



## The Deafblind Manual Alphabet

Learn some or all of a manual alphabet, used to communicate with people who cannot see or hear. The A-Z to Deafblindness Web site <http://www.deafblind.com/card.html> provides a chart of the manual alphabet and instructions for signing each letter

Start by learning the vowels and then move on to the other letters of the alphabet. The instructions for the vowels are as follows:

- A - Touch the tip of your friend's thumb.
- E - Touch the tip of the index finger.
- I - Touch the tip of the middle finger.
- O - Touch the tip of the ring finger.
- U - Touch the tip of the little finger.

## Finger Spelling

Choose one of several activities for learning the manual alphabet from the companion Web site <http://www.graceproducts.com/keller/finger.html> of the video *Tragedy to Triumph: An Adventure with Helen Keller* or spend a week to complete them all!

Activity 1--See how fast you can learn all 26-finger letters—have a competition if you are studying with other students.

Activity 2--Learn to finger spell your name.

Activity 3--Finger spell the following words: boy, girl, ear, nose, eat, cry, run, cat, dog, pot, hand, foot, zap, sun. Make up additional words. Keep the words to three or four letters at the start.

Activity 4--Finger spell the phrase "I want to be your friend."

Activity 5--Finger spell M-U-G and W-A-T-E-R. These were the two words that Helen Keller was learning when she discovered the meaning of words. Anne ran water over Helen's hand at a well and suddenly Helen realized that the cool liquid had the name "water." Until then she thought the finger spell patterns were a game.

Activity 6--Take turns having one student blindfolded, and another finger spelling a secret message into the blindfolded person's hand.