The Chicago Manual of Style

SEVENTEENTH EDITION

11.123   **Ampersand and wynn.** In Old English and Middle English texts a sort of stylized seven (the Tironian *et*) may be found for *and*, but the modern ampersand may be substituted for this. In Old English texts Ᵽ or ᵽ (wynn) is found for *w*; the modern *w* is often substituted for this.

11.124   **Old English vowels.** Modern editors of Old English sometimes distinguish between long and short vowels and diphthongs by means of a macron over the long versions (e.g., $\bar{a}$, $\bar{æ}$, $\bar{e}$, $\bar{e}a$, $\bar{e}o$, $\bar{\imath}$, $\bar{\imath}o$, $\bar{o}$, $\bar{u}$, $\bar{y}$). Note that, with the exception of the *æ* ligature, diphthongs are usually marked with a macron over only the first vowel.

American Sign Language (ASL)

11.125   **Signed languages.** The visual-gestural languages used by deaf people in different parts of the world are called signed languages. Signed languages are quite different from spoken languages (although there may be regional effects of language contact), and a particular signed language may or may not share the same national or geographic boundaries as spoken languages in the same locations. The individual elements of these languages are known as signs.

11.126   **Components of signs.** Signs have five major articulatory components—handshape, location, orientation, movement, and (in some cases) distinctive nonmanual signals.

11.127   **Writing ASL.** Many formal systems for writing signed languages exist; however, none has been adopted for widespread use by deaf signers. This section offers an overview of some of the most frequently employed conventions for written transcription of signing. For additional resources, see Charlotte Baker-Shenk and Dennis Cokely, *American Sign Language: A Teacher's Resource Text on Grammar and Culture*; and Clayton Valli, Ceil Lucas, Kristin J. Mulrooney, and Miako Villanueva, *Linguistics of American Sign Language: An Introduction* (bibliog. 5).

11.128   **Glosses in ASL.** The written-language transcription of a sign is called a *gloss*. Glosses are words from the spoken language written in small capital letters: WOMAN, SCHOOL, CAT. (Alternatively, regular capital letters may be used.) When two or more written words are used to gloss a single sign, the glosses are separated by hyphens. The translation is enclosed in double quotation marks.

The sign for "a car drove by" is written as VEHICLE-DRIVE-BY.

One obvious limitation of the use of glosses from the spoken/written language to represent signs is that there is no one-to-one correspondence between the words or signs in any two languages.

11.129   **Compound signs.** Some combinations of signs have taken on a meaning separate from the meaning of the individual signs. Various typographical conventions are used to indicate these compounds, including a "close-up" mark or a plus sign. Depending on the transcription system, the sign for "parents" might be glossed as follows:

MOTHER⌢FATHER   *or*   MOTHER+FATHER

11.130   **Fingerspelling.** For proper nouns and other words borrowed from the spoken language, the signer may fingerspell the word, using the handshapes from a manual alphabet. (There are numerous fingerspelling alphabets used by different signed languages, among them the American Manual Alphabet.) Fingerspelled words may be transcribed in any of the following ways:

fs-JOHN   *or*   J-O-H-N   *or*   j-o-h-n

11.131   **Lexicalized signs.** Over time, some fingerspelled words have taken on the quality of distinct signs, either by omission of some of the individual letter signs or by a change in the orientation or movement of the letter signs. These lexicalized signs are represented by the "pound" symbol (#): #WHAT, #BACK, #DO.

11.132   **Handshapes.** Most of the handshapes of American Sign Language are described by the corresponding alphabetic or numerical handshape or a variation thereof. For example, APPLE is made with an X handshape; CREATE is made with a 4 handshape; ANY is made with an Open A handshape; YELL is made with a Bent 5 handshape. Handshapes without a clear relative in the fingerspelling or number system are labeled idiosyncratically according to the transcription system in use. For example, SARCASTIC is made with the HORNS handshape; AIRPLANE is made with the ILY handshape. Handshapes for signed languages that do not use the American Manual Alphabet are often described in relation to the ASL handshapes.

11.133   **Transcriptions of signed sentences.** Signed sentences are written as a sequence of glosses, often with the spoken/written-language translation underneath in italics or quotation marks or both. (For examples, see 11.134, 11.135.) Punctuation is generally omitted from sentence tran-

scriptions (though not from the translations). Some writers, however, add question marks and exclamation points, and a comma may be used to indicate a short pause in the sentence.

11.134   **Pronouns, possessives, and reference.** Pronouns are commonly transcribed either as IX (since these are frequently produced with the "index" finger) or as PRO. Either of these is followed by indication of person and sometimes number. A similar convention is used with the possessive marker, sometimes glossed as POSS. There are varying conventions about how to indicate person and number. Thus, a third-person singular pronoun in ASL (equivalent to English "he," "she," or "it") might be glossed as IX_{3p}, IX-3p, or PRO.3. A second-person plural pronoun could be glossed as $IX_{2p\text{-}pl}$. Subscript indices are often used to show signs articulated in the same location or to indicate coreferential noun phrases. The following example indicates that *he* and *his* refer back to the same person:

IX_{3pi} LOSE $POSS_{3pi}$ HOUSE
He lost his house.

11.135   **Nonmanual signals.** Nonmanual gestures may be labeled based on anatomical behavior or grammatical interpretive function. These gestures, indicated by various abbreviations and terms, are typeset in a smaller font followed by a half-point rule above the ASL sentence. For example, the label *whq* is commonly used to refer to the facial expression that marks questions involving "who," "what," "when," "where," "how," or "why." This expression consists of a cluster of features that include furrowed brows and slightly squinted eyes. In the example below, *whq* occurs over the entire question (i.e., the expression is articulated simultaneously with all of the manual signs over which the line extends). In the same example, the label *t* indicates a topic marker that occurs simultaneously with the sign YESTERDAY. Correct alignment is critical to an accurate transcription.

<div style="text-align:center">

    t   *whq*
</div>

YESTERDAY, fs-JOHN SEE WHO
Whom did John see yesterday?