Directional Verbs

The use of directional verbs in British Sign Language (BSL)
What are Directional Verbs?

Directional verbs are used in BSL to show....

**Who ↔ did what to ↔ whom**

through their movement, the shape of the sign stays the same but its movement and orientation change.

Examples:

- Sally **posted** me a birthday card
- I **fly** home tomorrow
- Alex **teased** me
How do you use directional Verbs?

Directional verbs movement change direction to identify the subject and object of the verb.

Example:

I’ll help – hands move from the signer
help me – hands move towards the signer
How do you use Directional Verbs?

Directional verbs **orientation** also changes to identify the subject and the object of the verb.

Example:

I **threw** the ball to Tim
Tim **threw** the ball to me
Example of Directional Verbs

“My dad phoned me and asked me to help him buy a Christmas present for my Mum”
List of Directional Verbs

- Tease
- Throw
- Visit
- Show
- Explain
- Ignore
- Arrive
- Watch
- Shout
- Pay
- Give
- Help
- Interrupt
- Borrow
- Post
- Bring
- Fly
- Ask
- Noticed
- Phone