

Palm orientation with numbers

Name _____

Date _____

THE RULE

Numbers in ASL face one of two directions, and the choice is not decorative. If the number is information for someone else to read — a phone number, a price, a score — the palm faces *them*. If the number is you keeping track — counting on your own fingers, holding a list — the palm faces *you*.

PALM IN — TOWARD YOU

You are the one keeping track. The hand is a tally, not a display.

1 COUNTING (1-5)

the natural hand shape; the palm faces yourself

- ◆ Count to five on your fingers with the palm facing you.

2 LISTING ITEMS (1-5)

when the non-dominant hand holds the list

- ◆ List three chores on the non-dominant hand.

PALM OUT — TOWARD YOUR VIEWER

The number is information. It has to be readable from where they are sitting.

3 PHONE NUMBERS

the viewer needs to read every digit

- ◆ 248-555-1234 — palm out, smooth flow, no pauses.

4 ADDRESSES

for clarity, especially with street numbers

- ◆ 123 Main Street – palm out, small pause between groups.

5 TIME

so the hour reads clearly

- ◆ 3:00 or 7:15 – palm out.

6 AGE

the hand moves outward from the chin

- ◆ AGE-5 – start at the chin and move out with the 5.

7 TEMPERATURE

reporting a value

- ◆ It is 75 degrees today – palm out.

8 MONEY

used for money amounts

- ◆ \$5 or \$20 – signed palm out.

9 SPORTS SCORES

for visual clarity and contrast

- ◆ Team A: 3, Team B: 2 – palm out.

10 PAGE NUMBERS

the same as addresses and phone numbers

- ◆ Page 47 – palm out.

11 FRACTIONS

showing parts of a whole

- ◆ 1/2 or 3/4 – palm out, with a clear slicing motion.

12 HEIGHT

showing how tall someone is

- ◆ He is 6'2" – sign HEIGHT, then 6-2 with the palm out.

PRACTICE

Sign each of these to a partner, then stop and check which way your palm was facing: your phone number, your address, your age, today's temperature, the score of the last game you watched, your own height. Write down any that came out the wrong way.

QUICK CHECK

Ask one question before the number leaves your hand: *who is this for?* If the answer is the person across from you, turn it around. Nearly every number on this sheet is palm out for that one reason.