

The following table lists many common ASL phonemic- and phonetic-level handshapes.

Basic Symbol	Sub-shape	Brief Description
∩		Basic fist, with the thumb alongside the palmar mass ("A").
	∩/	A with thumb extended: "10".
	∩ _o	A closed "X", as in APPLE ∩ _o ⊖JXζ#: the index is curled and bent, tightly, and the thumb is laid over the index finger.
	∩ ₁	Chinese and Russian ∩, with the tense thumb crossing the proximal phalanx of the index finger.
∏		Basic flat hand, with the fingers compact ("B").
	∏/	Thumb-anchored B, as in STUBBORN ∏/⊖JX∏ _v .
	∏ _o	Fingerspelling B, with the thumb tucked into the palm.
	∏ _{o1}	Fingerspelling M, with the pinky compact with the significant fingers.
	∏ _{o1}	Fingerspelling M, though with the significant fingers straight and perpendicular to the palmar plane, with the pinky compact with the significant fingers.
	∏ ₁	Curled-B classifier for convex and concave surfaces; also found in lexical signs such as OUR ∏ ₁ ⊖JXζ> _b X.
	∏ ₁	Angle-B with the thumb alongside the palmar mass.
	∏ _v	Curled-B with the thumb extended parallel to the palm.
	∏ _v	Angle-B with the thumb extended parallel to the palm.
C		C-classifier, compact with 4 curled fingers ("C").
	C/	C with the thumb out of the way, as in MARRY C/⊖⊖⊖X.
	C _o	Baby-C, as in SHERRIF C _o ⊖ _b X#.
	C _{o⊥}	Tense Baby-C, as in DRINK-LIQUOR, C _{o⊥} ⊖⊖X#.
	C ₁	Flat-C, as in SMILE C ₁ ⊖⊖Xζ⊖<.
	C _⊥	Tense C with the thumb straight, not curled, as in some renditions of CERTIFICATE C _⊥ ⊖⊖X#.
	C _v	Thumb and index are curled, as in C, and middle, ring, and pinkie are extended, as in V.
		Basic pointing handshape, with straight index finger ("1").
	/	Fingerspelling "L", with the index finger and thumb straight and extended parallel to the palm.
	┘/	A lax fingerspelling "L", with the non-significant fingers extended perpendicular to the palm.
	_o	This is the fingerspelling letter D, made with a thumb-and-index-finger loop, with the middle, ring, and pinky fingers compact with the index finger.

	⌈ ₁ ⌋	The phonetic spelling of fingerspelling "N", though we use ⌈ ₁ in regular spelling.
	⌈ ₁	Angle-U, where the index and middle finger are bent at the proximal joint and compact, as in DOMINOES ⌈ ₁ ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋.
	⌈ ₂	A thumb-lax variant of the thick-disk classifier ⌈ ₁ ⌋, as in FLYING-SAUCE ⌈ ₂ ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋.
	⌈ ₂	Anchored angle-U, as in the end of HORSE ⌈ ₂ ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋.
	⌈ _L	This is U with the pinky extended, as in HOLIER-THAN-THOU ⌈ _L ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋ and INNOCENT (with a cutesy extended pinky) ⌈ _L ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋.
	⌈ _L ⌋	This is U with the pinky and the thumb both extended, as in HOLIER-THAN-THOU ⌈ _L ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋ and INNOCENT (with a cutesy extended pinky) ⌈ _L ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋.
	⌈ ₁ ⌋	This is a 2-fingered fingerspelling E, found in the context of N or U, as in P-N-E-U-M-O-N-I-A ⌈ ₁ ⌋⌈ ₁ ⌋⌈ ₁ ⌋⌈ ₁ ⌋⌈ ₁ ⌋⌈ ₁ ⌋.
h		Pinky extended ("I").
	h⌋	This is the fingerspelling letter "Y".
	h ₀	This is the phonetic spelling of "6", which has the thumb tip opposing the tip of the pinky, rather than holding the pinky down by its nail.
	h ₁	This lenited form of h occurs signs with released contact, such as JELLY h⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋, which is phonetically h⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋h⌋, and in name-signs with similar movement.
	h ₁	This tense form of h occurs with tip contact, especially when the shaft of the pinky points at the PA, as in IT h ₁ ⌋⌋⌋.
U		Index and pinky fingers extended ("Irish H", "Horns").
	U⌋	This is ILY, as in "I love you", and also the airplane classifier. It is the Horns handshape with the thumb extended in the palmar plane.
	Ũ⌋	This is the version of 25 with the thumb and index finger as in L, and the middle, ring, and pinky fingers perpendicular to the palm and compact.
	U ₀	This handshape occurs in the borrowed sign KANGAROO from Australian Sign Language. It is a hybrid of Horns and O, that is, O with the index and pinky fingers extended.
	U ₀₁	This is the same as the KANGAROO handshape above, except that the O part is flattened..
	U ₁	This is angle-Horns, used where there is tip-contact, as in tense forms of TENT U ₁ ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋.
	U ₂	This is a curled ILY handshape, as in forms of ET-CETERA, where the index finger of the ILY wiggles: U ₂ ⌋⌋⌋U ₂ ⌋⌋.
	U ₂	This is angle-ILY, often found in airplane-classifier signs, and also as lenition in such signs as CALIFORNIA U ₂ ⌋⌋⌋U ₂ ⌋.
⌋		Fingerspelling "K", thumbtip contacting the medial joint of the significant middle finger, with the index extended (also "P").
	⌋ ₀	This is the form of "P" created when the thumb tip touches the palmar surface of the proximal joint of the middle finger.
	⌋ ₁	This is a curled K, formed as part of movement lenition in signs such as PINK ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋, which is phonetically ⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋⌋.

		This is a dialectal form of "K" created when the ring and pinky fingers are compact with the middle finger.
		This is a dialectal form of "P" created when the ring and pinky fingers are compact with the middle finger.
		The middle finger extended from the fist.
		This is the middle finger bent for ease of articulation when tip contact is directed towards the body, as in the off-color sign FLIPPED-ME-OFF . (The meaning of this sign is often metaphorical, as in the context "He said, 'To hell with me,' and did his own thing...."
		This is a free alternate with the middle finger handshape, and occurs in hearing and Deaf gesturing as well as in signing. The middle finger is (not much) camouflaged by the added presence of the thumb and pinky.
		Index, middle, and ring fingers extended compactly, as in the Boy Scout salute (also "M").
		This is the phonetic form of the curled version of fingerspelled "M", though in regular orthography we use
		This is a bent M, that is, where the index, middle, and ring fingers extend compactly and perpendicularly to the palm, while the thumb holds down the pinky.
		The number "4", with the four fingers extended spread.
		Unused equivalent of
		This is a curled 4, as in SIT-IN-A-CIRCLE
		This is a bent 4, as in WAR
		The compact cylinder, also fingerspelling "O".
		This is baby-O, as in EXACT
		Flat O, as in GO-OUT
		This odd handshape occurs in OAKLAND, , where the pinky extension is ostensibly an influence from the name-sign of nearby BERKELEY
		The number "5", with all five digits spread.
		This is curled 5, as in CHUBBY
		This is bent 5, as in SUNBATHE
		This is a very squashed angle-5, with the thumb and all the fingers perpendicular to the palm.
		Thumb and middle finger loop, the number "8".
		Open 8, as in FEEL
		This tight 8 has the thumb holding the middle finger ready to spring open to , as in MELON or , as in TERRIFIC

	∧↘	Stiff open 8, with the middle finger straight and perpendicular to the palmar plane, as in SCREW-YOU!, ∧↘⊙↗/??.
	∧n	8 with the thumb laid over, as in the end of DELICIOUS ∧⊙=×↗∧n.
	∧u	This is baby-D, formed with a thumb-and-middle-finger loop, and the index finger extended in the palmar plane. The n symbol shows that the ring and pinky fingers are tucked into the palm in this variant of 8, while they are extended in the unmarked variant.
	∧u↘	This is a tense, flattened baby-D, formed with a thumb-and-middle-finger loop that is flat and elongated. Some signers use this variety when there is tapping contact made by the apex of the loop.
	∧⊥	This is the open-8 that closes to 8; the thumb is extended perpendicular to the palmar plane, while the middle finger is curled.
	∧↗⊥	This is a tense open-8 that closes to 8; the thumb is extended perpendicular to the palmar plane, while the middle finger is bent.
⋈		The fingerspelling letter "R", with index and middle fingers compact, the middle finger twisted over the index. Also twisted cord classifier.
	⋈↘	This is a thumb-anchored R, as in REVIEW ⋈↘⊙⊥⊙×↗⊙, or RETIRED ⋈↘⊙↗⊙↗×=.
	⋈↘	R bent at the great knuckles, used especially when the tips are directed toward the body.
	⋈↘	A thumb-anchored bent R.
	⋈↘↗	This handshape is used in the idiom I-REALLY-LOVE-YOU ⋈↘↗⊙<u.
⊙		Basic tight fist, with fingers curled into the palm and the thumb laid over them ("S").
	⊙↘	An infrequent (?) substitute for ∧↘, with the fingers tucked into the palm.
	⊙o	A tense open-S that opens to ✕. Also a constricted O, as in VOTE V⊙⊙⊙o⊙V×u.
	⊙↘	A lax open S that closes to S.
	⊙⊥	An S fist with the thumb extended perpendicular to the palm. Some use this handshape instead of ∧↘ or ∧⊥ in GASOLINE.
	⊙u	An F with the thumb and index tightly curled.
	⊙u↘	An F with the thumb and index tightly curled, the other extended fingers compact.
⊙		Like the basic "A" fist, except that the thumb is tucked up under the index finger ("T").
	⊙↘	A "T" with the thumb ready to flick open to ↘.
∨		Index and middle fingers are extended spread ("2" and "V").
	∨o	This is the beginning handshape in the merged compound sign TWO^MORE, ∨o⊙⊙⊙:Ou.
	∨↘	This is the numeral 3 (2 plus the thumb).
	∨↘	Curled V, as in VAMPIRE ∨↘⊙↗⊙×.
	∨↘	Angle-V, as often in DANCE ∨↘⊙⊥⊙↗↗↗↗.

	V _ṽ	Curled 3, which is a thumb-anchored curled V, as in the end of INSECT V _ṽ ÖΔXV _ṽ ʷ.
	V _ṽ	Angle-3, one use of which is as a thumb-freed angle-V, as in WALK V _ṽ ΦīL≈Ȟ.
	V _L	The numeral 7.

[Click here to go back to the SignFont Character Charts.](#)

[Click here to go back to the SignFont Home Page.](#)