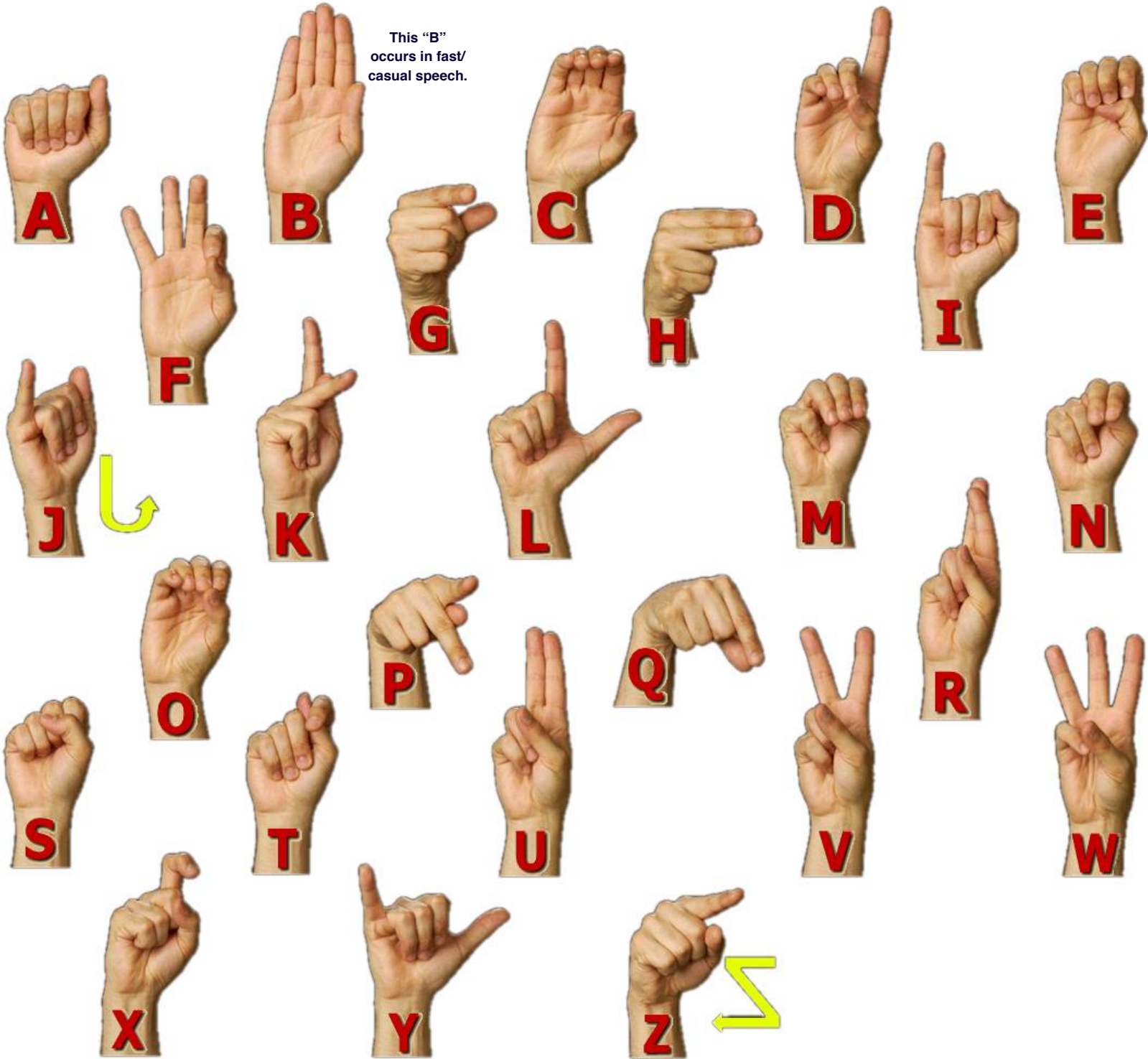


This "B"
occurs in fast/
casual speech.





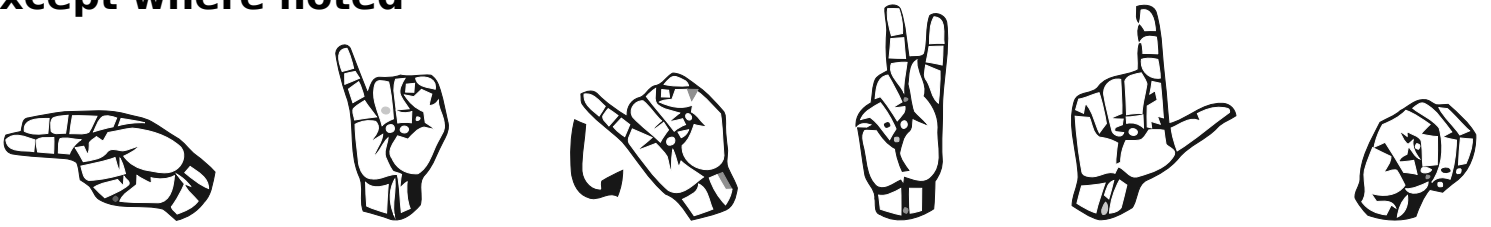
a b c d e f g

palm forward
thumb bent out

thumb also often
lower (like a claw)

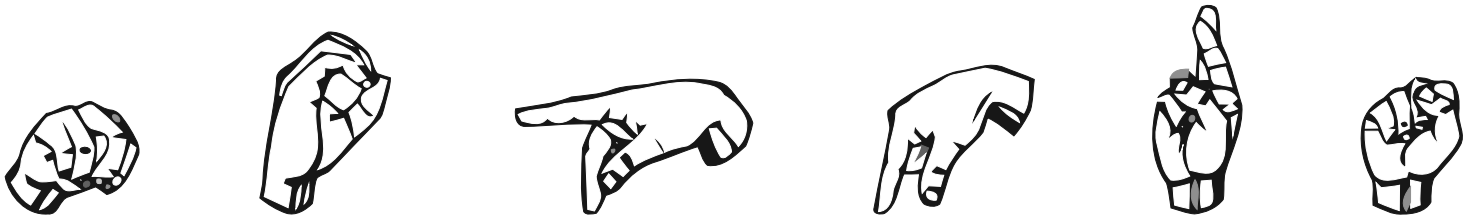
palm in

**palm is always forward
except where noted**



h i j k l m

palm in

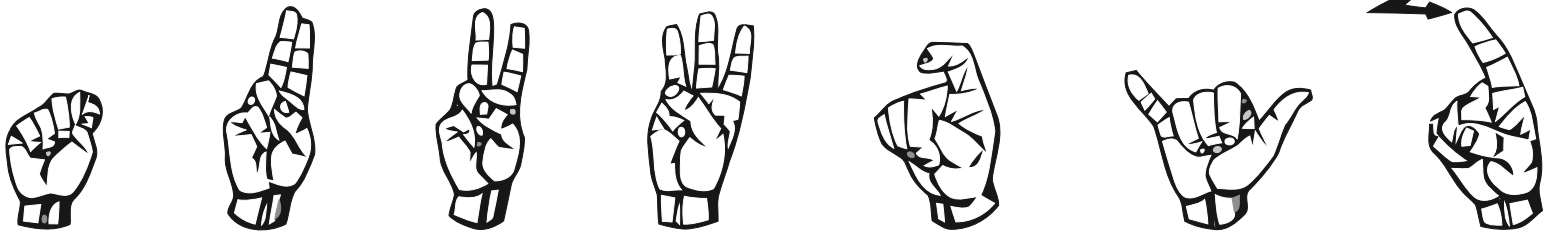


n o p q r s

palm faces opposite
side of body

index finger
points out

like p but points
down and unseen
fingers curled in



t u v w x y z

ASL Handshapes

It is important to learn the manual alphabet for the purposes of fingerspelling. Also, most of these handshapes (along with other handshapes that are not part of the alphabet) are also used in producing signs.

"A": with, aunt, sweetheart, practice

"Open A": girl, not, which, remember, tomorrow, yesterday, live

"B": daughter, son, blue, brown, door

"Open B" or "Closed 5": please, paper, nice, school, thank you

"Bent B": know, near, how, have, excuse

"C": cousin, class, marry, wife, husband

"D": dorm, date, department

"E": elevator, elementary school, educate

"F" or "9": France, cat, family, tea

"Open F": meat/steak, big-eyes

"G" or "Q": peabrain!, green, mustache

"H" or "U": fun, hard-of-hearing, horse, name, train, cute, uncle, university

"I": if/suppose, art/draw, institute

"K" or "P": take-care, people, two-of-us, purple

"L": later, library, live, sister, brother

"Bent L": moon, run, camera, big

"M": medical, math, member

"N": nurse, niece, nephew, no

"O": sunrise, none, office, owl

"Baby O" or "Closed X": perfect, write, celebrate

"Flattened O": give, home, eat, boy, number, buy, money, teach

"R": rules, ready, rope

"S": yes, motorcycle, car, bike, coffee, how-many

"T": team, toilet

"V" or "2": stuck, see, either, stand, fall down

"Bent V": stairs, ride-in, speechless, vampire

"W" or "6": world, water

"X": tease, hearing aid, apple, expression, key

"Y": silly, oh-I-see, same, cow, waddle, New York, phone, why

"L-I": I love you, fly

"1-I": tent/camping, cigarette, liquor, ironic

"1": stars, go-to, where, black, deaf, candy, boring, sign

"3": lousy, vehicle, clumsy

"Bent 3": bug, rooster, devilish

"4": line of people, talk, meeting

"5": fingerspelling, mom, dad, man, woman, fine, candle, what

"Bent 5" or "Claw 5": OOPS!, roommate, machine, want, audience

"8": hate/despise, light (as in bulb), pumpkin

"Open 8": what's up!, feel, sick, tendency