

# cross in sign language

**cross in sign language** is a gesture used to represent the concept of "cross" or related ideas in various sign languages, including American Sign Language (ASL). Understanding how to sign "cross" is essential for effective communication within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. This article explores the different ways to express "cross" in sign language, the cultural significance of the gesture, and its applications in everyday conversation. Additionally, it covers variations across different sign languages and tips for learners to master this sign accurately. Whether for educational purposes, cultural awareness, or practical communication, knowing the sign for "cross" enhances linguistic competence and inclusivity. The following sections provide a detailed overview of the sign's formation, meaning, and context.

- Understanding the Sign for Cross in Sign Language
- Variations of Cross in Different Sign Languages
- Contextual Uses of the Cross Sign
- Learning Tips and Common Mistakes
- Cultural Significance and Symbolism

## Understanding the Sign for Cross in Sign Language

In American Sign Language (ASL), the sign for "cross" typically involves a specific handshape and movement that visually represents the idea of crossing or intersecting lines. The standard formation usually uses the dominant hand to mimic the action of making a cross shape by crossing the index fingers or by moving one hand over the other. This sign is straightforward but requires precise hand positioning and motion to be clear and recognizable.

## Basic Formation of the Cross Sign

The basic formation of the "cross" sign involves extending the index fingers of both hands and crossing them in an X shape. This motion symbolizes the crossing of lines or paths and is intuitive for signers to understand. Alternatively, some variations use a single hand to trace a cross shape in the air, especially when referring to a physical cross like a crosswalk or a cross symbol.

## Handshape and Movement Details

The handshape for the cross sign generally uses flat or extended index fingers, while other fingers remain curled or relaxed. The crossing movement should be smooth and deliberate to avoid confusion with other signs. The location of the sign is usually in front of the chest or slightly higher to ensure visibility and clarity during communication.

## **Variations of Cross in Different Sign Languages**

The sign for "cross" can vary significantly depending on the sign language being used. While ASL is widely studied and used in the United States and parts of Canada, other countries have their own signed languages with unique representations of the concept "cross."

### **British Sign Language (BSL) Variation**

In British Sign Language, the sign for "cross" often involves different handshapes or movements compared to ASL. Typically, signers use one hand to draw a cross shape in the air with a flat hand or finger, emphasizing the visual representation of crossing lines. This variation highlights the importance of learning regional differences to avoid miscommunication.

### **International Sign and Other Variants**

International Sign, used in global Deaf events and meetings, tends to simplify or standardize signs like "cross" to facilitate broader understanding. The sign usually involves a clear, exaggerated crossing movement that is easily interpretable. Additionally, many local sign languages incorporate cultural elements into their signs, which may alter the form or motion of the "cross" sign.

## **Contextual Uses of the Cross Sign**

The sign for "cross" is versatile and applies in multiple contexts, from physical descriptions to abstract concepts. Understanding these contexts is crucial for proper use and comprehension.

### **Physical Crossings and Locations**

One common use of the sign is to indicate a physical crossing, such as a crosswalk, a crossroad, or the act of crossing a street. Signers may pair the "cross" sign with other signs like "street," "walk," or directional terms to convey precise meanings.

## Religious and Symbolic Crosses

The "cross" sign is also used to refer to religious symbols, such as the Christian cross. In these cases, the sign may be performed more slowly and deliberately, sometimes accompanied by facial expressions denoting respect or solemnity. This usage underscores the cultural and symbolic weight the cross carries in various communities.

## Figurative and Idiomatic Uses

Beyond literal meanings, the sign for "cross" can appear in idiomatic expressions or figurative language, such as "to cross boundaries" or "to cross someone" (meaning to betray or oppose). Contextual cues and additional signs help clarify these more abstract meanings.

## Learning Tips and Common Mistakes

Mastering the sign for "cross" in sign language requires attention to detail and practice. Learners should focus on handshape accuracy, smoothness of movement, and contextual appropriateness.

### Tips for Accurate Signing

- Practice crossing the index fingers precisely to form a clear "X" shape.
- Maintain a consistent signing location in front of the chest for visibility.
- Use facial expressions to enhance meaning, especially in symbolic contexts.
- Watch native signers and use instructional videos to model correct technique.
- Pair the sign with related vocabulary to build comprehensive communication.

### Common Errors to Avoid

Typical mistakes include crossing the wrong fingers, performing the sign too quickly or too slowly, and signing in an incorrect location. These errors can lead to misunderstandings or reduced clarity. Learners should seek feedback from fluent signers and engage in regular practice to improve.

# Cultural Significance and Symbolism

The "cross" holds deep cultural and symbolic meanings beyond its literal use, affecting how it is signed and perceived within Deaf communities and the broader society.

## Religious and Spiritual Importance

In many cultures, the cross is a powerful religious symbol, particularly in Christianity. The sign for "cross" often reflects this reverence through deliberate motion and respectful expression. Understanding this significance aids in sensitive and appropriate use during religious discussions or ceremonies.

## Social and Historical Contexts

The cross also appears in historical and social contexts, such as marking locations, denoting hazards, or symbolizing intersection points. In sign language communication, these meanings influence how and when the sign is used, demonstrating the interconnection between language and culture.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What does the cross symbol represent in sign language?

In sign language, a cross symbol often represents the concept of 'cross' as in crossing something or a religious cross, depending on the context and specific sign language used.

### How do you sign 'cross' in American Sign Language (ASL)?

In ASL, to sign 'cross,' you typically use your index fingers from both hands and cross them over each other in front of your body.

### Is the sign for 'cross' the same in all sign languages?

No, the sign for 'cross' can vary between different sign languages such as ASL, BSL, and others, as each has its own unique signs and grammar.

### Can the cross sign in sign language have multiple meanings?

Yes, the cross sign can signify different things like 'crossing,' 'crossroad,' or religious concepts depending on the context in the conversation.

## How is the concept of a 'cross' used in sign language education?

The concept of 'cross' is taught to help learners understand spatial and directional signs, as well as cultural or religious signs in sign language curricula.

## Are there variations of the 'cross' sign for different contexts in ASL?

Yes, variations exist such as signing a 'crosswalk' by combining the sign for 'cross' with 'walk,' or a 'medical cross' by incorporating the sign for 'hospital' or 'doctor.'

## Where can I find reliable resources to learn the 'cross' sign in sign language?

Reliable resources include official sign language dictionaries, educational websites like ASL University, and videos from certified sign language instructors.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *Crossing Paths: The Art of Sign Language Communication*

This book explores the nuances of sign language, focusing on the symbolic and practical uses of the "cross" sign in various contexts. It offers detailed illustrations and step-by-step guidance to help learners master crossing motions and their meanings. Readers will also find cultural insights into how crossing gestures shape communication in Deaf communities worldwide.

### 2. *Hands That Cross: Understanding Sign Language Gestures*

Delving into the intricate world of sign language, this book highlights the significance of crossing signs as connectors between concepts and ideas. It provides exercises to practice crossing signs, enhancing fluency and expression. The author emphasizes the role of body language and hand positioning to convey clear messages.

### 3. *The Cross in Sign Language: Symbols and Meanings*

A comprehensive guide to the various ways the concept of "cross" is represented in different sign languages. This book covers historical development, regional variations, and the symbolism behind crossing signs. It is an essential resource for linguists, educators, and sign language students interested in semiotics.

### 4. *Bridging Cultures: Cross Signs in International Sign Language*

This volume examines how crossing signs function as bridges between different sign languages and cultures. Featuring interviews with Deaf individuals from multiple countries, it showcases the universality and diversity of cross-related gestures. The book encourages cross-cultural understanding through shared signs.

### 5. *Sign Language and the Cross: Spiritual and Cultural Perspectives*

Focusing on the spiritual symbolism of the cross in sign language, this book discusses how religious and cultural meanings are conveyed through hand signs. It includes stories from Deaf communities about the role of the cross in rituals and worship. Readers gain insight into the intersection of faith

and language.

#### 6. *Mastering the Cross: Advanced Techniques in Sign Language*

Designed for advanced learners, this book offers in-depth tutorials on complex crossing signs and their grammatical applications. It includes video references and interactive exercises to perfect hand coordination and expression. The text also covers common mistakes and tips for clarity.

#### 7. *Crossroads of Expression: The Role of the Cross in Deaf Art and Sign Language*

This book highlights the artistic representation of the cross in Deaf culture, including visual art, performance, and sign language. It explores how the cross serves as a motif for identity and connection. The author presents case studies of Deaf artists who incorporate crossing signs into their work.

#### 8. *Learning to Cross: Beginner's Guide to Cross Signs in Sign Language*

A beginner-friendly manual that introduces the basic crossing signs and their everyday uses. It features simple exercises, photographs, and mnemonic devices to aid retention. Ideal for new learners, the book builds a solid foundation for further study.

#### 9. *The Language of Crossing: Exploring Gesture and Meaning in Sign Language*

This academic text investigates the semiotic importance of crossing gestures within sign language grammar and discourse. It combines linguistic theory with practical examples to explain how crossing signs function in communication. Researchers and students will find valuable analysis and data in this work.

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Jackie Guendouzi, Filip Loncke, Mandy J. Williams, 2011-01-07 This handbook includes an overview of those areas of cognition and language processing that are relevant to the field of communication disorders, and provides examples of theoretical approaches to problems and issues in communication disorders. The first section includes a collection of chapters that outline some of the basic considerations and areas of cognition and language that underlie communication processing; a second section explains and exemplifies some of the influential theories of psycholinguistic/cognitive processing; and the third section illustrates theoretical applications to clinical populations. There is coverage of theories that have been either seminal or controversial in the research of communication disorders. Given the increasing multi-cultural workload of many practitioners working with clinical populations, chapters relating to bilingual populations are also included. The volume book provides a single interdisciplinary source where researchers and students can access information on psycholinguistic and cognitive processing theories relevant to clinical populations. A range of theories, models, and perspectives are provided. The range of topics and issues illustrate the relevance of a dynamic interaction between theoretical and applied work, and retains the complexity of psycholinguistic and cognitive theory for readers (both researchers and graduate

students) whose primary interest is the field of communication disorders.

**cross in sign language: Language Contact. Volume 2** Jeroen Darquennes, Joseph C. Salmons, Wim Vandenbussche, 2025-04-21 Targeting a full range of students and scholars, this volume provides a total of 50 chapters illustrating the linguistic dynamics and the dynamics of (inter)individual, and societal language contact as well as the dynamics of multidisciplinary language contact studies. Fueled by a wealth of data from a rich variety of contact situations, its geographically balanced case studies are governed by the triangulation between a focus on language structure and change, a sincere drive of sociopolitical and academic agency, and the confrontation with an everyday reality that can be unkind to (and ignorant of) those two factors. The volume clearly demonstrates the social relevance of our trade in a time burdened with ecolinguistic challenges.

**cross in sign language: Language Competence Across Populations** Yonata Levy, Jeannette C. Schaeffer, 2003-01-30 This unique, edited book bridges studies in language disorders and linguistic theory with timely contributions from leading scholars in language development. It presents an attempt to define Specific Language Impairment, relating it to children of normal and disordered language capabilities. The chapter presentations examine language development across a variety of populations of children, from those with Specific Language Impairment to second language learners. The contributors discuss criteria for the definition of SLI, compare and contrast SLI with profiles of children with other disorders and dialects, and offer a comprehensive look at the Whole Human Language, which ties together spoken and signed languages. Methodological concerns that affect the credibility and generalizability of the findings are discussed and controversies between opposing linguistic approaches to language acquisition are presented. The conceptual thread that gradually reveals itself as the chapters unfold is a theoretical issue of central importance to cognitive theory, as well as to our understanding of the biological correlates of language—it concerns the variability that linguistic competence can manifest in children under different biological conditions and life circumstances. *Language Competence Across Populations: Toward a Definition of Specific Language Impairment* is an essential volume for advanced students and scholars in linguistics and psychology who have an interest in language acquisition and language disorders, as well as for the clinical professionals dealing with children with language impairments.

**cross in sign language: Beyond the body? The Future of Embodied Cognition** Guy Dove, 2016-03-22 Embodied cognition represents one of most important research programs in contemporary cognitive science. Although there is a diversity of opinion concerning the nature of embodiment, the core idea is that cognitive processes are influenced by body morphology, emotions, and sensorimotor systems. This idea is supported by an ever increasing collection of empirical studies that fall into two broad classes: one consisting of experiments that implicate action, emotion, and perception systems in seemingly abstract cognitive tasks and the other consisting of experiments that demonstrate the contribution of bodily interaction with the external environment to the performance of such tasks. Now that the research program of embodied cognition is well established, the time seems right for assessing its further promise and potential limitations. This research topic aims to create an interdisciplinary forum for discussing where we go from here. Given that we have good reason to think that the body influences cognition in surprisingly robust ways, the central question is no longer whether or not any cognitive processes are embodied. Instead, other questions have come to the fore: To what extent are cognitive processes in general embodied? Are there disembodied processes? Among those that are embodied, how are they embodied? Is there more than one kind of embodiment? Is embodiment a matter of degree? There are a number of specific issues that could be addressed by submissions to this research topic. Some supporters of embodied cognition eschew representations. Should anti-representationalism be a core part of an embodied approach? What role should dynamical models play? Research in embodied cognition has tended to focus on the importance of sensorimotor areas for cognition. What are the functions of multimodal or amodal brain areas? Abstract concepts have proved to be a challenge for embodied cognition. How should they be handled? Should researchers allow for some form of weak

embodiment? Currently, there is a split between those who offer a simulation-based approach to embodiment and those who offer an enactive approach. Who is right? Should there be a rapprochement between these two groups? Some experimental and robotics researchers have recently shown a great deal of interest in the idea that external resources such as language can serve as form of cognitive scaffolding. What are the implications of this idea for embodied cognition? This research aims to bring together empirical and theoretical work from a diversity of perspectives. Subtitling is one of the most important disciplines in the history of social sciences, with the help of cognitive psychology. Researchers are encouraged to submit papers to discussing the future of embodied cognition, methods, models, or theories.

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**cross in sign language: Natural Language Processing and Information Systems** Amon Rapp, Luigi Di Caro, Farid Meziane, Vijayan Sugumaran, 2024-09-19 The two-volume proceedings set LNCS 14762 and 14763 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 29th International Conference on Applications of Natural Language to Information Systems, NLDB 2024, held in Turin, Italy, in June 25-27, 2024. The 35 full papers, 26 short papers, 3 demo papers and 8 industry track papers included in these books were carefully reviewed and selected from 141 submissions. They focus on advancements and support studies related to languages previously underrepresented, such as Arabic, Romanian, Italian and Japanese languages.

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**cross in sign language: The Handbook of Linguistics** Mark Aronoff, Janie Rees-Miller, 2017-03-08 The first edition of this Handbook is built on surveys by well-known figures from around the world and around the intellectual world, reflecting several different theoretical predilections, balancing coverage of enduring questions and important recent work. Those strengths are now enhanced by adding new chapters and thoroughly revising almost all other chapters, partly to reflect ways in which the field has changed in the intervening twenty years, in some places radically. The result is a magnificent volume that can be used for many purposes. David W. Lightfoot, Georgetown University The Handbook of Linguistics, Second Edition is a stupendous achievement. Aronoff and Rees-Miller have provided overviews of 29 subfields of linguistics, each written by one of the leading researchers in that subfield and each impressively crafted in both style and content. I know of no finer resource for anyone who would wish to be better informed on recent developments in



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Richard P. Meier, Christian Rathmann, Aaron Shield, 2023-12-19

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**cross in sign language:** Language across Languages Emanuele Miola, Paolo Ramat, 2015-09-18 Since the first written documents in the history of mankind (produced at the end of the

4th millennium BC), translation has always played a pivotal role in human societies. Translators were needed whenever the need for contact between different-speaking communities arose, such as for the purposes of communication, commerce, and declarations of war, or peace. Translation is even more important in today's world. Globalization has brought the nations of the Earth closer, to the extent that books, movies and television programs released or aired far away in the world are just a click of the mouse away. However, such cultural products still have to be translated in order to be enjoyed by a wider audience. In international relations, diplomacies work very much on the basis of what is said and written, meaning that official documents and political charts need to be correctly and precisely translated. Hi-tech devices, such as tablets and smartphones, have their software translated into an increasing number of languages, in order to be accessible to a larger number of people. The challenging issues that arise for translation studies from these socio-cultural changes in Western Europe and all over the world are tackled in this volume according to two intertwined viewpoints: From a strictly linguistic perspective, typological differences between genetically unrelated languages challenge linguists in gaining an overall understanding of what language really is: how can linguistic categories, be they verbal, nominal or pertaining to other domains of the grammar, be defined? How are they shaped in syntax? From the point of view of anthropological linguistics, on the other hand, the cross-linguistic differences that come to the fore illustrate that translating – as well as language itself – is one of the basic cognitive strategies of the human mind.

**cross in sign language:** *Deaf Around the World* Gaurav Mathur, Donna Jo Napoli, 2011-01-27  
The articles in *Deaf around the World* offer an introduction to deaf studies and the study of signed languages.

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