

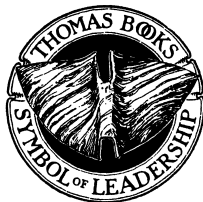
**COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE
MANUAL FOR
SIGNERS AND INTERPRETERS**

SIXTH EDITION

**COMPREHENSIVE
REFERENCE MANUAL
FOR SIGNERS AND
INTERPRETERS**

By

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PREFACE

The *Comprehensive Reference Manual for Signers and Interpreters* (Sixth Edition) contains more than seven thousand entries, including vocabulary and idioms,* with cross references and sign descriptions. It is intended primarily for interpreters but can also be used effectively by signers who have at least a working knowledge of Sign Language. This manual is employed most profitably when the user reads the *entire* sign description before manually executing the sign. Because it is written for the right-hand dominant signer, those who are left-hand dominant must reverse the handedness and direction of the descriptions when and where appropriate.

Due to the three-dimensional nature of Sign Language, it is difficult, if not impossible, to learn how to sign from two-dimensional pages of any book. Additionally, knowledge of Deaf Culture is critical in order to achieve contextually appropriate signing. Therefore, a qualified teacher is of the utmost importance to the Sign Language student who wishes to build real competence in sign production, proper grammatical construction and the all-important understanding of and respect for Deaf Culture.

Dedicated and motivated interpreters and signers are constantly striving to increase their inventories of internalized signs. Sometimes, however, this knowledge can slip away if it is not frequently called upon, both expressively and receptively. It is with the aforementioned human frailty in mind that this book has been written; not for those who have had no Sign Language experience, but for serious signers and interpreters whose memories need occasional assistance with seldom used signs and who also wish to increase their Sign Language repertoires.

*This manual contains many explicit signs, which might be deemed offensive by some people. However, the inclusion of these signs is necessary because responsible interpreters must be able to interpret and/or translate faithfully without censoring the information they receive and transmit.

KEY

AX = form X handshape and place ball of right thumb on tip of right index finger

bent = handshape formed by making a right angle at the junction of base of fingers and palm, fingers straight and together

bent 5 = handshape formed by slightly curling all the fingers of the usual 5 handshape

bent L = usual L handshape, but the index finger is crooked, as it is in the X handshape

bud = handshape formed by touching tips of fingers & thumb together without bending them

(def #) = definition number: indicates which of several definitions should be applied when referring to a particular entry

EXAMPLE: **ACCOMPLISH** = 1) DO 2) SUCCEED 3) FINISH

Explanation: while "DO", "SUCCEED" and "FINISH" are all different signs, they can each be used individually to convey the meaning of "ACCOMPLISH"

(finger) tip = refers to the direction that that fingertips are pointing (except when referring to the "X", "bent V", "bent 3" or "bent 5" handshape; in which case it refers to the direction the finger tips would point if the fingers weren't bent)

HEX = handshape formed by extending index & pinky fingers; other fingers closed

in = (when referring to palm or fingertip orientation) means toward the signer's body

index = handshape formed by extending the index finger with the other fingers closed in a fist

open 8 = 5 handshape with the middle finger extended so that it forms a right angle with the palm

palm = handshape formed with fingers straight & together (unless otherwise indicated). For clarity, the "palm" (orientation) of a "bent" handshape will be the palm side of the fingers, rather than the palm itself

small C = C handshape formed with index & thumb only; other fingers closed

() = Sign descriptions and/or handshapes in parentheses are optional

- = words connected with dashes are to be considered as a single sign or entry

+ = a plus sign connects signs which should be signed consecutively

/ = choose one of the words separated by the slash mark (/) in order to form a new sign

EXAMPLE: **COORDINATOR** = COOPERATE/TAKE-CARE-OF/JOIN/MESH
+ AGENT

Explanation: In order to convey the meaning of "COORDINATOR", you must sign "COOPERATE + AGENT" or sign "TAKE-CARE-OF + AGENT" or sign "JOIN + AGENT" or sign "MESH + AGENT"

EXAMPLE: **CURE** = 1) DISSOLVE (noun) 2) IMPROVE 3) MAKE + BETTER/
HEALTHY/GOOD

Explanation: In order to convey the meaning of "CURE" you must sign "DISSOLVE" (for the noun form); or sign "IMPROVE"; or sign "MAKE + BETTER"; or sign "MAKE + HEALTHY"; or sign "MAKE + GOOD"

ABACK = 1] SURPRISE (def #1) 2] JAW-FELL-OPEN 3] MIND-STUNNED 4] MIND-FROZEN

ABANDON = NEGLECT (def #2)

ABASE = bents, palms down, tips to tips not touching each other arc in, down, out together

ABASH = ASHAMED

ABATE = REDUCE (def #1)

ABATEMENT = REDUCE (def #1)

ABBREVIATION = 1] BRIEF (def #1) 2] CONDENSE

ABET = 1] HELP 2] ENCOURAGE 3] COAX

ABEYANCE = SUSPEND (def #4)

ABHOR = 1] left 5 palm right tips up, right 5 palm left tips up, closer to you, at chest;
simultaneously arc up, out, down so that they end with left 5 palm right tips out, right 5
palm left tips out (can be done with right 5 only) 2] HATE

ABHORRENT = 1] DISGUST 2] HATE 3] OPPOSITE 4] CONFLICT

ABILITY = 1] POSSIBLE 2] EXPERT

ABJECT = 1] FULL (def #1) 2] DEEP

ABLE = S's or A's palms down side by side not touching; move up, down, up, down simultaneously
without bending wrists

ABNORMAL = 1] pinky side of right hand palm left tips out moves forward on left hand palm up
tips out then right makes sudden left turn to become right bent palm right tips in
(perverted) 2] NOT/LESS-THAN + NORMAL

ABODE = 1] HOUSE 2] HOME

ABOLISH = 1] DESTROY 2] REMOVE

ABORTION = BABY (def #1) + REMOVE at lower abdomen

ABOUT = 1] left bud palm in tips right; circle left bud vertically with right index finger palm
in tip left 2] H's crossed, palms in, right H on left H; circle right H forward, down, in and
end crossed with right H palm left tips out on left H palm right tips out 3] right 5 palm
down tips out circles horizontally (approximately) 4] RELATE-TO

ABOVE = 1] circle right hand palm down tips left horizontally above left hand palm down tips
right 2] MORE-THAN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN = thumb of right L palm out tip up touches right side of forehead

ABRASION = 1] at appropriate location, mime "peeling" skin off with right bent 5 which
becomes right A 2] ROUGH

ABRIDGE = CONDENSE

ABRUPT = 1] QUICK 2] FAST (def #2)

ABSCOND = ESCAPE

ABSENT = 1] REMOVE 2] GONE 3] CUT-CLASS

ABSENT-MINDED = FORGOT-ALL-ABOUT

ABSOLUTELY = REAL

ABSOLUTELY NOT = NO-WAY

ABSOLUTION = EXCUSE (def #1)

ABSOLVE = 1) JOIN (def #1) then open thumbs and indexes of F's and move left 5 to left slightly and right 5 to right slightly, simultaneously 2] RESPONSIBLE + NOT/DISSOLVE

ABSORBED IN = right bent V palm in tips up moves down from face level into left C palm right; right bent V continues downward

ABSORB KNOWLEDGE = 5's palms to each other tips up move to middle of forehead alternately as they close to become buds palms in when they touch forehead then move out to become 5's, repeat

ABSTAIN = 1] ON-THE-FENCE 2] REFUSE 3] FAST (def #3)

ABSTINENCE = 1] SUSPEND (def #4)/NONE + SEX/INTERCOURSE 2] THUMBS-DOWN

ABSTRACT = 1] right A palm left at right temple circles up, out, down, in, up, out while moving diagonally up and out 2] CONFUSE (def #1) 3] BLURRY

ABSTRUSE = BLURRY

ABSURD = SILLY

ABUNDANT = 1] MUCH 2] MANY

ABUSE = 1] TAKE-ADVANTAGE-OF 2] HIT 3] WRONG + USE

ABUT = JOIN (def #1)

ACCEDE = 1] AGREE 2] GIVE-UP

ACCELERATE = 1] FAST (def #2) 2] QUICK

ACCEPT = left 5 palm right tips out, right 5 palm left tips out, in front of you, not touching each other; close to become buds as they move to chest; then tips of buds palms in tips to each other touch chest side by side, not touching each other

ACCEPTABLE = 1] ACCEPT (+ CAN def #1) 2] ALL-RIGHT 3] ENOUGH

ACCEPTANCE = 1] QUIET but sharper motion, becoming bent handshapes palms in tips down 2] ACCEPT

ACCEPT RELUCTANTLY = STIFLE with right hand only at throat; don't move down + puff cheeks or purse lips

ACCESS = 1] ENTER 2] CONTACT (def #1)

ACCESSIBLE = OPEN (def #2)

ACCESSORY = ADD (def #1) (+ THING)

ACCIDENT = 1] TERRIBLE + HAPPEN 2] WRONG 3] S's palms in hit each other, arc up and to sides (vehicle)

ACCIDENTALLY = WRONG + HAPPEN

ACCLAIM = APPLAUSE

ACCLAMATION = APPLAUSE

ACCLIMATE = BECOME + HABIT

ACCOLADE = PRAISE

ACCOMMODATIONS = 1] ROOM (def #1) 2] CHANGE (def #1) (slowly and deliberately or several times)

ACCOMMODATE = 1] CHANGE (def #1) (slowly and deliberately or several times) 2] HELP 3] ACCEPT

ACCOMPANY = WITH

ACCOMPLICE = 1] HELP + AGENT 2] ASSISTANT

ACCOMPLISH = 1] DO 2] SUCCEED 3] FINISH

ACCORD = AGREE

ACCORDINGLY = THEREFORE

ACCORDING TO = 1] RELATIONSHIP 2] FOLLOW 3] PLAN (def #1) (with P's)

ACCOUNT = 1] STORY (def #1, 2) 2] COUNT

ACCOUNTABLE = BURDEN (with R's palms down)

ACCOUNTANT = COUNT + AGENT

ACCUMULATE = GATHER

ACCURACY = CORRECT (def #1)

ACCURATE = CORRECT (def #1)

ACCUSE = 1] BURDEN 2] right index finger palm left tip out pokes out twice in appropriate direction with pinky side brushing across right S palm down 3] poke out alternately with index fingers palms down tips out

ACCUSTOM = HABIT

ACE = right A palm down on left hand palm up tips out (cards)