

# BEGINNING ASL

## Fingerspelling and First Signs

**A**



**S**



**L**



**Book**



Content by Dr. William Vicars

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**Turn to the middle of the zine (pages 20-21) to see the fingerspelled alphabet. Other signs will reference the letters for hand shapes.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

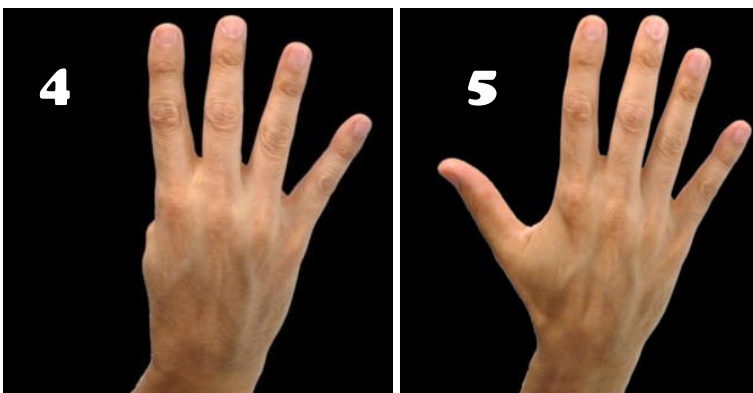
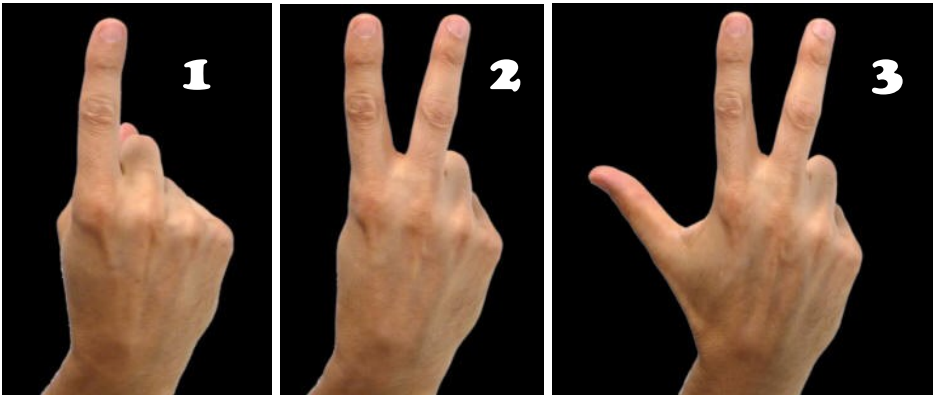
Numbers.....	3	Money.....	27
Family.....	5	Feelings.....	28
Places.....	9	Requests.....	30
Time.....	12	Colors.....	35
Amounts.....	15	Temperatures.....	37
Clothes.....	16	Animals.....	38
Health.....	17	Sample Sentences.....	39
<b>ABCs.....</b>	<b>20</b>		
Food.....	22		

# NUMBERS

## 1-10

When done as casual, isolated signs, numbers "1 through 5" are typically produced palm-back by native Deaf adult signers. For example, if someone asks you how many brothers you have and you have "2" then you would reply by holding up the number 2 with the palm facing backward.

However, the palm should be forward when doing a two-or-more-digit number such as "53" (sign a 5 then a 3 quickly) or a series of numbers such as a phone number, the time of day, ages, and if you are trying to emphasize a point.



Numbers



# FAMILY



## Mom

There are a variety of ways to express the concept of "mother." A good general version of the sign for "mom" or "mother" is made by touching the tip of the thumb of your dominant "open"-hand (also called a "5"-hand) to your chin. You may see it tapped twice; you may see the fingers wiggle; but the most basic form is to just touch the thumb of a five hand to the chin.

## Dad

There are various ways to sign "dad" or "father" in ASL. A good general way to sign "dad" or "father" is by placing the tip of the thumb of your "5-hand" on or near your forehead.

Signing tip: Some people do the sign DAD using a "double" tap to the forehead. (Likewise for "MOM.") That is "okay." However, if you sign "MOM" and "DAD" one right after the other (as in "parents") you just do one contact (or near contact) each sign. Just use a single movement for MOM and a single movement for DAD and it ends up meaning PARENTS.



c. LI

## Baby

The sign for "baby" or "infant" (as in a newborn up to about one year old) is made by placing both arms together as if

holding an infant. Then gently rock your arms back and forth.

Some people do a small up and down movement instead of a rocking movement.

Tip: Think of holding a baby in your arms.



## Girl

The sign for "Girl" (or "female") is made by forming your hand into an "A"-hand and then trace along your jawbone with the tip of your thumb - starting near your ear and moving to near your chin.



## Boy

To do the sign for "boy," grab the brim of an imaginary baseball cap (sticking out from your forehead area).



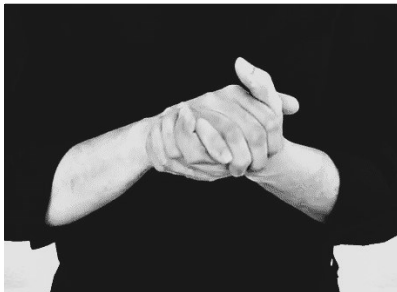
## Sister

The sign for "sister" uses a modified "L"-hand that turns into a "1"-hand as it moves from the jaw down to make contact with the base hand (which is in a 1-handshape).



## Brother

The sign for "brother" uses a modified "L"-hand that turns into a "1"-hand as it moves from the forehead down to make contact with the base hand (which is in a 1-handshape).



## Marriage

The sign for "marriage" is made by clasping both hands comfortably together.

For right-handed people the right hand should be on top of the left hand.

## Single

This sign is made by holding the right arm in front of you, palm up. Your right index finger makes circular motions about the size of a quarter. The movement is in your shoulder and elbow, not in your wrist.

Note: This version of "SINGLE" also means:

"something / someone / alone / only." It is a very flexible sign and you must rely on context to understand the meaning.



c. LI



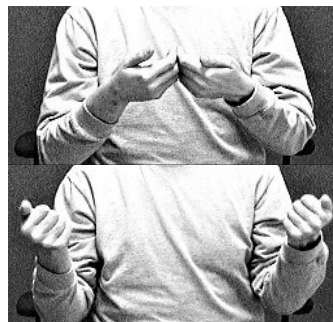
## Divorce

The sign for "divorce" is made by first forming the letter "d" with both hands.

Hold both hands together with the palms facing each other. With a twisting motion, move both hands outward and sideways so both palms face forward.

## Separate

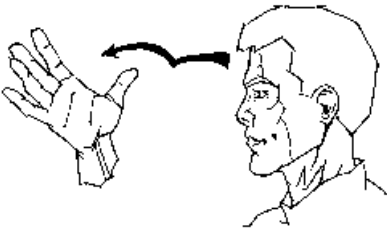
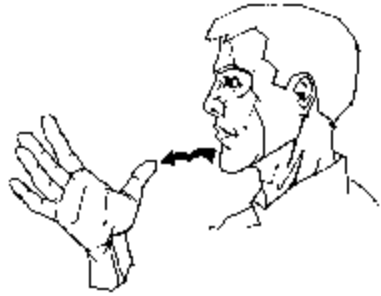
The sign for "separate" is made by touching both hands together at the knuckles. The hands should both be bent. Now, move the hands away from each other.



# Grandma

The sign for "grandmother" is made by touching your chin with the thumb of your dominant hand, as when signing "mother." The dominant hand should be open. Move your hand forward in two small arches.

Note: Many people just move the hand forward without the arches.



# Grandpa

The sign for "grandfather" is made by touching your forehead with the thumb of your dominant hand, (the same as when signing "father"). The hand should be open. Now, move your hand forward in two small arches.

Note: Many people just move it forward without the arches.

# Aunt

The sign for "aunt" is made by first shaping your hand to form the letter "A." Hold your hand close to your cheek. Twist (or simply shake) your hand a couple of times.



# Uncle

To do the sign for "uncle" hold a "U" hand near the side of your your head. Twist (or just shake) the "U" hand twice.

Variation: Some people shake a "U" handshape side to side using a very small repeated movement.

The position is to the side of your head, near your ear or a bit higher.

# PLACES

## Home

If you mean "home" as in "domicile" (or a fairly permanent residence) a fairly common version is made by bringing your fingers and thumb together and touching your cheek near the side of your mouth. Then move your hand an inch or two toward your ear and touch your cheek again.

Some people do the sign HOME starting near their EAR and moving near the MOUTH.



## Work

The sign for "work" is made by shaping both hands into "fist shapes" (the letter "s.") With your palms facing downward, use your dominant fist to tap the wrist or the side of your non-dominant fist a few times.

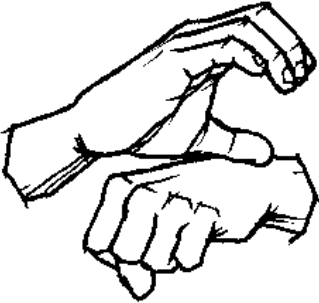
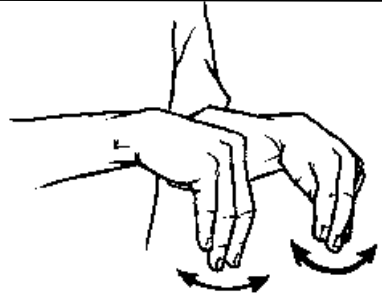


## School

This sign can also mean things such as academic or academy -- however there is a different sign that specifically means "college" or university. The sign for "school" uses flat hands. Quickly bring your dominant hand down onto your base hand twice as if clapping.

## Store

The sign for "store" (as in a place that sells things) is made by forming both hands into flattened-O shapes (as if you were holding a sheet of paper) with the hands pointing downward. Pivot both of your hands forward (away from your body) twice. The fingertips swing forward and back a couple times. The thumbs are touching the fingers as if you were holding a piece of paper.

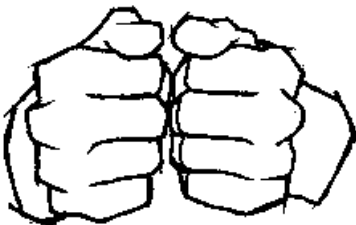
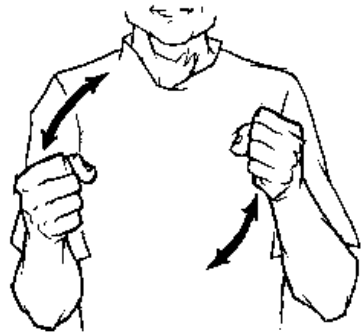


## Church

The sign for "church" is made by forming the letter "c" with your dominant hand. Form your non-dominant hand into an "S" hand. Place the thumb of your dominant hand on the back of your non-dominant hand.

## Car/drive

You can sign "car" (or drive) by using both hands in "S" handshapes and moving them as if controlling a steering wheel. To differentiate between "car" and "drive," sign "car" smaller and "drive" larger. Drive can also be modified by using a "forward and back" movement, and various facial expressions.

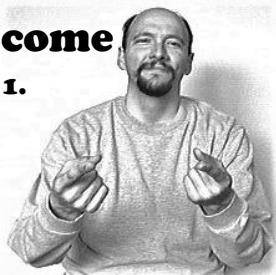


## With

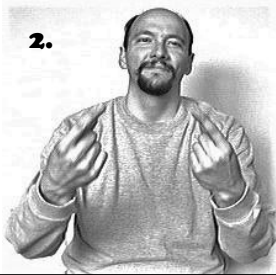
The sign for "WITH" is made by forming the letter "a" with both hands. Place both your hands together, palms facing.

**come**

1.



2.



3.



4.



**Come/go**

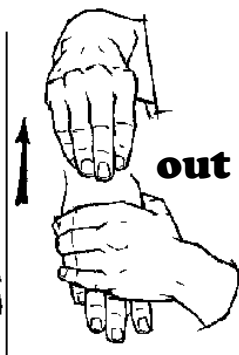
Come: The signs for "come" and "go" are very similar. The main difference is that "come" moves toward you and "go" moves away from you.

The signs use a single quick movement.

**go**



**in**



**In/out**

To do the basic sign for "in," close the fingers of your dominant hand, form your non-dominant hand into a "C," and place the fingers of your dominant hand into the "C" hand.

"Out" is the reverse.

# TIMES

## Day

The sign for "day" is made by holding your non-dominant arm (the left arm for most people) in front of you, palm down, pointing right. Your left hand can be in either a "flat handshape" or an "index finger handshape." Your dominant hand (the right hand for most people) can be either an "index finger" or a "flat hand." (I don't recommend a "D" hand, that is Signed English, not sign language.) Rest your right elbow on the back of the left hand. Your right arm should point up. Move your right arm across your body, the hand tracing an arc while keeping the right elbow on or very near the back of the left hand.

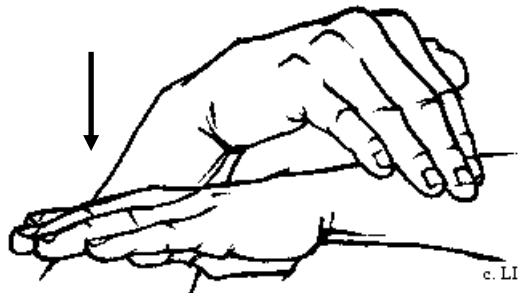


**OR**



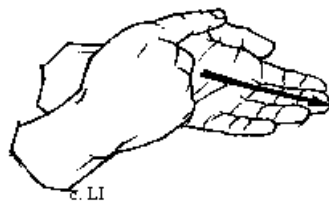
## Night

The sign for "night" is made by holding your non-dominant arm horizontally, palm down, pointing to the side. (If you are right handed that means your left arm would be pointing toward the right.) Put your dominant hand's wrist on the back of your non-dominant hand, fingertips pointing down.



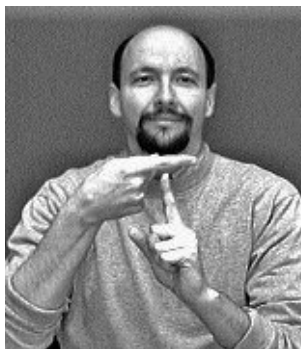
## Week

The sign for "week" has a couple of variations. The basic sign for "week" is made by forming your dominant hand into an index-finger handsape and moving your hand forward over the palm of your non-dominant hand.



## Month

The sign for "month" is made by pointing upward with the index finger of your non-dominant hand. If you are right handed, the palm of the left hand should face right. The palm of the right hand should face back. Trace the right index finger from the top to the bottom of the left index finger.



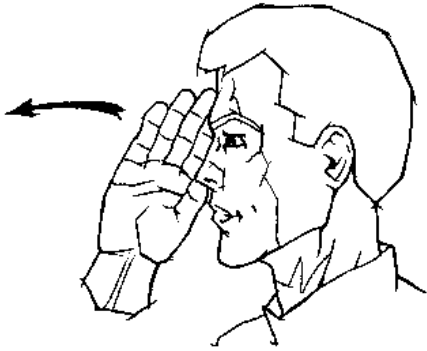
## Year

The sign for "year" is made by forming both hands into the letter "S." If you are right handed, rotate your right hand completely around the left. The right hand should come to rest on top of the left.



## Finish

The sign for "finish" is made by placing both of your open hands in front of you. Each hand should face you, with your fingers pointing upward. Twist both hands quickly a couple times ending with the palms pointing (somewhat) forward. You can also do this sign with just a single twist which makes it seem more "final."



## Future

The sign for "future" is made by slicing a "flat hand" forward through the air. The farther you move your hand, the further into the the future you are referring. This sign can also mean such things as "WILL" as in, "Will you go to college?" (YOU FUTURE COLLEGE YOU?). You can also use a double arching movement to mean "someday" or "the distant future." If you do a single large strong movement it can mean "a long time from now."

## Past

The sign for "past" is made by moving your dominant hand over your dominant shoulder. Your palm should face your body. The more emphasis you give the motion and/or the larger movement you use indicates further into the past.



## Now

The sign for "now" is made by placing both of your hands in front of you in "Y" hand-shapes. Each hand should be pointing upward. Sharply drop both of your hands a short distance.



# AMOUNTS

## Full



The general sign for "full" is made by extending the left closed hand. Open your right hand and move it over the top of your left fist.

Note: if you reverse the motion and you move your hand forward (instead of backward) instead of meaning "full" the meaning changes to "enough."

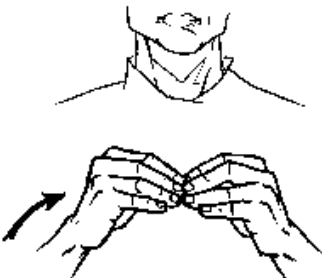
## Big

Notice in the sign below the "L" hand index fingers are bent? That is a generic sign for "largeness" or the state of being big. If I use "normal" "L" hands then the sign becomes an initialized sign for "LARGE."



## More

The sign for "more" uses flattened "O" hands. Bring both "O" hands together.



## Tall

A good general sign is made by placing your right index finger on the palm of your left hand (if you are right handed) and moving the finger upward a few inches. This version is a good one to use to describe trees, buildings, or even people.

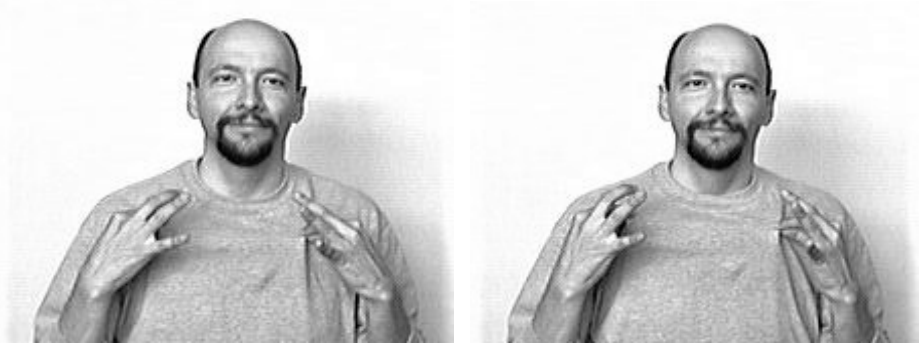


# CLOTHES

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## Shirt

The way to sign "shirt" is by grabbing your shirt in the upper chest area - in the middle or slightly to the right - between your index finger and thumb. Then tug outward a few times. The sign for shirt can be done with one hand or two. If you do it with one hand though it might sometimes be misunderstood to mean "volunteer."



## Pants

The sign for "pants" is made by placing both of your hands in an open position just below your waist. Bring both hands up to your waist. As your hands come up, bend your knuckles and curl your fingers up a bit.

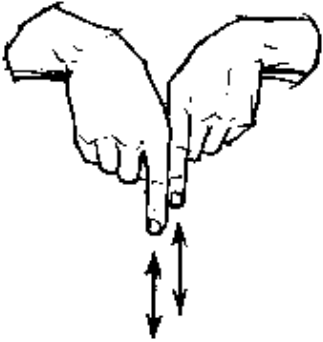


## Shoes

The sign for "shoes" is made by closing both hands and whacking them together twice: Do it gently eh? No need to hurt yourself.

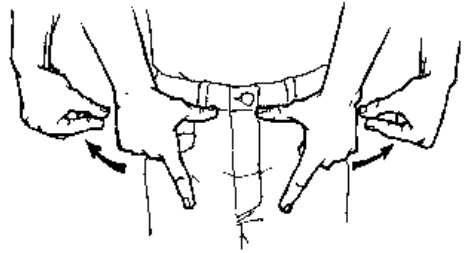
## Socks

The sign for "socks" is made by pointing both of your index fingers down. Rub the fingers together a few times.



## Underwear

The sign for "underwear" is made by using the index finger and thumb of each hand to trace the outline of your underwear. Your palms face backward. Your hand shape changes from an upside down "L" to a closed "G."



## Coat

The sign for "coat" is made by forming both hands into the letter "A." (Not an "S.") Place both hands near your shoulders. Then move both hands downward and inward as if putting on a coat.



# HEALTH

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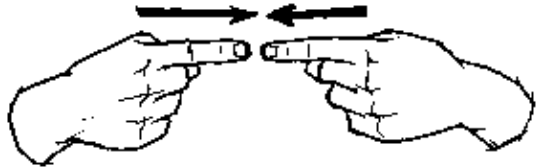


## Wash

The general sign for "wash" is made by closing both hands into "A" hands with your dominant hand on top. Make a circular "scrubbing" movement with the hand that is on top--as if washing something. The hand on the bottom doesn't move.

## Hurt

The sign for "hurt" is made by extending the index fingers of both hands. Bring the fingers toward each other twice using a jabbing movement.



A variation of this sign is to do a twisting movement as you bring the tips of the index fingers toward each other. The right hand twists one way and the left hand twists the other.

Note: Both versions of the sign for "HURT / PAIN" can be done on or near the part of the body that is feeling pain. For example if you have a toothache, you can indicate that in one sign by doing the sign "hurt" near the side of your jaw. If you have a headache, you can indicate it by signing "hurt" near your forehead.

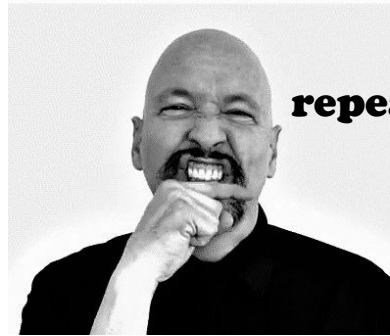
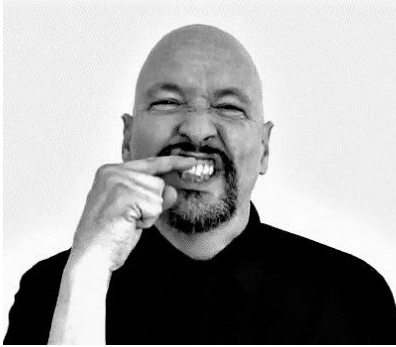
## Sleep

The sign for "sleep" is made by opening your hand and placing it in front of your face, palm toward you. Move your hand downward toward your chin. While the hand is moving, bring your fingers together and touch them with your thumb.



## Brush teeth

The sign for "brush teeth" is made by using the index finger of your right hand to brush your teeth using a side to side horizontal movement.



## Bathroom

The sign for "bathroom" is made by forming the dominant hand into the letter "T." The palm side is facing away from you. Shake your hand side to side a couple times. Some people use a twisting movement instead of the side to side shake. Either is fine.

## Nice/clean

The concept "is clean" is signed the same way as the sign NICE.

However, the concepts "clean up," "to clean," or "cleaning" use what I call "the process" form of the sign wherein you use extra movement to show a process is taking place. So, if you want to sign "clean-up" as in "clean up your bedroom" you would use a double motion. (Repeat the sign to mean: "cleaning, or clean-up.")

The sign for "nice" or "clean" is made by placing your left hand in front of you, palm up and moving the flat palm of your right hand across your left hand. (If you are right handed).



# FINGERSPELLING

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**A**



**B**



**C**



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**G**



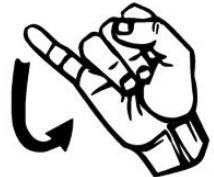
**H**



**I**



**J**



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**N**



**O**



**P**



---

**U**



**V**



**W**



# ALPHABET

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**D**



**E**



**F**



---

**K**



**L**



**M**



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**Q**



**R**



**S**



**T**



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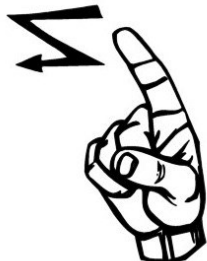
**X**



**Y**



**Z**

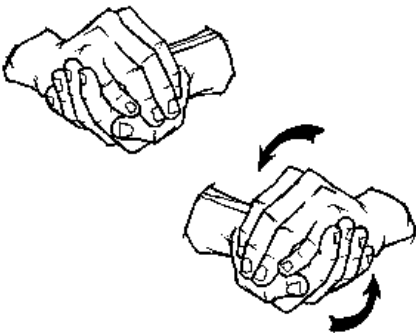


# FOOD

## Pizza

Opinions on the best sign for PIZZA are as varied as opinions on who makes the best pizza in town and what toppings are the most delicious. The fact is there are several popular variations for this sign. Depending on where you live a particular variation may be more popular than other variations. If someone doesn't like your variation, do what I do...throw some pizza crust at him or her. Um...wait, what I meant to say is ask what variation they use. After a while you will get a feel for what works in your area.

Here is a variation of pizza that is popular in Sacramento and elsewhere. The sign looks as if you are showing a piece of pizza in your mouth. (Use a repeated movement). Personally, I don't like it because it is a very awkward sign to produce, but many people in my area are adamant that it is the "right" sign to use.



## Hamburger

The sign for "hamburger" is made by cupping your right hand on top of your left hand. Now reverse the position of both hands.

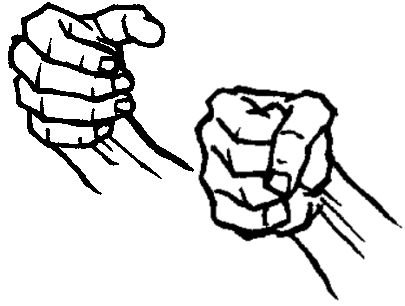
Think of forming hamburger into a "patty" so you can BBQ it.

For additional memory aid, invite your ASL teacher to the BBQ.

Don't worry about the thumb position (open or closed).

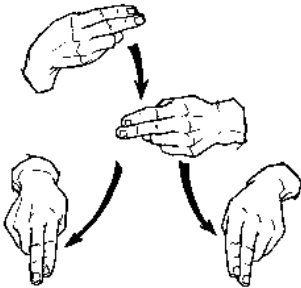
## Milk

The sign for "milk" is made by forming a "C" and closing it twice into an "S" hand.



## Hot dog

The sign for "hotdog" is made by forming both hands into the letter "C." While moving your hands out to the side, change the handshapes to the letter "S" back to a "C" and to an "S" again.



## Egg

The sign for "egg" is made by forming both hands into the letter "H." In one smooth movement, bring the middle finger side of your dominant "H" hand down on top of the index finger side of your non-dominant "H" hand. Move both hands down and out as if breaking apart an "egg."

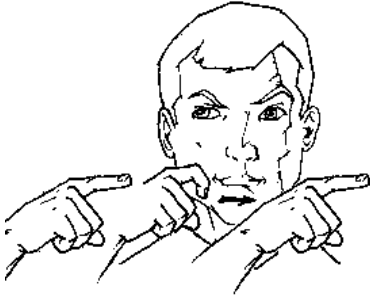
## Cheese

The sign for "cheese" is made by bringing both hands together. Rotate your right hand (or your dominant hand) back and forth. The left hand doesn't move. You rotate the heel of the right hand on the palm of the left -- back and forth as if trying to press the moisture out of a piece of cheese that is within a piece of cheese cloth. The butt of the right hand stays on the palm of the left. The finger tips of the right hand swing back and forth right to left a couple times pivoting on the heel of the hand. The right hand fingers are relaxed -- spread out just a titch and bent a little.



# Apple

The sign for "apple" is made by closing your hand and placing the knuckle of your right index finger against your cheek. At the same time, pivot the hand back and forth.



# Cereal

The sign for "cereal" is made by placing your right index finger - palm down - at the right corner of your mouth. (If you are right handed).

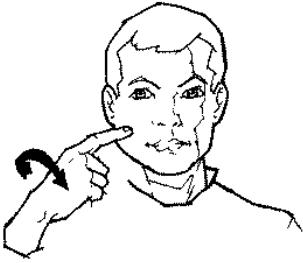
While moving your hand to the left corner of your mouth, change the handshape into an "x." Alternate between the straight index finger and the letter "x" a couple of times.

Remember, the movement is from right to left (if you are right handed).

# Cookie

The right (or dominant) hand is in a loose "C" handshape. You bring the right hand down onto the left hand, then you lift up the right hand rotate it and bring it down again on the left hand. Twist your right hand as if cutting out cookies from cookie dough.



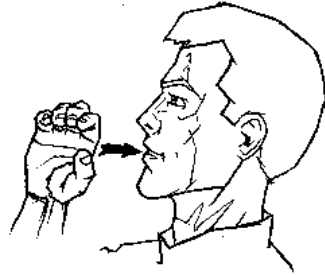


## Candy

To do the sign for "candy" twist the tip of your index finger on your cheek.

## Drink

The sign for "drink" is made by forming your right hand into the letter "C." Move the hand to your mouth in a short arc.



## Water

The sign for "water" is made by forming your right hand into the letter "W." Touch the index finger to your mouth twice.

## Hungry

The sign for "hungry" is made by forming your right hand into the letter "C."

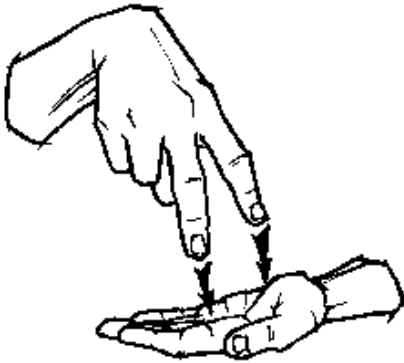
Move your hand down the middle of your chest. You don't actually have to touch your body but most people do -- especially if they want to emphasize how hungry they are with a stronger movement.

The sign for "hungry" is also the same as the sign for "wish." Some people start the sign for "wish" on the upper chest and prefer to start "hungry" from a slightly lower position. I don't mess around with that. But if it helps as a memory aid, think of a "wish" coming from your heart, and hunger coming from your belly. But, again, it is okay to use the same sign for both concepts.



## Spoon

Make the sign for "spoon" by forming the letter "H" with the right hand. Place your left palm facing upward. Lift the right hand from your left hand toward your mouth a few times.



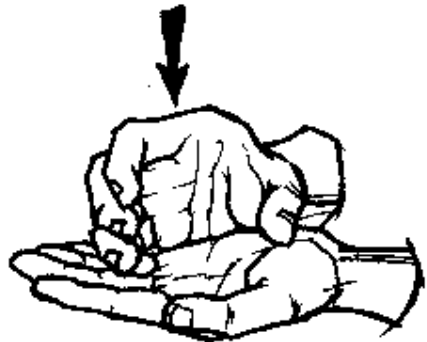
## Fork

Make the sign for "fork" by forming your dominant hand into the letter "V." Poke the palm of your non-dominant hand a couple times.

Note: Some people do this sign with a "W" hand instead of a "V" hand. I sort of like the "W" version better because it looks less like the signs for "stand" or "jump." But the "V" hand version is a solid sign and okay to use, but only in context.

## Cup

The sign for "cup" is made by forming your right hand into the letter "C." Place your right hand into your uplifted left palm. Some people use a very small repeated movement. This sign can also be used to mean "can" as in a container of food.



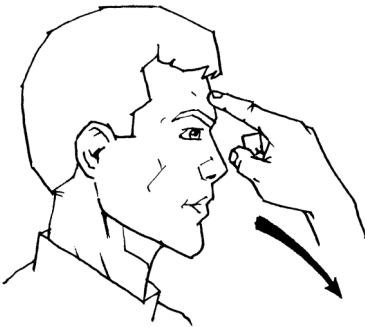
# MONEY

## Dollars

Make the sign for "dollars" by extending your left hand, palm to the right. Grab your left fingers between the palm and fingers of your right hand. Pull your right hand away from your left hand. The right hand "slips off the left hand." The left hand stays in place. Also, you might see the right hand grabbing the top edge of the left hand as in version 2.



**OR**

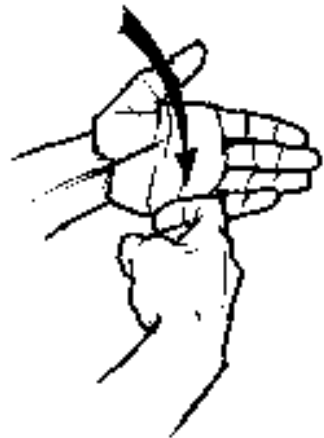


## Cents/penny

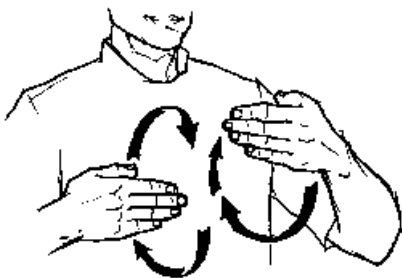
Make the sign for "cents" by touching your forehead with the index finger of your right hand, palm back (which also happens to be a version of the sign for THINK). Pull the hand away from your head (forward and a little bit down).

## Cost

The sign for "cost" is made by extending your non-dominant hand in front of you in a "flat" handshake. Make the letter "X" with your dominant hand (palm back). Strike the palm of your non-dominant hand with the top of your "X" finger using a downward movement.



# FEELINGS



## Happy

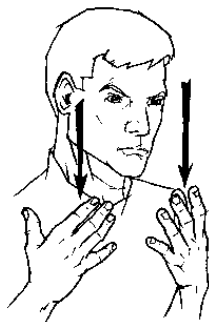
The sign for "happy" is made by placing one or both of your hands in front of you. Use "flat" hands, palms pointing back. Circle your hands forward, down, back, up, forward, down, back, up. Both hands move at the same time and in the same direction. On the upward swing the hands are very close to your chest or touch your chest. On the downward swing your hands are further

away from your chest.

Note: Some people slightly "slap" the chest - other people don't even touch.

## Sad

The sign for "sad" is made by placing both hands in front of your face, palms in. Bring both of your hands down the length of your face. Tilt your head forward slightly, and make a sad face.



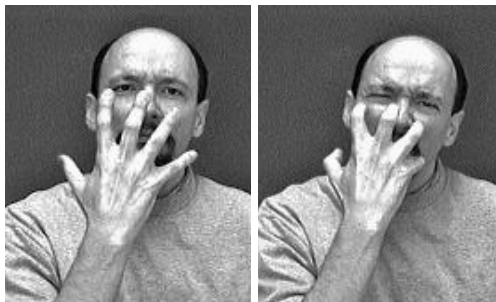
## Angry/mad

The sign for "angry" is made by forming "claw" hands and placing your fingertips against your stomach. Pull both hands forcefully up and outward.

The sign for "mad" (as in the opposite of happy) uses a single motion. If you use a double motion and a slightly less intense face it can mean, "grouchy" or "grumpy." Don't actually touch your face while doing this sign. (That might be painful, and then you'd be really "mad" at me.)



**OR**





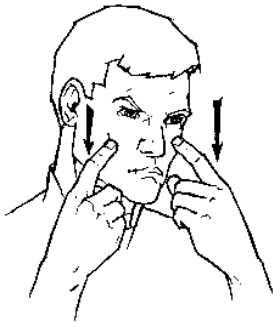
## Love

The sign for "love" is made by crossing both hands over the middle of your chest.

## Cry

The sign for "cry" is made by placing one or both index fingers under your eyes.

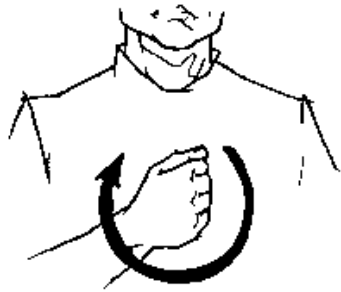
Bring your fingers down over your cheeks a few times.



## Sorry

The sign for "sorry" is made by forming an "A" with your right hand. Rotate your hand on your chest using a couple of clockwise motions.

This sign can be also be used to mean "apologize" or "regret."



## Like

The sign LIKE is used to mean "to enjoy or have an affinity for" someone or something. As in: "I like it."

In the below sequence, the first picture is optional. Most of the time I start the sign a bit out from my chest with my middle finger and thumb pointing back toward my chest (but not touching either my chest or each other). Then I move the hand forward while bringing





## Good

Make the sign for "good" by placing the fingers of your right hand against your lips. Move your right hand into the palm of your left hand. Both hands should be facing upward.

Note: Often the sign "GOOD" is done without the base hand. When signed with just the dominant hand only, this sign can mean, "thank you" or it can still mean "good."

## Bad

The sign for "BAD" is very similar to "GOOD" except there is a reversal of orientation for negation--which means that by twisting the palm-side of the hand so that it points down (instead of up--as in the sign for good) it now means the opposite of good. You also change your facial expression to match your meaning. Generally this is a frown or scowl when signing "BAD."

Make the sign for "BAD" by placing the fingers of your right hand against your lips. Move your hand down and away. Your palm will now be facing downward.



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# REQUESTS

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## Please

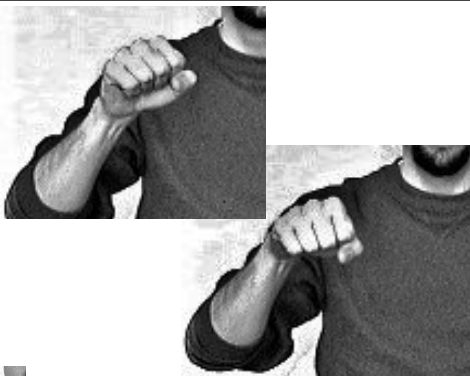
The sign for "please" is made by placing your flat right hand over the center of your chest. Move your hand in a clockwise motion (from the observer's point of view, use a circular motion towards your left, down, right, and back up) a few times.



## Yes

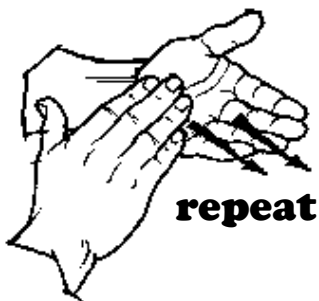
The sign for "yes" uses an "S" hand.

Memory aid: Think of the fist hand as representing your head. When you raise and lower your fist, bending at the wrist it represents your head nodding "yes."



## No

The sign "NO" can use either a polite double motion or a more firm or definite single motion. It is also directional in nature -- meaning, if I hold my hand off to my right and I point the palm toward myself while doing the sign, it can mean "He told me no."



## Excuse

The general sign for "excuse" is made by extending your left hand, palm up. Brush your right bent-hand fingertips across the left palm starting with the pinky on your right hand.

Bend the large knuckles of the right hand slightly. Keep the other knuckles straight.

This sign when done with a double movement means things like "excuse me."

## Thank you

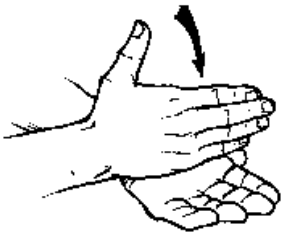
The sign for "thank you" is made by starting with the fingers of your dominant hand near your lips. Your hand should be a "flat hand." Move your hand forward and a bit down in the direction of the person you are thanking. Smile (so they'll know you mean it).



## Help

The sign for "help" is made by forming a loose-thumb-A hand (or even an "S" hand) and lifting it with your other hand.

Note: The sign for HELP is directional. If you start it near yourself and move it toward someone else in and up, forward, then down arch it means "I will help you" or "I helped you" or (if you do it with raised eyebrows) "Do you want me to help you?" You don't need separate signs for "ME" and "YOU."



## Stop

The sign for "stop" is made by extending your left hand, palm upward. Sharply bring your open right hand down to your left palm at a right angle.

## Why

The sign for "why" is made by touching (or coming near) your forehead with the fingers of your dominant hand then while bringing your hand forward and down, change it to the letter "y," keeping your palm facing you.



## Name

Handshape: "H" handshape on both hands.

Movement: Tends to be a double movement (but a single movement is also common).

Non-Manual Marker: In general this uses a neutral facial expression. In the sentence "What is your name?" signed as NAME YOU? (Wh-question expression — see "WHAT") you furrow the eyebrows and tilt the head forward a bit.

## What

The sign for "what" is made by holding your flat hands palm-up in front of you and moving them out from yourself then in toward yourself. The movement comes from your elbows, not your wrists. There is a facial expression that is sometimes called a "wh-q" expression. It is the type of facial expression you should use when asking questions that have an answer other than yes or no. Generally these questions start with the letters "wh" as do the signs WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY...so you can see why we call this expression a "wh" question expression.

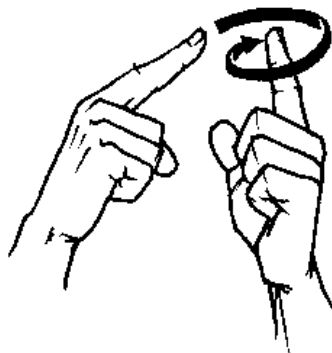


## Where

The sign for "where" is made using an INDEX-finger handshape. Hold your hand in front of you and "pivot" the hand side to side a couple of times. The movement is in the wrist and elbow NOT in the finger joint.

## When

The sign for "when" is made by holding your left index finger up (if you are right handed). Your palm should face right. Bring the tip of your right index finger near to the tip of your left index finger. Circle the tip of your right index finger in a clockwise motion around your left index finger and end with the tip of the right index finger touching the tip of the left finger. Your arm doesn't move much on this sign. The movement is in the wrist. (If you are left handed just do a mirror image of this sign.)

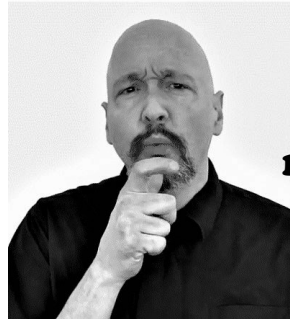


# Who

The sign for "who" has several variations.

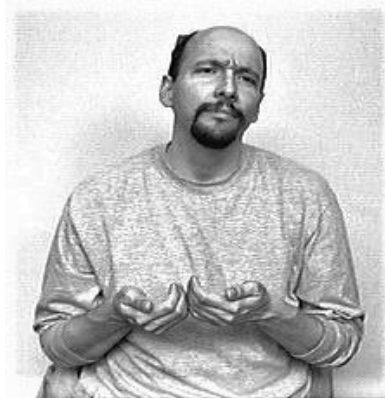
A good general variation is to place the tip of your thumb on your chin with your index finger extended. Bend your index finger twice.

Notice, some people do this sign without touching the chin. They hold an "X" handshape in front of their chin/mouth and wiggle the index finger up and down (quickly changing it from an fully bent X to a partially bent X a couple times). Personally I prefer the "touch chin with thumb" variation, but I wouldn't consider it wrong if someone used the "non-contact" version. Also, you will see people who do the movement from the large knuckle instead of the small and middle knuckles -- that is okay too.



# How

Form curved handshapes on both hands, palms down and/or slightly back. Place your hands together with the knuckles touching. (Looks kind of like McDonalds' Golden Arches.) Roll the hands forward until the "arches" are upside down--ending with your hands palm-up in "cupping" handshapes. When asking how something was done or how something happened you should furrow your eyebrows. (The question "How are you?" when used as a greeting is an exception to the rule and uses raised eyebrows.)



# COLORS

## Blue

The sign for "blue" is made by forming the letter "b" with your right hand. Twist/shake your hand from the elbow (the wrist doesn't bend on this sign).



**repeat**



## Green

The sign for "green" shakes a "G" handshape.

**repeat**

## Yellow

The sign for "yellow" is made by forming the letter "Y." Twist your hand a couple times (the movement is in the wrist)



**repeat**



# Brown

The sign for "brown" is made by forming the letter "B" with your right hand. Move your right hand down the side of your right cheek. Your index finger should be close to your face.



# Red

The sign for "red" is made by making a movement that looks like you are stroking your lips (one time) with the tip of your index finger.

Notice that I tend to change the "index" finger into an "x" hand as I move it downward. I also tend to only do the movement one time but some people keep the finger straight. You might also see this sign done with a double motion.



**repeat**

# Orange

The sign for "orange," both the fruit and the color, is made by forming the letter "C" and then "S." You "squeeze" your hand in front of your mouth twice.



## Gold

To do the sign for "gold" point your index finger at your ear lobe and then move your hand away from your ear as you change the handshape into the letter "Y." End with a very small shake.



## Silver

Make the sign for "silver" by pointing your index finger at your earlobe. As you move your hand away from your ear, form the letter "S." End with a very small shake.



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# TEMPERATURES

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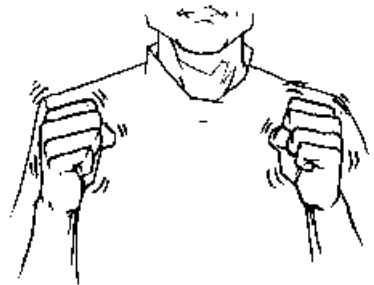
## Hot

Make the sign for "hot" by forming a "claw" or a loose "c" with your dominant hand. Place your thumb and fingers at the sides of your mouth. Quickly turn your hand forward and down as if removing something hot from your mouth.



## Cold

Make the sign for "cold" by forming both hands into the letter "S." Hold both hands in front of you and shake them as if shivering from the cold.



# ANIMALS

## Cat

The general version of the sign for cat starts with an "open F." This handshape looks like a normal "F" except that the index finger and thumb are separated by about an inch. Place the "open F" handshape near the bottom of your nose and move it out to the side while changing it to a normal "F" handshape.

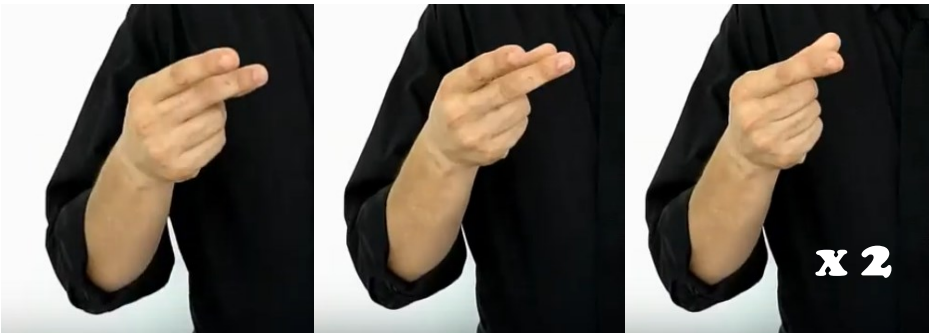


## Dog

To sign DOG, just snap your fingers twice.

This is an interesting sign because it is sort of based on the fingerspelled word D-O-G as well as the common gesture of snapping your fingers to get a dog's attention. Note: The snap always uses the middle finger, not the index finger. The beginning handshape looks a bit like a modified "D" hand and the ending handshape winds up looking like the letter "G." Thus the sign sort of looks like you are spelling the letters "DG" which creates a "lexicalized" version of the fingerspelled word "D-O-G."

There are several different "right" ways to do the sign for "dog". A popular sign for "dog" is made by slapping your right flat hand against your leg, then snapping your fingers. Or you can snap your fingers once then slap your leg. Or you can slap your leg twice and not snap your fingers at all.



## Bird

The sign for "bird" is made by forming the letter "G" and placing your hand at the right side of your mouth. Open and close the thumb and index finger twice.

Note: The sign "BIRD" can also be used to mean "chicken"--depending on the situation. Suppose you were in a restaurant and your date asked you what you were going to order. You could reply, "BIRD" and it would mean "chicken."



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## Sample sentences

Here are a few practice sentences you can sign using the signs you've learned.

Note: Don't sign the information in the [ ] brackets.

MY NAME [is] (fingerspell name or use sign name).

I LOVE MY FAMILY.

MY DAD LIKE[s] COLD PIZZA.

MY MOM LIKE[s] CHURCH.

[The] HE-(point off to your side) BOY LIKE[s] HOT-DOG[s].

[The] SHE-(point) GIRL WANT[s] [to] FOOD [eat].

[The] THOSE-2 BOY [and] GIRL FUTURE [will] MARRIAGE [get married].

MY BROTHER LIKE HOT WASH-(body) [bath].

MY SISTER LIKE[s] SCHOOL.

MY GRANDMA HAVE [ has a] GREEN COAT.

PAST [last] YEAR MY GRANDPA WORK [ed].

MY AUNT SLEEP HER SOCKS.

MY UNCLE DIVORCE.

SHE HAPPY BABY!

SHE (the) GIRL (is) SINGLE

MY MOM-DAD (parents) (are) SEPARATE(d).

I FINISH(ed) MY HOME-WORK.

I DRIVE-to SCHOOL.

I GO (to the) STORE.

I PAST GO (went to) CHURCH WITH MY BOY-MARRIAGE (husband).

PAST (last) WEEK I SLEEP IN MY CAR.

PAST (last) NIGHT (it was) COLD OUT (outside).

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