

# Common Phrases



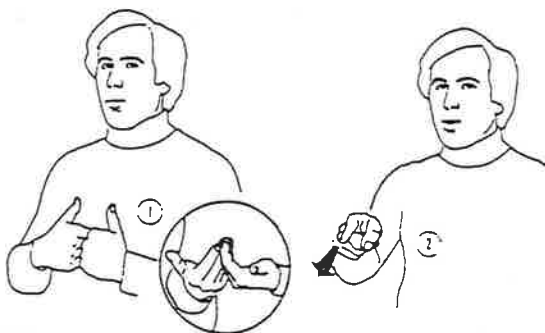
## HELLO, HI

Start with the index finger of the "b" hand at the right temple, palm forward and fingers pointing up. Bring the hand outward to the right with a deliberate movement.  
Hint: Saluting a greeting.



## GOOD MORNING.

Bring the fingertips of the right open hand, palm facing chin, down and away from the mouth. Then bring the right hand upward from waist level, palm facing up, with the fingertips of the left open hand in the crook of the right elbow.  
Hint: "Good" plus "morning."



## HOW ARE YOU?

With the fingertips of both bent hands touching the chest, palms facing the body and the knuckles touching each other, move the fingers up and out, ending with the right extended finger pointing outward.  
Hint: "How" plus "you." It is not necessary to sign "are."



## I'M FINE.

Bring the "5" hand, palm left, forward with a flick of the wrist from the middle of the chest. Note: You may leave the thumb in place in the middle of the chest and wiggle all of the other fingers to mean "super fine."  
Hint: This is the sign for "fine." It is not necessary to sign "I'm."



## SEE YOU LATER.

Smoothly bring the "v" hand, fingers pointing toward either eye and face toward the face, from the eyes downward, changing into an "I" handshape with a flick of the wrist.  
Hint: "See" plus a modified form of "later." "You" is not necessary.



## GOOD-BYE.

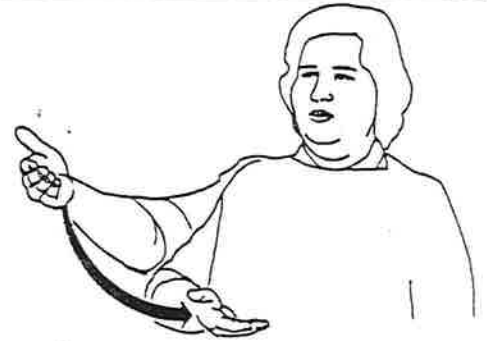
Bend the fingers of the open right hand, palm facing forward, up and down repeatedly.  
Hint: Mime waving good-bye.



**THANK YOU. YOU'RE WELCOME.**

Bring the fingertips of the open hand, palm facing inward, down and forward from the mouth.

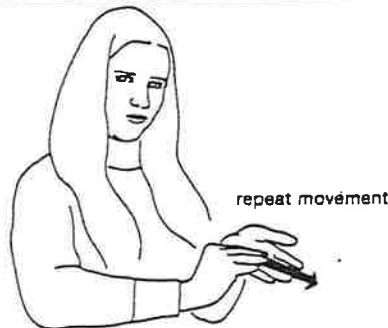
**Hint:** When meaning "You're welcome," it is almost like saying "Thank you for thanking me."



**YOU'RE WELCOME.**

Bring the extended arm, with an upturned palm inward ending with the little finger near the waist.

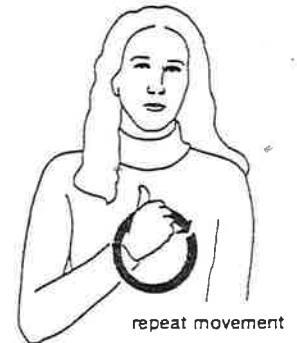
**Hint:** This is the sign "welcome"; "you're" is not necessary.



**EXCUSE ME. FORGIVE ME.**

Repeatedly brush the fingertips of the bent open right hand, palm down, across the palm and fingers of the upturned left hand.

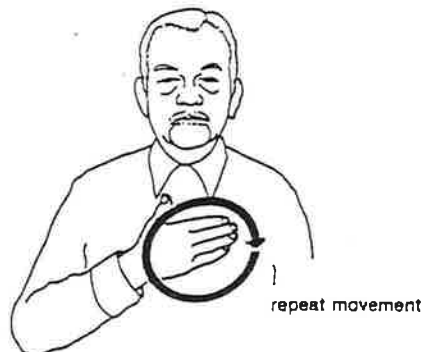
**Hint:** Brushing the mistake aside.



**I'M SORRY.**

Rub the "a" hand, palm facing in, over the heart in a circular motion repeatedly.

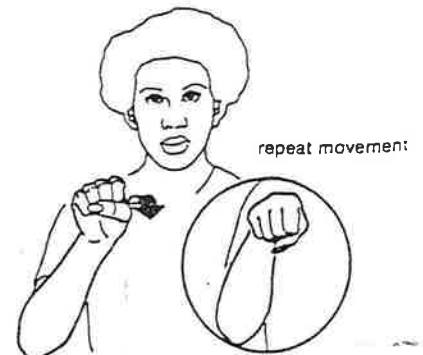
**Hint:** Beating the heart in sorrow.



**PLEASE**

Rub the palm of the open hand in a circular motion over the heart.

**Hint:** Rubbing the heart in enjoyment.



**YES**

Move the "s" hand, palm facing forward, up and repeatedly, bending at the wrist.

**Hint:** Nodding the head affirmatively.



**I MADE A MISTAKE.**

Tap the "y" hand, palm facing in, on the chin twice. Then point the extended index finger to the middle of the chest.

Hint: "Wrong" plus "me." This sign is used almost as an apology for making a mistake.



**THAT'S TRUE. REALLY.**

Move the extended index finger, palm left and finger pointing upward, forward in an arc from the lips with a deliberate motion.

Hint: This is the sign for "true" which is often used for emphasis after a sentence.



**I SEE. I UNDERSTAND.**

Gently shake the "y" hand up and down, palm down, by bending at the wrist.

Hint: This is often used as an indication of agreement with what the other person is saying.



**ME, TOO. I AGREE WITH YOU.**

Move the "y" hand, palm left, from touching the thumb on the chest forward and back twice by bending the elbow.

Hint: Move the sign for "same" between yourself and the person with whom you have the same opinion.



**GOOD LUCK.**

With the closed hand, thumb extended upward and palm left, thrust the hand forward.

Hint: This is sometimes used as a good-bye greeting.



**BE CAREFUL.**

Strike the little finger side of the right "k" hand, palm left, on top of the index finger side of the left "k" hand, palm right, twice.



repeat movement

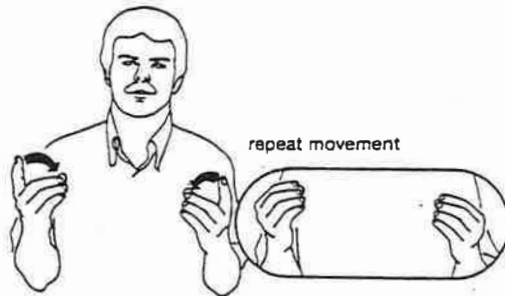
**WHAT TIME IS IT?**

Tap the curved extended index finger to the back of the wrist, using an inquisitive expression.  
**Hint:** This is a natural gesture for inquiring about the time.



**I DON'T CARE.**

Move the extended index finger, palm toward face outward from the nose, ending with the finger pointing outward.



repeat movement

**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

Bring both extended index fingers of both "d" hands up and down with repeated motion, palms facing chest.  
**Hint:** Rapidly fingerspell "d" "o." This can be translated "do-do?"



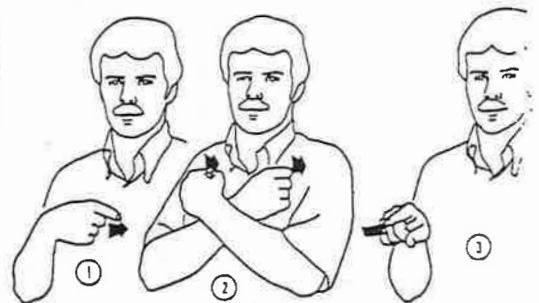
**WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT'S UP?**

Bring the bent middle fingers of both "5" hands upward and outward from the middle of the chest toward the shoulders.  
**Hint:** This is the sign "thrill." It's used when you approach someone and you want to know what she is doing.



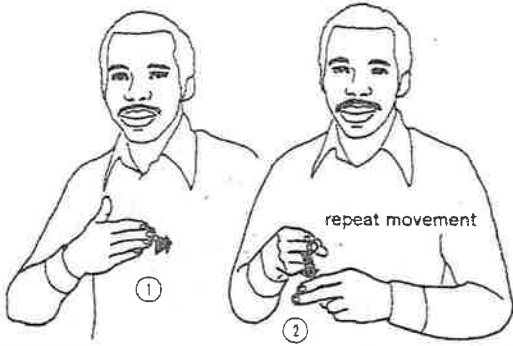
**I LOVE YOU.**

Hold the extended little finger, index finger, and thumb in front of chest.  
**Hint:** This is the informal sign which is made up of the initials "I," "L," and "Y."



**I LOVE YOU.**

Place the tip of the index finger in the center of chest, palm facing in. Cross both arms below wrists and place the "a" hands on the chest with the right extended index finger pointing outward.  
**Hint:** "I" plus "love" plus "you."



**MY NAME IS ...**

Place the palm of the open right hand on the center of the chest. Then with a double movement tap the middle-finger side of the right "h" fingers, palm facing left, on the index-finger side of the left "h" fingers, palm facing right.

**Hint:** "My" plus "name"; it is not necessary to sign "is." Follow by fingerspelling your name.



**I DOUBT IT.**

Beginning with the right "v" fingers pointing to the eyes, palm facing in, move the hand forward, bending the fingers as the hand moves.

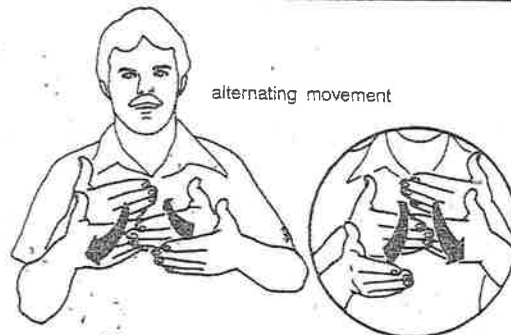
**Hint:** Similar to "blind"; shows you are blind to the idea.



**THAT'S DUMB.**

Tap the palm side of the right "a" hand against the center of the forehead.

**Hint:** This sign should be used as a self-accusation when making a mistake.



**IT DOESN'T MATTER, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH**

With both open hands in front of the chest, palms facing in and fingers pointing toward each other and overlapping slightly, brush the fingers back and forward past each other in opposite directions bending the fingers out of the way as the hands move.

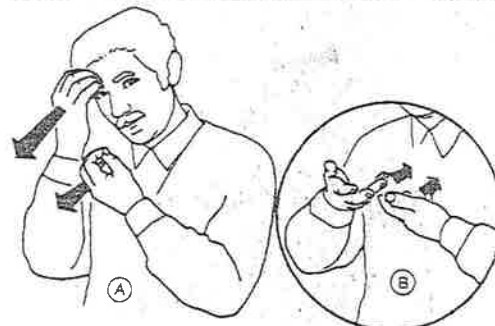
**Hint:** Shows that your opinion can be swayed either way.



**POOR THING. THAT'S TOO BAD.**

With the bent middle finger of the right "5" hand stroke the air toward the person or object being pitied with a double movement.

**Hint:** Sign "feel" in the air in sympathy for another person or thing.



**LET ME KNOW. KEEP ME INFORMED.**

Beginning with the fingers of the right flattened "o" hand near the forehead and the left flattened "o" hand somewhat forward, move both hands down and in toward the chest while opening into "5" hands.

**Hint:** Shows a vagueness.

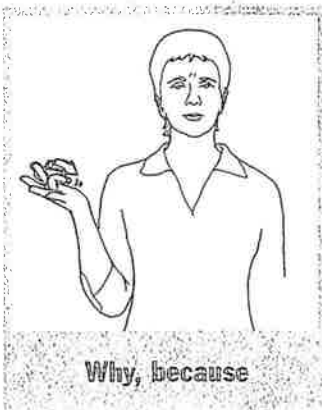
# ASL Up Close

## The WH-Signs

All languages have a set of words called **WH-Words** frequently used in conversation. The WH-Words in American Sign Language serve this same conversational purpose, but also have a unique emphasis in the language that isn't found in English. You will learn how to use the **WH-Signs** in more depth in Unit 3. Pair the WH-Face with each of the WH-Signs.



### Variations



### Eyes on ASL #6



WH-Signs go at the end of ASL sentences and must include the WH-Face (see Page 42).

Unlike English sentences, WH-Signs don't occur at the beginning of a sentence. *Who* may occur at the beginning, as long as it also occurs at the end.