

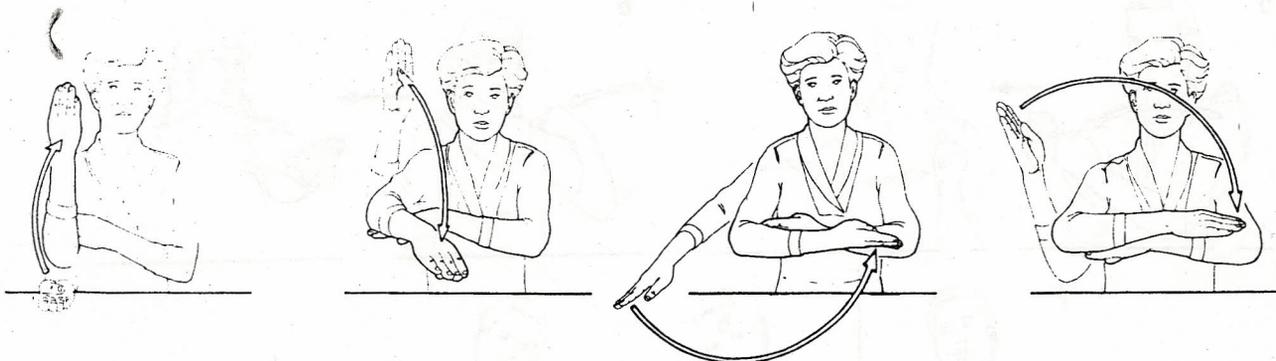
LANGUAGE IN PRACTICE

Narrating About Weekend Activities

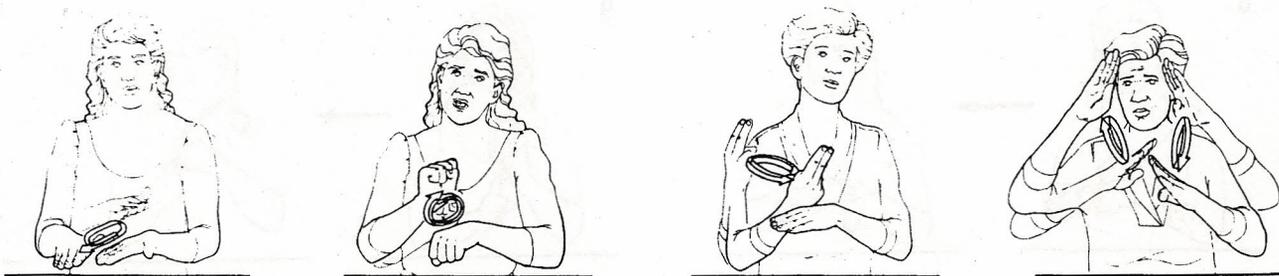
In this unit, the narratives telling about weekend activities have an introduction, a main body that includes a series of activities in chronological order, and a closing that is often an opinion or evaluation of the weekend. To make a narrative coherent, signers should use clear transitions and maintain continuity.

Transitions. Throughout the body of these narratives, signers make transitions from one part of the day to the next by using time signs, for example, signs for "last night" or "Saturday morning." Within each part of the day any number of activities or events could be discussed, but the end of one part and the beginning of the next must be "marked" to make it easy for the listener to follow. The following non-manual behaviors accompany the transitional time signs: a slight pause and head nod that marks the end of one part, and raised eyebrows with the time sign to mark the beginning of the next part. You will see many examples of these non-manual behaviors in the narratives.

Continuity. All the time in an entire signed narrative tends to be accounted for, which creates a sense of continuity. A common way of accounting for time is using durative time signs, which indicate how long an activity continued (see the illustrations below for some examples). Durative time signs usually occur at the *end* of the description of activities during that part of the day.

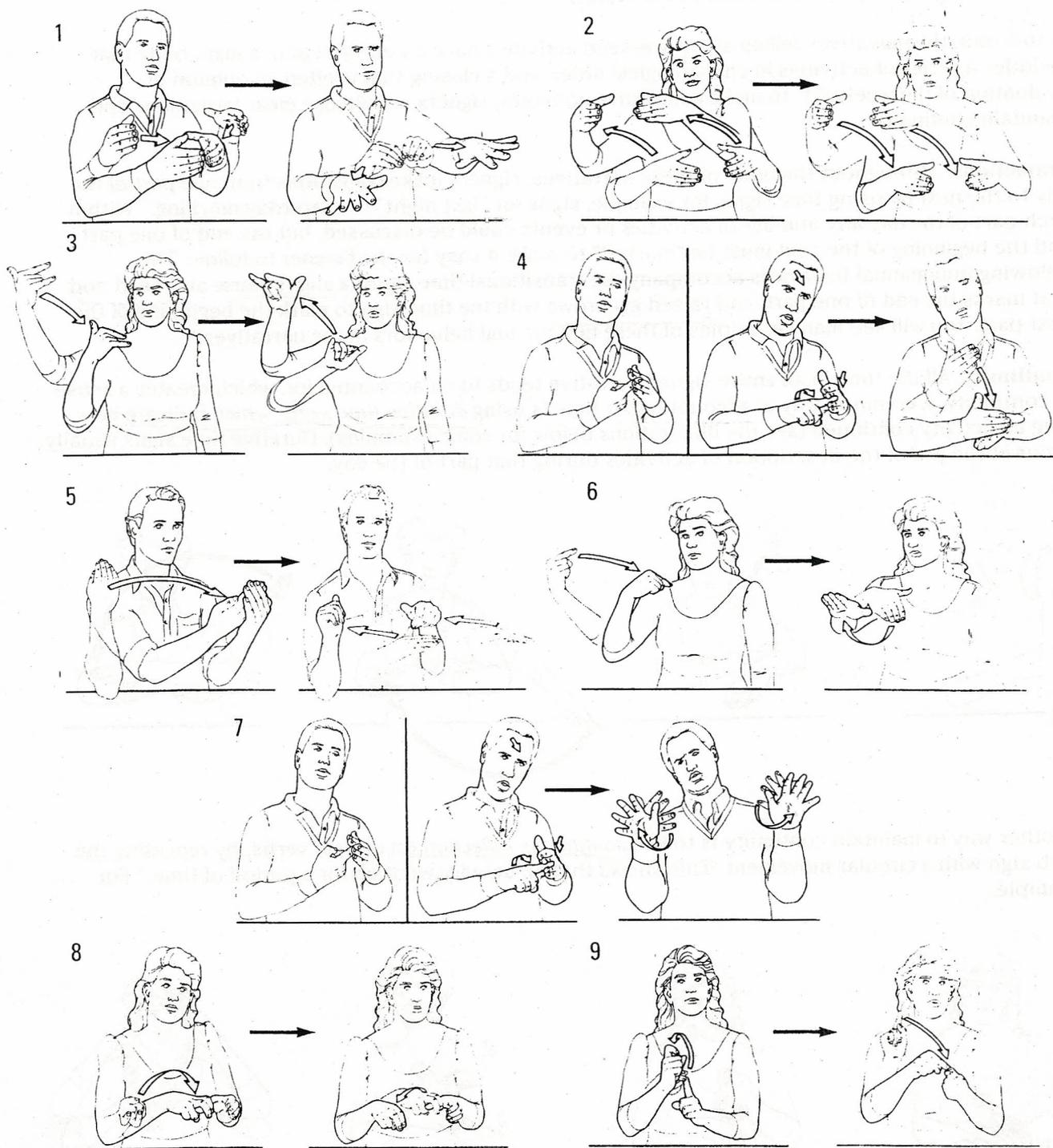


Another way to maintain continuity is to use continuous inflection on certain verbs, by repeating the verb sign with a circular movement. This shows that an activity went on for a period of time.* For example:



* See Unit 14, p. 33, to review verbs with continuous inflection.

A third way to show continuity is to account for movement between places. Often this is done with certain signs that show a natural *beginning and end*, or *coming and going*. See the illustrations of possible "beginning-end pairs" below.



You may substitute similar signs for either of the paired signs in the illustrations. Also, the second sign of the pair does not have to immediately follow the first; other signs may be included between them. The important thing is to include enough information. Don't leave your listener stranded: if you say *you went by bus to one place*, you should also say that you got back from there. If you don't account for time or movement, your listener may feel something is missing from your narrative.