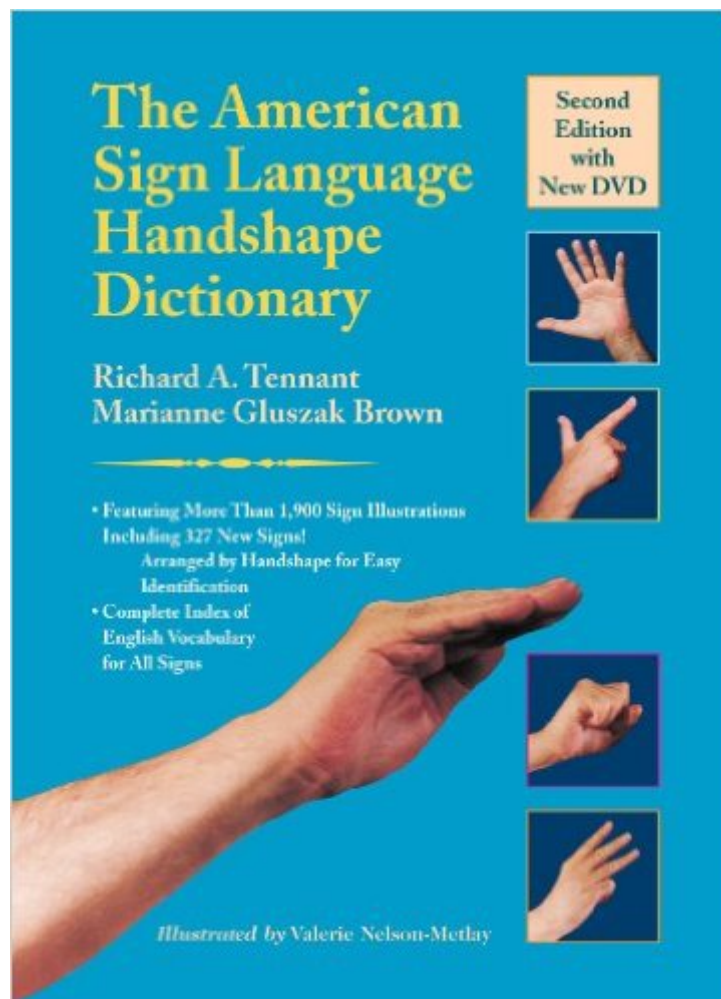




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# The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary



## Synopsis

Featuringâ €¢More than 1,900 Sign Illustrations Including 327 New Signs â €¢Plus DVD Showing How to Form Signs â €¢Arranged by Handshape for Easy Identification â €¢Complete Index of English Vocabulary for All Signs â €¢An Introduction to Deaf Culture and ASL StructureThe first reference source that allows users to access ASL signs without previous knowledge of their English equivalents (far superior to those in most other English-ASL glossaries). Likely to become indispensable on many educatorsâ €™ and studentsâ €™ bookshelves.â €”CHOICENow, the bestselling resource The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary has been completely revised with more than 320 new signs and a new DVD. This unique reference can help users locate a sign whose meaning they have forgotten, or help them find the meaning of a new sign they have just seen for the first time. It organizes more than 1,900 ASL signs by 40 basic handshapes and includes detailed descriptions on how to form these signs to represent the different English words that they might mean. ASL students can begin to track down a sign by determining whether it is formed with one hand or two. Further distinctions of handshape, palm orientation, location, movement, and other nonmanual body signals help them pinpoint their search while also refining their grasp of ASL syntax and grammar. A complete English word index provides the option of referring to an alphabetical listing of English terms to locate an equivalent sign or choice of signs.The new DVD shows how each sign is formed from beginning to end. Users can watch a sign at various speeds to learn precisely how to master it themselves. Together, the new edition of The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary and its accompanying DVD presents students, sign language teachers, and deaf and hearing people alike with the perfect combination for enhancing communication skills in both ASL and English. Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This reference complements other American Sign Language (ASL) dictionaries by organizing signs by handshape rather than alphabetically by English word order. In so doing, it acts best as a recognition tool for the ASL learner, leading the user quickly to specific signs without having first to refer to an English-equivalent word. Multiple meanings of a single sign also allow deaf people to increase their English vocabulary. Like other ASL dictionaries, introductory material includes a brief synopsis of the history of sign language, the meaning and importance of the five parameters of a sign (handshape, orientation, location, movement, and nonmanual signals), grammatical rules, sign language variations (dialects), and finger-spelling principles. Tennant, a former mathematics instructor, and Gluszak Brown, a certified ASL interpreter, have provided a unique organization in their dictionary. But readers should note that a handshape is not a sign itself but rather a characteristic of a particular sign. Each individual sign presented in this dictionary is illustrated, paired with English-equivalent meaning(s), and described in terms of the five parameters, making it useful as a teaching reference as well as a recognition tool. A worthwhile complement to a public or academic library collection. --Andy Wickens, Univ. of Washington, Seattle Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The second edition is a handy reference. An accompanying DVD provides word lists with each sign demonstrated by models representing different ages and ethnicities. Recommended, lower-level undergraduates through graduate students, general readers, and professionals." (Choice)

This is by far my favorite ASL dictionary. Most ASL dictionaries have an alphabetical list of English words with a corresponding picture or drawing of the sign itself. But what if you SEE a sign again and again and ask yourself, "What IS that sign?" How do you look THAT up? Enter The American Sign Language Handshape Dictionary. You can look up signs by the shape of the hands; in essence, looking it up in ASL to find the English word. (Don't worry - there is also an index in the back so you can look up English words, directing you to the right page to find the sign.) The comprehensive introduction explains so much. For example, it will teach you about the parameters, or basic components of a sign: the handshape, the palm orientation, the location, the movement,

and the nonmanual signals (what you do with your body and facial expressions). It also explains the grammatical features of ASL. Take a look - you're going to love this dictionary, too!

My little boy is four. He hears but is mute. We have been signing with him for about two years and it is his primary means of communication. Now that he comes home from school though he comes home from school, he learns new signs and comes home signing. Since we are still learning the language with him...it was frustrating. Until we got this book. My son has some orthopedic difficulty with his hands so the hand shape look up has helped. His signing is not perfect. However, no child is when they are learning sign just as when they are learning to speak. For example we may try looking up say the F shape first then the D. When we get the positive signal from my son he is so excited we understand him! The only problem I really see from this book is that its not big enough. For now at my sons age and language level I think it is perfect. However when things become more complicated in his language I can see a need for something more intense. It is my hope that by that stage my son will have mastered other methods of communication such as typing a word into his dynavox to tell me what the sign means. I hope that this is the case for other parents and interpreters also. I now buy this book as a gift for parents who were not previously signers who find their children either can't speak or are deaf. I think it is that necessary. I only wish I had found it sooner!

I have 3 sign books and this is version is the easiest one to understand. Either this big dictionary or the smaller work book with fewer words but still enough to get a good grasp are my favorites..

I bought this DVD because I absolutely loved the (book) dictionary I purchased a month ago. The book has been extremely helpful. It completely describes the handshape(s) and palm orientation necessary to perform each sign correctly. I think that the DVD will be just as beneficial but I was disappointed because I thought I was buying a DVD that I could watch on my television set. This is actually a DVD-ROM that can only be used on a computer. (I am not tech savvy but I had my daughter check it out for me and she confirmed this.) I suppose this is something I should've expected since the DVD is somewhat interactive but I had simply imagined that there would be chapters on the menu page that I could navigate through to find the signs. The DVD itself is a little bit grainy but it is nice to see real people signing since the book only has drawings.

It is a fantastic dictionary for ASL students. It's approach is different hatn what you would think. It is

about hand shapes and it is very helpful. I recommend it.

I bought this book to help prepare me for my second semester of ASL at El Camino College in Los Angeles. I figured since it is fairly new and has recently been updated that it would have a lot of the latest signs being added to the language. The dictionary is organized a little bit differently than other dictionaries I have used. 1 handed signs are listed, then two handed signs. I started to use the book to review signs but sometimes the pictures in the book weren't all that great. So I popped open the dvd. After a little while I found myself looking at the dvd signs more than the book. In fact I rarely even look at the book now that I have been reviewing the signs in the dvd. After reviewing the signs in the DVD I've found I've learned a lot of the words in a short period of time. One criticism of the book is that it advertises over 1900 sign illustrations in the book and the dvd. But the dvd only has about 1640 words. If there are 1900 words signed in the book then there are about 250 missing from the dvd. For example under letter 'z' on the dvd there is one word, 'zipper'. But there are 4 'z' words in the book. So for whatever reason some are left off. Also, when you look at the dvd it can sometimes be a bit confusing what the definition of the word you're trying to sign actually is. For example, the word 'associate'. Is that an associate, or is this a verb? Sometimes the dvd specifies this, but other times you have to guess from looking at the sign and guessing what it means. And sometimes the sign illustration and the quicktime video don't match up. For example, the word 'war'. In the book it says to use two 'w' hands but the video does something different. All in all it's a pretty good asl dictionary, although I wish they would put all the signs in the DVD since I rarely crack open the book now. And I wish they tighten up some of the mistakes that I've mentioned. I also like Barron's 500 Flashcards. This is pretty good for beginners. Barron's 500 Flash Cards of American Sign Language

This book is the answer to my anxiety over seeing signs that I couldn't understand, even in context! The book is arranged with the first half being one-handed signs, A - Z. And the second half being 2-handed signs with the dominant hand A-Z. Numbers are at the end of each section. What could be easier? Drawings show how the sign is performed and NMSs are explained. It's genius!

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