

Time

We live in time, we speak in time, and also of time. Our conversations are full of time.

Sign and English verbs are different in many ways, especially in how they deal with time. English verbs refer to time whenever they appear. There's a reference to time with each passing verb, and there's at least one in every sentence. English has run, ran, will run, will have run and so on, all referencing time.

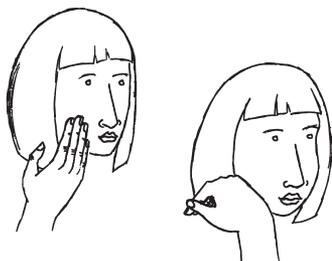
Sign has a different approach. It has only **run** with no reference to time. Why clutter the sign space? Sign sets the time by overtly stating it, and uses **run** all the while, regardless of past, present or future. Signed verbs say nothing about time.

Consider the English, "Yesterday, I awoke at 7:00, and raced to get to work on time. I was late. Tomorrow, I'll wake up at 6:30, so I won't have to hurry."

Sign starts with the time, **yesterday**, the first priority. Then comes the topic **wake – 7:00 – me**, followed by a series of comments, **hurry – arrive – work – late**. All these things happened yesterday, and all the verbs are non-descriptive with respect to time. The time is then reset to **tomorrow**, followed by the next topic **wake – 6:30 – me** and ending with the comment **must – hurry – not**. The signed verbs are the same regardless of yesterday or tomorrow.

Not including the times 7:00 and 6:30, the English version has seven references to time via the verbs. The Sign version has only two references to time, and they're not verbs. Also, the English version uses 28 words while the Sign version uses 15 signs. Oftentimes less is more, regardless of the language used.

What follows are various signs for setting the time frame. We'll begin with the past tense.



PAST, AGO, FORMERLY, ONCE UPON A TIME, PREVIOUS, PREVIOUSLY

Past can also use the same hand shape as *future* on page 71. The direction is the important thing. Backward means back in time, and forward means forward in time. If it's a short time, the hand travels a short distance. If it's a long time, the hand travels a long distance. Slowing the hand movement speed, and wiggling the fingers is another way to show longer periods of time, be it past or future. *Squinting* and *tensing up* a few facial muscles also emphasize duration, be it short or long.



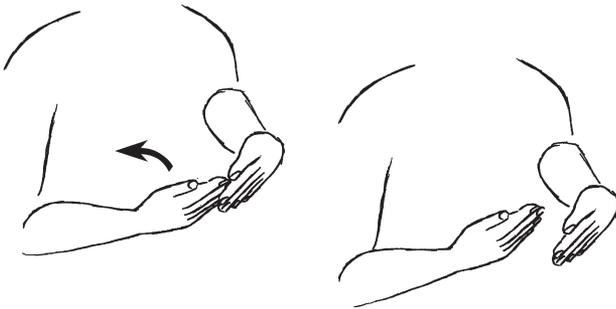
YESTERDAY

The thumb touches the cheek twice on its way back, backward in time.



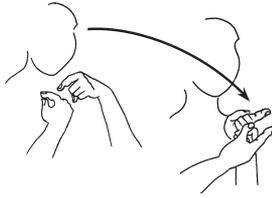
**RECENTLY, JUST NOW, A MOMENT AGO,
LAST** (as in *last month*)

Wiggle the index finger along the cheekbone toward the rear, going back only a short time.



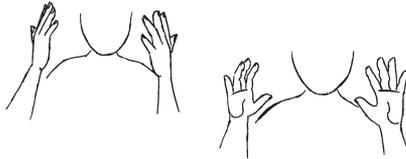
**BEFORE, PREVIOUSLY, EARLIER THAN,
SOONER THAN, AHEAD OF**

The subordinate hand sets up a reference point in time from where things are measured. The dominant hand moves back, referring to an earlier time.



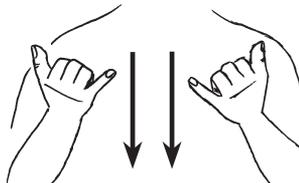
**SINCE, UNTIL NOW, ALL ALONG, EVER SINCE,
SO FAR, THUS FAR, AWHILE**

The forward motion refers to the time period between a previous time and now.



**FINISH, ALREADY, OVER, THE END, DONE, ALL
DONE, ACCOMPLISH, ACHIEVE, COMPLETE,
CONCLUDE, END, EXPIRE, STOP, CEASE,
TERMINATE, THAT'S ALL, THEN**

This is a useful sign to designate past tense when used before or after any signed verb. It's like the -ed at the end of an English verb. It also means **STOP IT**, as in "I've had enough of your foul behavior," *finish*. Notice that it also means *then*, which is out of character with the other synonyms.

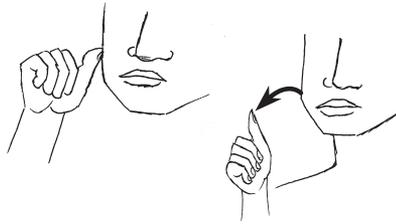


**NOW, PRESENT, CURRENTLY, IMMEDIATELY,
TODAY**



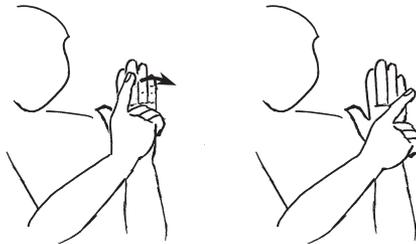
WILL, FUTURE, SHALL

This is a useful sign to designate future tense when used before or after any signed verb.



TOMORROW

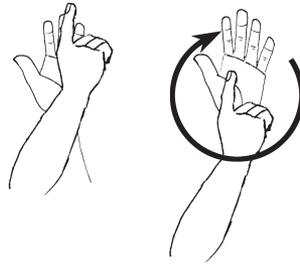
Notice how this sign differs from *yesterday* on page 68.



MINUTE

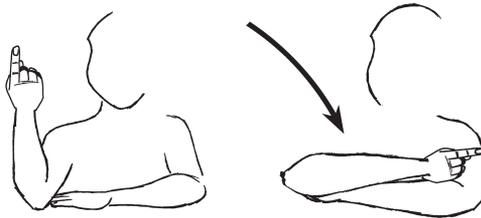
It's all wrist action. **TWO TO NINE MINUTES** substitutes the appropriate numbers for the dominant index finger.

Here's a group of signs that use a clock face.



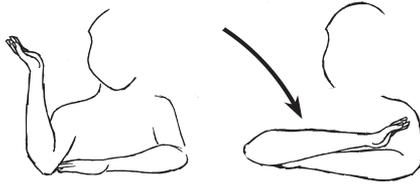
HOUR

The subordinate hand is the clock face, the dominant index finger the minute hand. The dominant index finger can remain vertical or rotate from the center of the clockface, fingers pointing to all the numbers on the dial. **TWO TO NINE HOURS** use the appropriate number on the dominant hand. **HALF HOUR** rotates the dominant wrist from 12 to 6 with the index finger pointing in the appropriate direction. **QUARTER HOUR** rotates the dominant wrist from 12 to 3 with the index finger pointing in the appropriate direction.



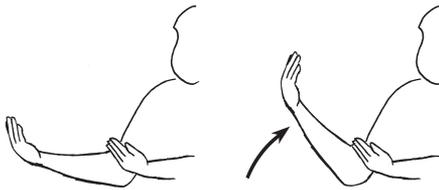
DAY

This clock has an hour hand that follows the sun across the sky. **TWO TO FIVE DAYS** substitutes the appropriate numbers for the dominant index finger. **TODAY** is *now – day*, or just *now*.



ALL DAY

Wall clocks move at a steady pace, but not the clocks of Sign. They swing to an emotional beat. It could be fast or slow at any given moment. The clock hands of Sign *slow way down* for torturously slow time periods, giving time to *squint* and *tense up* a few facial muscles. Signed clocks *speed up* for periods of time that seem to fly by.



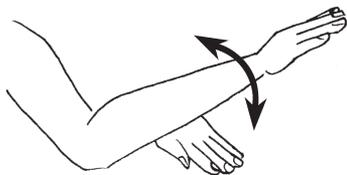
MORNING

The day begins as the sun comes over the horizon. Of course, straight up is noon.



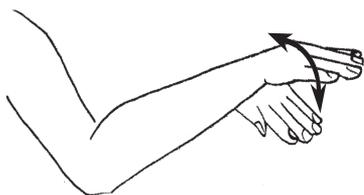
NOON

Along it goes



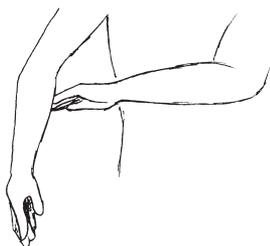
AFTERNOON

into the night,



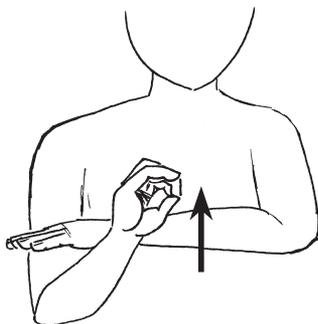
EVENING, NIGHT

into the dead of night.



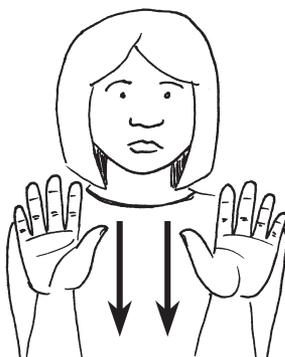
MIDNIGHT

Here's a picture of the sun coming over the horizon.



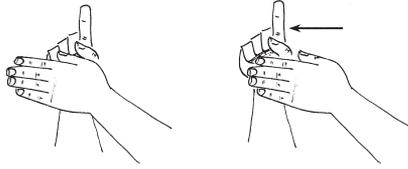
SUNRISE

Dip the sun below the horizon for **SUNSET**.



SUNDAY

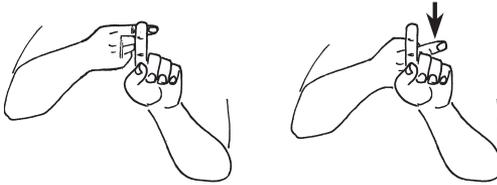
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, and **SATURDAY** use their first initials, palm facing the signer, arm rotating in a three-inch diameter, horizontal circle. **THURSDAY** is initialized *T – H*, palm toward the signer. Move the whole hand shape down without the rotation for **EVERY MONDAY**, as in “I have class *every Monday*.”



WEEK

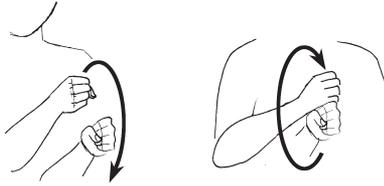
The dominant palm may also face the signer. **NEXT WEEK** moves the dominant hand sideways and around to the front of the subordinate hand. **LAST WEEK** moves the dominant hand sideways and back around to the dominant shoulder, palm facing forward all the while. **TWO TO NINE WEEKS** substitutes the appropriate numbers for the dominant index finger.

The subordinate hand shape of *week* represents a calendar, the fingers being the weeks of the month. The subordinate index finger is the **FIRST WEEK OF THE MONTH**, and the pinky the **FOURTH WEEK OF THE MONTH**. *Point* to the appropriate week when referring to weeks of the month.



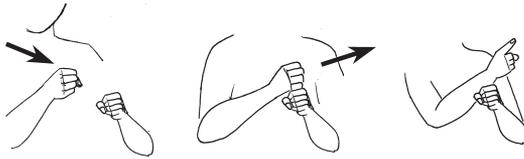
MONTH

NEXT MONTH moves both hands forward in an up and down arc during the sign's execution. Sign *recent* and then *month* for **LAST MONTH**. **TWO TO NINE MONTHS** substitute numbers for the dominant index finger. **RENT** substitutes the *R – hand shape* for the dominant index finger, palm facing the signer. Of course, *rent* is not a time period, but a payment made once a month.



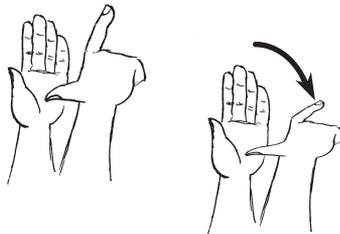
YEAR

This is the earth going around the sun.



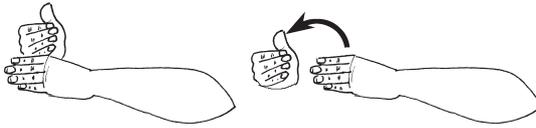
NEXT YEAR

YEARLY repeats the sign two or three times. **LAST YEAR** moves the dominant hand backward toward the dominant shoulder, palm facing the signer, index finger pointing backwards. **TWO TO FIVE YEARS** substitutes the proper number for the dominant index finger.



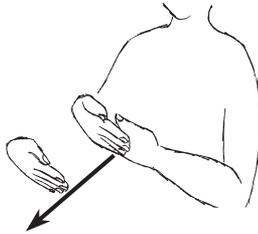
LATER, AFTER AWHILE

The dominant index finger is a clock hand rotating forward in time. The subordinate hand is the clock face.



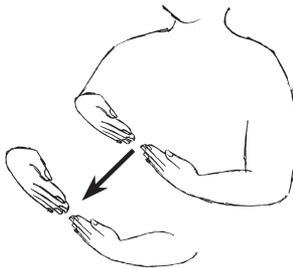
**AFTER, THEN, NEXT, SUBSEQUENTLY,
FOLLOWED BY**

The subordinate hand sets the reference point in time. The dominant hand moves to the next position forward, forward in time.

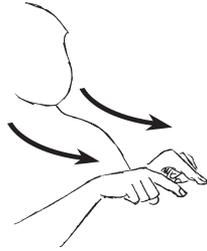


FROM NOW ON, HENCEFORTH, HEREAFTER

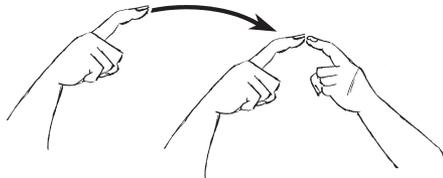
This is the opposite in concept and sign construction of *before* on page 69.



**PROCEED, GO AHEAD, ONWARD, RESUME,
PROGRESS, CONTINUE**



**DURING, IN THE MEANTIME, MEANWHILE,
WHILE, IN THE PROCESS OF**



UNTIL, TO, TOWARD

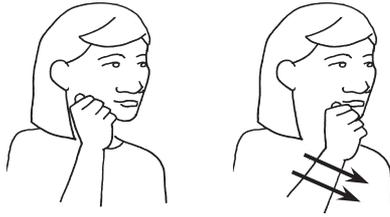
This refers to time or space.

Here's a smattering of other signs relating to time.



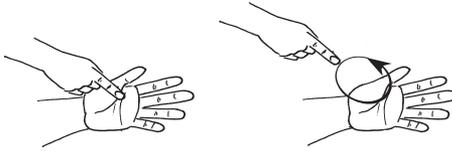
ALWAYS

The arm makes two or more rotations.



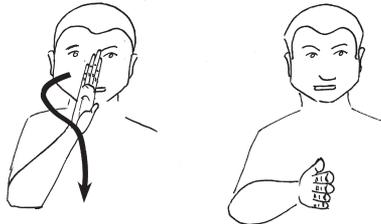
EVERYDAY, DAILY

The knuckles of the *A – hand shape* brush the cheek as they move forward. It's similar to *girl* on page 130, which brushes the extended thumb over the cheek.

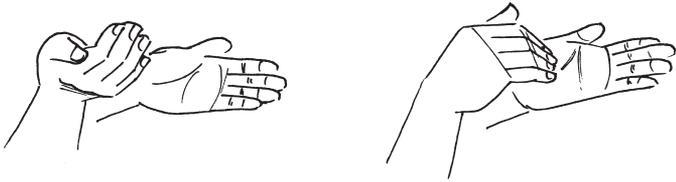


SOMETIMES, OCCASIONALLY, ONCE IN AWHILE, SELDOM

The dominant index finger strokes the subordinate palm as it circles. Make big slow moving circles for **RARE**. Use only one motion without circling for **ONCE**. Use one motion without circling, and the *2 – hand shape* for **TWICE**, beginning with the middle finger on the subordinate palm.

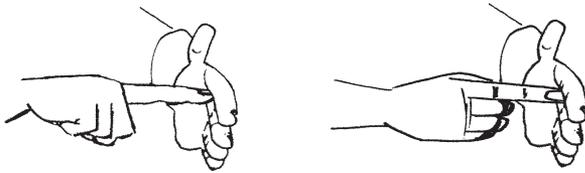


NEVER

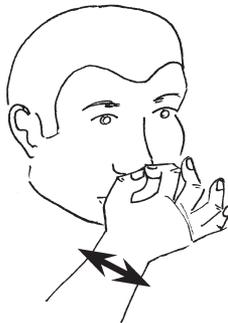


**AGAIN, REPEAT, RECUR, REITERATE,
SAY AGAIN**

Repeat the sign one or more times for **OFTEN** and **FREQUENT**, the more repetitions, the *more often*. Facial expression also adds emphasis.

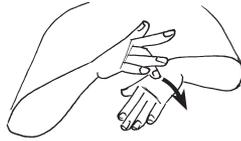


**BEGIN, START, COMMENCE, INITIATE, ORIGIN,
ORIGINATE, ACTIVATE, INSTIGATE**



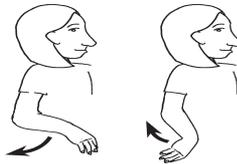
SOON, SHORTLY, PRESENTLY, NEAR, CLOSE

This represents a small amount of time or space.



EARLY, PREMATURE, AHEAD OF TIME

This dominant hand shape generally means **EMPTY, BARE, BLANK** and **VACANT**. Move the middle fingertip of this hand shape across the head for **BALD**, or down the body for **NUDE** and **NAKED**. Move it over whatever it is that's empty.



LATE, TARDY, BEHIND SCHEDULE

Do a repeated wiggle from the wrist for **NOT DONE** and **NOT YET**. Any of these synonyms may use a repeated wiggle.

We have signs relating to time, but **WHAT TIME IS IT?**



TIME

Point to your watch to ask or tell the time. The face expresses whether it's a question or a statement. Use number signs after signing *time* to specify a time, or put the number on the wrist and move it up. Do a fast *down and up tap* on the wrist for **ON TIME**.