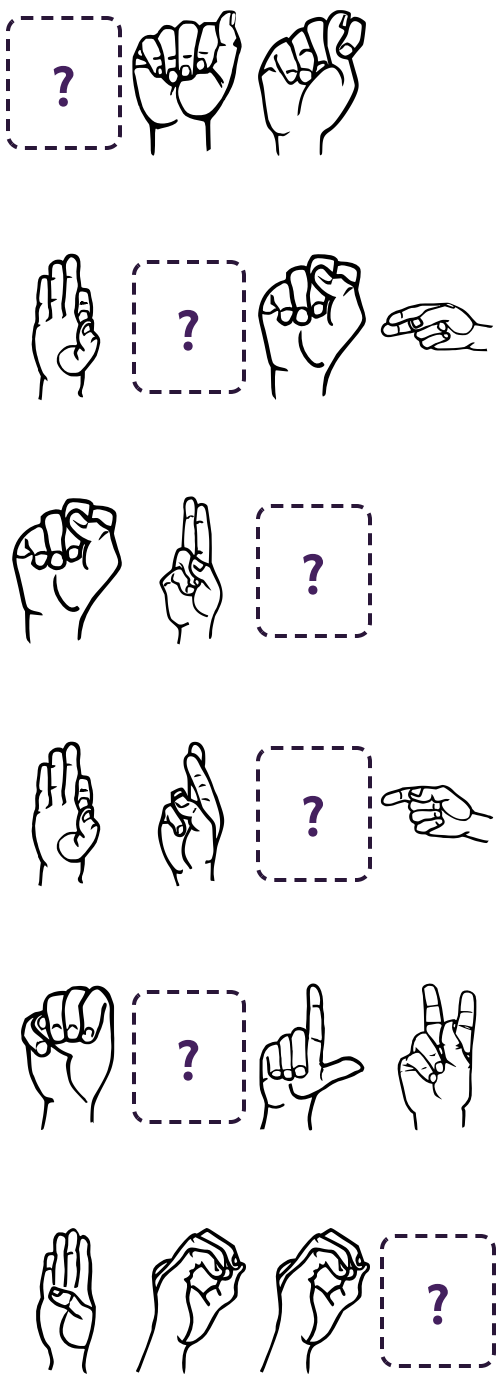
Find the Missing Letter

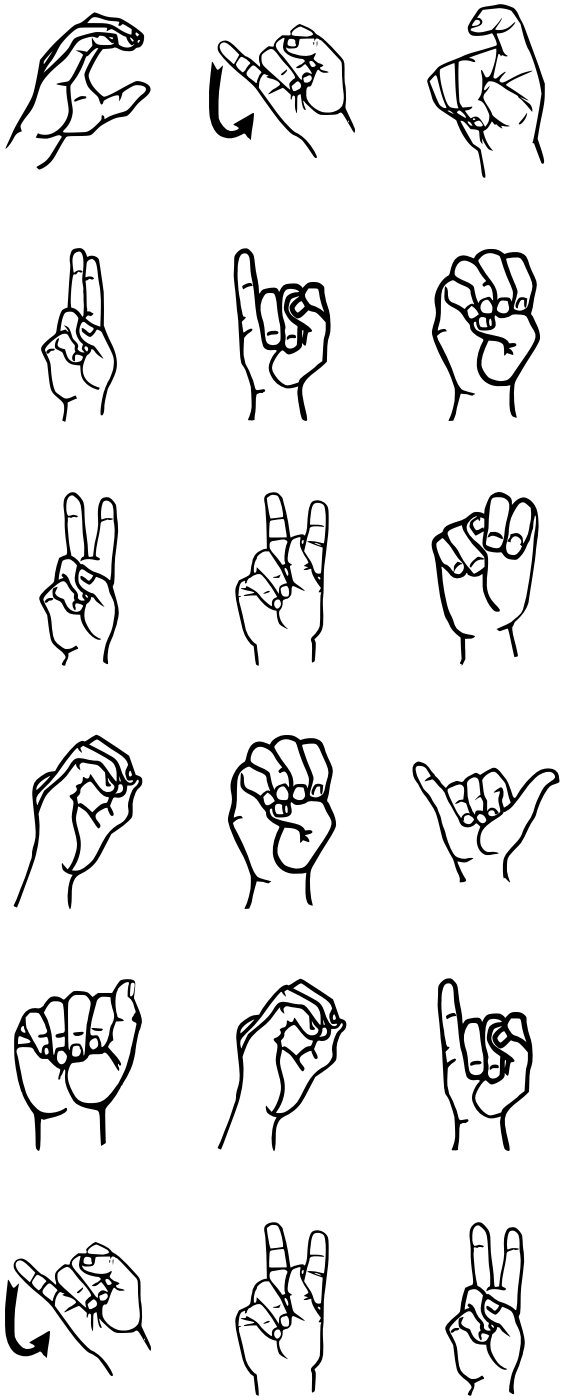
One handshape is missing from each word. Circle the handshape that fills the gap.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



One handshape is missing. Circle the handshape that makes a real word.





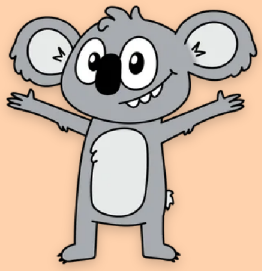
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · SPELL IT YOURSELF · GRADES 1–3

Fingerspell Your Name

Write your name, find each letter on the chart and practice spelling it with your hand.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Write your first name, one letter in each box.

Find each letter of your name on the ASL Alphabet Chart.

My name has this many letters: _____

The first letter of my name is: _____

The trickiest letter to sign is: _____

A letter in my name that is easy to sign: _____

Fingerspell your name smoothly. Color a box each time you spell the whole name.

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

Tip: keep your hand in one spot and don't bounce it for each letter. In the Deaf community, a Deaf person may one day give you a **name sign**. Until then, you fingerspell your name.

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · SPELL IT YOURSELF · GRADES 2–5

Partner Spelling Game



Take turns. One partner fingerspells a word from the list and the other writes what they read.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

How to play

1. Partner A picks a word from the list and fingerspells it. No talking!
2. Partner B writes the word they read. If they are not sure, they sign the letter they missed and Partner A spells it again.
3. Check the word together, then switch jobs.

Word list

cat · sun · red · jump · blue · frog · milk · star · book · tree · happy · zoo · pizza · rain · snow · friend

Write each word you read.

Round	The word I read	Right the first time?
1		☐
2		☐
3		☐
4		☐
5		☐
6		☐
7		☐
8		☐
9		☐
10		☐

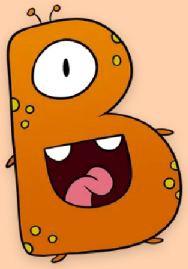
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · SPELL IT YOURSELF · GRADES 1–3

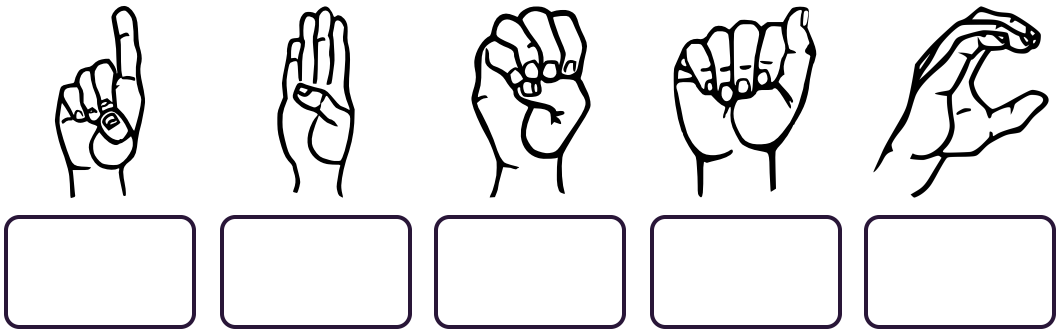
Handshapes in ABC Order

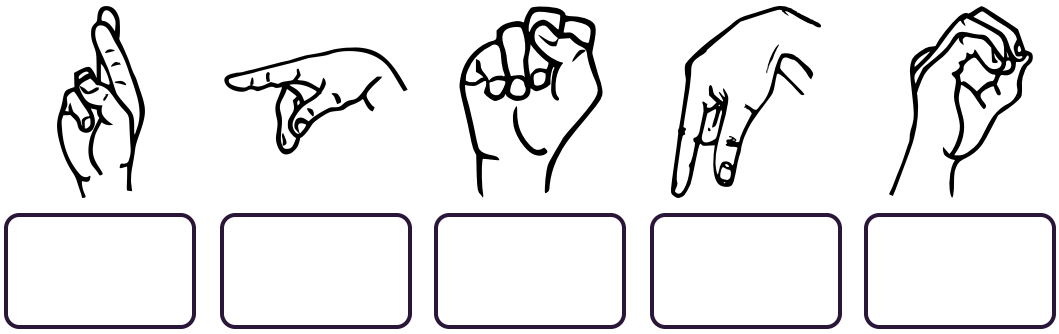
Name each handshape, then write the letters in ABC order.

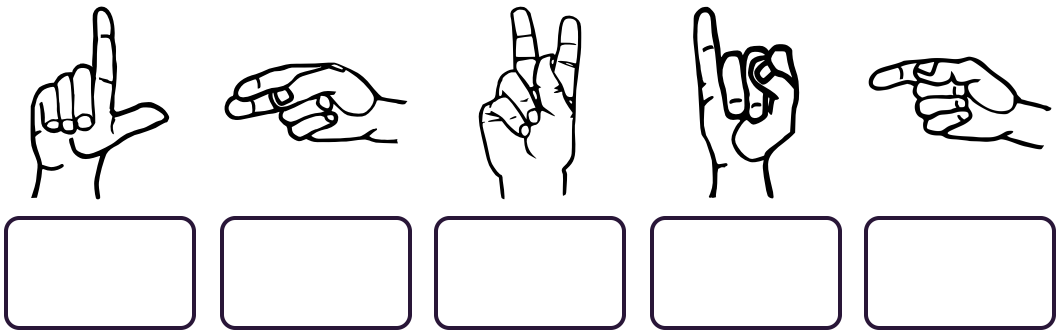
Name: _____ **Date:** _____

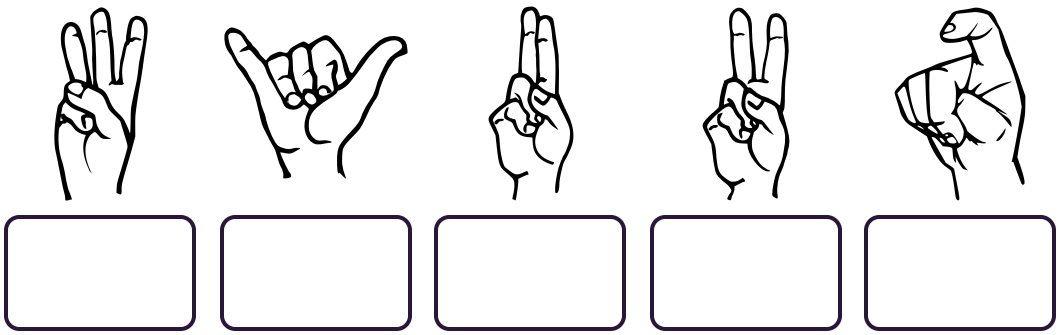


Name each handshape. Then write the letters in ABC order in the boxes.









Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · SPELL IT YOURSELF · GRADES 2–5

Secret Message Decoder

Name every handshape to decode the secret messages.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



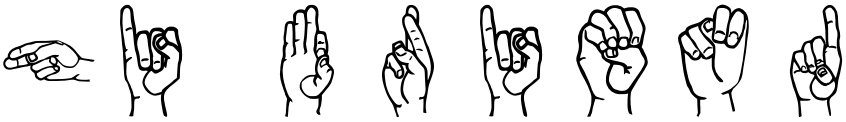
Read each secret message. Write it on the line.



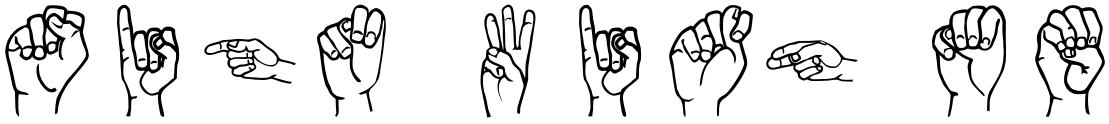
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_____



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_____

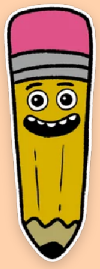
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · SPELL IT YOURSELF · GRADES 2–5

My Fingerspelling Word List

Write ten words you want to fingerspell. Check off each one when you can spell it smoothly.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Pick words you use a lot: your name, your pet, your street, your favorite food. Practice each one until you can spell it without stopping.

My words

#	My word	Number of letters	I can spell it smoothly
1			☐
2			☐
3			☐
4			☐
5			☐
6			☐
7			☐
8			☐
9			☐
10			☐

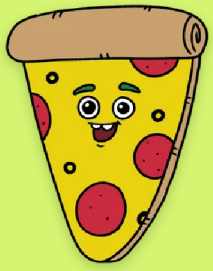
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ASL · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–3

Fingerspelled Food Words

Each row spells a food. Write the word.

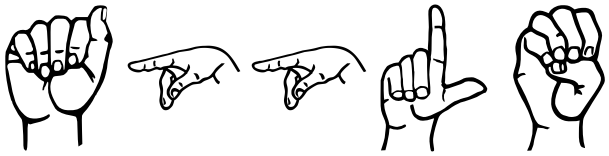
Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read the handshapes. Write the food word.



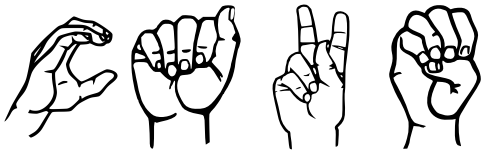
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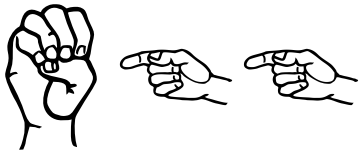
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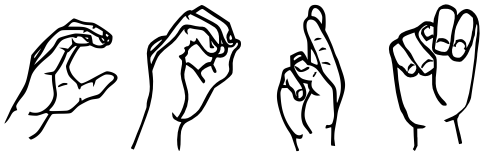
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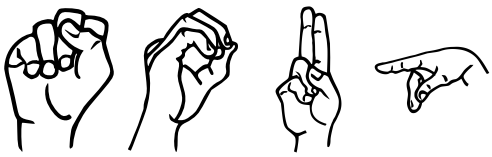
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ASL · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–2

Letters Before and After

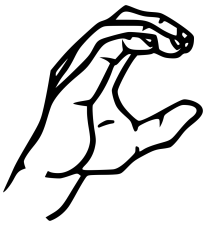
Name each handshape. Write the letter that comes just before it and just after it in the alphabet.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



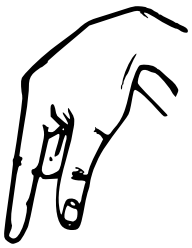
Say the alphabet out loud if you need help: the letter **before** comes just ahead of it, and the letter **after** comes next.

Write the letter before and the letter after each handshape.













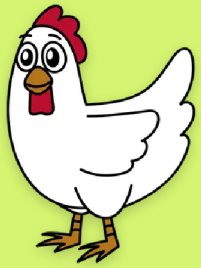
Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–3

Rhyme Time Handshapes

Read the word on the left. Circle the fingerspelled word that rhymes with it.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Circle the fingerspelled word that rhymes.

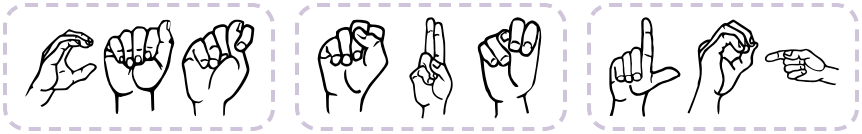
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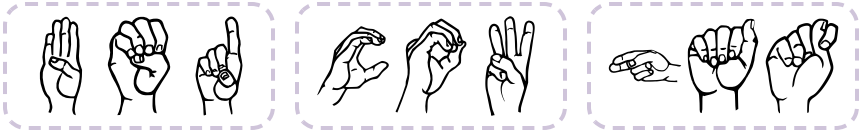
SUN



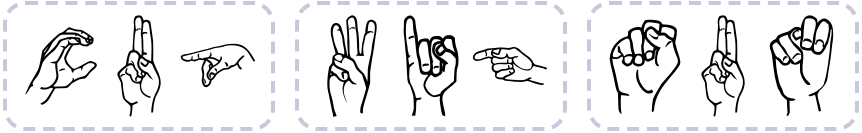
DOG



RED



PIG



CAKE



Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–3

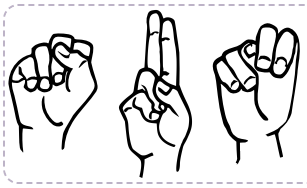
Fingerspell and Draw

Read each fingerspelled word, write it, then draw a picture of it.

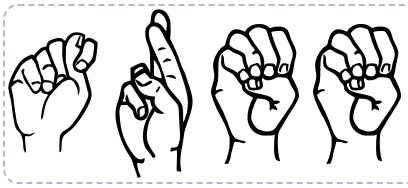
Name: _____ **Date:** _____



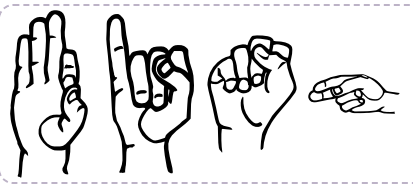
Read the word. Write it on the line, then draw it in the box.



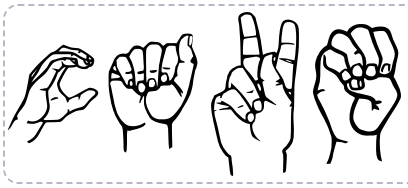
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_____



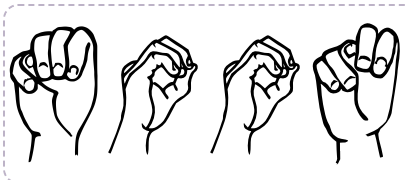
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Art © Kevin Coulston

ASL · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 2–4

Unscramble the Handshapes

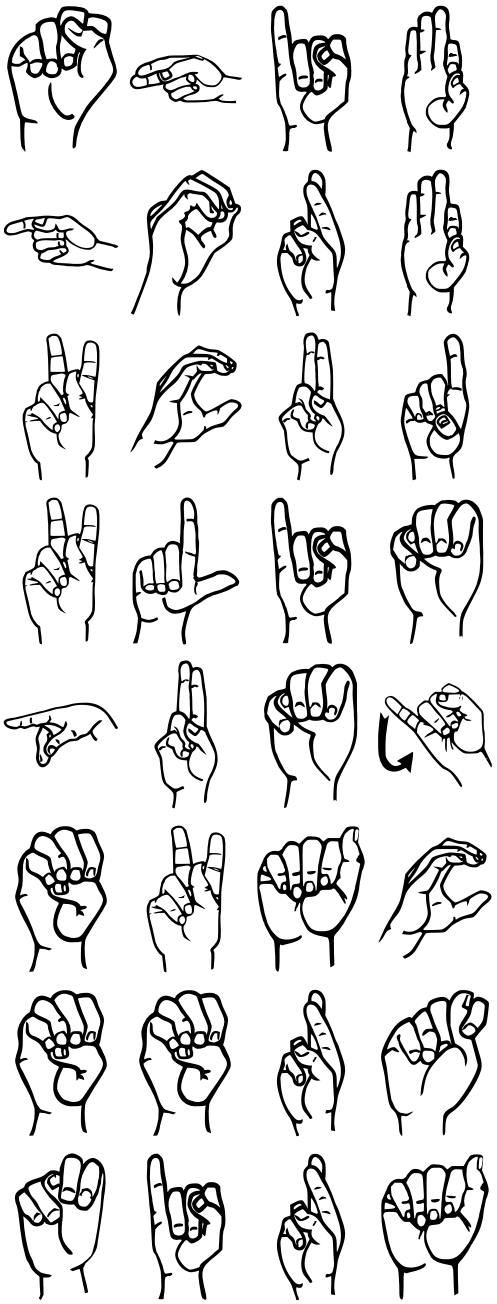


The letters of each word are mixed up. Name the handshapes, then write the real word.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Name each handshape and say its letter. Then move the letters around in your head until they make a real word.

Write the real word.



_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

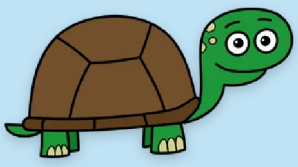
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

What Is ASL?

Read about American Sign Language and answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

American Sign Language, or ASL, is a language you see instead of hear. Signers use their hands, their faces and their bodies to share ideas. Many Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States and much of Canada use ASL, and so do their families and friends.

ASL is not English on the hands. It has its own words and its own grammar, the rules for putting signs together. A sentence in ASL often puts its signs in a different order than English does.

Sign language is not the same all over the world. Many countries have their own. British Sign Language is very different from ASL, even though people in both countries speak English. ASL is related to French Sign Language, because a Deaf teacher from France helped start the first lasting school for the deaf in America in 1817.

Fingerspelling, spelling a word letter by letter, is one part of ASL. Signers use it for names, places and words that do not have a sign.

Answer the questions.

What does ASL stand for?

_____

Signers use their hands. What else do they use?

_____

Is ASL the same as English? How do you know?

_____

Is sign language the same everywhere in the world?

_____

When do signers use fingerspelling?

_____

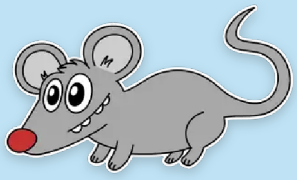
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

ASL True or False

Read each sentence about ASL and Deaf people. Circle true or false.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Circle True or False.

ASL has its own grammar.	True	False
Every country uses the same sign language.	True	False
Your face is part of signing in ASL.	True	False
ASL and British Sign Language are the same language.	True	False
ASL is used in the United States and much of Canada.	True	False
Fingerspelling is used for names and places.	True	False
Deaf people can only talk with other Deaf people.	True	False
Shouting is a polite way to get a Deaf person's attention.	True	False
ASL is related to French Sign Language.	True	False
Hearing people can learn ASL too.	True	False

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

Getting Someone's Attention

Sort the ways to get a Deaf person's attention into polite and not polite.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Ways to get attention

- tap their shoulder gently
- wave where they can see you
- flick the lights for a group
- tap the table so they feel it
- shout their name
- grab their face to turn it
- throw something at them
- wave right in front of their eyes

Write each one under Polite or Not polite.

Polite	Not polite

Answer the questions.

Once you have their attention, where should you look while you sign?

_____

Why is it rude to look away while someone signs to you?

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

What Is a Name Sign?

Read about name signs and who gives them, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

Many people in the Deaf community have a name sign. A name sign is a short sign that stands for one person, so friends do not have to fingerspell the whole name every time.

In Deaf culture, a name sign is given to you by a Deaf person who knows you. You do not make up your own. Until someone gives you one, you fingerspell your name.

Some name signs use the first letter of the person's name, made in a special place or with a special movement. Others show something about the person, like curly hair or a big smile.

Answer the questions.

What is a name sign?

_____

Who gives you a name sign?

_____

What do you do until you have a name sign?

_____

Name two kinds of name signs.

_____

Why are name signs handy?

_____

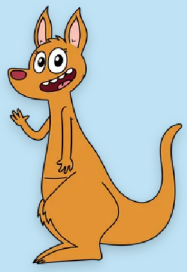
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

Ways We Communicate

Deaf and hard of hearing people communicate in many ways. Match each tool to what it does.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Deaf and hard of hearing people choose what works for them, and many use more than one of these.

Draw a line from each tool to what it does.

Interpreter ●	● **a device placed by a doctor that sends sound signals to the hearing nerve**
Captions ●	● **a person who turns signs into spoken words and spoken words into signs**
Hearing aid ●	● **a light that blinks when someone rings the bell**
Cochlear implant ●	● **words on a screen that show what people are saying**
Video phone ●	● **a small device worn on the ear that makes sounds louder**
Flashing doorbell ●	● **a call on a screen so people can sign to each other**

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Meet Laurent Clerc

Read about the Deaf teacher who helped start the first permanent school for the deaf in America, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

Laurent Clerc was born in France in 1785. He became deaf when he was a baby. When he was 12 he went to a school for deaf children in Paris, where he learned French Sign Language. He did so well that the school later hired him as a teacher.

In 1816 an American named Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet came to the school. Gallaudet wanted to start a school for deaf children in the United States, and he asked Clerc to help. Clerc said yes. On the long trip across the ocean, Clerc taught Gallaudet sign language and Gallaudet helped Clerc with English.

In 1817 they opened a school in Hartford, Connecticut. Today it is called the American School for the Deaf, the oldest school for the deaf in the United States that is still open. Clerc taught there for more than 40 years and trained teachers who started schools across the country.

The signs Clerc brought from France mixed with the signs deaf Americans were already using. Over many years, this mix grew into American Sign Language.

Answer the questions.

In what country was Laurent Clerc born?

_____

What language did he learn at school in Paris?

_____

Who asked Clerc to come to America?

_____

When and where did their school open?

_____

How did Clerc's signs help make ASL?

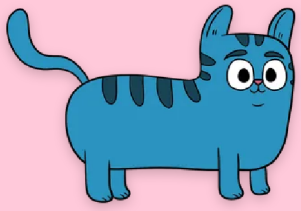
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Meet Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Alice Cogswell

Read about a hearing minister, a Deaf girl named Alice and the school they helped start, then answer the questions.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was a hearing minister in Hartford, Connecticut. His neighbors had a daughter named Alice Cogswell. Alice was deaf, and at that time there was no school in the United States where she could learn.

Gallaudet saw that Alice was bright and eager to learn. A famous story says he taught her her first word, hat, by pointing to his hat and writing the letters in the dirt.

Alice's father, Dr. Mason Cogswell, and other families raised money to send Gallaudet to Europe in 1815 to learn how deaf children were taught. There he met Laurent Clerc, a Deaf teacher at the school for the deaf in Paris, and brought him back to America.

In 1817 they opened the school now called the American School for the Deaf, and Alice was one of its first students. In 1864 a college for deaf students was started in Washington, D.C. Today it is Gallaudet University, named for Thomas, and his son Edward was its first leader.

Answer the questions.

Who was Alice Cogswell?

_____

Why did Gallaudet go to Europe?

_____

Whom did he bring back to America?

_____

What school did they open in 1817?

_____

What university is named for Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet?

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Martha's Vineyard: An Island That Signed

Read about an island where deaf and hearing people both signed, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

Martha's Vineyard is an island off the coast of Massachusetts. For more than 200 years, starting in the 1700s, many people there were born deaf. In the town of Chilmark, about 1 out of every 25 people was deaf.

Because deafness was so common, almost everyone on the island learned to sign, hearing people too. Deaf and hearing neighbors fished, farmed and went to town meetings together. Hearing people sometimes signed to each other even with no deaf person around, like across a field or a boat.

Their language is called Martha's Vineyard Sign Language. Deaf children from the island went to the school in Hartford, Connecticut, where their signs mixed with others. Many experts think it was one of the languages that helped form ASL.

Over time, people moved away and fewer deaf children were born on the island. The last deaf person who grew up using the island's sign language died in 1952.

Answer the questions.

Where is Martha's Vineyard?

_____

Who on the island learned to sign?

_____

What was the island's language called?

_____

How did the island's signs help ASL?

_____

How do you think signing together made life fairer for deaf islanders?

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Deaf President Now

Read about the week in 1988 when Gallaudet University students won a Deaf president, then answer the questions.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read

Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., is a university for deaf and hard of hearing students. In its first 124 years, it never had a Deaf president.

In March 1988, the university's board chose a new president. Two of the three finalists were deaf, but the board picked the hearing finalist, who did not know sign language. Students believed a university for deaf students should have a Deaf leader.

Students closed the campus and marched to the U.S. Capitol. They made four demands, including a Deaf president and more deaf people on the board. Teachers, workers and people across the country joined them. The protest was called Deaf President Now.

After a week, the students won. On March 13, 1988, I. King Jordan was named the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University. He said, "Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do, except hear."

Answer the questions.

What is Gallaudet University?

_____

Why were the students upset?

_____

What was the protest called?

_____

Who became the first Deaf president, and when?

_____

What do you think Jordan's words mean?

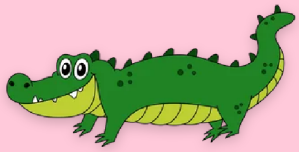
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Deaf History Timeline

Write each event from the box in the right place on the timeline.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Events (not in order)

Deaf President Now: Gallaudet University gets its first Deaf president (1988).

The first lasting school for the deaf in America opens in Hartford, Connecticut (1817).

The Americans with Disabilities Act becomes law, protecting the rights of deaf people and others with disabilities (1990).

President Abraham Lincoln signs the law that starts a college for deaf students, now Gallaudet University (1864).

William Stokoe publishes a study showing that ASL is a real language with its own grammar (1960).

At a meeting in Milan, Italy, teachers vote that deaf schools should teach speech instead of sign language (1880).

Write each event next to its year.

1817 _____

1864 _____

1880 _____

1960 _____

1988 _____

1990 _____

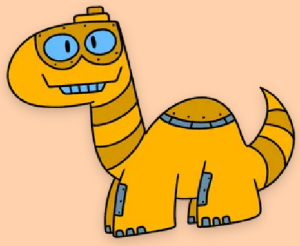
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

The Five Parts of a Sign

Every sign is made of five parts. Match each part to what it means, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Every sign is made of five parts. Change just one part and you can make a different sign.

Draw a line from each part to what it means.

Handshape	**where you make the sign, like near your chin**
Palm orientation	**what your face shows while you sign**
Location	**the shape your hand makes**
Movement	**which way your palm faces**
Facial expression	**how your hand moves**

Name the part.

The sign is made next to your forehead.

_____

Your hand taps two times.

_____

Your eyebrows go up.

_____

Your hand is shaped like the letter B.

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

Eyebrows Ask Questions

In ASL your eyebrows show what kind of question you are asking. Circle up or down for each question.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



For a **yes or no question**, raise your eyebrows **up**. For a question that starts with **who, what, where, when, why, which** or **how**, pull your eyebrows **down** and together.

Circle what your eyebrows do for each question.

Do you like pizza?	Up	Down
Where is the library?	Up	Down
Is it raining?	Up	Down
Who is your teacher?	Up	Down
Can you sign?	Up	Down
What is your name?	Up	Down
Are you hungry?	Up	Down
Why are you sad?	Up	Down
How old are you?	Up	Down
Do you have a pet?	Up	Down

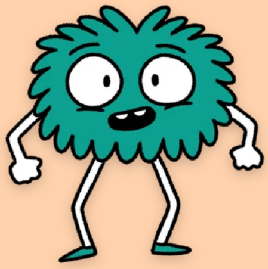
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–4

Which Hand Do I Sign With?

Read about your dominant hand and answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

Most people have a dominant hand: the hand they write with and use the most. When you fingerspell or make a one-handed sign, use your dominant hand.

If you are right-handed, your right hand is dominant. If you are left-handed, your left hand is. Both are correct in ASL.

Pick one hand and stick with it. Switching hands back and forth makes your signing harder to read.

In two-handed signs where the hands do different things, the dominant hand usually moves and the other hand stays still, like a base.

Answer the questions.

What is a dominant hand?

_____

Which hand do you use to fingerspell?

_____

Is it OK to sign with your left hand?

_____

Why should you not switch hands?

_____

Which hand is your dominant hand?

_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

ASL Word Search

Find twelve words about ASL and Deaf culture. They go across, down and diagonally.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Find the twelve words. They go across, down and diagonally.

F	H	S	P	G	S	I	G	N	N	R	N
I	I	A	F	Y	C	M	T	R	G	R	T
N	S	N	N	O	I	S	F	A	A	M	E
G	L	C	T	D	K	K	W	I	L	O	E
E	A	L	C	E	S	R	P	H	L	V	Y
R	L	E	A	S	R	H	Y	S	A	E	E
S	P	R	P	H	R	P	A	P	U	M	B
P	H	C	T	A	R	D	R	P	D	E	R
E	A	E	I	S	L	B	E	E	E	N	O
L	B	M	O	A	M	M	N	A	T	T	W
L	E	D	N	E	H	A	R	W	F	E	S
A	T	U	S	A	A	N	I	N	W	H	R

- ☐ ALPHABET
- ☐ CAPTIONS
- ☐ CLERC
- ☐ DEAF
- ☐ EYEBROWS
- ☐ FINGERSPELL
- ☐ GALLAUDET
- ☐ HANDSHAPE
- ☐ INTERPRETER
- ☐ MOVEMENT
- ☐ PALM
- ☐ SIGN

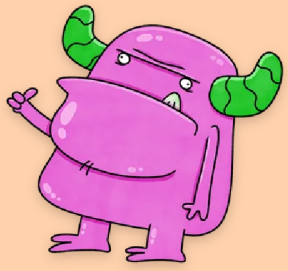
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

ASL Vocabulary Match

Draw a line from each ASL word to what it means.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Draw a line from each word to what it means.

Fingerspelling	words on a screen that show what is said
Interpreter	a short sign that stands for one person
Name sign	spelling a word letter by letter with your hand
Dominant hand	people who share ASL and Deaf culture
Captions	a person who changes one language into another
Deaf community	the hand you use most when you sign

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES K–3

Fingerspelling Bingo

Two different cards on one page. The caller says a letter: find its handshape and cover it. Four in a row wins.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Cut on the dashed line so two players get different cards. The caller says or signs a still letter (not J or Z). Four in a row, across, down or corner to corner, wins!

BINGO — Card 1

BINGO — Card 2

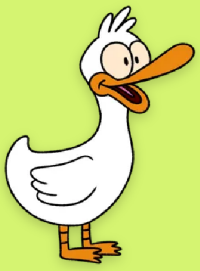
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES 1–3

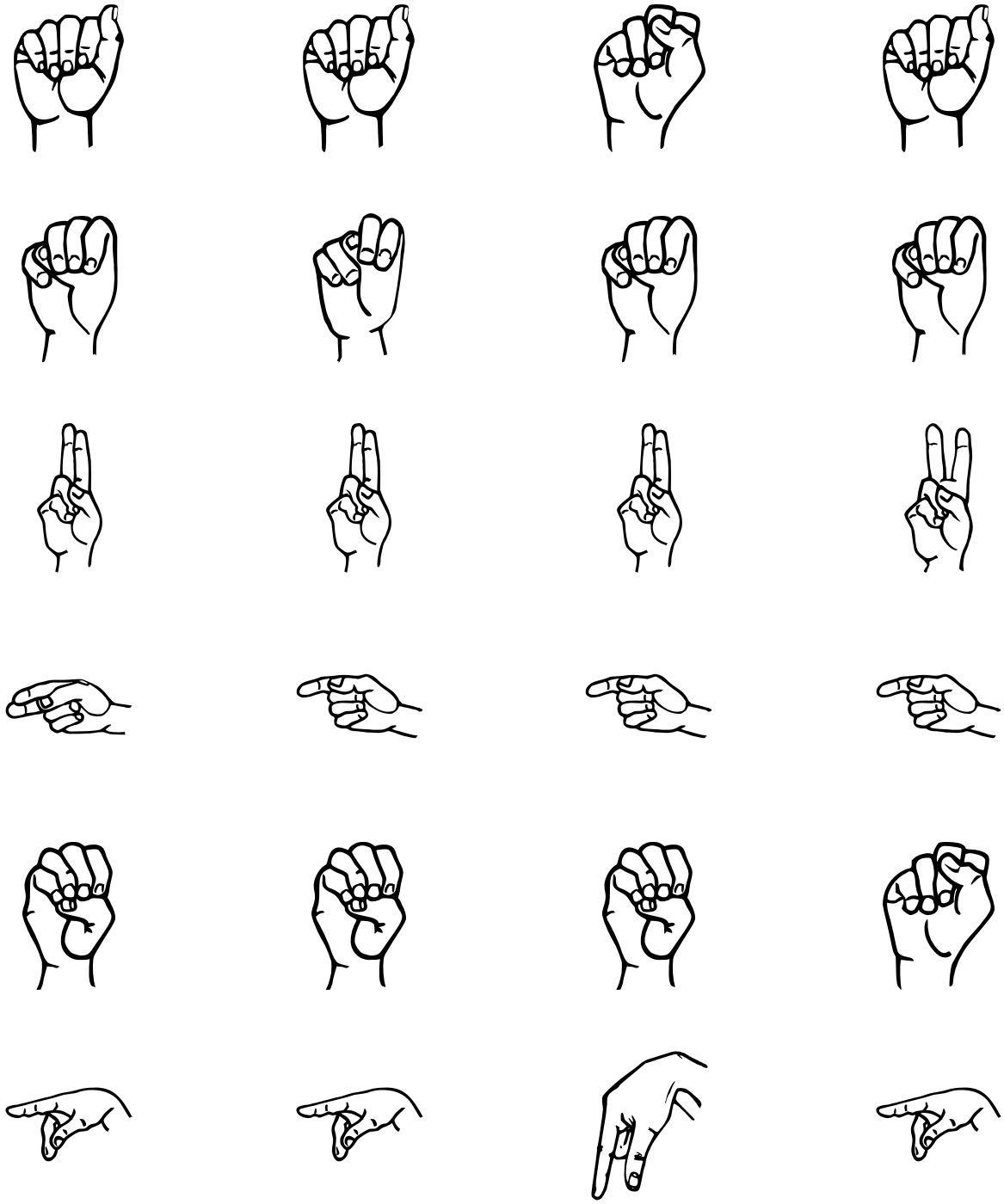
Odd Handshape Out

Three handshapes in each row are the same letter. Circle the one that is different.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Three handshapes in each row are the same letter. Circle the one that is different.



Art © Kevin Coulston

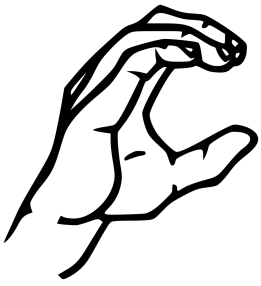
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES K–3

Handshape Memory Cards

Cut out the cards, turn them face down and match each letter to its handshape.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Cut on the dashed lines. Mix the cards and lay them face down. Take turns flipping two cards. Keep them if the handshape matches the letter!

L			
D	Y	O	
	B	A	
C		V	

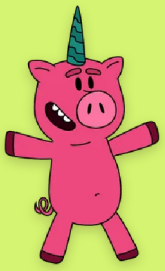
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES 2–5

Fingerspelled Riddles

Each riddle's answer is spelled in handshapes. Read the letters to solve it.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



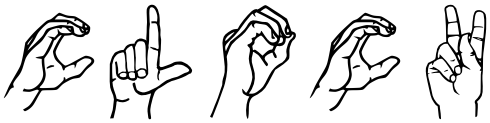
Read the riddle. Name the handshapes to find the answer, then write it.

1. What has keys but cannot open a door?



_____

2. What has hands but cannot clap?



_____

3. What gets wetter the more it dries?



_____

4. What has one eye but cannot see?



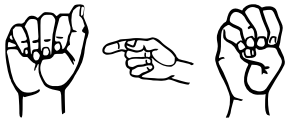
_____

5. What has a neck but no head?



_____

6. What goes up but never comes down?



_____

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES 2–5

Handshape Word Search

Each word is fingerspelled in the list. Read it, then find it in the letter grid.

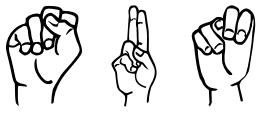
Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read each fingerspelled word. Find it in the grid and check the box.

H	S	I	A	B	F	I	S	H
S	C	U	I	F	I	L	W	R
P	G	A	N	R	H	D	C	U
G	S	B	T	O	E	O	H	A
P	U	T	I	G	N	D	S	O
U	C	M	A	R	O	O	T	W
T	N	W	Y	R	D	G	N	S
A	M	G	R	N	R	Y	N	S
I	M	O	O	N	O	R	N	G

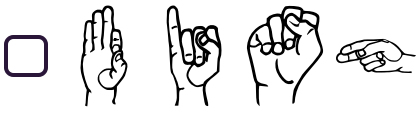
☐ 

☐ 

☐ 

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☐ 

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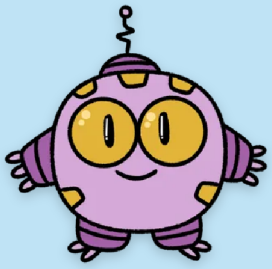
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · PRACTICE AND GOALS · GRADES 1–5

My Fingerspelling Practice Log

Practice a little every day. Write what you spelled and check the box each day.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



A few minutes every day helps more than one long practice. Try spelling the alphabet, your name and three new words.

My practice

Day	Minutes	What I spelled	Done
Day 1			☐
Day 2			☐
Day 3			☐
Day 4			☐
Day 5			☐
Day 6			☐
Day 7			☐
Day 8			☐
Day 9			☐
Day 10			☐

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · PRACTICE AND GOALS · GRADES 2–5

Check My Handshapes

Look in a mirror or ask a partner. Check off each letter you can make clearly.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Make each letter. Check the first box if you can make it. Check the second box if a partner can read it.

Letter	Hand	I can	Partner
A		☐	☐
B		☐	☐
C		☐	☐
D		☐	☐
E		☐	☐
F		☐	☐
G		☐	☐
H		☐	☐
I		☐	☐
J		☐	☐
K		☐	☐
L		☐	☐
M		☐	☐

Letter	Hand	I can	Partner
N		☐	☐
O		☐	☐
P		☐	☐
Q		☐	☐
R		☐	☐
S		☐	☐
T		☐	☐
U		☐	☐
V		☐	☐
W		☐	☐
X		☐	☐
Y		☐	☐
Z		☐	☐

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · PRACTICE AND GOALS · GRADES 2–5

My ASL Goals

Think about what you know and what you want to learn next. Set three ASL goals.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

What I know now

Letters I know well: _____

Letters I am still learning: _____

Words I can fingerspell smoothly: _____

Something about Deaf culture I learned: _____

My three ASL goals

Goal 1: _____

I will practice by: _____

Goal 2: _____

I will practice by: _____

Goal 3: _____

I will practice by: _____

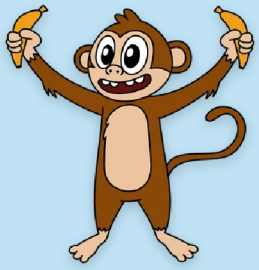
Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · PRACTICE AND GOALS · GRADES 1–5

Teach a Friend

Teach a friend or family member some ASL letters, then write and draw about it.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



About my lesson

The person I taught: _____

Letters I taught: _____

The hardest one for them was: _____

They learned best when I: _____

Draw you and your friend practicing ASL.

Art © Kevin Coulston

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · PRACTICE AND GOALS · GRADES K–5

ASL Alphabet Certificate

A certificate for a student who can fingerspell the whole ASL alphabet.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

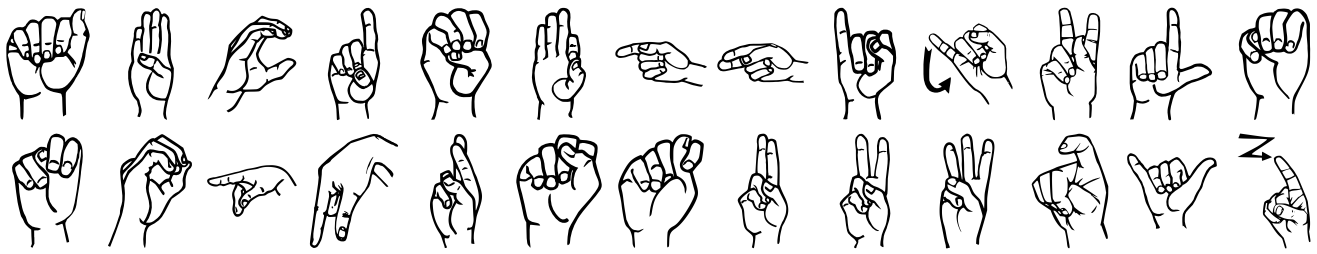


Certificate of Achievement

This certificate is presented to

_____

for fingerspelling the whole ASL alphabet from A to Z!



_____ _____

Teacher **Date**

Art © Kevin Coulston

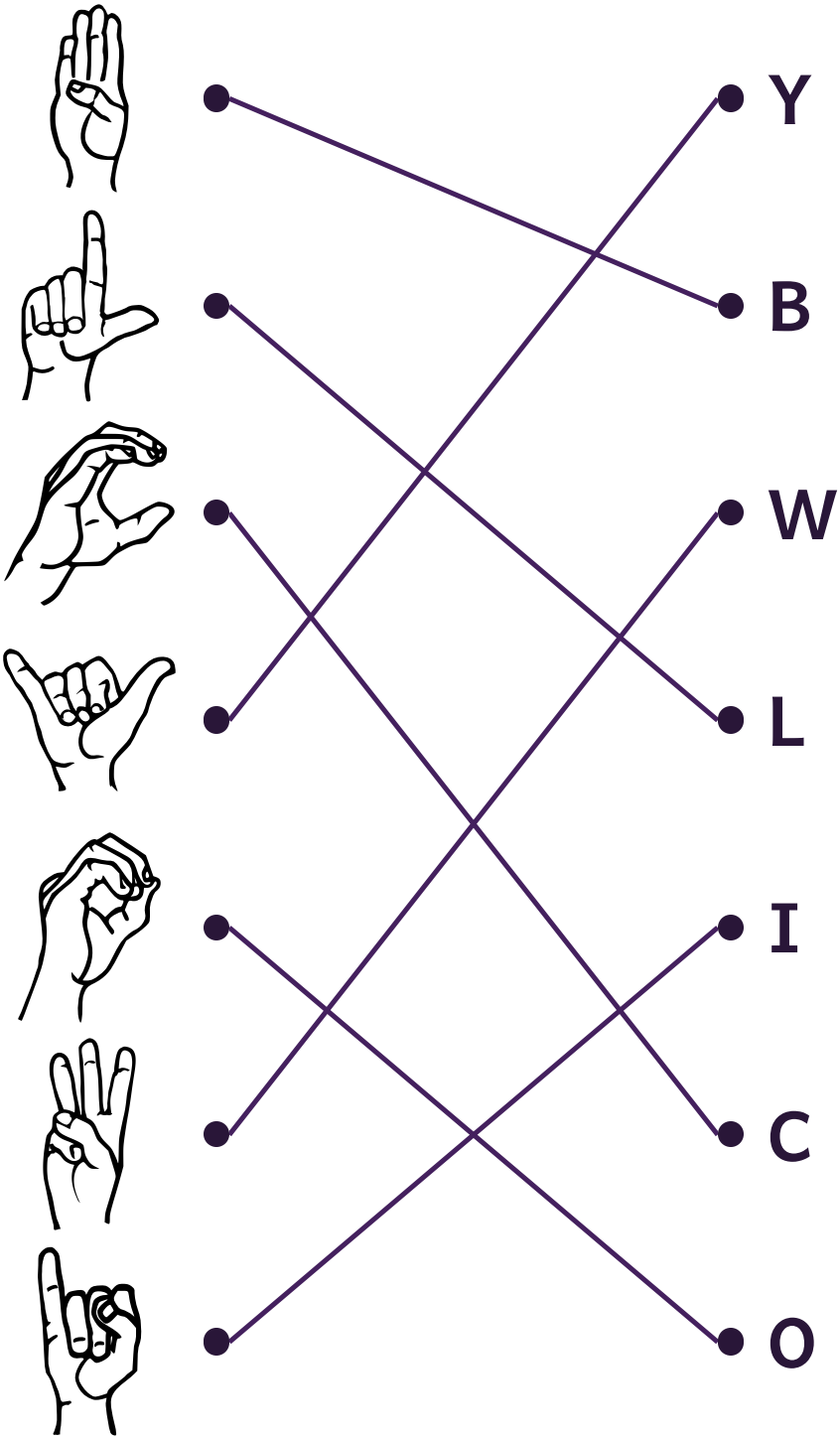
ANSWER KEY · THE ASL ALPHABET · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Match the Letter Handshapes

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



Draw a line from each handshape to its letter.

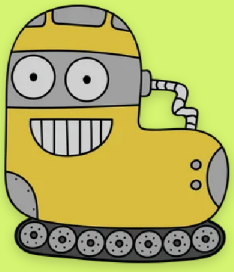


Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · THE ASL ALPHABET · GRADES 1–4

Answer Key: Name That Handshape

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



Write the letter for each handshape. Use the ASL Alphabet Chart if you get stuck.



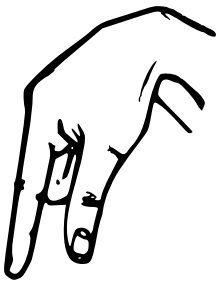
D



L



V



Q



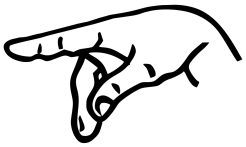
Y



R



F



P



B



X



H



K

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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

Art © Kevin Coulston

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

Art © Kevin Coulston

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.

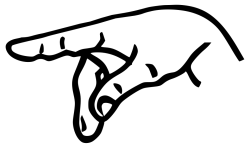


Which way do the fingers point?

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.



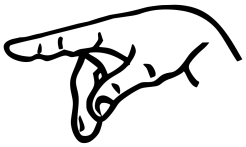
P



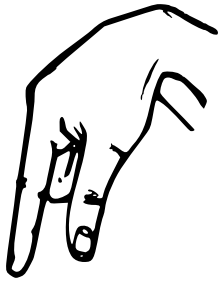
G



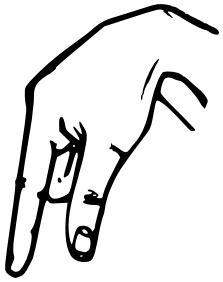
H



P



Q



Q



H



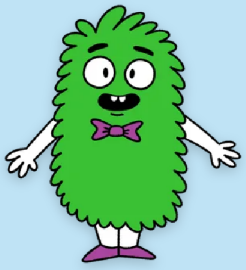
G

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

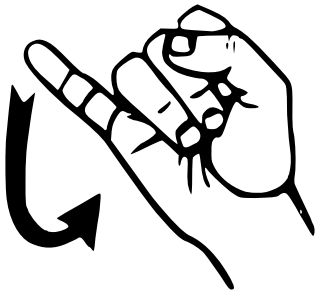
Answer Key: Letters That Move: J and Z

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

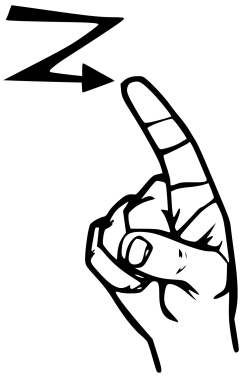


J starts as an **I** (only the pinky up) and the pinky draws a **J** in the air. **Z** uses only the pointer finger, which draws a **Z** in the air.

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

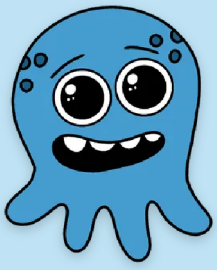
How many letters in the ASL alphabet move? **2** 5 26

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.

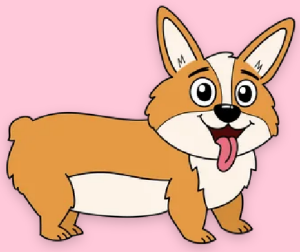
Closed fist	Two fingers up	Points to the side	Tips down	Moves
A	K	G	P	J
E	R	H	Q	Z
M	U			
N	V			
S				
T				

Art © Kevin Coulston

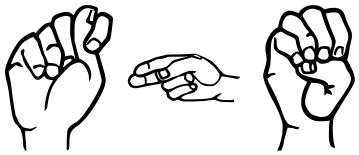
ANSWER KEY · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES K–1

Answer Key: Fingerspelled Sight Words

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



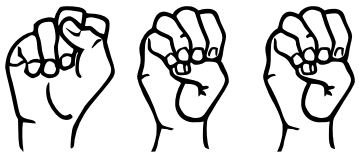
Read the handshapes. Write the sight word.



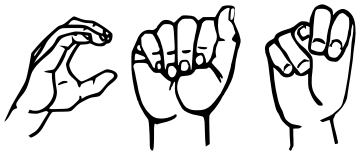
the



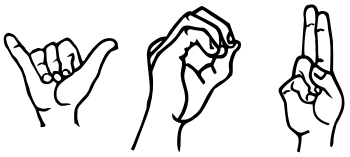
and



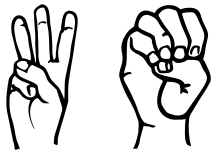
see



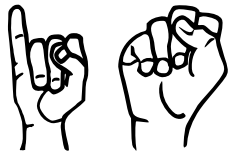
can



you



we



is



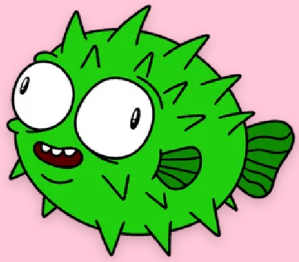
my

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–2

Answer Key: Read Three-Letter Words

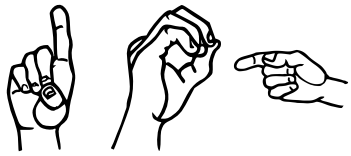
Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



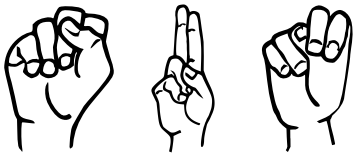
Read the three handshapes. Write the word.



cat



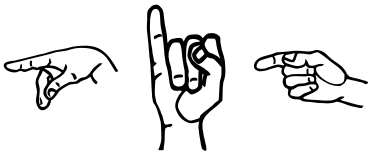
dog



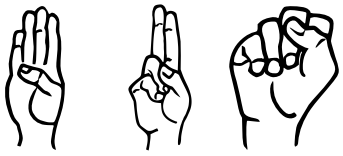
sun



hat



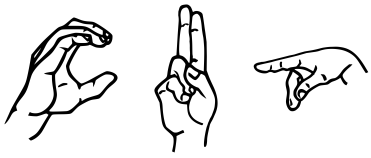
pig



bus



bed



cup

Art © Kevin Coulston

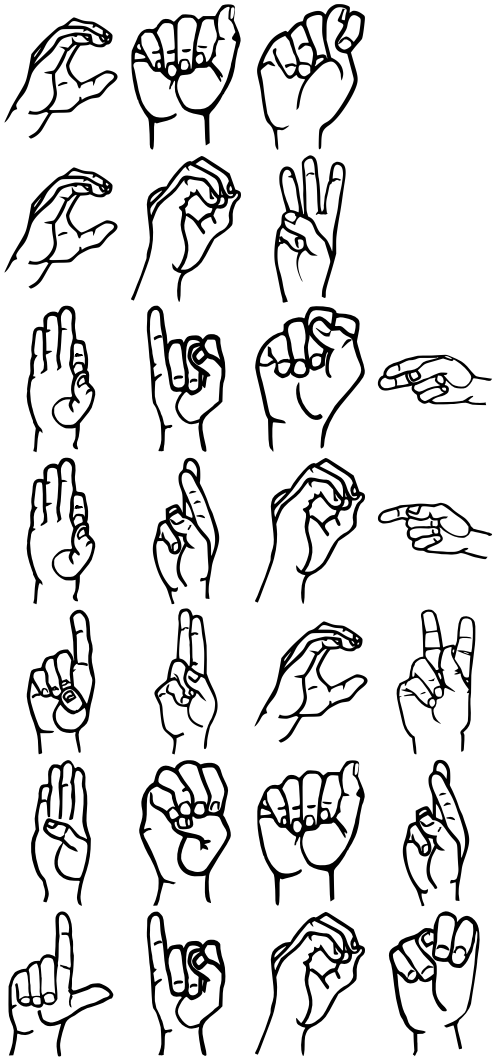
ANSWER KEY · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Fingerspelled Animals

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



Each row spells an animal. Write the word.



cat

cow

fish

frog

duck

bear

lion

Draw your favorite animal from the list.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Fingerspelled Colors

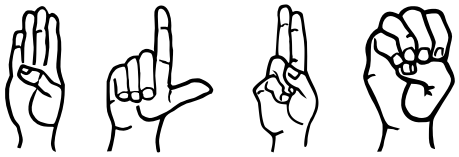
Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.

In ASL, colors also have their own signs. Here they are fingerspelled so you can practice reading letters.

Read each color word. Write it, then color the crayon that color.



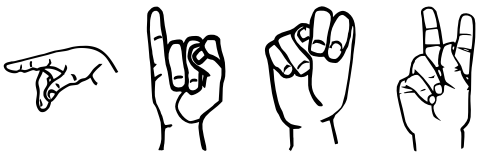
red



blue



green



pink



brown



black

Art © Kevin Coulston

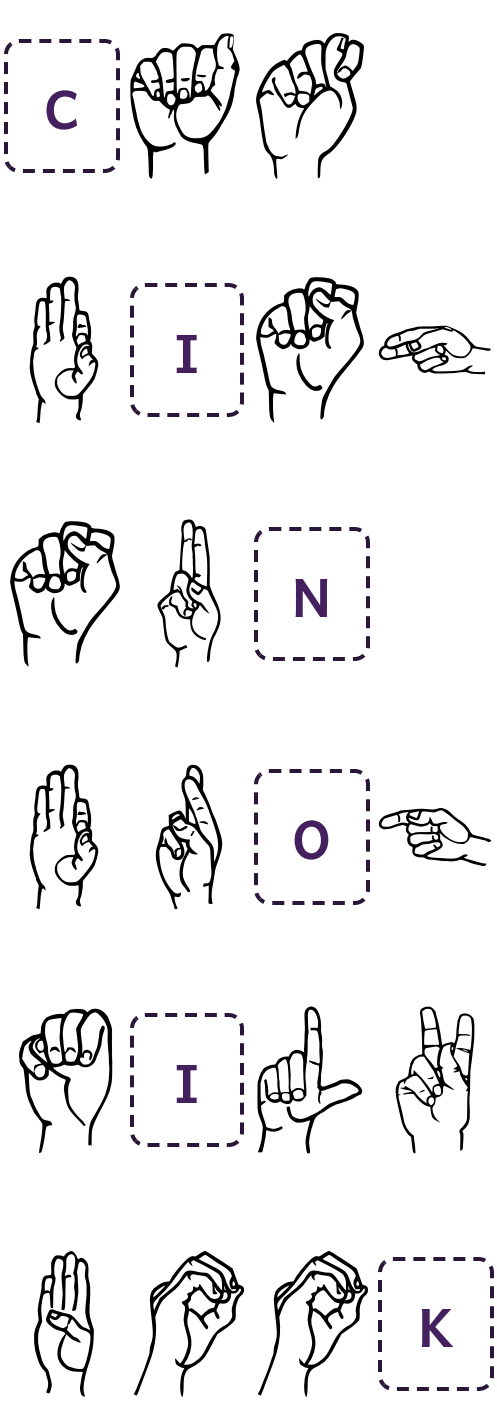
ANSWER KEY · READING FINGERSPELLED WORDS · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Find the Missing Letter

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



One handshape is missing. Circle the handshape that makes a real word.

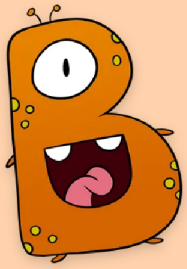


Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · SPELL IT YOURSELF · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Handshapes in ABC Order

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



Name each handshape. Then write the letters in ABC order in the boxes.



A



B



C



D



E



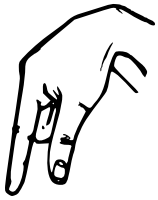
O



P



Q



R



S



G



H



I



K



L



U



V



W



X



Y

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ANSWER KEY · SPELL IT YOURSELF · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Secret Message Decoder

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



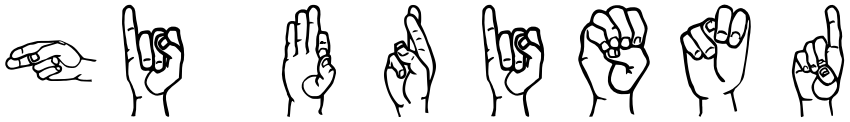
Read each secret message. Write it on the line.



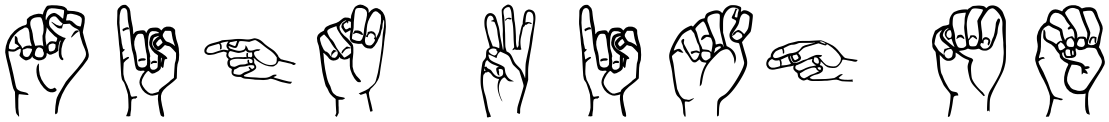
asl is fun



good job



hi friend



sign with me



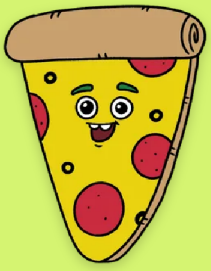
you rock

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Fingerspelled Food Words

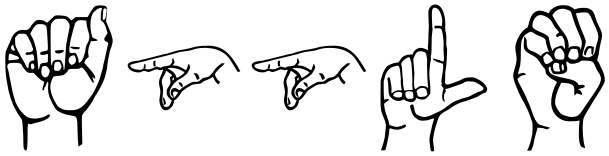
Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Read the handshapes. Write the food word.



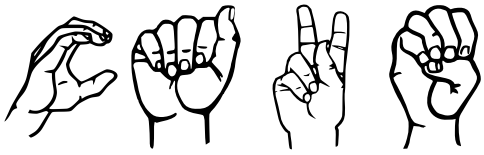
pizza



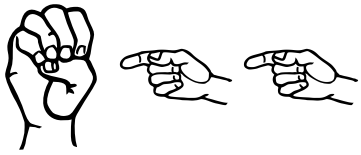
apple



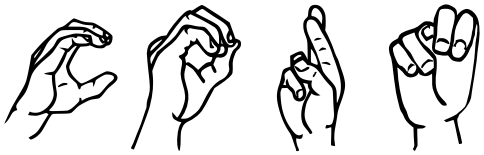
milk



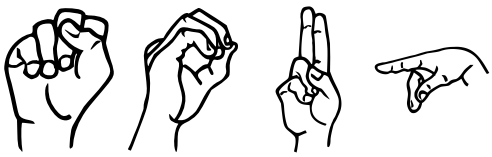
cake



egg



corn



soup

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–2

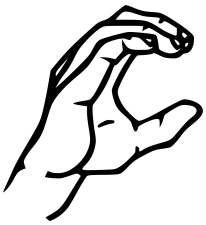
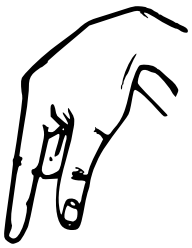
Answer Key: Letters Before and After

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



Say the alphabet out loud if you need help: the letter **before** comes just ahead of it, and the letter **after** comes next.

Write the letter before and the letter after each handshape.

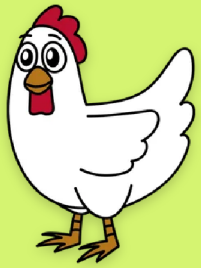
A		C
F		H
K		M
O		Q
T		V
X		Z

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Rhyme Time Handshapes

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

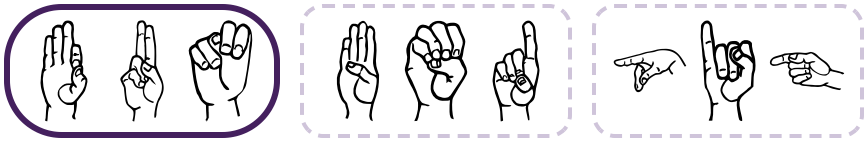


Circle the fingerspelled word that rhymes.

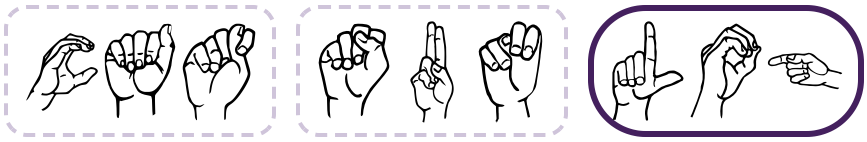
CAT



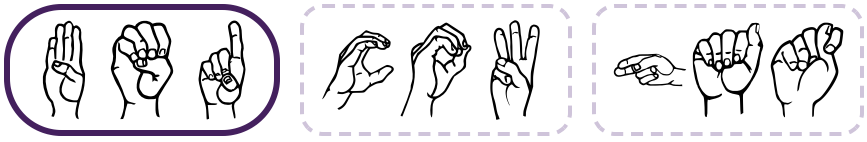
SUN



DOG



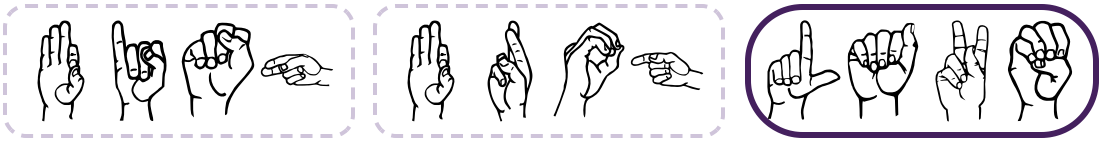
RED



PIG



CAKE



Art © Kevin Coulston

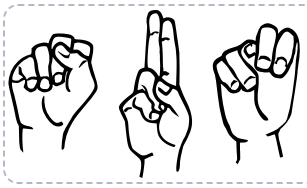
ANSWER KEY · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Fingerspell and Draw

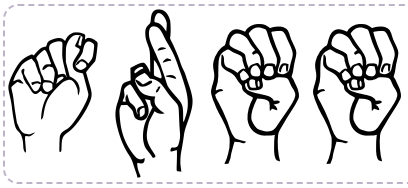
Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



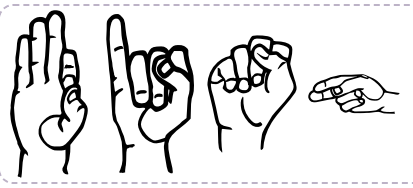
Read the word. Write it on the line, then draw it in the box.



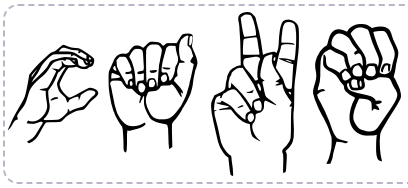
sun



tree



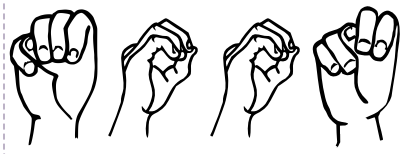
fish



cake



star



moon

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · MORE FINGERSPELLING PRACTICE · GRADES 2–4

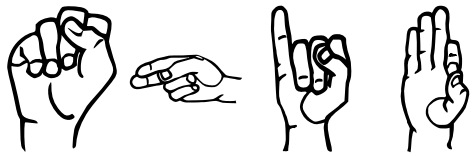
Answer Key: Unscramble the Handshapes

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

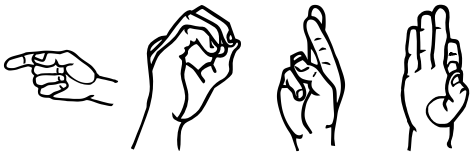


Name each handshape and say its letter. Then move the letters around in your head until they make a real word.

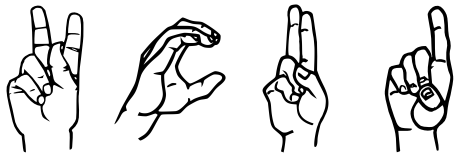
Write the real word.



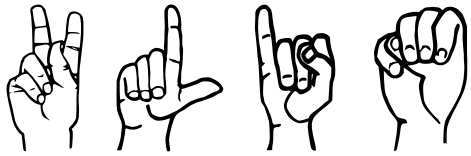
fish



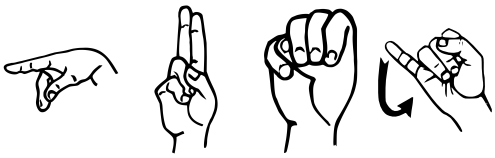
frog



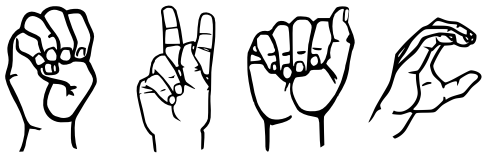
duck



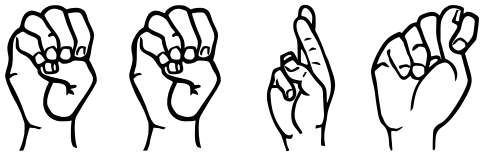
milk



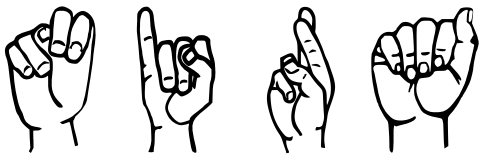
jump



cake



tree



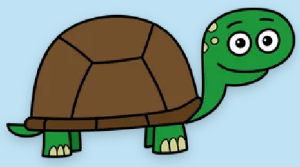
rain

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: What Is ASL?

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



Read

American Sign Language, or ASL, is a language you see instead of hear. Signers use their hands, their faces and their bodies to share ideas. Many Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States and much of Canada use ASL, and so do their families and friends.

ASL is not English on the hands. It has its own words and its own grammar, the rules for putting signs together. A sentence in ASL often puts its signs in a different order than English does.

Sign language is not the same all over the world. Many countries have their own. British Sign Language is very different from ASL, even though people in both countries speak English. ASL is related to French Sign Language, because a Deaf teacher from France helped start the first lasting school for the deaf in America in 1817.

Fingerspelling, spelling a word letter by letter, is one part of ASL. Signers use it for names, places and words that do not have a sign.

Answer the questions.

What does ASL stand for?

American Sign Language

Signers use their hands. What else do they use?

Their faces and their bodies

Is ASL the same as English? How do you know?

No. It has its own words and grammar.

Is sign language the same everywhere in the world?

No. Many countries have their own.

When do signers use fingerspelling?

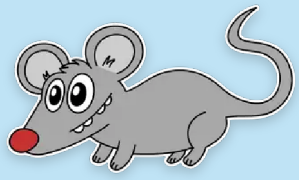
For names, places and words with no sign

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: ASL True or False

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



Circle True or False.

ASL has its own grammar.	**True**	False
Every country uses the same sign language.	True	**False**
Your face is part of signing in ASL.	**True**	False
ASL and British Sign Language are the same language.	True	**False**
ASL is used in the United States and much of Canada.	**True**	False
Fingerspelling is used for names and places.	**True**	False
Deaf people can only talk with other Deaf people.	True	**False**
Shouting is a polite way to get a Deaf person's attention.	True	**False**
ASL is related to French Sign Language.	**True**	False
Hearing people can learn ASL too.	**True**	False

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

Answer Key: Getting Someone's Attention

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



Ways to get attention

tap their shoulder gently · wave where they can see you · flick the lights for a group · tap the table so they feel it · shout their name · grab their face to turn it · throw something at them · wave right in front of their eyes

Write each one under Polite or Not polite.

Polite	Not polite
tap their shoulder gently	shout their name
wave where they can see you	grab their face to turn it
flick the lights for a group	throw something at them
tap the table so they feel it	wave right in front of their eyes

Answer the questions.

Once you have their attention, where should you look while you sign?

At the person, keeping eye contact

Why is it rude to look away while someone signs to you?

Signing is seen, so looking away means you stopped listening.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: What Is a Name Sign?

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



Read

Many people in the Deaf community have a name sign. A name sign is a short sign that stands for one person, so friends do not have to fingerspell the whole name every time.

In Deaf culture, a name sign is given to you by a Deaf person who knows you. You do not make up your own. Until someone gives you one, you fingerspell your name.

Some name signs use the first letter of the person's name, made in a special place or with a special movement. Others show something about the person, like curly hair or a big smile.

Answer the questions.

What is a name sign?

A short sign that stands for one person

Who gives you a name sign?

A Deaf person who knows you

What do you do until you have a name sign?

Fingerspell your name

Name two kinds of name signs.

First-letter signs and signs that show something about the person

Why are name signs handy?

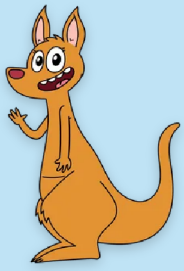
They are faster than spelling a whole name.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

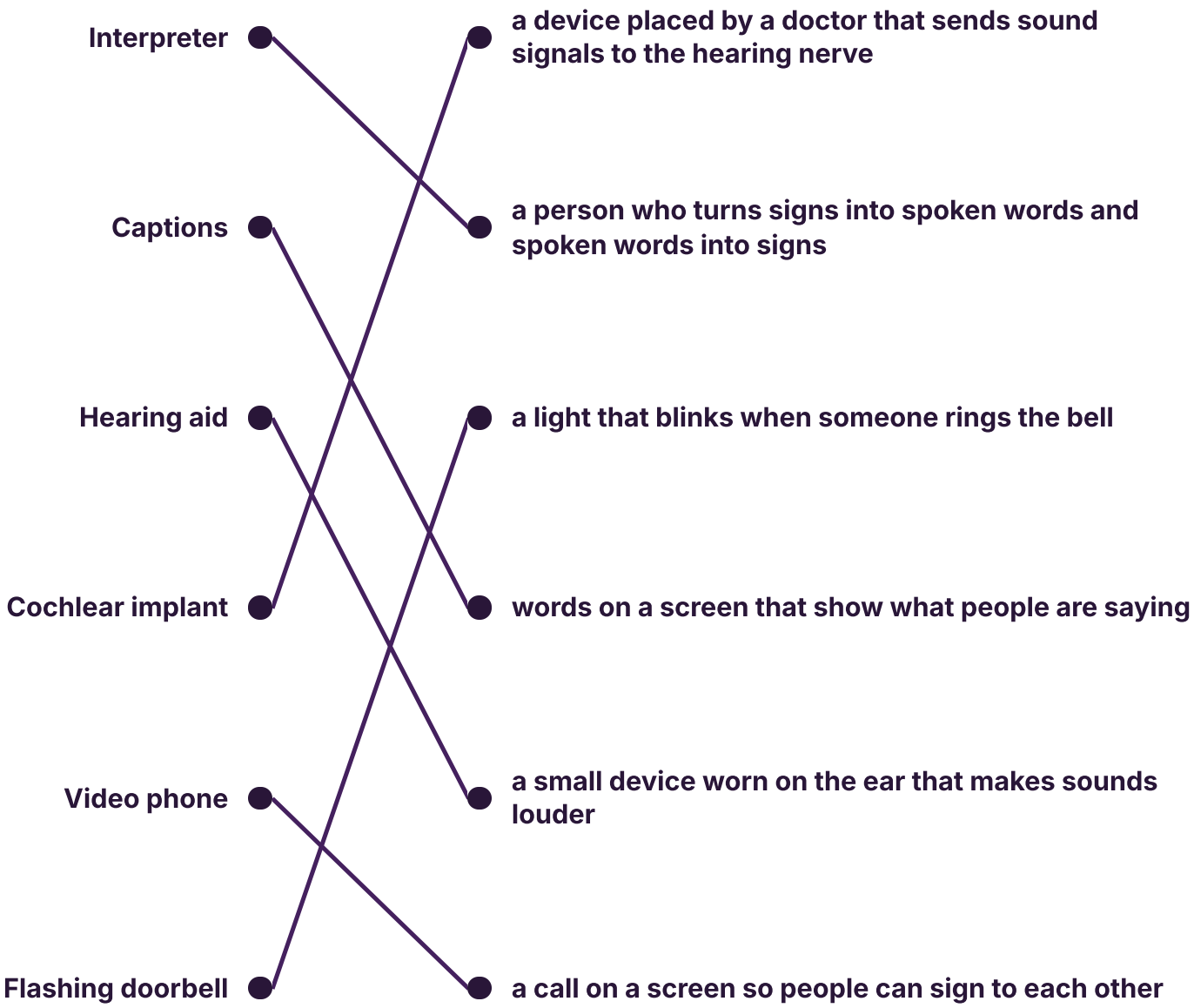
Answer Key: Ways We Communicate

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



Deaf and hard of hearing people choose what works for them, and many use more than one of these.

Draw a line from each tool to what it does.



Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Meet Laurent Clerc

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



Read

Laurent Clerc was born in France in 1785. He became deaf when he was a baby. When he was 12 he went to a school for deaf children in Paris, where he learned French Sign Language. He did so well that the school later hired him as a teacher.

In 1816 an American named Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet came to the school. Gallaudet wanted to start a school for deaf children in the United States, and he asked Clerc to help. Clerc said yes. On the long trip across the ocean, Clerc taught Gallaudet sign language and Gallaudet helped Clerc with English.

In 1817 they opened a school in Hartford, Connecticut. Today it is called the American School for the Deaf, the oldest school for the deaf in the United States that is still open. Clerc taught there for more than 40 years and trained teachers who started schools across the country.

The signs Clerc brought from France mixed with the signs deaf Americans were already using. Over many years, this mix grew into American Sign Language.

Answer the questions.

In what country was Laurent Clerc born?

France

What language did he learn at school in Paris?

French Sign Language

Who asked Clerc to come to America?

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet

When and where did their school open?

1817 in Hartford, Connecticut

How did Clerc's signs help make ASL?

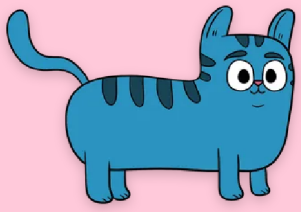
They mixed with signs deaf Americans already used.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Meet Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Alice Cogswell

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



Read

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was a hearing minister in Hartford, Connecticut. His neighbors had a daughter named Alice Cogswell. Alice was deaf, and at that time there was no school in the United States where she could learn.

Gallaudet saw that Alice was bright and eager to learn. A famous story says he taught her her first word, hat, by pointing to his hat and writing the letters in the dirt.

Alice's father, Dr. Mason Cogswell, and other families raised money to send Gallaudet to Europe in 1815 to learn how deaf children were taught. There he met Laurent Clerc, a Deaf teacher at the school for the deaf in Paris, and brought him back to America.

In 1817 they opened the school now called the American School for the Deaf, and Alice was one of its first students. In 1864 a college for deaf students was started in Washington, D.C. Today it is Gallaudet University, named for Thomas, and his son Edward was its first leader.

Answer the questions.

Who was Alice Cogswell?

Gallaudet's deaf neighbor

Why did Gallaudet go to Europe?

To learn how deaf children were taught

Whom did he bring back to America?

Laurent Clerc

What school did they open in 1817?

The American School for the Deaf

What university is named for Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet?

Gallaudet University

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Martha's Vineyard: An Island That Signed

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



Read

Martha's Vineyard is an island off the coast of Massachusetts. For more than 200 years, starting in the 1700s, many people there were born deaf. In the town of Chilmark, about 1 out of every 25 people was deaf.

Because deafness was so common, almost everyone on the island learned to sign, hearing people too. Deaf and hearing neighbors fished, farmed and went to town meetings together. Hearing people sometimes signed to each other even with no deaf person around, like across a field or a boat.

Their language is called Martha's Vineyard Sign Language. Deaf children from the island went to the school in Hartford, Connecticut, where their signs mixed with others. Many experts think it was one of the languages that helped form ASL.

Over time, people moved away and fewer deaf children were born on the island. The last deaf person who grew up using the island's sign language died in 1952.

Answer the questions.

Where is Martha's Vineyard?

Off the coast of Massachusetts

Who on the island learned to sign?

Almost everyone, deaf and hearing

What was the island's language called?

Martha's Vineyard Sign Language

How did the island's signs help ASL?

Island children took them to school in Hartford, where they mixed into ASL.

How do you think signing together made life fairer for deaf islanders?

They could talk with everyone in town.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Deaf President Now

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



Read

Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., is a university for deaf and hard of hearing students. In its first 124 years, it never had a Deaf president.

In March 1988, the university's board chose a new president. Two of the three finalists were deaf, but the board picked the hearing finalist, who did not know sign language. Students believed a university for deaf students should have a Deaf leader.

Students closed the campus and marched to the U.S. Capitol. They made four demands, including a Deaf president and more deaf people on the board. Teachers, workers and people across the country joined them. The protest was called Deaf President Now.

After a week, the students won. On March 13, 1988, I. King Jordan was named the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University. He said, "Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do, except hear."

Answer the questions.

What is Gallaudet University?

A university for deaf and hard of hearing students

Why were the students upset?

The board picked a hearing president who did not know sign language.

What was the protest called?

Deaf President Now

Who became the first Deaf president, and when?

I. King Jordan, March 13, 1988

What do you think Jordan's words mean?

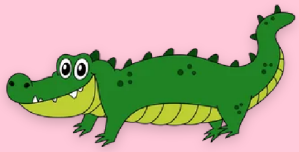
Being deaf does not stop people from doing any job.

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · DEAF HISTORY · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Deaf History Timeline

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



Events (not in order)

Deaf President Now: Gallaudet University gets its first Deaf president (1988).

The first lasting school for the deaf in America opens in Hartford, Connecticut (1817).

The Americans with Disabilities Act becomes law, protecting the rights of deaf people and others with disabilities (1990).

President Abraham Lincoln signs the law that starts a college for deaf students, now Gallaudet University (1864).

William Stokoe publishes a study showing that ASL is a real language with its own grammar (1960).

At a meeting in Milan, Italy, teachers vote that deaf schools should teach speech instead of sign language (1880).

Write each event next to its year.

1817 — First school for the deaf opens in Hartford

1864 — Lincoln signs the law for a deaf college

1880 — Milan meeting votes for speech over sign

1960 — Stokoe shows ASL is a real language

1988 — Deaf President Now

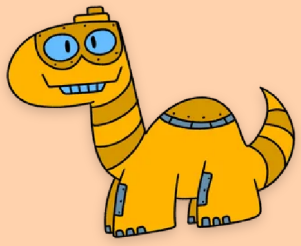
1990 — Americans with Disabilities Act

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: The Five Parts of a Sign

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



Every sign is made of five parts. Change just one part and you can make a different sign.

Draw a line from each part to what it means.

Handshape	the shape your hand makes
Palm orientation	which way your palm faces
Location	where you make the sign, like near your chin
Movement	how your hand moves
Facial expression	what your face shows while you sign

Name the part.

The sign is made next to your forehead.

Location

Your hand taps two times.

Movement

Your eyebrows go up.

Facial expression

Your hand is shaped like the letter B.

Handshape

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Eyebrows Ask Questions

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



For a **yes or no question**, raise your eyebrows **up**. For a question that starts with **who, what, where, when, why, which** or **how**, pull your eyebrows **down** and together.

Circle what your eyebrows do for each question.

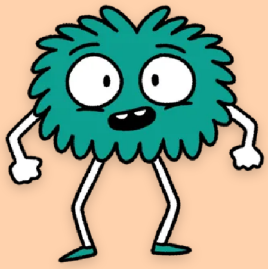
Do you like pizza?	**Up**	Down
Where is the library?	Up	**Down**
Is it raining?	**Up**	Down
Who is your teacher?	Up	**Down**
Can you sign?	**Up**	Down
What is your name?	Up	**Down**
Are you hungry?	**Up**	Down
Why are you sad?	Up	**Down**
How old are you?	Up	**Down**
Do you have a pet?	**Up**	Down

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Which Hand Do I Sign With?

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



Read

Most people have a dominant hand: the hand they write with and use the most. When you fingerspell or make a one-handed sign, use your dominant hand.

If you are right-handed, your right hand is dominant. If you are left-handed, your left hand is. Both are correct in ASL.

Pick one hand and stick with it. Switching hands back and forth makes your signing harder to read.

In two-handed signs where the hands do different things, the dominant hand usually moves and the other hand stays still, like a base.

Answer the questions.

What is a dominant hand?

The hand you write with and use the most

Which hand do you use to fingerspell?

Your dominant hand

Is it OK to sign with your left hand?

Yes, if you are left-handed

Why should you not switch hands?

It makes signing harder to read.

Which hand is your dominant hand?

My right hand (answers vary)

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: ASL Word Search

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



Find the twelve words. They go across, down and diagonally.

F	H	S	P	G	S	I	G	N	N	R	N
I	I	A	F	Y	C	M	T	R	G	R	T
N	S	N	N	O	I	S	F	A	A	M	E
G	L	C	T	D	K	K	W	I	L	O	E
E	A	L	C	E	S	R	P	H	L	V	Y
R	L	E	A	S	R	H	Y	S	A	E	E
S	P	R	P	H	R	P	A	P	U	M	B
P	H	C	T	A	R	D	R	P	D	E	R
E	A	E	I	S	L	B	E	E	E	N	O
L	B	M	O	A	M	M	N	A	T	T	W
L	E	D	N	E	H	A	R	W	F	E	S
A	T	U	S	A	A	N	I	N	W	H	R

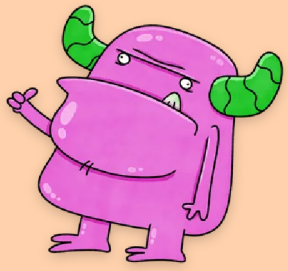
- [ ] ALPHABET
- [ ] CAPTIONS
- [ ] CLERC
- [ ] DEAF
- [ ] EYEBROWS
- [ ] FINGERSPELL
- [ ] GALLAUDET
- [ ] HANDSHAPE
- [ ] INTERPRETER
- [ ] MOVEMENT
- [ ] PALM
- [ ] SIGN

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: ASL Vocabulary Match

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



Draw a line from each word to what it means.

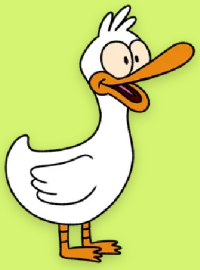
Fingerspelling	spelling a word letter by letter with your hand
Interpreter	a person who changes one language into another
Name sign	a short sign that stands for one person
Dominant hand	the hand you use most when you sign
Captions	words on a screen that show what is said
Deaf community	people who share ASL and Deaf culture

Art © Kevin Coulston

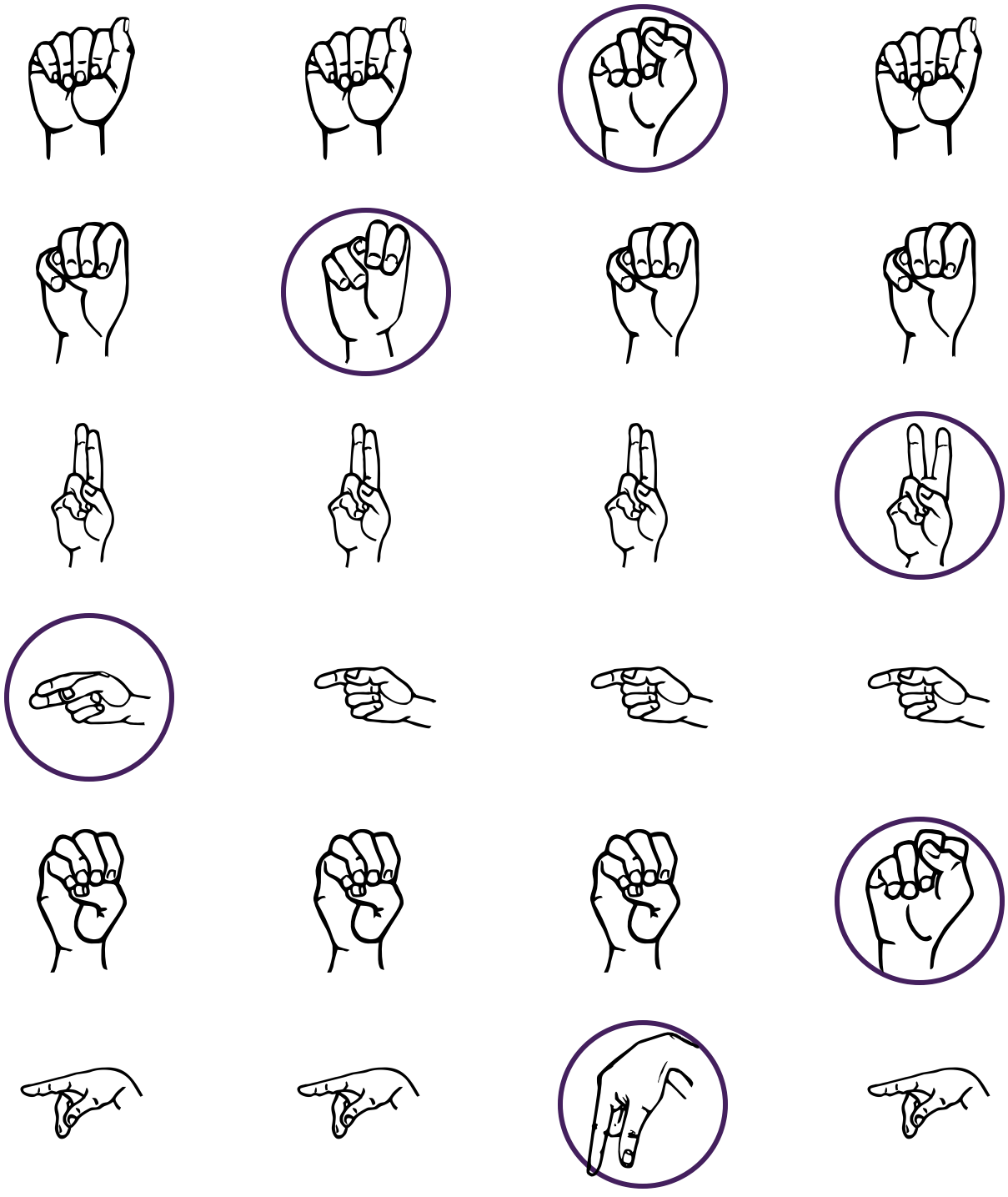
ANSWER KEY · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES 1–3

Answer Key: Odd Handshape Out

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



Three handshapes in each row are the same letter. Circle the one that is different.

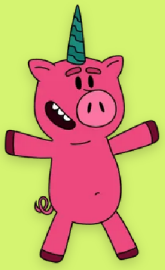


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ANSWER KEY · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Fingerspelled Riddles

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



Read the riddle. Name the handshapes to find the answer, then write it.

1. **What has keys but cannot open a door?**



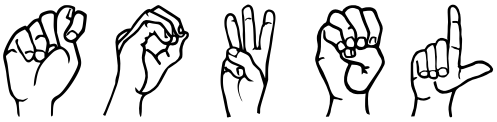
piano

2. **What has hands but cannot clap?**



clock

3. **What gets wetter the more it dries?**



towel

4. **What has one eye but cannot see?**



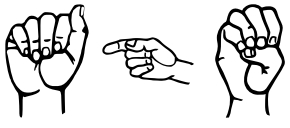
needle

5. **What has a neck but no head?**



bottle

6. **What goes up but never comes down?**



age

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ANSWER KEY · FINGERSPELLING GAMES · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: Handshape Word Search

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



Read each fingerspelled word. Find it in the grid and check the box.

H	S	I	A	B	F	I	S	H
S	C	U	I	F	I	L	W	R
P	G	A	N	R	H	D	C	U
G	S	B	T	O	E	O	H	A
P	U	T	I	G	N	D	S	O
U	C	M	A	R	O	O	T	W
T	N	W	Y	R	D	G	N	S
A	M	G	R	N	R	Y	N	S
I	M	O	O	N	O	R	N	G

☐  CAT

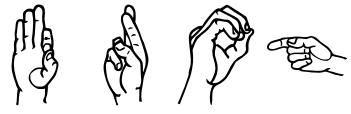
☐  SUN

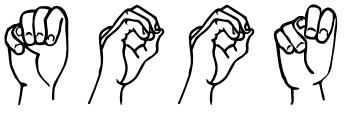
☐  BIRD

☐  STAR

☐  DOG

☐  FISH

☐  FROG

☐  MOON

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