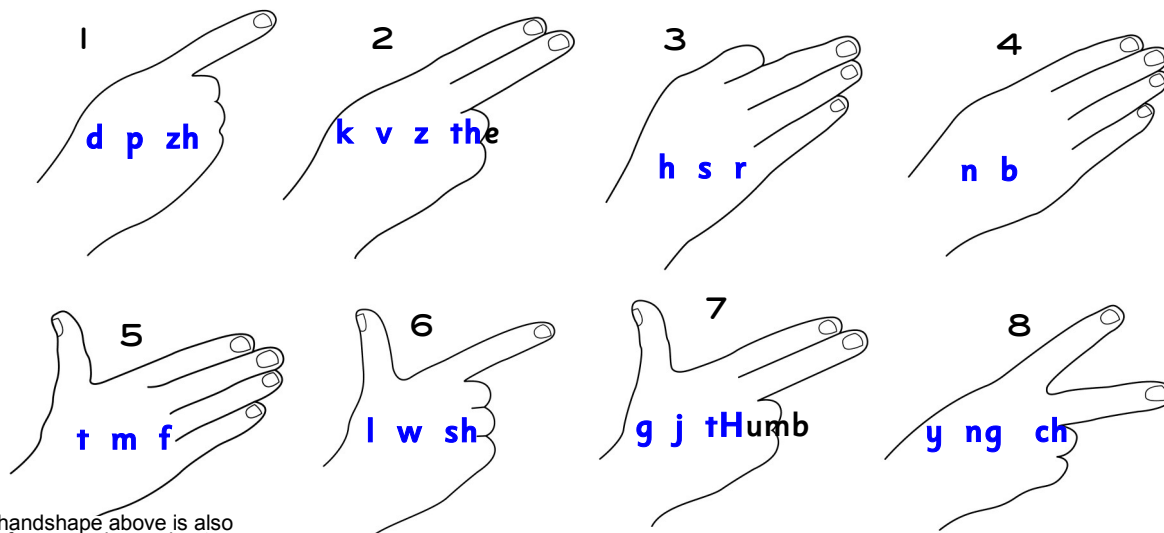
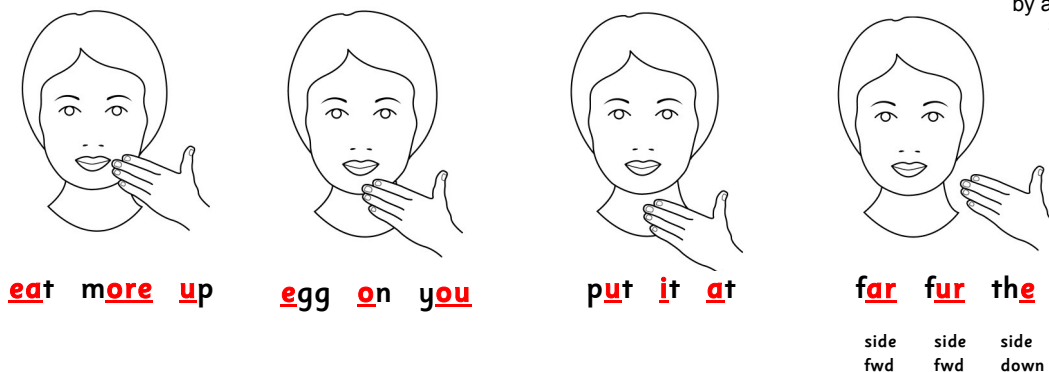


Handshapes show consonant sounds



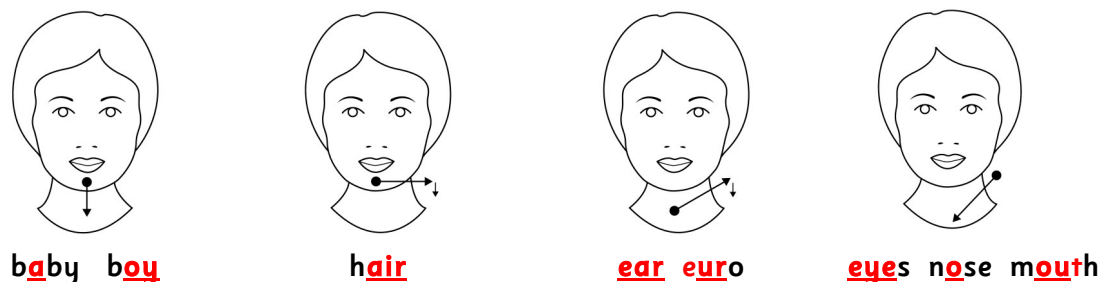
The handshape above is also used for a vowel sound not preceded by a consonant sound.

Hand positions show vowel sounds



The side position below is also used for a consonant sound not followed by a vowel sound.

Diphthongs, where one vowel sound runs into another (e.g. air, eye), are cued by moving the hand from one position to another as shown below.



To cue words put the consonant handshape in the position of the vowel which follows it e.g. to cue 'pea' hold the /p/ handshape in the /ea/ position as you say the word to cue 'me' hold the /m/ handshape in the /ea/ position as you say the word.


How to cue words

Handshapes show consonant sounds

Hand positions show vowel sounds

Remember: Cued Speech uses 'sounds', not 'spellings'.

Cueing words

1. To cue words put the appropriate consonant handshape into the position of the vowel which follows it e.g.
 - to cue 'pea' hold the /p/ handshape in the /ea/ position (shown by the word 'eat' in the chart overleaf) as you say the word.
2. A consonant sound not followed by a vowel ('on its own') uses the side position e.g.
 - to cue 'peat' hold the /p/ handshape and put it in the /ea/ position (as for 'pea'); then cue the /t/ handshape  at the side as you say it.
3. Vowels not preceded by a consonant ('on its own') use the full, open handshape e.g.
 - to cue /ee/ (the name of the letter e) use the full, open handshape in the /ee/ position.
 - to cue 'eat' use the full, open handshape in the /ee/ position; then cue the /t/ sound at the side as you say it (as in 2. above).

This can be summed up as 'three rules':

1. consonant handshapes go in the position of the following vowel
2. use the side position for a consonant 'on its own'
3. use the open, full handshape for a vowel 'on its own'.

Notes:

1. **Words containing diphthongs** - use the handshape of the preceding consonant as you start to cue the diphthong, then open your handshape into the full, open handshape as you reach the end of the diphthong movement. You don't need to know this but...this is because diphthongs are made up of two vowels; the first vowel follows rule one and uses the handshape of the preceding consonant; the second vowel is not preceded by a consonant so it follows rule three. Cueing diphthongs like this ensures that words like 'bay' and 'Bobbie' look clearly different.
2. **Positions** - touch lightly at the mouth, chin and throat positions as you cue to show the vowel cue clearly. There is nothing to touch at the side position but we must show the cue just as clearly. So for the sounds /ar/ (shown by the word 'far' overleaf) and /ur/ (shown by the word 'fur') make a VERY small (approx 2cms) forward movement; for the sound /uh/ (shown by the word 'the' overleaf) make a VERY small (approx 2 cms) downward movement.

For training and more information about the use of Cued Speech contact:

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