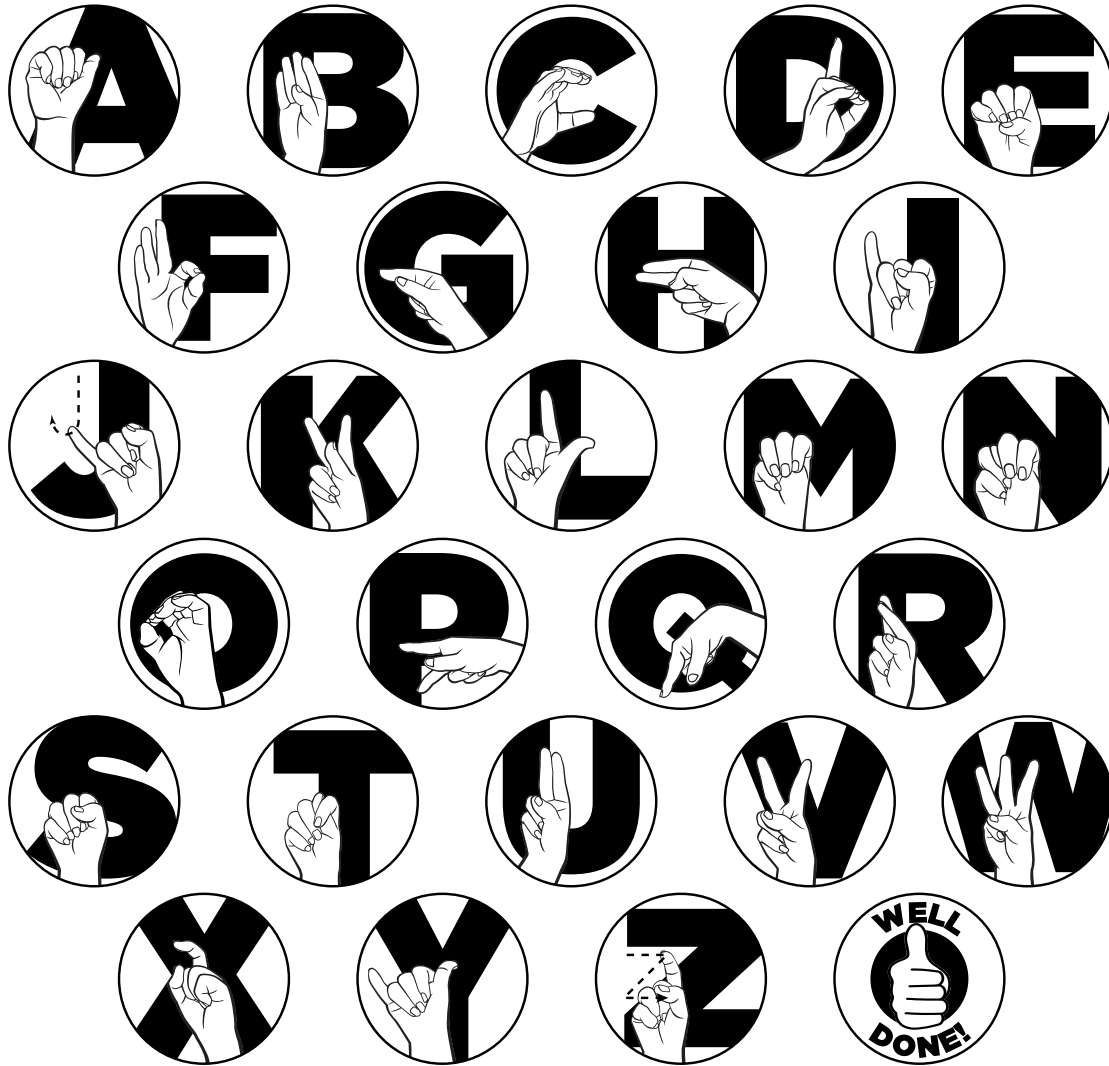




ASL MANUAL ALPHABET



12 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR FINGERSPELLING SKILLS

1. Read the letters and say their phonetic sound. Learn to read fingerspelling as you would words in a book.
2. For double letters, gently slide your hand to the side. Don't bounce or re-make the letter.
3. Keep your hand relaxed and comfortable. Straining can cause long-term injury.
4. When you make a mistake, simply pause, make a small wipe gesture in the air and start again.
5. For an apostrophe, simply rotate the letter slightly inward. Example, rotate the 's' at the end of Joe's.
6. For multiple words, simply pause between words when fingerspelling them.
7. For hyphenated words, use your dominant hand to gesture drawing a hyphen in the air between words.
8. For a period (like in abc.com), gesture drawing a dot in the air with your dominant hand.
9. Mr. and Mrs. are mainly used in format settings. Deaf usually only use first names.
10. Don't make up signs. If you don't know a word sign, fingerspell the word.
11. If you don't know sign, don't be afraid to ask. (*Sign WHAT SIGN [fingerspell word] + WH question expression.*)
12. Practice, practice and practice again. This is a skill you will use often, so keep it up for when you need it.