

# Talking with Signs

An activity of "When was talking invented?"

Read "When was talking invented?" and "How did people talk in the Stone Age?" (page 18–19, *What's Up* September 2022) to learn about the evolution of talking. Another way to communicate is through signs. For people who are hard of hearing, sign language can come to the rescue. Try it yourself! Here are some simple signs that our deaf community uses.

## PART I - Experience simple signing

1. In small groups, watch this video. Tip: View with captions turned on. Your hand shapes matter — be observant!

### SINGAPORE SIGN LANGUAGE 101: #SgSL Feelings

➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZaJBJJ6k7U>  
by Lily Goh (2019)

Then, look at the sketches in Part II below.

2. On your own, come up with three short sentences to sign.

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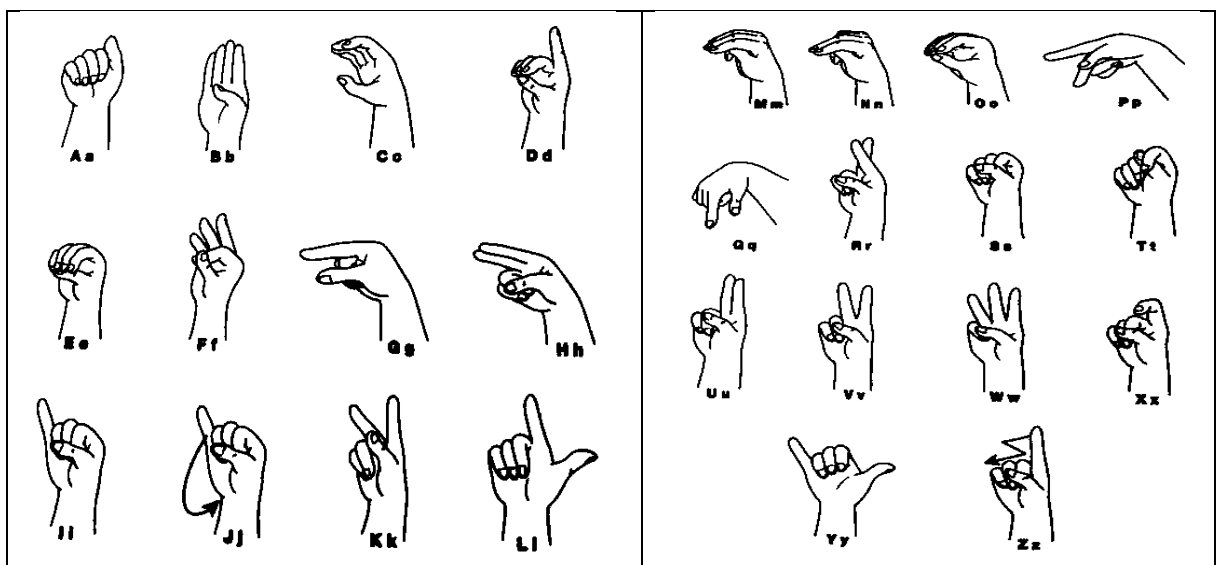
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3. After ten minutes of practice, take turns to sign to your group mates and have them interpret your sentences.

## PART II - Spelling out words in sign

4. Sometimes, words are spelt out when signing. Use these letter signs ↓ to spell names of your group members.



(Source: Gustason, G., & Zawolkow, E. (1993). *Signing Exact English*. Modern Signs Press, Inc)

5. As a whole class, reflect on these questions: Did you find signing easy? In what ways is it challenging? How did you feel why you were signing?