

## Pronouns and Possessives

Pronouns are a simple matter in Sign. Merely *point* the index finger at whomever or whatever it is. It may be something physically present, or previously placed in space. Actually, the antecedent for a Sign pronoun need not be officially placed in space. If the conversation is about Sam, we can just *point* to the side without officially placing Sam there. Sam need not be present for the pronoun to work. The *pointing* could mean **I, ME, YOU, HE, HIM, SHE, HER or IT**. Sweep your index finger over the crowd to include **THEY or THEM**. Include yourself for *we* or *us*.



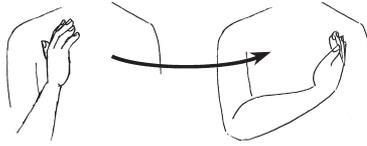
### WE, US

Notice that Sign makes no distinction between *we* and *us*, *me* and *I* or *they* and *them*. Also, Sign pronouns make no distinction for gender. If gender is important, it must be stated apart from the pronoun.



### YOUR, YOURS

The possessives are signed by moving the open palm, all fingers together, toward the person in possession of whatever it is. These possessives include **MY, MINE, HIS, HER, HERS and ITS**. Include a sweep of the group for **THEIR and THEIRS**. Include yourself for *our*.



## OUR, OURS



## MYSELF

Tap the chest with the thumb twice. Alternately, the hand shape may be rotated so the thumb pad faces the signer, knuckles tapping the chest.



## YOURSELF

The thumb moves towards whomever self it is, whether it be **HIMSELF, HERSELF, ITSELF** or **MYSELF. THEMSELVES** includes a sweep of the group, thumb facing the group. **OUR-SELVES** ends the sweep of the group with *myself*, knuckles tapping the chest, thumb pad facing the signer.

The construction of Sign pronouns is straightforward. They can be placed before and/or after a statement. The DVD has many examples of these possibilities, but Sign pronouns most comfortably fit at the end of a statement.