

Glossing Principles and Conventions

What is glossing?

Glossing is a form of annotation of languages where a word from Language A (usually the dominant language) is written below a word in Language B to explain its meaning.

As there is no conventional written form of signed languages, glosses stand for signs (the most commonly associated or nearest translation of the sign in English, for example HOW-ARE-YOU?) rather than occurring below a sign.

Glossing Principles

1. As videos (vodcasts) are provided for reference, the glosses in this curriculum are not intended to be exhaustive, but rather an idea of what could be signed.
2. The glosses are not exact matches to English or to Auslan signs in Signbank. They are to show an example in that context.
3. Non-manual features (NMFs), pausing, handshapes and spatial modifications do not usually need to be shown for the example to be clear. They are only included where it is relevant to the example.
4. An attempt has been made to avoid signs with dialectal differences where possible.

Glossing Conventions

Gloss notation	meaning
GLOSS	The closest English match to a sign in that example/context
GLOSS-GLOSS	a single sign best represented by two or more English words
A-B-C	a fingerspelled word
GLOSS-direction/person	A sign that is modified spatially such as left, right, him, her, me (towards signer)
GLOSS-manner or aspect	A sign that is modified to show manner or aspect such as WRITE-carelessly or GO-TO-repeatedly
PRO1, PRO2, PRO3	first, second or third person pronoun (I/me, you, he/him, she/her, it)
POSS1, POSS2 and POSS3	first, second or third person possessive pronoun (my/mine, your/yours, his, her/hers, its)
PRO1-plural, PRO2-2, POSS3-plural	pronouns and possessive pronouns that are plural (we, you plural, you two, they, our, your, theirs etc)
++	sign is repeated
DS:describe-with-dashes	a depicting sign that means what is after the :
DS(5):describe-with-dashes	a depicting sign with the 5 handshape that means what is after the :
.	end of a clause where another follows so need a break.
?	end of a question
hs:x	handshapes, see pgs X and Y
^	compound
G:WELL	upturned hands gesture