

Grammar Guidance – Directional Signs

- **Directional signs** are signs that show the subject, the object, and the verb in one movement. The shape of the sign stays the same, but the movement and often the orientation changes direction to identify who did what to whom.
 - Examples of directional verbs include: ask, tell, help, call, give, pay, look, invite, teach, tease, answer
 - E.g. I'll help you – hands move from the signer; You help me – hands move towards the signer; She helped him – hands move from where the two people are set up in space...e.g. left to right; THEN, if you add facial expressions like an eyebrow raise and lean forward, you turn each of those into a question, e.g. Do you want me to help you? Can you help me?
- **Number of referents/participants** – Plural and singular subjects and objects can also be indicated by directional verbs. For an individual, it is a singular movement. For an exhaustive number of people, it is a repeated movement. And for multiple/all inclusive, a sweeping movement out in an arc is used.
 - I help you (several people) – hands move from the signer out repeatedly to slightly different spaces; I'll help you all – hands move in an arc from signer out to indicate everyone present; You all help me – hands move in an arc towards the signer.
- **Pronouns** - Auslan pronouns don't show gender unless otherwise specified; Auslan pronouns may change slightly to include the quantity of subjects (e.g. you-two, us-three).

