



25 SIGNS TO LEARN FOR PASIFIKA CONCEPTS

nzsignlanguage.nz



Deaf
AOTEOA
TANGATA TURI

Fakaalofa lahi atu!

*My name is
Rosie.*

I am a proud Deaf, NZ-born Niuean and a solo mum to three beautiful tamariki. I am an NZSL teacher and I love teaching NZSL. Sharing language, culture, and connection is at the heart of everything I do.

Please check out the QR code below which will link you to all of the signs in action.



4^{TO}10 MAY
2026
20 years



[NZSIGNLANGUAGE.NZ](https://nzsianlanguage.nz)

Every May, Deaf Aotearoa organises
NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK –
a celebration of one of the country's
official languages.

AN AOTEAROA WHERE
ANYONE CAN SIGN
anywhere

NZSL Week is a chance for the Deaf community
to stand proud as Deaf, and to celebrate their
language and culture.

It also works to break down barriers, fears
and misconceptions. NZSL Week lets Deaf
New Zealanders put their hands up and be seen!

Our vision for NZSL Week is to increase
awareness and understanding of NZSL
and the Deaf community, and to
empower and strengthen
the Deaf community.



learn more at

[NZSIGNLANGUAGE.NZ](https://nzsianlanguage.nz)



@deafaotearoa

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH A DEAF PERSON

A conversation with a Deaf person is the same as a conversation with a hearing person – Deaf people just use different communication tools.

Like hearing people, Deaf people are unique individuals with interesting qualities and skills. They have families, jobs and hobbies.

You can communicate with Deaf people in several ways, including New Zealand Sign Language, spoken/written English or a mix of these.

Appropriate use of gesture, body language and facial expressions can also be very effective, as Deaf people communicate visually.

Not all Deaf people can lip read well. It's estimated 70% of lip reading is guesswork, even if the speaker articulates clearly. That's why relying solely on lip reading as a way to communicate isn't recommended.

Face the Deaf person and get their attention before speaking. Eye contact is very important so try to maintain it and don't turn away while the Deaf person is signing.



a few tips for Sign Language Learners



Facial expressions

Facial expressions are an important aspect of NZSL. In spoken languages, intonation is used to indicate what kind of sentence it is – a question or statement. NZSL shows intonation using facial expressions. Having a plain facial expression is like speaking with a monotonous voice. It's boring!

Hand position

Articulating signs correctly is important – one small change to a handshape or location can make all the difference to your message.

Which hand to use?

Your dominant hand (the one you write with) will be the most active hand. For some signs you'll need to use both hands.

IT'S
HELPFUL
TO SEE
THE
SIGNS
IN
ACTION



You can look up videos for these signs in the NZSL Dictionary online at nzsl.nz or download the app from Google Play and the Apple App store.





Other booklets in the series
are available online at [nzsignlanguage.nz /resources/](https://nzsignlanguage.nz/resources/)

25 SIGNS TO LEARN FOR PASIFIKA CONCEPTS

This is one of a series of booklets designed to introduce you to NZSL. It gives you a practical opportunity to quickly learn some basic vocabulary relevant to your environment.

Learn these signs and use them as often as you can. Tell your friends about them and share the wonderful gift of NZSL. Then you'll understand why 20,000 New Zealanders use it every day!

OTHER BOOKLETS AVAILABLE:

- 25 Signs to Learn with Your Family
- 25 Signs to Learn for Medical Situations
- 25 Signs to Learn at Work
- 25 Signs to Learn for the Weekend
- 25 Signs to Learn for Māori Concepts
- 25 Signs to Learn for First Signs Families
- 25 Signs to Learn for Bars and Restaurants
- 25 Signs to Learn for Emergencies
- 25 Signs to Learn for Education

Respect



Pasifika





Pacific islands



Kava





Come!





Where (from)?





Lava / le lava



Church



Fan



Taro





Taro leaves



Umu





Weave





Flower garland/ crown and necklace





Family





Dance





Corned beef



Coconut



Green banana





Fly



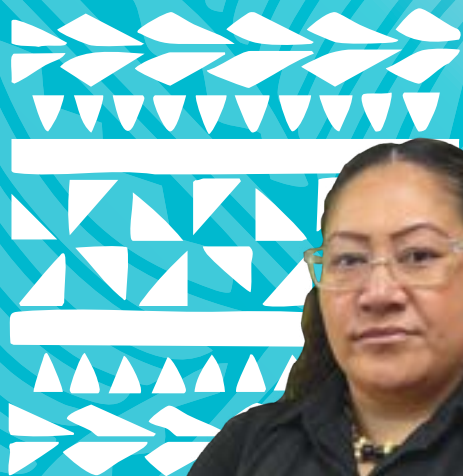
Meeting





Money





Shop



Food and drink





Cook



Thanks!

Deaf Aotearoa would like to thank all those who play a part in promoting New Zealand Sign Language each year. Particular thanks to Rosie Solouota, Jenny Reid (graphic design), and Becky West (illustrations).

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the Pasifika Deaf community for their support of this project. The signs featured in this booklet come from the Pasifika Deaf community in Aotearoa New Zealand, and are shared communally, rather than belonging to any single individual or specific language.

For more information visit deaf.org.nz

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I am Deaf



Rosie



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SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

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