

Grammar Guidance

Adverbs/Auxiliary Verbs/Inflection

- Adverbs can modify an adjective, a verb, or another adverb to indicate time, place, manner, cause, or intensity. For example, English words like 'quickly', 'carelessly', and 'slowly' are adverbs.
- In Auslan, we often don't use a separate sign for the adverbs. Instead, the adverb is created by adding inflection to a sign. Inflection can include varying the intensity or speed of signing or by incorporating facial expression.

Inflection can show:

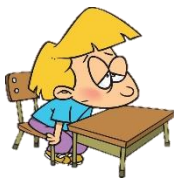
Manner

Manner describes the way in which something is done.

For example, the sign 'walk' can be made quickly or slowly to indicate how the person is walking; or be adjusted to show walking with difficulty, determinedly, or with a stagger etc.



vs



vs



Intensification

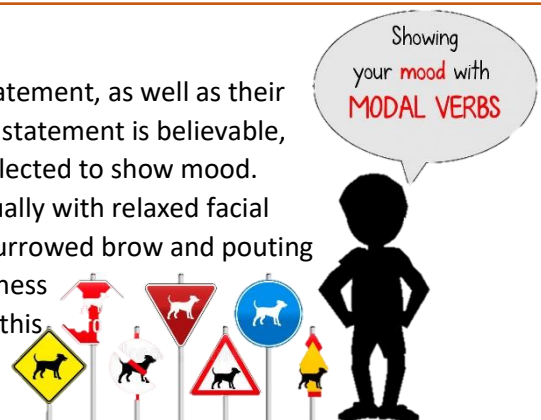
Intensification shows an increase in strength or magnitude or something that is greater, more serious, or more extreme. This can be demonstrated in Auslan by exaggerating the sign with larger movement and increased facial expression or by an initial hold of the sign, followed by a sharp release. For example, the sign 'black' can become 'very black' or 'tired' become 'very tired', or 'smart' become 'brilliant', or 'pretty' become 'beautiful', or 'thanks' become 'thank you so much' etc.

Mood

Mood shows the signer's degree of commitment to a statement, as well as their attitude to and feelings about it. It can show whether a statement is believable, desirable, or obligatory. Many auxiliary verbs can be inflected to show mood.

For example, the sign 'should' can be signed slowly/casually with relaxed facial expression or with a sharp and hard movement with a furrowed brow and pouting lips to indicate the level of commitment and imperativeness of what 'should' be done. Auxiliary verbs often fall into this category and are able to be inflected to show mood.

E.g. 'can', 'must', 'will', 'need', etc



Here are some ways you can inflect a sign:

1. Use a more intense facial expression
2. Sign faster, slower, or sharper
3. Sign using a larger movement
4. Nod your head faster, slower, or sharper
5. Shake your head faster, slower, or sharper
6. Hold the initial handshape in starting location for a fraction of an instant longer before starting the movement.
7. At the beginning of the sign, tilt head back slightly and then as the sign is done, nod head using a single, short, quick movement.