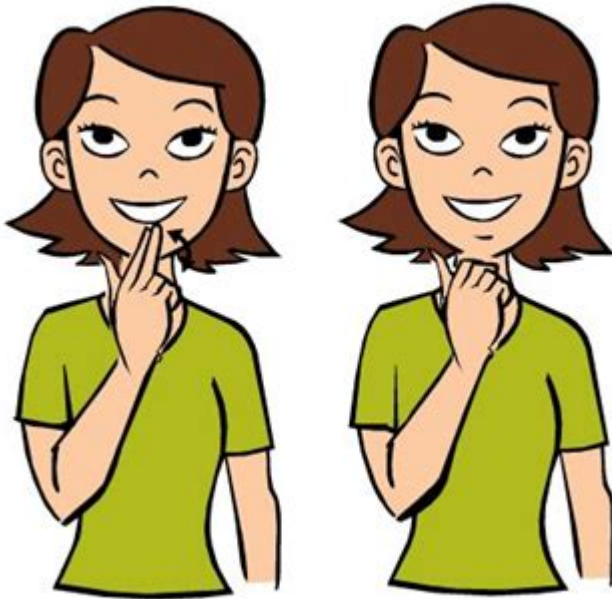


# Sign Language Touching Chin



## **Sign Language Touching Chin: Decoding the Subtleties of Non-Manual Markers**

Have you ever noticed someone using sign language and subtly touching their chin? It's more than a nervous tic; it's a crucial element of communication. This comprehensive guide delves into the nuances of touching the chin in sign language, explaining its significance, variations, and cultural context. We'll explore why understanding these non-manual markers is vital for effective communication with the Deaf community and provide examples to solidify your understanding.

### **What are Non-Manual Markers (NMMs) in Sign Language?**

Before we dive into the specifics of chin touching, let's establish the broader context. Sign languages, far from being solely about hand shapes and movements, are rich with non-manual markers (NMMs). These are facial expressions, head movements, body posture, and even subtle touches like chin contact, that fundamentally alter the meaning of signed words and phrases. Think of them as the punctuation and intonation of spoken language – they add layers of meaning, emotion, and grammatical structure. Ignoring NMMs can lead to miscommunication or a complete misunderstanding of the signed message.

# The Significance of Touching the Chin in Sign Language

Touching the chin in sign language isn't a universally consistent gesture with a single, fixed meaning. Its interpretation depends heavily on context, the specific sign being used, and the overall conversational flow. However, several common uses emerge:

## #### 1. Emphasis and Clarification:

A slight chin touch can emphasize a particular word or phrase, drawing attention to its importance within the sentence. This is similar to stressing a word in spoken language to highlight its significance.

## #### 2. Questioning and Seeking Confirmation:

A chin touch, often combined with a raised eyebrow or a slight head tilt, can indicate that the signer is posing a question or seeking confirmation of information. The gesture adds a layer of inquisitive nuance to the signed question.

## #### 3. Conditional Statements:

In some sign languages, a chin touch can be used to signal a conditional statement – "if...then" type constructions. The gesture helps to delineate the different parts of the conditional sentence.

## #### 4. Expressing Uncertainty or Doubt:

A hesitant chin touch, perhaps accompanied by a furrowed brow, can signal uncertainty or doubt about the information being conveyed. This subtle addition adds a layer of honesty and transparency to the communication.

## #### 5. Regional and Cultural Variations:

It's crucial to remember that sign languages are not monolithic. American Sign Language (ASL), British Sign Language (BSL), and other sign languages have unique grammatical structures and NMMs. The interpretation of chin touching can vary significantly between these different sign languages. What might signify a question in ASL might mean something entirely different in BSL. Cultural nuances within a particular sign language community can also influence the interpretation of this non-manual marker.

## How to Observe and Interpret Chin Touching in Sign Language

To accurately interpret chin touching, you need to consider the entire communicative context. This involves paying close attention to:

#### 1. The accompanying handshapes and movements: Which sign is being used alongside the chin touch? This will be crucial in understanding the overall meaning.

#### 2. Facial expressions and body language: Consider the signer's overall facial expression. Is it serious, inquisitive, doubtful, or something else?

#### 3. The surrounding conversation: What has been discussed before and after the chin touch? This will provide essential context.

#### 4. The signer's individual style: Some signers might use NMMs more extensively than others. Becoming familiar with an individual signer's communication style is helpful.

## **Beyond Chin Touching: The Importance of Holistic Sign Language Understanding**

Learning to interpret non-manual markers like chin touching is vital for truly comprehending sign language. It's about understanding the subtle nuances that enrich communication and prevent misinterpretations. Mastering sign language involves not just learning the alphabet and individual signs, but also recognizing and understanding the intricate web of NMMs that give the language its richness and expressiveness.

## **Conclusion**

Understanding the subtleties of sign language, including non-manual markers like chin touching, significantly enhances communication with the Deaf community. By paying close attention to context, accompanying signs, and facial expressions, you can gain a deeper understanding of the nuances embedded within signed conversations. This guide offers a starting point; continued observation and engagement with the Deaf community are crucial for developing proficiency in interpreting these vital aspects of signed communication.

## **FAQs**

1. Is chin touching always significant in sign language? No, sometimes it's unintentional. However, in most cases, it serves a grammatical or emphatic purpose.

2. Can chin touching be learned? Yes, with practice and observation, you can learn to recognize and interpret its various meanings.

3. Are there other NMMs besides chin touching? Yes, many others, including eyebrow raises, head tilts, shoulder shrugs, and mouth movements.
4. Where can I find resources to learn more about NMMs? Look for online courses, Deaf cultural centers, and sign language textbooks that focus on non-manual markers.
5. Is it offensive to misinterpret chin touching? While not inherently offensive, consistent misinterpretations can hinder effective communication and show a lack of understanding and respect for Deaf culture.

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**sign language touching chin:** Easy Guide to American Sign Language SparkNotes, 2017-01-23 Learn How to Sign the Easy Way! So many language books start off with everything that you don't need to know. Of course, anybody who wants to become fluent in another language needs to learn its grammar, sentence structure, and idiosyncrasies. But what if there's no time to become fluent? For people who just need or want to dive in and start communicating in American Sign Language (ASL), there's a quick, easy solution: Easy Guide to American Sign Language. Inside this handy little book are over 500 basic signs that will give you all the necessary tools for starting out in ASL. Here you will find phrases to help you start a basic conversation in the classroom or on the road. The signs are grouped by subject, in chapters, so you can quickly flip to the page you need to find: Alphabet and Numbers Greetings and Phrases Family Members and People Food and Meals Emotions and Feelings Nature and the Weather Easy Guide to American Sign Language is your fun and handy passport to ASL.

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workers. • Advanced early literacy skills. • Improved memory. • Accelerated speech. • Stimulated brain development. What a brilliant idea. I only wish Australian Baby Hands had been around when my children were tiny. Simple to understand, and helpful on so many levels. More than that, an Australian first! —Lisa Wilkinson, Executive Editor of Madison Magazine, editor at large Australian Women's Weekly, host of Weekend Sunrise Please note: This book is based on AUSLAN – Australian sign language.

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listening to the body language of their co-interlocutors.

**sign language touching chin: Lie Detection and Body Language** Alka Swami, Humans are blessed with great power of senses but most of them have no idea how to use them at fullest and we take these incredible senses for granted. We all have potential to know about people and things just by looking at them like, a goldsmith sees a gold bracelet and instantly spots it's a fake. A marriage analyst knows within minutes whether a couple will stay together. A doctor can diagnose disease just by observing his patient. This book is all about detecting lies and innermost thoughts of people by practicing the skills mentioned in there. Turn out to be an expert in reading people and never to be lied again. Read & digest this book and you can! Alka's accumulated secrets and lessons, illustrated throughout with interactive elements and brain boosters will enable readers to achieve phenomenal success by unlocking their untapped mental confusions and freely embracing their inner powers. Skills mentioned in this book will help you in your profession, relationship, and self-development.

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**sign language touching chin: Sign Language** Jim G. Kyle, James Kyle, Bencie Woll, 1988-02-26 The discovery of the importance of sign language in the deaf community is very recent indeed. This book provides a study of the communication and culture of deaf people, and particularly of the deaf community in Britain. The authors' principal aim is to inform educators, psychologists, linguists and professionals working with deaf people about the rich language the deaf have developed for themselves - a language of movement and space, of the hands and of the eyes, of abstract communication as well as iconic story telling. The first chapters of the book discuss the history of sign language use, its social aspects and the issues surrounding the language acquisition of deaf children (BSL) follows, and the authors also consider how the signs come into existence, change over time and alter their meanings, and how BSL compares and contrasts with spoken languages and other signed languages. Subsequent chapters examine sign language learning from a psychological perspective and other cognitive issues. The book concludes with a consideration of the applications of sign language research, particularly in the contentious field of education. There is still much to be discovered about sign language and the deaf community, but the authors have succeeded in providing an extensive framework on which other researchers can build, from which professionals can develop a coherent practice for their work with deaf people, and from which hearing parents of deaf children can draw the confidence to understand their children's world.

**sign language touching chin: Knack Baby Sign Language** Suzie Chafin, 2009-12-28 Few children can communicate effectively before eighteen months of age, but sign language can allow

baby and parent to reduce the frustration up to a year earlier. With more than 450 full-color photos, text, and sidebars, Knack Baby Sign Language provides a user-friendly, efficient method to learn and teach a baby sign language. Organized by age, it provides signs appropriate to use with babies, with toddlers, and with older children for whom signing with games, songs, and rhymes is enriching. The signs can also be used with special needs children and those with delayed communication abilities.

**sign language touching chin:** Improve Your Social Skills Daniel Wendler, 2014-09-12 Improve Your Social Skills is a comprehensive, practical guide to social skills. It contains 200+ pages of step-by-step, easy-to-understand explanations of social interaction, written by a professional social skills coach whose TEDx talk on overcoming the social challenges of Asperger's Syndrome has been viewed over 180,000 times. You'll learn how to: Make Conversation (and keep conversation flowing smoothly!) Read Body Language (and send positive signals with your own body language!) Meet New People (and make friends with them!) Tell Stories In Conversation (that don't bore your audience!) Combat Shyness And Social Anxiety (a little courage every day adds up!) Date Successfully (without manipulation or sneaky tricks!) And More! (lots more!) Ok, enough with the bullet points. I'm Dan Wendler, and I wrote the book. I wrote it because I believe everyone deserves a place to belong and I didn't want poor social skills to hold anyone back from friendship and community. even if they struggle with social skills. I know firsthand how hard it is to struggle socially. Growing up, I was bullied, harassed, and excluded -- no matter how hard I tried to fit in. It wasn't until I was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome that I put the puzzle pieces together. I realized I struggled socially because I didn't have any social skills -- and just like any other skill, social skills can be learned. So I started to learn them. It took hard work, but I soon started to see improvement in my ability to interact with others. Eventually I was able to start making wonderful friends and today I feel comfortable and confident in all sorts of social interactions. On January 1st, 2012, I launched ImproveYourSocialSkills.com to share what I'd learned with the world. Hundreds of thousands of people visit the site every year, and I'm excited to help even more with the Improve Your Social Skills Kindle guide. The guide you're about to read is a compilation of the social principles I've learned during my lifetime of personal social skills study, as well as the techniques I developed while offering hundreds of hours of social skills coaching. These principles led me to a life full of close friendship, satisfying connection, and tender romance. I believe that with these principles, you can live a life full to the brim with friendship, connection, and love. I hope that after reading Improve Your Social Skills, you'll believe that too.

**sign language touching chin:** **Cues** Vanessa Van Edwards, 2022-03-01 Wall Street Journal bestseller! For anyone who wants to be heard at work, earn that overdue promotion, or win more clients, deals, and projects, the bestselling author of Captivate, Vanessa Van Edwards, shares her advanced guide to improving professional relationships through the power of cues. What makes someone charismatic? Why do some captivate a room, while others have trouble managing a small meeting? What makes some ideas spread, while other good ones fall by the wayside? If you have ever been interrupted in meetings, overlooked for career opportunities or had your ideas ignored, your cues may be the problem – and the solution. Cues – the tiny signals we send to others 24/7 through our body language, facial expressions, word choice, and vocal inflection – have a massive impact on how we, and our ideas, come across. Our cues can either enhance our message or undermine it. In this entertaining and accessible guide to the hidden language of cues, Vanessa Van Edwards teaches you how to convey power, trust, leadership, likeability, and charisma in every interaction. You'll learn: • Which body language cues assert, “I’m a leader, and here’s why you should join me.” • Which vocal cues make you sound more confident • Which verbal cues to use in your résumé, branding, and emails to increase trust (and generate excitement about interacting with you.) • Which visual cues you are sending in your profile pictures, clothing, and professional brand. Whether you're pitching an investment, negotiating a job offer, or having a tough conversation with a colleague, cues can help you improve your relationships, express empathy, and create meaningful connections with lasting impact. This is an indispensable guide for entrepreneurs, team leaders, young professionals, and anyone who wants to be more influential.

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**sign language touching chin: The Cambridge Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics** Barbara Dancygier, 2017-06-01 The best survey of cognitive linguistics available, this Handbook provides a thorough explanation of its rich methodology, key results, and interdisciplinary context. With in-depth coverage of the research questions, basic concepts, and various theoretical approaches, the Handbook addresses newly emerging subfields and shows their contribution to the discipline. The Handbook introduces fields of study that have become central to cognitive linguistics, such as conceptual mappings and construction grammar. It explains all the main areas of linguistic analysis traditionally expected in a full linguistics framework, and includes fields of study such as language acquisition, sociolinguistics, diachronic studies, and corpus linguistics. Setting linguistic facts within the context of many other disciplines, the Handbook will be welcomed by researchers and students in a broad range of disciplines, including linguistics, cognitive science, neuroscience, gesture studies, computational linguistics, and multimodal studies.

**sign language touching chin: Deaf Gain** H-Dirksen L. Bauman, Joseph J. Murray, 2014-10-15 Deaf people are usually regarded by the hearing world as having a lack, as missing a sense. Yet a definition of deaf people based on hearing loss obscures a wealth of ways in which societies have benefited from the significant contributions of deaf people. In this bold intervention into ongoing debates about disability and what it means to be human, experts from a variety of disciplines—neuroscience, linguistics, bioethics, history, cultural studies, education, public policy, art, and architecture—advance the concept of Deaf Gain and challenge assumptions about what is normal. Through their in-depth articulation of Deaf Gain, the editors and authors of this pathbreaking volume approach deafness as a distinct way of being in the world, one which opens up perceptions, perspectives, and insights that are less common to the majority of hearing persons. For example, deaf individuals tend to have unique capabilities in spatial and facial recognition, peripheral processing, and the detection of images. And users of sign language, which neuroscientists have shown to be biologically equivalent to speech, contribute toward a robust range of creative expression and understanding. By framing deafness in terms of its intellectual, creative, and cultural benefits, Deaf Gain recognizes physical and cognitive difference as a vital aspect of human diversity. Contributors: David Armstrong; Benjamin Bahan, Gallaudet U; Hansel Bauman, Gallaudet U; John D. Bonvillian, U of Virginia; Alison Bryan; Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, Gallaudet U; Cindee Calton; Debra Cole; Matthew Dye, U of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Steve Emery; Ofelia García, CUNY; Peter C. Hauser, Rochester Institute of Technology; Geo Kartheiser; Caroline Kobek Pezzarossi; Christopher Krentz, U of Virginia; Annelies Kusters; Irene W. Leigh, Gallaudet U; Elizabeth M. Lockwood, U of Arizona; Summer Loeffler; Mara Lúcia Massuti, Instituto Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil; Donna A. Morere, Gallaudet U; Kati Morton; Ronice Müller de Quadros, U Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil; Donna Jo Napoli, Swarthmore College; Jennifer Nelson, Gallaudet U; Laura-Ann Petitto, Gallaudet U; Suvi Pylvänen, Kymenlaakso U of Applied Sciences; Antti Raike, Aalto U; Päivi Rainò, U of Applied Sciences Humak; Katherine D. Rogers; Clara Sherley-Appel; Kristin Snoddon, U of Alberta; Karin Strobel, U Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil; Hilary Sutherland; Rachel Sutton-Spence, U of Bristol, England; James Tabery, U of Utah; Jennifer Grinder Witteborg; Mark Zaurov.

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body language and give you the basic vocabulary to read attitudes and emotions through behavior. Discover: • How palms and handshakes are used to gain control • The most common gestures of liars • How the legs reveal what the mind wants to do • The most common male and female courtship gestures and signals • The secret signals of cigarettes, glasses, and makeup • The magic of smiles—including smiling advice for women • How to use nonverbal cues and signals to communicate more effectively and get the reactions you want Filled with fascinating insights, humorous observations, and simple strategies that you can apply to any situation, this intriguing book will enrich your communication with and understanding of others—as well as yourself.

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**sign language touching chin: Body Language** Elizabeth Kuhnke, 2016-06-10 What does your body language say about you? From strangers on the street, to your closest friends and family – even if you're not speaking, you're saying a lot with your body. Body Language explores the way we use our bodies to communicate, the way we hold ourselves, the way we sit, stand, and point our hands, feet and eyes can all reveal how we are feeling in any given situation. This book explores the body language we use in a wide-range of business and personal-life scenarios, from delivering a presentation at work to how you should act on a first date! Packed with images to clearly demonstrate each of the scenarios discussed, Body Language will help you understand the way others around you choose to communicate and also what you are saying with your own body. These valuable skills will improve your day to day communication, helping you to judge situations and understand how others around you are feeling. Use Body Language to: Harness the power of your own body language Communicate confidently to all of those around you Dip in and out of useful scenarios to find the best advice for you Understand people's hidden emotions and learn what you are hiding yourself Tackle those important life events, such as interviews, first dates, important meetings and more!

**sign language touching chin: Opposites Everywhere: Sign Language for Opposites** Dawn Babb Prochovnic, 2012-01-01 Story Time with Signs & Rhymes presents playful stories for read-aloud fun! This rhythmic tale invites readers to chant along and learn American Sign Language signs for opposites including big and small, sweet and sour, and rough and smooth. Bring a new, dynamic finger-play experience to your story time! Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. Looking Glass Library is an imprint of Magic Wagon, a division of ABDO.

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Elaine Costello, 2008 Provides illustrated instructions for thousands of vocabulary words in American Sign Language.

**sign language touching chin: Dictionary of Gestures** Francois Caradec, 2023-08-01 An illustrated guide to more than 850 gestures and their meanings around the world, from a nod of the head to a click of the heels. Gestures convey meaning with a flourish. A vigorous nod of the head, a bold jut of the chin, an enthusiastic thumbs-up: all speak louder than words. Yet the same gesture may have different meanings in different parts of the world. What Americans understand as the “A-OK gesture,” for example, is an obscene insult in the Arab world. This volume is the reference book we didn't know we needed—an illustrated dictionary of 850 gestures and their meanings around the world. It catalogs voluntary gestures made to communicate openly—as distinct from sign language, dance moves, involuntary “tells,” or secret handshakes—and explains what the gesture conveys in a variety of locations. It is organized by body part, from top to bottom, from head (nodding, shaking, turning) to foot (scraping, kicking, playing footsie). We learn that “to oscillate the head while gently throwing it back” communicates approval in some countries even though it resembles the headshake of disapproval used in other countries; that “to tap a slightly inflated cheek” constitutes an erotic invitation when accompanied by a wink; that the middle finger pointed in the air signifies approval in South America. We may already know that it is a grave insult in the Middle East and Asia to display the sole of one's shoe, but perhaps not that motorcyclists sometimes greet each other by raising a foot. Illustrated with clever line drawings and documented with quotations from literature (the author, François Caradec, was a distinguished and prolific historian of literature, culture, and humorous oddities, as well as a novelist and poet), this dictionary offers readers unique lessons in polylingual meaning.

**sign language touching chin: Sign Language in Papua New Guinea** Adam Kendon, 2020-02-17 This book presents in revised form and as a single monograph three papers on a sign language from the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea. Originally published in 1980, for more than twenty years these papers remained the only report of a sign language from that part of the world. The detailed descriptive analyses that the author provided are still fresh today, and in some respects they anticipate insights into the nature of sign languages that were not further explored until much more recently. The monograph is accompanied by two essays: Sherman Wilcox comments on value and relevance of the author's work in the light of much more recent work on the linguistics of sign languages. An essay by Lauren Reed and Alan Rumsey provides an up to date survey of what is now known about sign languages in Papua New Guinea. Information about sign languages in the Solomon Island is also included.

**sign language touching chin: Brilliant Body Language** Max Eggert, 2012-07-09 Take your communication skills to a whole new level and understand what people really think and feel. What is said is often not what is meant, yet most of us don't know how to ‘read between the lines’. Something like an astounding 70% of communication is non-verbal! If you want to be persuasive, build rapport, create a positive impression – be an all-round brilliant and effective communicator – Brilliant Body Language is essential reading. Written by a psychologist with extensive experience helping people hone their interpersonal skills, this book will show you how to read and understand the intricacies of body language and teach you how to use your own body language to get the best out of all your relationships – in life and at work. You will gain: A thorough background in body language – how to read it, how to use it. The ability to know how to establish rapport instantly. The ability to influence and persuade others with ease. An understanding what people really think and feel.

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politics, management and others. With this basic exposure, readers will learn the fundamentals of nonverbal communication that they can use in their daily lives.

**sign language touching chin: British Sign Language For Dummies** City Lit, 2010-12-13  
Learn British Sign Language quickly and easily with this essential guide and CD-Rom This lively guide introduces the key hand shapes and gestures you need to communicate in British Sign Language. The illustrations depict both the actions and facial expressions used to sign accurately, while the companion CD-Rom features real-life BSL conversations in action to further your understanding. With these practical tools, you'll become an expert signer in no time! British Sign Language For Dummies includes: Starting to sign – learn about Deaf communication and practise simple signs to get you going Learning everyday BSL – develop the grammar and vocabulary skills that are the building blocks to using British Sign Language Getting out and about – sign with confidence in a wide range of real-life situations, from travelling to dating Looking into Deaf life – learn about the history of the Deaf Community and how they've adapted their technology and lifestyles to suit their needs For corrections to this book, please click here:  
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**sign language touching chin: American Sign Language Workbook** Rochelle Barlow, 2020-07-28 The simple way to start learning American Sign Language This foundational workbook makes it easy to get started with American Sign Language. Focusing on practical vocabulary and basic grammar, this workbook is ideal for anyone trying to understand and speak ASL right away. Across 30+ lessons, you'll be introduced to the essentials, including everyday vocabulary, introductory phrases, and conversational basics. Everyday communication—Lessons are centered around real-world situations, including greetings, emotions, family, work, travel, and health. Easy-to-understand lessons—High-quality photos support the straightforward sign descriptions and ensure accurate instruction. Practice makes perfect—Test your knowledge with a variety of exercises, including matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. Lay the foundation for strong signing skills with the simple exercises in this sign language workbook.

**sign language touching chin: Sign Languages of Aboriginal Australia** Adam Kendon, 1988 This 1988 book was the first full-length study ever to be published on the subject of sign language as a means of communication among Australian Aborigines. Based on fieldwork conducted over a span of nine years, the volume presents a thorough analysis of the structure of sign languages and their relationship to spoken languages.

**sign language touching chin: A Sign Language Manual** M. Ann Gautney Boles, 1984

**sign language touching chin: Sign Language Among North American Indians** Garrick Mallery, 2012-08-30 Fascinating, wide-ranging study describes and illustrates signs used for specific words, phrases, sentences, and even dialogues. Scores of diagrams show precise movements of body and hands for signing.

**sign language touching chin: Sign Language for Kids** Lora Heller, 2004 Color photos illustrate sign language for numbers, letters, colors, feelings, animals, and clothes.

**sign language touching chin: Communicating in Sign** Diane P. Chambers, 1998-07-08 Places ASL within the context of Deaf culture.

**sign language touching chin: Doggie Language** Lili Chin, 2020 Dogs communicate with so much more than barks and tail wags. This small but mighty book is the perfect illustrated guide to noticing and understanding the subtle cues and behaviours that our beloved pets use to express how they're feeling, so that we can improve our relationship with our best friends, helping them to feel safe and happy.

**sign language touching chin: Knack American Sign Language** Suzie Chafin, 2009-08-04 While learning a new language isn't a "knack" for everyone, Knack American Sign Language finally makes it easy. The clear layout, succinct information, and topic-specific sign language partnered with high-quality photos enable quick learning. By a "bilingual" author whose parents were both deaf, and photographed by a design professor at the leading deaf university, Gallaudet, it covers all

the basic building blocks of communication. It does so with a view to each reader's reason for learning, whether teaching a toddler basic signs or communicating with a deaf coworker. Readers will come away with a usable knowledge base rather than a collection of signs with limited use. · 450 full-color photos · American Sign Language · Intended for people who can hear · Can be used with babies and young children

**sign language touching chin:** *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research, Volume 1* Susan D. Fischer, Patricia Siple, 1990-11-19 Only recently has linguistic research recognized sign languages as legitimate human languages with properties analogous to those cataloged for French or Navajo, for example. There are many different sign languages, which can be analyzed on a variety of levels—phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics—in the same way as spoken languages. Yet the recognition that not all of the principles established for spoken languages hold for sign languages has made sign languages a crucial testing ground for linguistic theory. Edited by Susan Fischer and Patricia Siple, this collection is divided into four sections, reflecting the traditional core areas of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Although most of the contributions consider American Sign Language (ASL), five treat sign languages unrelated to ASL, offering valuable perspectives on sign universals. Since some of these languages or systems are only recently established, they provide a window onto the evolution and growth of sign languages.

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