ASL Numbers 1–20 — Quick Reference

SignLanguageAlphabet.org · free printable study sheet

The one rule worth memorising

For 1–5 the palm faces you (as if counting on your own fingers).
For 6–9 the palm turns outward toward the observer.
Teens and tens add a small wrist twist or a second hand.

1 2 3 4 5 — palm inward

6 7 8 9 10 — palm outward

11–15: small repeated movements or a flick of the relevant finger.

16–19: start from the 6–9 shape and add a twist.

20, 30, 40…: combine the digit with a repeated or sliding movement.

Numbers are a structured set, like the alphabet — learn them as a group.

For illustrated handshapes, see the free A–Z chart and the interactive chart on the site.