

# Manual question signs and English mouthing distinguish question type in BSL, but eyebrow and head movements do not.

## *How do deaf signers signal questions? Findings from dyadic conversations in the BSL Corpus*

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	Polar ( <i>n</i> =93)	Content ( <i>n</i> =32)	Other ( <i>n</i> =21)	
Manual question sign(s)	0.02	0.75	0.19	
English mouthing(s)	0.02	0.84	0.19	
Nonmanual movement(s)	0.98	0.94	1.00	
Eyebrow NEUTRAL	0.26	0.31	0.19	
Eyebrow UP	0.48	0.28	0.48	
Eyebrow DOWN	0.20	0.31	0.29	
Eyebrow incl. UP + DOWN	0.06	0.03	0	
Eye SQUINT	0.17	0.13	0.05	
Head NEUTRAL	0.47	0.66	0.57	
Head NOD	0.30	0.19	0.05	
Head SHAKE	0.12	0.13	0	
Head FORWARD	0.14	0.06	0.29	
Head BACK	0.06	0	0.05	
Head SIDE	0.04	0.06	0.14	
				>0.48 frequent
				0.16-0.47 attested
				<0.15 rare
				0 unattested

- Ten native and near-native deaf signers from Manchester (mixed age, gender, etc.)
- Questions are “not merely as a kind of grammatical structure or illocutionary type, but primarily as a way of mobilising a response from an interactant” (Stivers & Enfield, 2010: 2626)
- Total 211 potential questions identified
- Excluded uncertain questions and/or those without a response (*n*=51) and those that were enacted (*n*=14)
- Focused on questions that mobilise a response from the other signer (*n*=146)



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