

Full text on definition of GLOSSES from the Chicago Manual of Styles 16th Edition

### 11.147

#### 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.

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#### 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 "closeup" mark or a plus sign. Depending on the transcription system, the sign for "parents" might be glossed as follows: MOTHER & FATHER

or MOTHER +FATHER

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### 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

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