

Silent Heraldry for Beginners

Mistress Marie le Mains, OP

I. Introduction

Who am I? Baroness Marie le Mains, OP

Playing in SCA since 2004

My maternal grandmother was Deaf.

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II. What is Silent Heraldry?

A Voice Herald is the spoken voice of the Crown. They are also the Voice of an Event Steward for their event. What is needed when members of the Populace are not able to hear the cries of the Voice Herald? This is where Silent Heralds come in.

The Silent Herald's job is to relay the spoken language to a visual language. The Silent Herald's role is to act in parallel to the Voice Herald in all aspects. The Silent Herald should stand on either side of the Voice Herald/Site Herald with enough space to enable them to do their job correctly. If the Voice Herald is speaking loudly, so the Silent Herald should use bigger signs in their signing space.

III. General information

When in doubt, fingerspell. Don't know the sign, fingerspell. Names, places, titles -Fingerspell. Pen and paper is always an option. Carry it. Look in the face when talking. When pointing, tell them what they are looking at. Point. Come back to the face and continue talking. If you can't look at them while talking, have someone else relay while you work.

IV. Grammar and Vocabulary

Sign window, Dominant hands, designated space

Pronouns - conjugated, single, possessive

Group Practice

Show how-One by One repeat

Syntax/Grammar/Facial expressions

Info - Y/N -Y/NQ - Yelling/Whisper

Questions??

V. Feedback

Was I clear and made the material easily understandable?

Was this helpful to you?

How was the format for the time allotted?

References & Bibliography:

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Signing Savvy Video Dictionary, <https://www.signingsavvy.com>.

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SCA Youtube Channel for Kingdom Sign Names and various other SCA related words: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVkV5KUTHzImN22lHrnssaw>

Laird Odd Inn Fundni (Blue Aldrich mundane). FB: Blue Aldrich Email: Odd@westkingdom.org



a



b



c



d



e



f



g

palm is always forward
except where noted

palm forward
thumb bent out

thumb also often
lower (like a claw)

palm in



h

palm in



i



j



k



l



m



n



o

palm faces opposite
side of body



p

index finger
points out



q

like p but points
down and unseen
fingers curled in



r



s



t



u



v



w



x



y



z

palm forward
thumb can be over fingers
whole palm can be
slanted to side away from body



0



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

Vocabulary

Address - The upturned thumbs of the "A" hands move in unison up the chest (also: alive, exist, life, live).

Adult - 1. The thumb tip of the "A" hand is placed first on the right jawline and then moves up to touch the temple. (The letter "A"; the FEMALE and MALE root signs.) 2. Hold hand next to body, palm down. Then raise the hand to slightly above the head (also: grown-up, grow up).

Afternoon - The dominant arm, fingers together and pointing forward, rests on the back of the other hand, its fingers also together and pointing somewhat outward. The dominant arm remains in a position of about 45 degrees from the vertical. (The sun is midway between the zenith and sunset.)

Alcohol - The hand, with index and little fingers extended and remaining fingers held against the palm by the thumb, strikes the back of the down turned opposite hand (also: liqueur, whiskey). (The size of the jigger.)

Ambulance - The hand, fingers extended, is positioned above the head. It rotates in imitation of a flashing emergency light.

Archery - TARGET+BOW: Touch the fingertips of the index fingers and thumbs together to make a circle with arms extended; then hold "S" hand extended with the other hand by chin or shoulder extending and curling the index and middle fingers imitating shooting a bow. (Represents the target and then shooting the bow at the target.)

Art - The little finger of the dominant hand, representing a pencil, traces a curved line in the upturned palm of the opposite hand.

Bad - The tips of the "B" hand are placed at the lips, and then the hand is thrown down (also: grave, naughty, wicked). (Tasting something, finding it unacceptable, and turning it down.)

Bathroom - The "T" hand is shaken slightly. (The letter "T" for toilet.)

Battlefield - WAR+FIELD: The "4" or "5" hands face each other and move simultaneously from side to side, representing the successive advance and retreat of contending armed forces (also: wage war). (The contending armies.) Then the dominant "5" hand, palm down, makes a circular motion to the side of the chest. (An expanse of ground.)

Beer - The "Y" hand is raised to the lips as the head tilts back a bit. (Raising a beer stein to the lips.)

Blanket - The down turned hands grasp an imaginary blanket edge and pulls it up over the chest. (Pulling up the covers.)

Bone - Both hands, crossed and palms facing the signer, are held with index and middle fingers curved inward. (The skeleton's crossed bones.)

Box - The open hands, palms facing and fingers pointing out, are dropped an inch or two simultaneously. They then shift their relative positions so that both palms face the body, with one hand in front of the other. In the new position they again drop an inch or two simultaneously (also: package room, trunk, chest), (The dimensions are indicated.)

Boy - The hand, palm down, is held at the forehead. The fingers open and close once or twice (also: lad). (A modification of the MALE root sign; the familiar sign for BOY; the gripping of the bill of his ball cap.)

Breathe - The hands, folded over the chest, move forward and back to the chest to indicate the breathing (also breathe, respiration, breathed, breathing). (The rise and fall of the chest in respiration.)

Broken - The sign starts with both hands as a fist side by side and horizontal, then you move both fists out and twist them so they are aligned vertically. (As if grasping a stick and breaking it in two.)

Burn - The "5" hands are held with palms facing the body. They move up and down alternately while the fingers wiggle (also: fire, flame). (The leaping of flames.)

Calm-down - Both open hands are held palms down and fingers pointing forward. The hands move straight down a short distance (also: settle, settle down, sit down).

Camp - Both hands with only the index and pinky fingers out, Fingertips touching, move down and out, describing a pyramid. This is the shape of a tent, associated with camp.

Car - The hands grasp an imaginary steering wheel and manipulate it (also: automobile, drive). (The steering wheel of a car.)

Child - The down turned palm is extended before the body as if resting on a child's head. (The child's height.) Children The down turned right palm held before the body, executes a series of movements from left to right, as if patting a number of children on their heads. (Indicating different heights of children; patting the children on their heads.)

Clothes - With fingertips resting on the chest, both hands move down simultaneously. The action is repeated. (also: clothing, dress, frock, garment, garb, gown, shirt, suit) (Draping the clothes on the body.)

Class - Both "C" hands, palms facing, are held a few inches apart at chest height. They are swung around in unison so that the palms now face the body. (also: association, audience, caste, circle-pagan gathering, club, company, group, organization) (A grouping together.)

Cold - Both "S" hands, palms facing, are placed on the sides of the body. In this position the arms and hands shiver (also: chilly, frigid, shiver, winter). (The trembling from cold.)

Come (here) - 1. The index finger makes a natural beckoning movement (also: beckon). 2. The upright hand makes a natural beckoning movement. (Beckoning someone to come towards you.)

Confused - The down turned hand is positioned above the other upturned hand. The fingers of both are curved. Both hands move in opposite horizontal circles (also: clutter, complicate, confused, confusion, disorder, mingle, mix, mix up, scramble). (Scrambling or mixing up.)

Court - The two "F" hands, palms facing each other, move alternately up and down. (also: consider, evaluate, judge, judgment, justice) (The scales move up and down.)

Cops - The "C" hand, palm facing out, is placed against the chest (also: police, sheriff, constable). (The "C" for "cop"; the shape and position of the badge.)

Dance - The downturned index and middle fingers of the dominant "V" hand swing rhythmically back and forth over the upturned other palm. (also: ball, party) (The rhythmic swaying of the feet.)

Deaf - The tip of the extended index finger touches first the ear and then the chin. (Deaf and mute, indicating the old association of being able to hear with being able to speak.)

Dizzy - The "5" hand, palm facing the body and fingers somewhat curved, swings around in a continuous counterclockwise circle before the eyes. (Images swinging around before the eyes.)

Do - 1. Both "D" hands, palms facing upwards, in front of the body with the index fingers pointing outward. Quickly touch the tip of the index finger to the tip of the thumb several times. (The word "do.") 2. Both open hands, palms down, are swung right and left before the chest. (also act, action, activity, conduct, busy-work, render)

Do-Not - The thumb of the right "A" hand is placed under the chin. From this position it is flicked outward in an arc. (also: don't)

Don't-Know - The sign for KNOW is made: the right fingertips tap the forehead several times. The dominant hand is then flung over to the right, ending in the "5" position, palm out. (Knowledge is lacking.)

Doctor - The fingertips of the "M" hand lightly tap the other hand's pulse a number of times. The "D" hand may also be used, in which case the thumb and fingertips tap the pulse (also: medical). (The letter "M" from "M.D."; feeling the pulse.)

Drink - The thumb tip of the right "Y" hand is tilted toward the mouth as if it were a drinking glass or bottle. The signer tilts their head back slightly as if drinking. (also, liquor, drunkenness, intoxication) (The act of drinking.)

Drunk - The thumb tip of the "A" hand moves quickly across the lips, from one side of the mouth to the other (also: drunkard, drunkenness). (The glass misses the lips.)

East - The "E" hand, held in front of the signer, moves horizontally to the left a few inches. (The east point on a compass face.)

Eat - See "Food"

Emergency - The "E" hand is positioned above the head. It rotates in imitation of a flashing emergency light. (The flashing lights of emergency vehicles.)

Family - The thumb and index fingers of both "F" hands are in contact, palms facing. The hands swing open and around, coming together again at their little finger edges, palms now facing the body. (The letter "F"; a circle or group.)

Feel (physical sense) - The tip of the middle finger of the down turned "5" hand touches the back of the opposite hand a number of times (also: contact, touch). (The natural movement of touching.)

Feels-like - FEEL + SAME: The sign for FEEL is made first; the middle finger, touching the heart, moves up an inch or two a number of times (also emotion, feeling, motive, sensation, sense). (The welling up of feeling or emotions in the heart.) Then the hand comes in front of the body in a "Y" shape and moves left and right (also: same as). (Two things are compared, back and forth.)

Feet - Point, with your index finger, downward at your feet. For the word "foot," point at one foot only. For the word "feet" point at one foot, and then make a little arcing movement and point at the other foot.

Fever - The index finger of the "D" hand, pointing horizontally, moves slowly up and down the index finger of the other "D" hand, which is held pointing up (also: temperature, thermometer). (The rise and fall of the mercury in the thermometer.)

Fighting - The "S" hands, palms facing, swing down simultaneously towards each other. (also: combat) (The fists in combat.)

Finger spell - The hand, palm out, is moved from left to right, with the fingers wiggling up and down (Also: alphabet, spell, spelling). (The movement of the fingers in finger spelling.)

Finish - The upright "5" hands, palms facing each other, are suddenly and quickly swung around to a palm-out position (also: done, end). (Shaking the hands to rid them of something.)

Fire - The "5" hands are held with palms facing the body. The move up and down alternately while the fingers wiggle (also: burn, flame, hellfire). (The leaping of flames.)

Food - The closed hand goes through the natural motion of placing food in the mouth. This movement is repeated (also: consume, devour, dine, eat, feed, meal). (The natural sign for food going in the mouth.)

Friend - The right and left hands are interlocked at the index fingers. The hands separate, change their relative positions, and come together again as before (also: friendship). (Locked together in friendship.)

Flushed - Both hands are placed palms facing the cheeks and move up along the face to indicate the rise of color (also: blush, embarrass, embarrassed, mortification). (The red rises in the cheeks.) The sign "red" is often used in front of this sign to indicate an extreme redness in the face.

Gender - The "X" finger is placed first at the temple and is drawn down the jawline almost to the chin. (The gender signs with the letter "X.")

Girl - The FEMALE root sign; the thumb of the "A" hand moves down along the line of the right jaw, from ear almost to the chin (also: female). (This outlines the string used to tie ladies' bonnets in olden days.)

Go - The index finger is flung out as a command to go. This sign is directional. (The natural sign for sending someone away from you.)

Go-there - 1. The index finger points to an imaginary object, usually at or slightly above eye level (also: over yonder). This sign is directional. 2. The hand is brought forward, simultaneously opening into the palm-up position. (Something brought to the attention.)

Good - 1. The fingertips of the dominant "5" is placed at the lips. The dominant hand then moves out and into a palm-up position on the upturned left palm. (also: well) (Tasting something, approving it, and offering it forward.) 2. The "A" hand is held with the thumb pointing straight up. The hand moves forward and out an inch or two. This motion can be repeated. (Thumbs up!)

Hammer - The dominant hand, grasping an imaginary hammer, swings down toward the other fist, which represents the object being hammered. The dominant hand does not touch the other, however. The action is usually repeated. (also: hammering, hammered) (The natural act of hammering a tent stake.)

Hard of Hearing (HoH) - The "H" hand drops down an inch or so, rises, moves in a short arc to the right, and drops down an inch or so again. (The "H" is indicated twice for Hard of Hearing.)

Heart - The middle fingers are used to trace a heart.

Help - The "S" hand, thumb sticking up, rests in the open palm of the other hand. In this position the "S" hand is pushed up a short distance (also: aid, assist, assistance, boost, give assistance). (Helping up; supporting.)

Here - The open "5" hands, palms up and fingers slightly curved, move in circles (vertical or horizontally) in front of the body.

Hearing - The index finger, pointing horizontally, describes a continuous small circle in front of the mouth (also: mention, remark, speech, state, statement, verbal). (Words tumbling from the mouth, indicating the old association of being able to hear with being able to speak.)

High (inebriated) - The "H" hand, palm facing the body, is moved up about a foot, in a spiral, to a position somewhat above the head. (To illustrate the smoke from the pipe rising above the head.)

Hip-Hip-Huzaah! - Both "X" hands on either side of the head, next to the ears, move in a circle twice then open to a "5" hand as the head tilts back and the eyes look up. (also: hallelujah, hurray, hurrah) (The act of throwing up your hands in celebration-Hurray!)

Hold - The "S" hand trembles slightly as it grips an imaginary object. (The gripping is emphasized.)

Horse - The "U" hands are placed palms out at either side of the head at the temples. The index and middle fingers move forward and back repeatedly, imitating the movement of a horse's ears. (The horse's ears.)

Hospital - The index and middle fingers of the "H" hand trace a cross on the upper part of the opposite arm (also: infirmary). (The letter "H"; the red cross on the sleeve.)

Hot - The cupped hand, palm facing the body, moves up in front of the slightly open mouth. It is then flung down to the palm-down position. (Removing hot food from the mouth.)

House - The open hands are held with fingertips touching so that they form a pyramid a bit above eye level. From this position, the hands separate and move diagonally downward for a short distance; then they continue straight down a few inches. This movement traces the outline of a roof and walls. (also: barn, domicile, residence) (The shape of the house.)

How - 1. The right-angle hands, palms down and knuckles touching, swing up and open to the palms-up position (also: manner). (The hands come into view to reveal something.) 2. The right-angle hands, palms down and knuckles touching while one hand swings up to the palms-up position and back again.

Hurt - The "D" hands, index fingers pointing to each other, are rotated in elliptical fashion before the chest-simultaneously but in opposite direction (also: ache, injure, injury, mar, offend, offense, pain, sin, wound, wounded). (A stabbing pain.)

Kitchen - The dominant "K" hand is placed palm down on the upturned other palm. It flips over to the palm-up position and comes to rest again on the upturned left palm, as if flipping over a pancake. (The act of making food.)

Know - The dominant fingertips tap the forehead several times. (also: knew, knowing, known, intelligence, knowledge, recognize-that) (Patting the head to indicate something of value inside.)

(My) Lady - GIRL + LORD: First sign GIRL (the FEMALE root sign): the thumb of the "A" hand moves down along the line of the right jaw, from ear almost to the chin. Then move the dominant "L" hand, palm facing out, moves down across the chest from shoulder to opposite hip. (The ribbon worn across the chest by nobles; the initial "L")

Lamp - The down turned "8" hand, positioned at the chin, flicks open a number of times. (also: light) (The rays coming out of a lampshade.)

Light - The upturned "8" hand, positioned at the chin, flicks open a number of times "flicking" the chin. (The light switch.)

Lighter - The "A" hand is held with the thumb pointing straight up. The thumb quickly bends and straightens several times. Imitating the act of lighting a lighter.

Like (to like a thing/person) - The thumb and index finger of the dominant open hand, held an inch or two apart, are placed at mid-chest. As the hand moves straight out from the chest the two fingers come together. (also: admire, revere) (Drawing out the feelings.)

Like (the same as) - The outstretched index fingers are brought together either once or several times. (also alike, identical, same, similar, such) (Matching fingers are brought together.)

Lip Reading - The "V" hand, palm facing the body, is placed in front of the face, with slightly curved index and middle fingers directly in front of the lips. The hand moves in a small counterclockwise circle around the lips (also: oral, read lips, speechreading). (Reading the lips-the lines of vision represented by the two fingers, scan the lips.)

Look-at - See "See"

Lord - The dominant "L" hand, palm facing out, moves down across the chest from shoulder to opposite hip. (The ribbon worn across the chest by nobles; the initial "L")

Lost - Make the sign for "more" and then turn both hands palms down while relaxing your fingers.

Lungs - Using both bent hands; fingers pointing into the chest, starts at the top and move down the torso twice. (Drawing down the length of your lungs.)

Man - The MALE root sign; place the "5" hand with fingers spread and thumb pointing toward the middle of your forehead. Make an arc from forehead to the center of your chest (also: male, mister, masculine).

Merchant's Row - STORE + ROW: First sign STORE: Both flat "O" hands, fingers touching their respective thumbs, are held palms down before the body. The hands are pivoted simultaneously outward and away from the body, once or several times. Then move both "5" hands, palms facing each other forward in unison, tracing the outline of the walls of a hallway. (also: hall, hallway, sides)

Morning - The little finger edge of the non-dominant hand rests in the crook of the dominant elbow. The left arm, held horizontally, representing the horizon. The open right hand, fingers together and pointing up, with palm facing the body, rises slowly to an almost upright angle. (also: forenoon) (The sun comes over the horizon.)

Music - The non-dominant "5" hand out in front of the body, palm facing inward is waved back and forth near the open other hand (as if holding a choir book) in a series of elongated figure eights. (also: music, song, melody, chant, hymn) (A rhythmic, wavy movement of the hand to indicate a melody; the movement of a conductor's hand in directing a musical performance.)

Night - The non-dominant hand, palm down, is positioned at chest height. The downturned dominant hand, held an inch or so above the other, moves over the non-dominant hand in

an arc, as the sun setting beneath the horizon. (also: evening) (The sun drops beneath the horizon.)

No - 1. Both "O" hands are held facing each other in front of the face. They are then drawn apart slowly, the right hand moving to the right and the left hand moving to the left (also: nothing). **2.** The index and middle fingers of the "N" hand are held raised and are then lowered against the extended thumb in a modified "O" position. (The letters "N" and "O")
No - The index and middle fingers of the right "N" hand are held raised and are then lowered against the extended right thumb in a modified "O" position. (The letters "N" and "O")

Not - See "Do-Not"

North - The "N" hand out in front moves up 2-3 inches. (also: northern, northerly) (The north point on a compass.)

Nervous (anxiety) - Both "5" hands, held palm down, tremble noticeably (also: anxiety). (The trembling fingers.)

Need - The hand, in the "X" position, palm down, moves forcefully up and down once or twice. An expression of determination is frequently assumed (also: have to, imperative, must, necessary, necessity, ought to, should, needed).

Number - Pinch your fingers together, and touch your two hands together, twisting your hands between touches.

Nurse - The index and middle fingers of the "N" hand are placed against the upturned wrist of the opposite hand. (The letter "N"; taking the pulse.)

b- 1. The down turned index and middle fingers of the dominant "V" hand swing rhythmically back and forth over the upturned left palm. **2.** (also: ball, dance, dancing) (The rhythmic swaying of the feet.) **2.** Both "Y" hands, held somewhat in front of the chest and face, are pivoted back and forth repeatedly as if drinking from beer bottles. (also: kegger, drunk fest, a binge) (The drinking of several beers at a party.)

Pass-out - The down turned open hands, fingers somewhat curved, suddenly separate and close into the "S" position. The head, meanwhile, falls back a bit and the eyes close (also: faint). (To faint; attempting to grab something as one falls.)

Period (time period) - The dominant "T" hand is placed palm to palm in the open other hand. It describes a clockwise circle and comes to rest again in the non-dominant hand's palm. (also: age, era, epoch) (Time in the abstract, indicated by the rotating of the "T" hand on the face of a clock.)

Phone - The right "Y" hand is placed at the right side of the head with the thumb touching the ear and the little finger touching the lips (also: telephone, phoning).

Pins and Needles - 1. The "F" hand, with index and thumb touching, touch the opposite forearm repeatedly. Moving up the forearm towards the elbow to imitate little stab pains along the skin. 2. The "5" hand fingers wiggle quickly as the hand moves up along the forearm towards the elbow, imitating a tingling sensation (also: tingle, tingling).

Please - The open dominant hand is circled on the chest over the heart. (also: pleasure, appreciate, enjoy, enjoyment, gratify) (A pleasurable feeling on the heart.)

Privy - See "Bathroom"

Queer - The "5" hand, palm facing the side of your head and the middle finger pointing at the side of your head, trace a line along your head from the temple to behind the ear.

Realm - 1. The "A" hands, palms facing down, are positioned with thumb tips touching. They separate, move in toward the body, and then come together again at the thumb tips. The movement describes a circle around an area. 2. The "5" hand is set off to the side and makes several small circles describing a set area. (also: area, place) (The limitations or borders of the area.)

Road - Both hands, palms facing and fingers together and extended straight out, move in unison away from the body in a winding manner. (also: path, trail, way, corridor, pathway, hall) (also: method, opportunity) (The winding movement of the path.)

Science - The upright thumbs of both "A" hands swing over alternately as if pouring out the contents of a pair of test tubes. (also: chemical, chemistry, scientific) (Pouring alternately from test tubes.)

See - The "V" hand, palm facing the body, is placed so that the fingertips are just under the eyes. The hand swings around and out so that the fingertips are now pointing forward. The hand often moves straight out without turning around (also: look, perceive, perception, sight). (The eyesight is directed forward.)

Sew - The dominant "F" hand, index and thumb tips as if holding a needle, brushes against the non-dominant "5" hand, palm downwards representing cloth, imitating the act of pulling thread up through the cloth. (also: stitching, sewing)

Shoes - Both "S" hands, palms facing down, are brought together sharply twice. (also: boots) (The act of knocking the dirt off a pair of shoes in hand.)

Sick - The right middle finger rests on the forehead and its left counterpart is placed against the stomach. The signer assumes an expression of sadness or physical distress (also: disease, ill, illness, sickness). (The sick parts of the anatomy are indicated.)

Sign Language - The "D" hands, palms facing and index fingers pointing back toward the face, describe a series of continuous counterclockwise circles toward and away from the face, imitating the foot motions in bicycling. This is followed by the down turned "L" hands positioned with the index fingers pointing towards each other. The hands move straight apart to either side with the index fingers wiggling.

Sleep - The fingers of the dominant open hand, facing the forehead, are placed on the forehead. The hand moves down and away from the head with the fingers closing so that they all touch. The eyes meanwhile close, and the head bows slightly, as in sleep. (also: asleep, doze, nap, slept, sleeping) (The eyes are closed.)

Sprain - The knuckles of the curved index and middle fingers of both hands are touching. One hand twists downward so that the curved fingers are now facing up. (To show the bones of a joint twisting.)

Start - The dominant index finger, resting between the index and middle fingers of the other hand, executes a half turn once or twice. (also: begin, commence, initiate, origin, originate) (Turning a key to open up a new venture.)

Stop - The little finger edge of the dominant hand is thrust abruptly into the upturned palm of the other hand, indicating a cutting short. (also: desist, cease, halt) (A stopping or cutting short.)

Store - Both flat "O" hands, fingers touching their respective thumbs, are held palms down before the body. The hands are pivoted simultaneously outward and away from the body, once or several times. (also: sale, vend, sell) (Transferring ownership of an object. Stacking items on and pulling items off the shelves.)

Sweating - The index finger edge of the open right hand wipes across the brow, and the same open hand then continues forcefully downward off the brow, its fingers wiggling as if shaking off the perspiration gathered (also: perspiration, perspire). (Perspiration dripping from the brow.)

Swelling - The palm of the leading hand is placed on the back of the down turned opposite hand. Then the leading hand is raised slowly off the left, indicating a swelling. (A swelling wrist.)

Thank you - The fingertips of the dominant "5" hand are placed at the mouth. The hand moves away from the mouth to a palm-up position before the body. The signer meanwhile usually nods smilingly. (also: farewell, thanks, you're welcome, good-bye) (Words extended politely from the mouth.)

Throw-Up - Both "5" hands on either side of the mouth, palms facing each other, move quickly downward towards the floor. (also: vomit) (The act of vomit being expelled from the mouth.)

Wake-Up - Both hands are closed, with thumb and index finger of each hand held together, extended, and placed at the corners of the closed eyes. Slowly, they separate, and the eyes open. (also: arouse, awake, awaken) (The act of opening the eyes.)

Walk - The down turned "5" hands move alternately toward and away from the chest (also: pace, step). (The movement of the feet.)

Want - The upturned "5" hands, held side by side before the chest, close slightly into a grasping position as they move in toward the body. (also: covet, desire, longing, needing, wish) (Grasping something and pulling it in.)

Water - The "W" hand, palm facing out, touches the lips a number of times. (The letter "W" at the mouth, as in drinking water.)

Well-Met - WELL + MEET: First sign WELL: The fingertips of both "5" hands are placed at the lips. The hands then move out a few inches front of the face. Then sign MEET: Both "D" hands, palms facing each other, are brought together. (also: met, encounter, meet-up) (A coming together of two persons.)

What - Both upturned open hands move slightly back and forth in front of the chest. The signer assumes a look of wonderment, emphasized by slightly upturned shoulders, raised eyebrows, or furrowed brow. (Throwing out the hands as a gesture of inquiry.)

When - The "D" hand is held upright, palm facing the body. The index finger of the other hand describes a clockwise circle around the index finger of the "D" hand, coming to rest on the "D" hand index fingertip. (Fixing a point in time.)

Where - The "D" hand, with palm out and index finger straight or slightly curved, moves a short distance back and forth (also: direction, directions). (As a finger looking back and forth across a map.)

Why - The fingertips of the hand, palm facing the body, are placed against the forehead. The hand then moves down and away from the forehead, assuming the "Y" position, palm still facing the body. Expression is an important indicator of the context in which this sign is used. Thus, as an interjection, a severe expression is assumed, while as an adverb or a noun, the expression is blank or inquisitive. (Reason-coming from the mind-modified by the letter "Y," the phonetic equivalent of WHY.)

Who - The index finger traces a small counterclockwise circle in front of the lips, which are pursed in the enunciation of the word (also: whom).

With - Both "A" hands, knuckles together and thumbs up, are moved forward in unison, away from the chest. They may also remain stationary (also: accompany, together, wander around with). (The two hands are together, i.e. WITH each other.)

Woman - Place the "5" hand with fingers spread and thumb touching your chin. Make an arc from your chin to the center of your chest (also: female, lady, madam/ma'am).

Write (Write-it) - The index finger and thumb, grasping an imaginary pen, write across the open palm of the opposite hand. "Write-it" is signed by performing the sign "WRITE" outstretches as if to offer it to the other person.

Yes - The "S" hand, imitating the head, nods up and down.