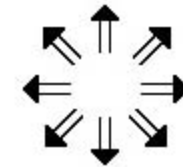
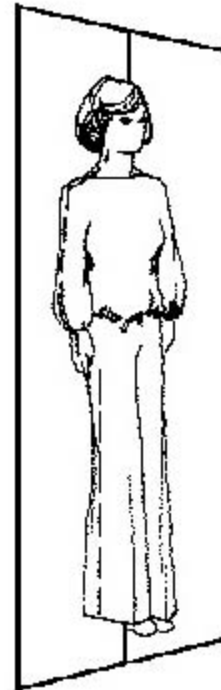
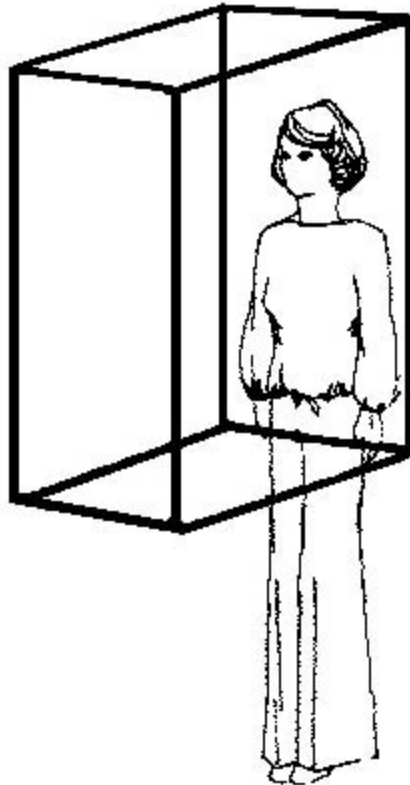


Signing Space

Signing space is the area in which you move while you sign. It is the distance you can reach in front, below and above you. Signing space travels with you wherever you go....

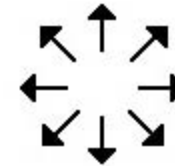
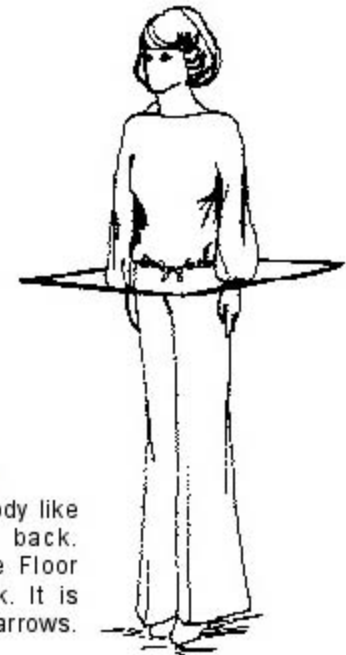
Think of your signing space like a room. It has a front and back wall and a floor and ceiling. It is divided into planes. A plane is an imaginary flat surface that disects your signing space.

There are two planes used in SignWriting: the Wall Plane and the Floor Plane. The Wall Plane is parallel with the front and back walls. The Floor Plane is parallel with the floor and ceiling. All movement symbols in SignWriting relate to these two planes.



Wall Plane

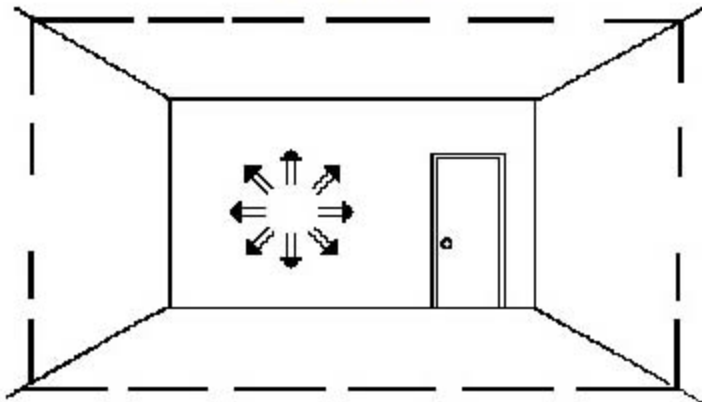
The Wall Plane cuts the body like a door, from side to side. Movement parallel with the Wall Plane is up and down. It is written with double-stemmed arrows.



Floor Plane

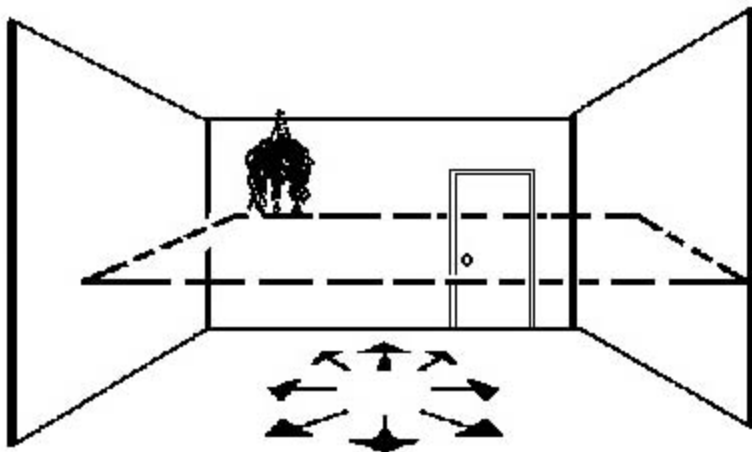
The Floor Plane cuts the body like a table-top, from front to back. Movement parallel with the Floor Plane is forward and back. It is written with single stemmed-arrows.

The Planes



Wall Plane

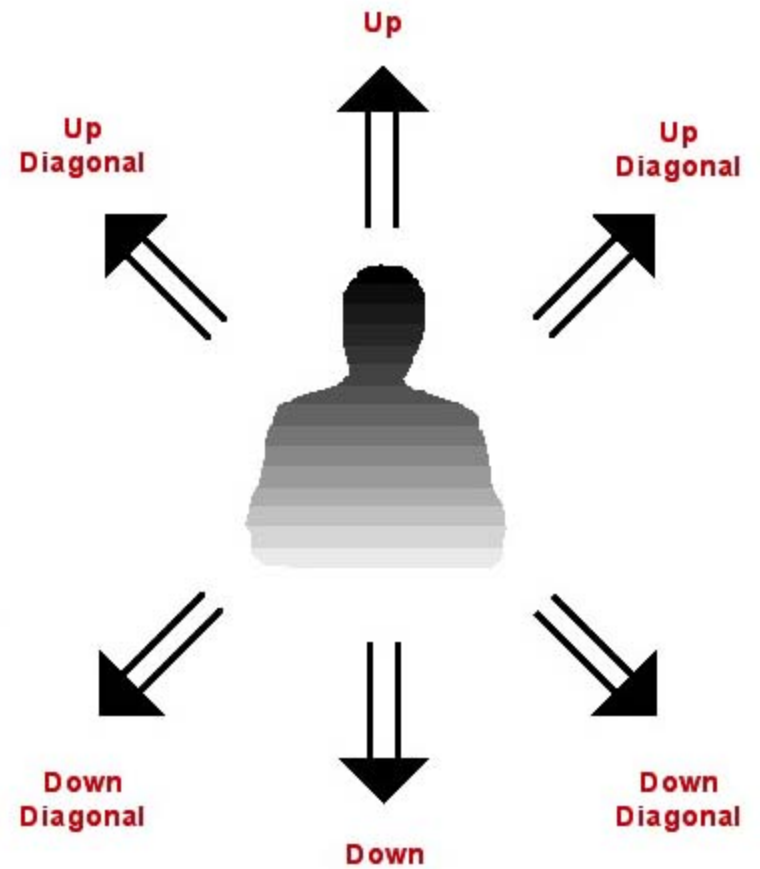
Double-Stemmed Arrows



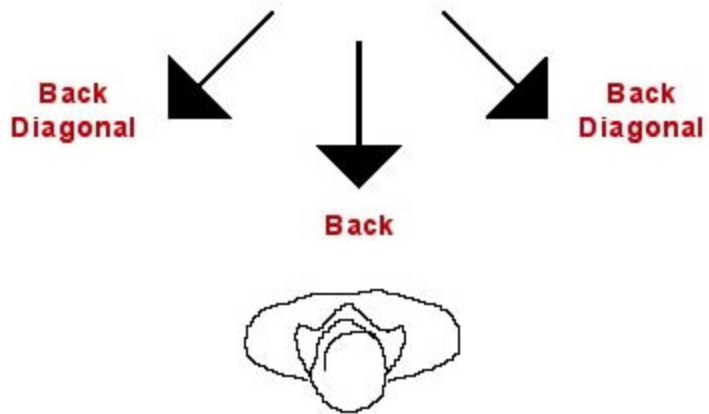
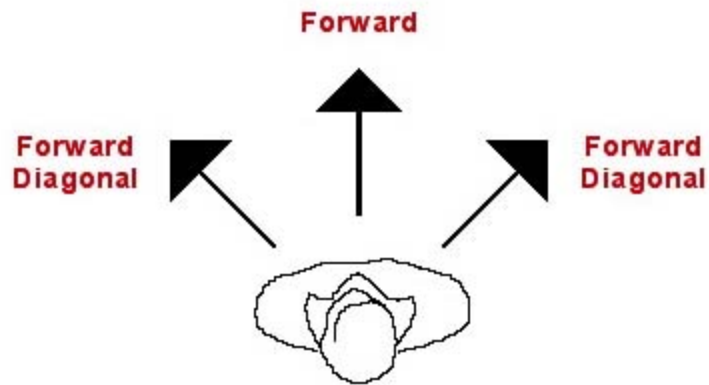
Floor Plane

Single-Stemmed Arrows

Up-Down Movement

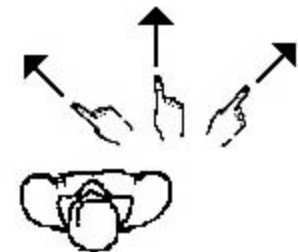
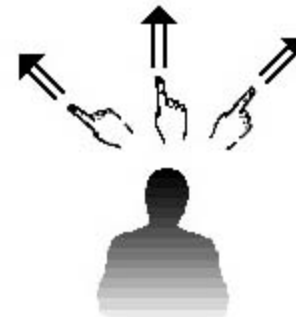


Forward-Back Movement



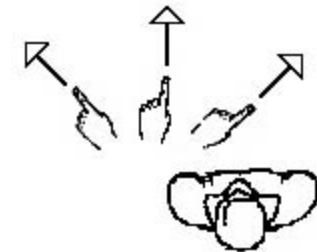
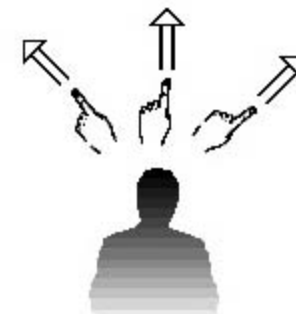
Movement With The Right Hand

A dark arrowhead.



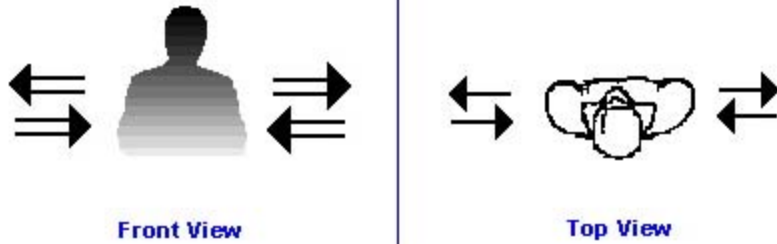
Movement With The Left Hand

A light arrowhead.



Movement To The Side

Movement to the side can be viewed from either the Front View or the Top View. It can be written with either double-stemmed or single-stemmed arrows.



Front View

Top View

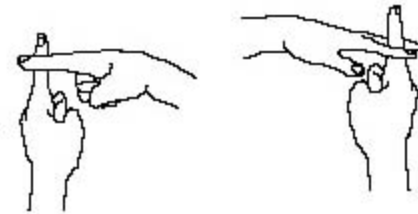
Two Hands Move As One Unit

When both hands contact, and move together in the same direction, they move as **one unit**. The movement is **both** right and left. This is written with a neutral arrowhead, which is neither dark nor light.



Front View

Top View



temperature



disappear

Straight Movement



Up or Down

A double-stemmed arrow means that the movement is straight up or down, parallel with the front wall. The movement is flat with the front of your body.



excuse me

eager

Straight Movement



Forward or Back

A single-stemmed arrow means that the movement is forward or back, parallel with the floor. You are looking down, on top of the movement.

Up-Down Straight Movement

Up-Down movement is parallel with the front wall.
It is written with **double-stemmed** arrows:



Wall-Plane-Straight
Movement From Elbow



Wall-Plane-Corner
Straight-Corner



Wall-Plane-Flex
Movement From Wrist



Wall-Plane-Check
Diagonal-Corner-Straight



Wall-Plane-Double
Small, Quick Movement



Wall-Plane-Box
Straight-Corner-Straight



Wall-Plane-Nod
Small, Quick Movement



Wall-Plane-ZigZag
Straight-Corner-Diagonal



Wall-Plane-Cross
Cross 1 Way, Then Other



Wall-Plane-Peaks
Mountain Tops



Wall-Plane-Triple
Small, Quick Movement



Wall-Plane-Twist
Straight with Rotation



Wall-Plane Nod-&-A-Half
Small, Quick Movement



Wall-Plane-Twist-Twist
Straight with Rotation



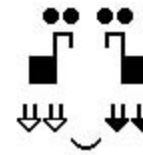
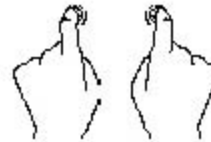
Wall-Plane-Rooftop
Diagonal-Straight



Wall-Plane-Twist-Shake
Straight with Rotation

Up-Down Straight Arrows

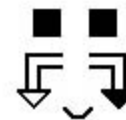
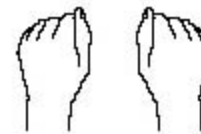
Movement Parallel With The Front Wall



exam, test



house



















system



square

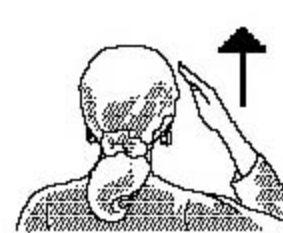
Forward-Back Straight Movement

Forward-Back movement is parallel with the floor.
It is written with **single-stemmed** arrows:

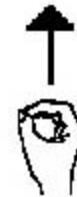
	Floor-Plane-Straight Movement From Elbow		Floor-Plane-Corner Straight-Corner
	Floor-Plane-Flex Movement From Wrist		Floor-Plane-Check Diagonal-Corner-Straight
	Floor-Plane-Double Small, Quick Movement		Floor-Plane-Box Straight-Corner-Straight
	Floor-Plane-Nod Small, Quick Movement		Floor-Plane-ZigZag Straight-Corner-Diagonal
	Floor-Plane-Cross Cross 1 Way, Then Other		Floor-Plane-Peaks Mountain Tops
	Floor-Plane-Triple Small, Quick Movement		Floor-Plane-Twist Straight with Rotation
	Floor-Plane Nod-&-A-Half Small, Quick Movement		Floor-Plane-Twist-Twist Straight with Rotation
	Floor-Plane-Road-Bend Diagonal Straight		Floor-Plane-Twist-Shake Straight with Rotation

Forward-Back Straight Arrows

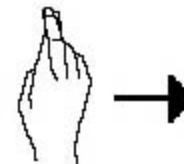
Straight movement parallel with the floor.



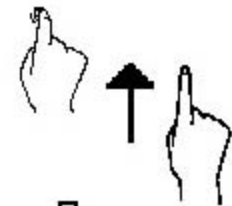
hello



nothing



right (direction)

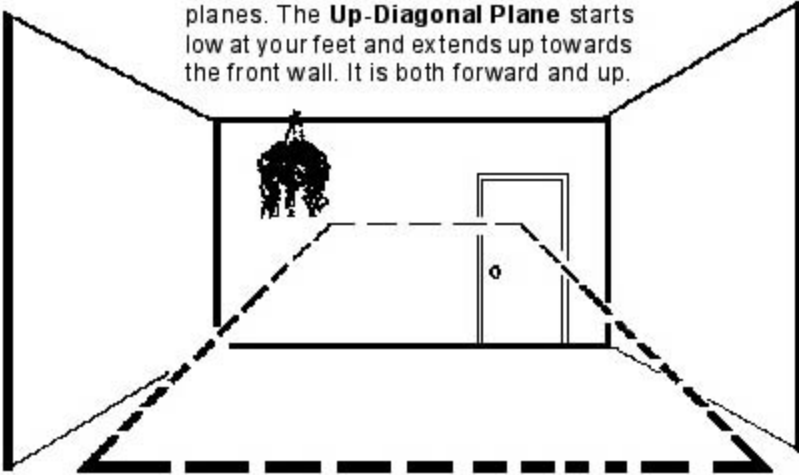


ask a question



The Diagonal Plane

Space is also divided by diagonal planes. The **Up-Diagonal Plane** starts low at your feet and extends up towards the front wall. It is both forward and up.



Forward or Back Diagonal

A horizontal bar means **away from your chest**. A dot means **towards your chest**.



Up-Forward Diagonal Movement

Imagine an airplane taking off, traveling toward the horizon. **Up-Forward-Diagonal-Movement** is written with a double stemmed arrow. A horizontal line, representing the horizon, crosses the stemline.



Down-Back Diagonal Movement

Imagine an airplane coming in for a landing, traveling towards you. **Down-Back-Diagonal Movement** is written with double-stemmed arrows. A dark dot is written on the stem of the arrow. The dot represents the nose of the plane as it is coming towards you.

