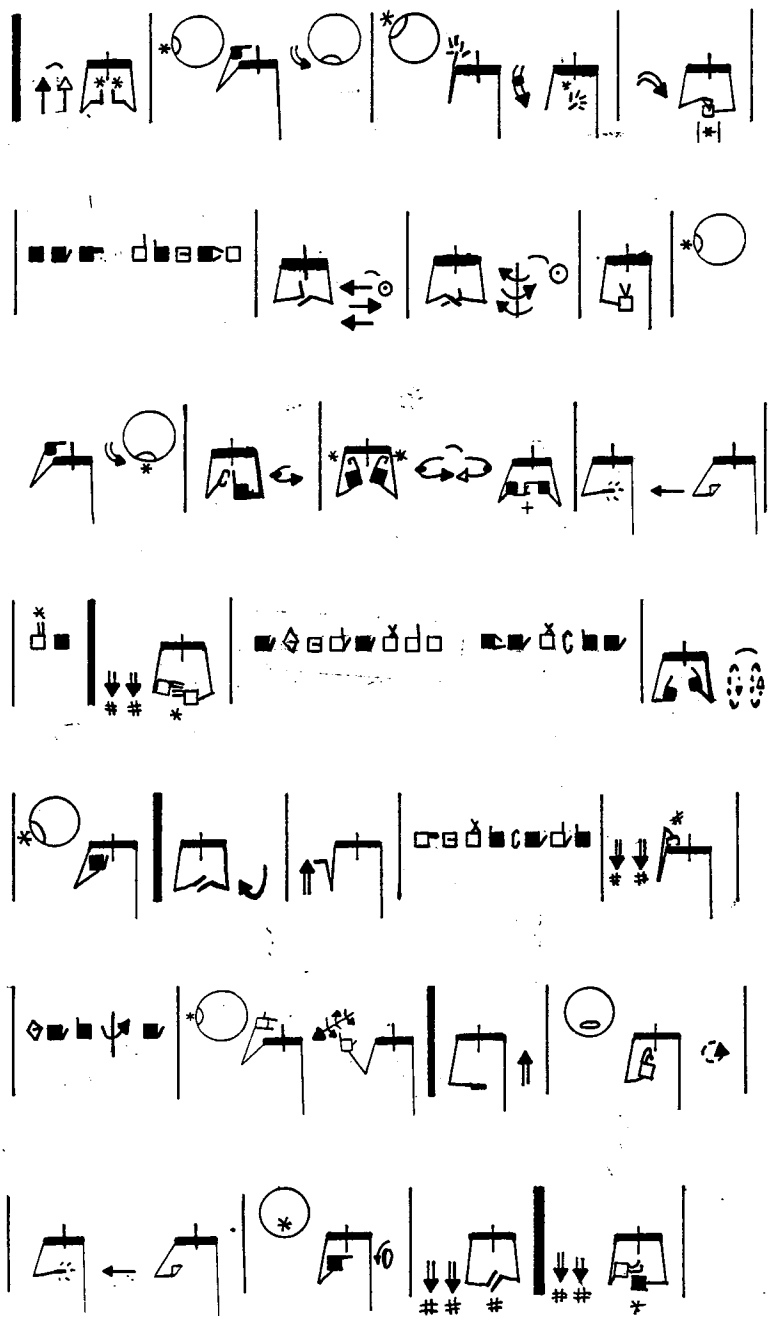
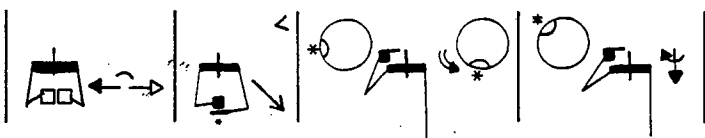
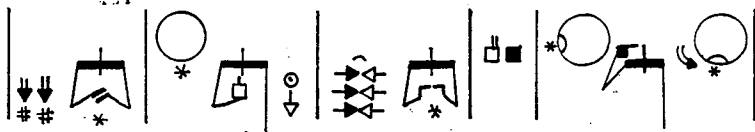
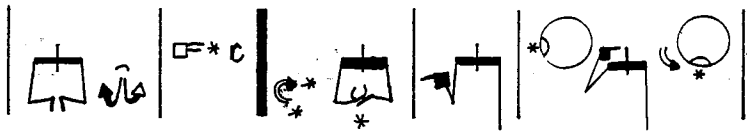
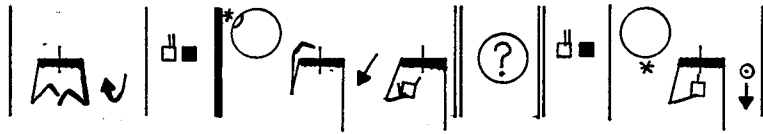


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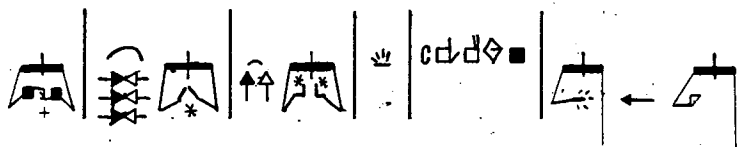
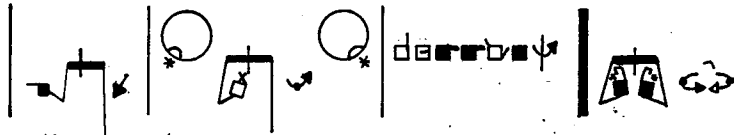
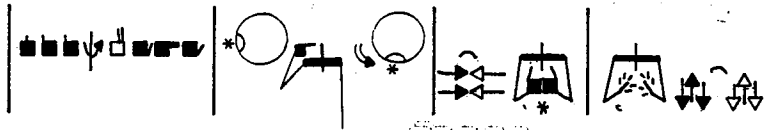
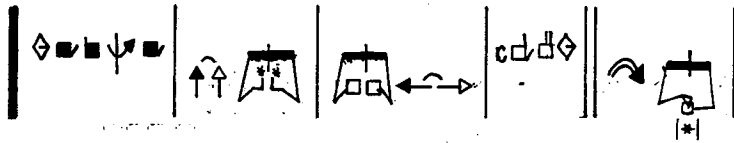
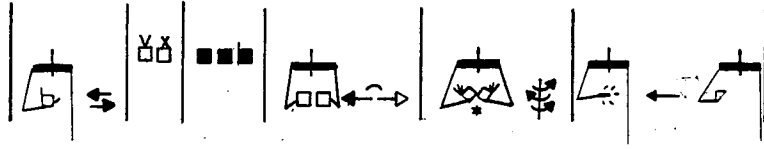


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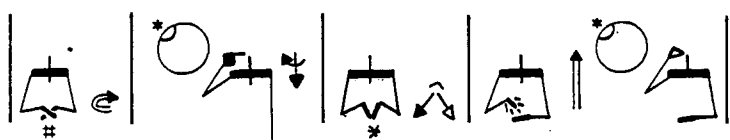
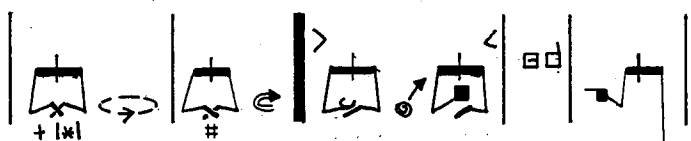
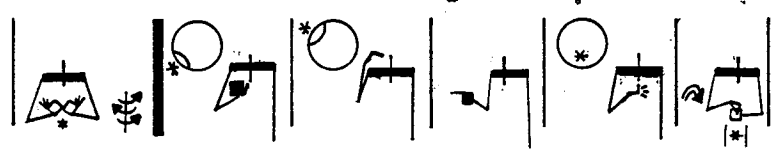
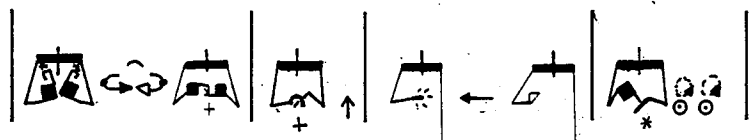
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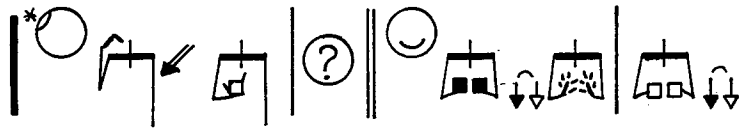
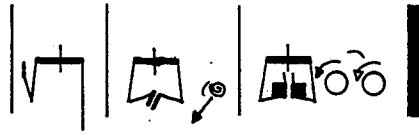
Mex 3



Mex 4



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MEX



by Kevin and  
Lucinda Struxness

There is a young deaf man living in San Diego who is busy between two deaf cultures, Mexico and the United States. His name is Abelardo Garcia. He was born and raised in Mexicali, the capital of Baja, California. Abelardo grew up going to oral schools, then to hearing schools. It was hard to enter the United States because emigration usually does not accept handicapped persons.

The courses at deaf schools are not equal to the schools for the deaf in the United States. It would really be unique for a deaf Mexican to go to a University. There are no deaf teachers at the schools for the deaf in Mexico, and there are no government-sponsored programs such as Vocational Rehabilitation, S.S.I., interpreter service and no community services.

In Baja there is no deaf club; the deaf meet in Denny's coffee shop in Tijuana. In Mexico City there are four deaf clubs, and are famous throughout Mexico and Latin America.

Abelardo signs fluently in both sign languages and sometimes interprets. Abelardo knows how lucky he is to be in America and to take part in college for further career opportunities. He is presently getting his education at San Diego City College for his general education, making computers his major in the future.

Abelardo still loves his old home, but is happy here because of the many opportunities offered to him.