

Name Signs, Compound Signs, Iconic Signs, & The Agent Marker

Name Signs:

Name Signs are created often for family and friends. They are often for convenience and are more personal. Most name signs are related to some characteristic of the person such as a physical feature or a characteristic they display. However, some name signs are simply placed in the "male" or "female" area of the body. Almost always, the name sign's handshape will be the first letter of the person's first name or sometimes full name.

NOTE: Name signs are given to you by a Deaf person and remain with you forever. Just like a nickname, you cannot give yourself a name sign.

EXAMPLES OF COMMON NAME SIGNS



A for Almes
in center of chest



B for Bob
on chest above heart



D for Dan
along left arm



T for Tamara
at chin level



E for Elizabeth
shake letter sign



R for Ruth
who wears glasses



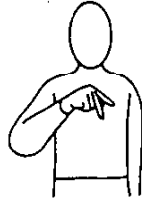
C for Carol
on elbow



F for Frank
on wrist



W for Walter
at forehead



P for Peter
who wears ties



L for Lincoln

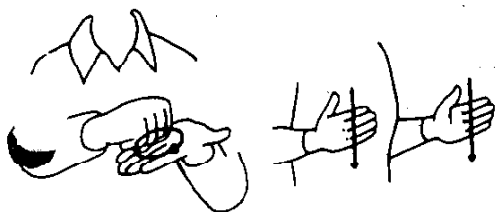


S for Superman

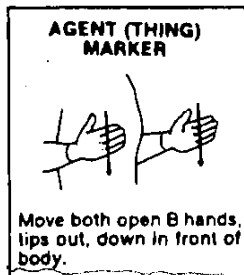
* Please note that any initials placed on the nose are generally have a negative meaning.

The Agent Marker

To form certain words that end in "-er" or indicate a person or thing that does that sign, a person agent is added after the sign.



wash + agent (thing) marker = washer



AGENT EXAMPLES:

LEARN + AGENT = STUDENT

FLY + AGENT = PILOT

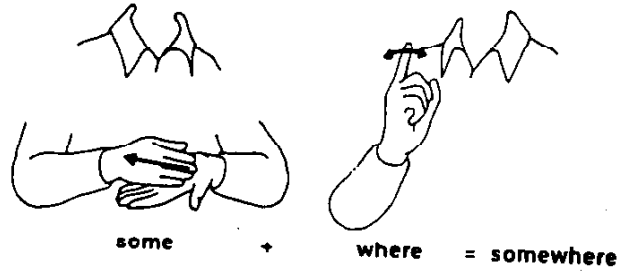
ARMY + AGENT = SOLDIER

PICTURE + AGENT = PHOTOGRAPHER

PIANO + AGENT = PIANIST

Compound Signs

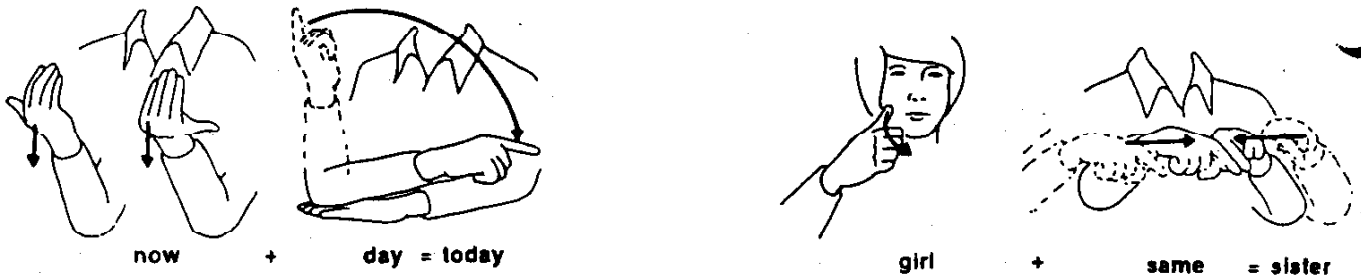
Most compound signs are done by signing two base signs.



Some compounds have their own sign.



Some are formed by two signs which differ in meaning from the English words.



Iconic Signs

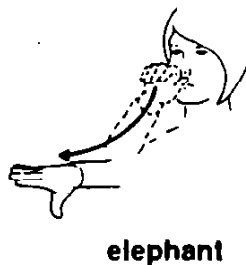
Signs which look like what they represent are known as iconic signs.

EXAMPLES OF ICONIC SIGNS

In the sign for *chicken*, you can see the bird pecking and scratching for food.



The sign for *elephant* outlines the animal's large, swaying trunk.



There is no mistaking the fact that your arm and hand represent the trunk and branches in the sign for *tree*.

