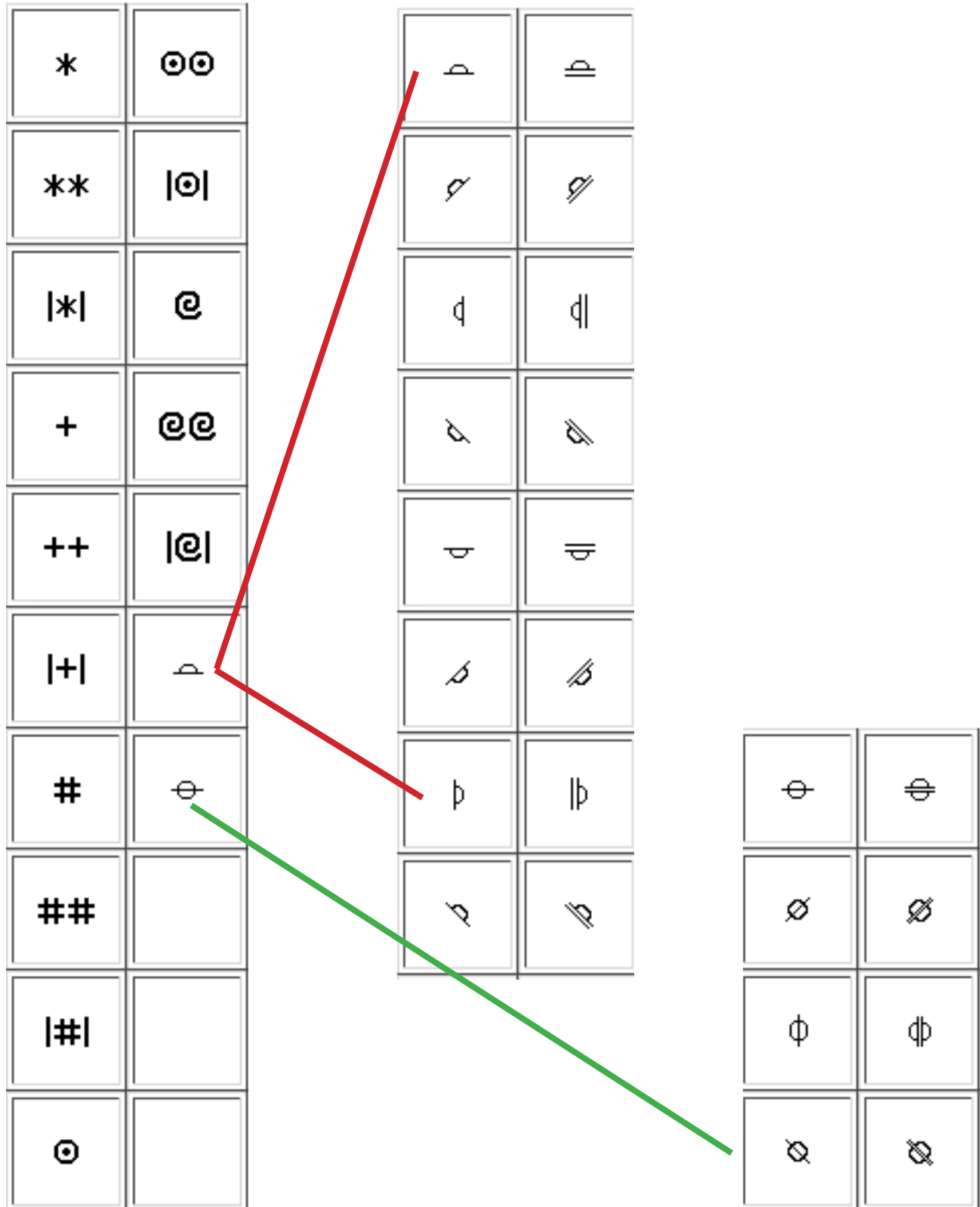


# SURFACE SYMBOLS

Surface Symbols are Contact Symbols.

They show contacting a specific surface, relating to the plane of the surface. They are under Contact Symbols in the International SignWriting Alphabet.



# CONTACTING THE SURFACE OF 2 PLANES

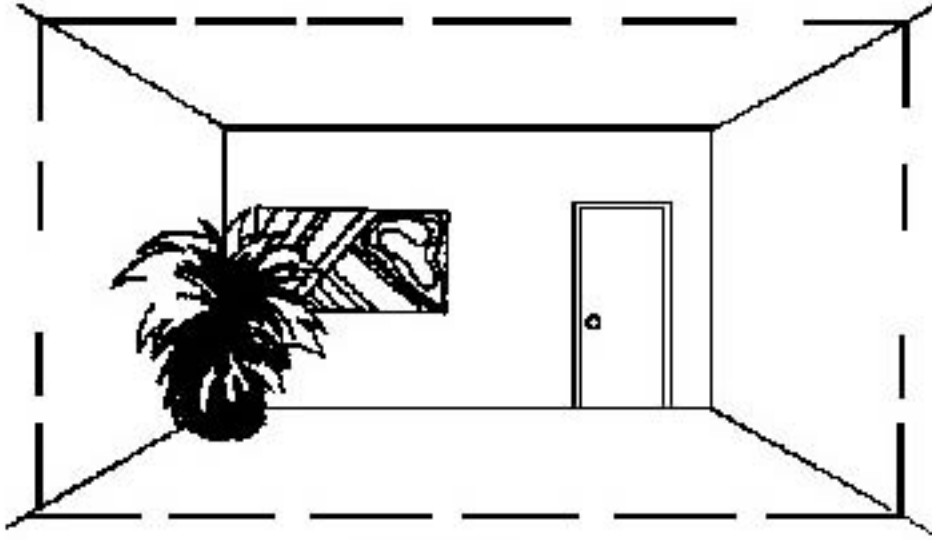
There are two planes used most in SignWriting.

The Wall Plane is parallel to the front wall.

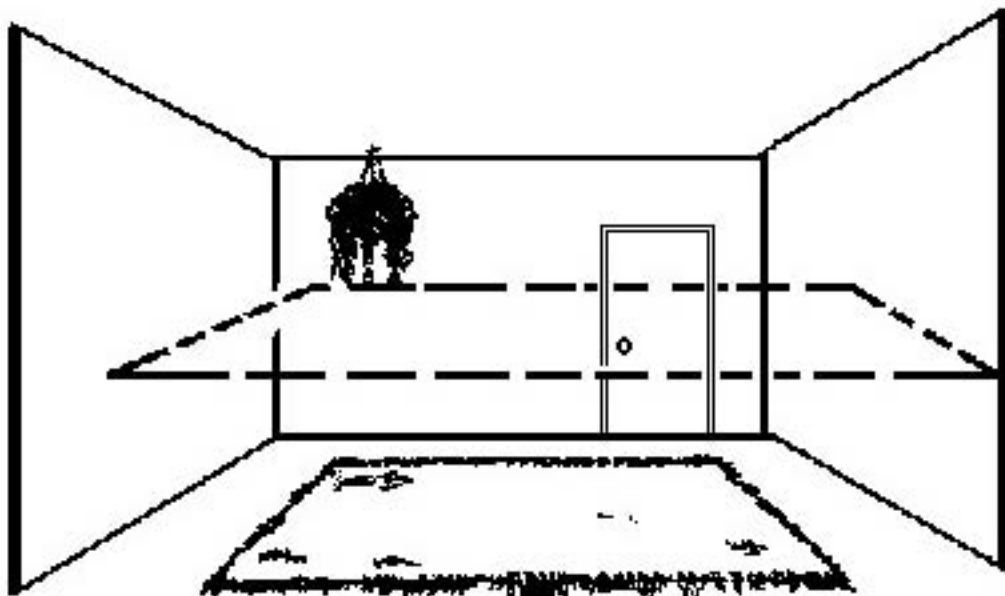
The Floor Plane is parallel to the floor.

Surface Symbols show contact along these two planes.

## The Planes



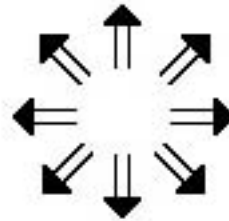
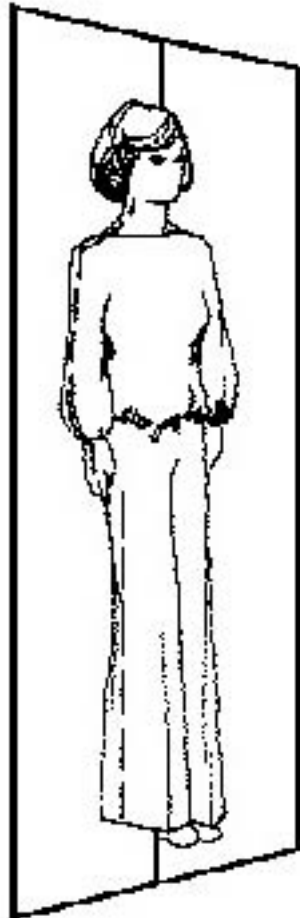
**Wall Plane**



**Floor Plane**

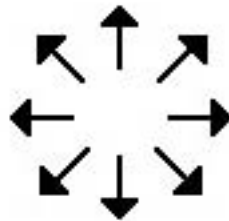
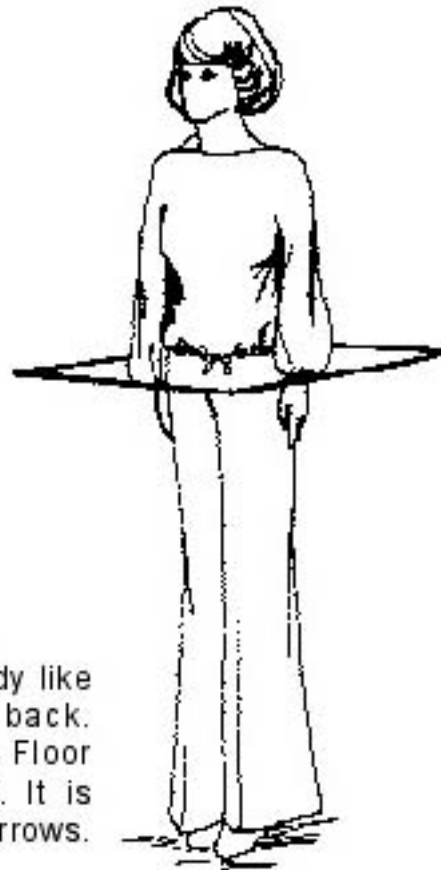
# SINGLE & DOUBLE LINES MARK 2 PLANES

In general, Movement Arrows have double-stems when parallel to the Front Wall, and a single stem when parallel to the Floor. Surface Symbols use the same single and double lines, like the arrows do.



## Wall Plane

The Wall Plane cuts the body like a door, from side to side. Movement parallel with the Wall Plane is up and down. It is written with double-stemmed arrows.



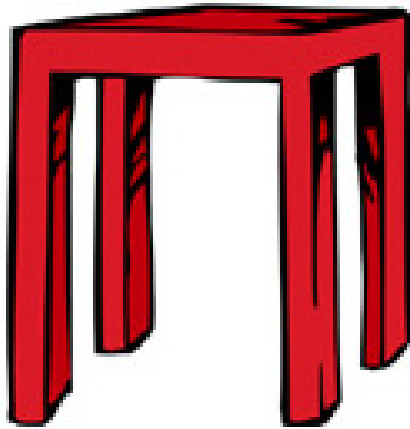
## Floor Plane

The Floor Plane cuts the body like a table-top, from front to back. Movement parallel with the Floor Plane is forward and back. It is written with single stemmed-arrows.

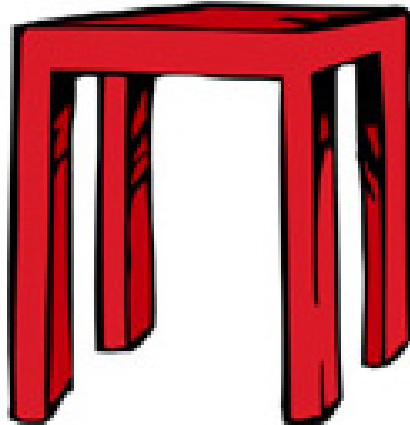
## SURFACE SYMBOLS Parallel to the Floor

A table top is parallel with the Floor Plane. It's surface is a single line.  
Things are placed above or below the table top surface.

Imagine placing a butter dish on top of a table top.  
The Surface Symbol shows that the butter dish is on top of the surface.  
The curve represents "above the Floor Plane (or table top) surface".



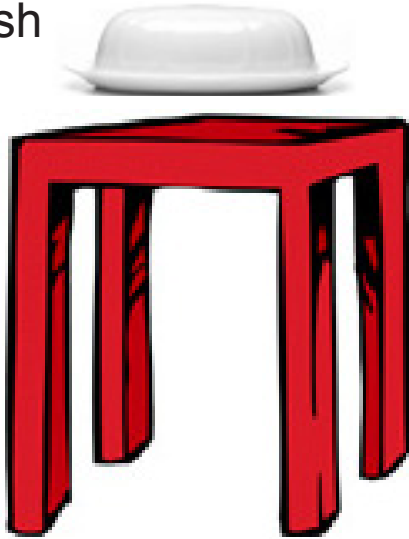
butter dish



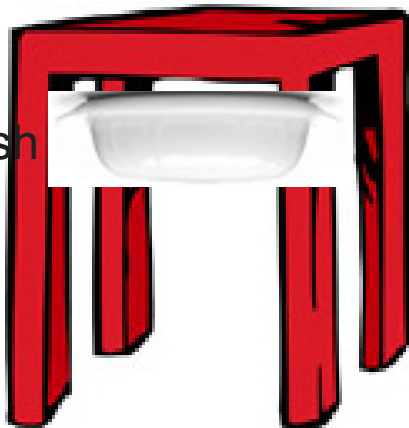
# SURFACE SYMBOLS Parallel to the Floor

Envision this imaginary butter dish contacting under the tabletop.  
The straight line represents the Table Plane, and the surface is underneath.

butter dish

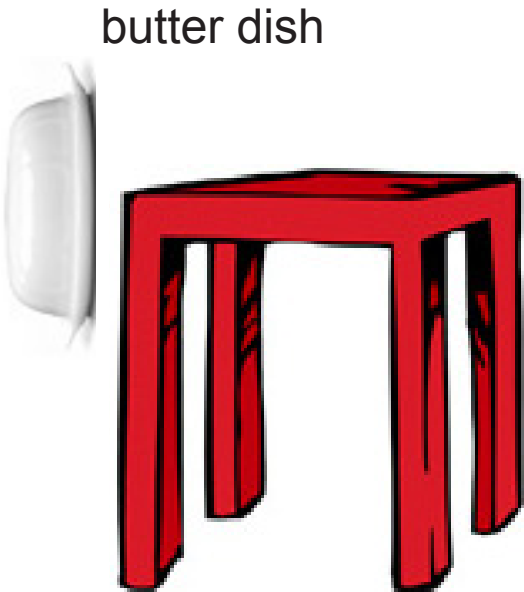


butter dish



# SURFACE SYMBOLS Parallel to the Floor

Envision this imaginary butter dish contacting the sides of the tabletop, with the butter dish parallel to the Floor. A line is written for the surface, and the bubble is on the side of the contact.



# SURFACE SYMBOLS Instruction on the Web

## SignWriting E-Lessons

<http://www.signwriting.org/lessons/elessons/less028.html>

### SignWriting List

March 4, 2000

#### Question 0052:

I do not understand Surface Symbols.

#### Answer 0052:

Surface Symbols are only used when a sign is hard to read. Sometimes it is hard to see which hand symbol is on top of the other, or which hand symbol is in front of the other.

There are two kinds of Surface Symbols, relating to two different planes. A single-lined surface means that the hand is parallel with the floor. A double-lined surface means that the hand is parallel with the wall. The little curve shows the side of the surface that is being contacted.

#### Floor Plane

##### Surface Parallel with the Floor

- 1. On Top Of A Surface
- 2. Underneath A Surface
- 3. To The Left Of A Surface
- 4. To The Right Of A Surface
- 5. Through Two Surfaces That Are "Above & Below"
- 6. Through Two Surfaces That Are To The "Right & Left"



The surface is the left hand.  
The right hand is on top.

#### Wall Plane

##### Surface Parallel with the Wall

- 1. Front Portion of a Surface (the surface that is away from the chest)
- 2. Back Portion of a Surface (the surface that is towards the chest)
- 3. To The Left Of A Surface
- 4. To The Right Of A Surface
- 5. Through Two Surfaces That Are "In Front & In Back"
- 6. Through Two Surfaces That Are To The "Right & Left"



The portion of the right hand that is away from the chest, is contacting the portion of the left hand that is towards the chest.