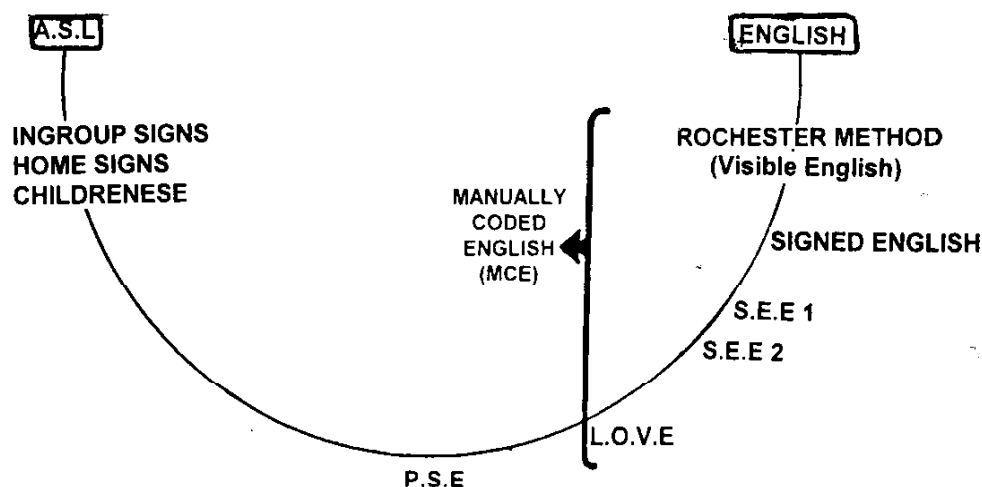


Sign Language Continuum, Prefix/Suffixes & Duration

Sign Language Continuum

"Sign Language" has been a general term that refers to all forms of manual communication. Today, most people use the term "signing." As hearing people began to learn the language of the Deaf (ASL) they created their own systems which are closer to English. The main reason for this was to facilitate the acquisition of English by Deaf children. These systems are known as Manually Coded English (MCE). Below is a continuum which illustrates the span from ASL to English on the far right. This continuum was first proposed by Woodward in 1973.



ASL (American Sign Language): Also called Ameslan. The native language of the majority of Deaf people in North America. ASL is a **visual** language. ASL and English are two distinct languages. ASL has its own rules of grammar and syntax different than that of English.

P.S.E: (Pidgin Sign English): basically, a combination of English word order with ASL signs. There are no strict rules for PSE so there are many different forms of PSE. It all depends on the person's knowledge of ASL and English.

MCE (Manually Coded English): a term which refers to all the systems created to represent English grammar.

L.O.V.E. (Linguistics of Visual English): Manual code for English originated by Dennis Wamper. Attempts to achieve a one-to-one correspondence between English, syllables, and prefix/suffixes by doing a single sign for each word.
EXAMPLE: Butterfly = Butter + Fly

S.E.E. 1 (Seeing Essential English): A manual code for English originated by David Anthony. Attempts to achieve a one-to-one correspondence between English, syllables, and prefix/suffixes by doing a single sign for each word.
EXAMPLE: Appendectomy = Ap + Pen + Dec + Tom + Y

S.E.E. 2 (Signing Exact English): A manual code for English originated by Gustason, Pfetzing, and Zawalkow. Attempts to achieve a one-to-one correspondence between English or syllables by doing a single sign for each word. *EXAMPLE:* Beautifully = Beauty + Ful + Ly

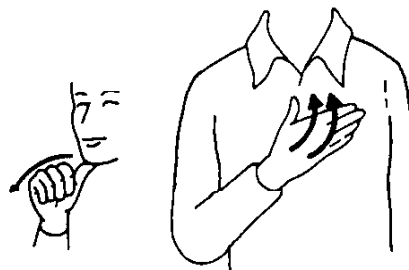
Signed English: A manual code for English developed under the direction of Harry Bornstein. Developed to be used with Deaf students. Basically "English on the hands" where there is a sign for every word and certain endings. Follows the same grammar and syntax as English.

Rochester Method: Also called Visible English. Words are only spoken and fingerspelled. Developed in Rochester New York.

Prefixes and Suffixes

Words with prefixes and suffixes in ASL are expressed by signing what that prefix or suffix means. In systems such as Signed English, there are signs for all the prefixes and suffixes. However, this is not appropriate in ASL. Below is a table with the **some** prefixes/suffixes and the appropriate sign(s) which should be done to express it. Remember that these are not written in stone. Variations will always be possible depending on its meaning. The most important part of ASL is to **express the concept** and true meaning of the message, **NOT** signing word for word.

Prefix/Suffix	Example	Sign
re-	reread	READ + AGAIN
un-	unbelievable	CAN'T + BELIEVE
dis-	disapprove	NOT + APPROVE
-less	hopeless	HOPE + NONE
-ful	hateful	FULL + HATE
-ly	slowly	SLOW



NOT + HAPPY = Unhappy

NOTE: Some words containing prefixes or suffixes have their own sign. For example, UNCOMFORTABLE and CARELESS.

NOTE: Many times prefixes and suffixes may be ignored because they do not change the meaning of the sign. For example, HAPPILY and SLOWLY may be signed as HAPPY and SLOW.

Duration

To show that something is done for a long time or continuity, the basic sign is made with a **circular movement**. The movement is not made too quickly and the emphasis is done on the downward part of the circle.

EXAMPLES:

On and on



On and on I thought she'd never stop talking, she went *on and on*.



Eat and eat

Eat It's not surprising she has a weight problem—she *eats and eats and eats*.



Stood and stood

Stand We *stood there and stood there* and thought the doors would never open.