

NZSL Grammar

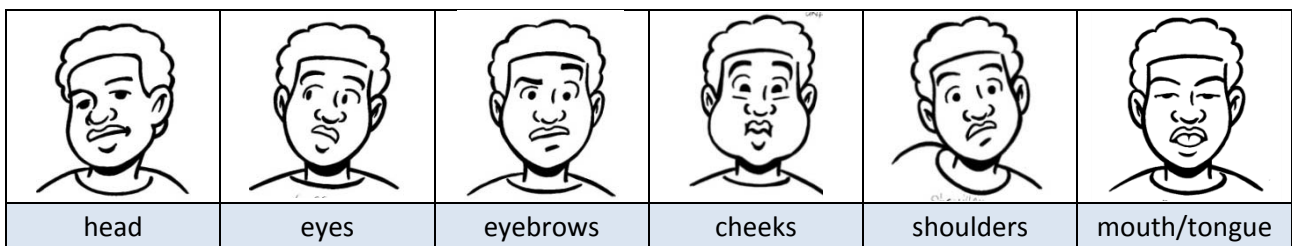


Wh Questions

In spoken language, the rise and fall and tone of a voice adds meaning to the message. For example, when the question, “Are you Deaf?” is asked the voice rises. **This is a yes/no question.**

In a **wh question** e.g. “What is your name?” the voice lowers at the end. In NZSL the rises and falls are indicated by the signer’s use of facial expressions and head movements. These are non-manual signals (NMS.) These non-manual signals (NMS) convey the tone of “voice” while you sign. NMS are important when asking questions.

Non-manual signals that give meanings to manual signs are:




Notice how your NZSL tutor uses facial expressions and head movements while signing.

In this unit, the focus is on **non-manual signals used for wh questions**.

Wh questions require more than a yes/no question answer, e.g. “What is your name?”, “Who is she?” Wh questions ask for detail and are usually signed at the end of a sentence (e.g. what, who, where, why, how).

The signer uses the following features to signal a wh question.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lowered eyebrows2. Head moved slightly forward3. Last sign is held briefly
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