

“New Zealand Sign Language [nzs] (A language of [New Zealand](#))

- **Alternate Names:** NZSL
- **Population:** 20,200 (2013 census).
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2006, New Zealand Sign Language Act, No. 18, Article 6).
- **Dialects:** None known. Many structural similarities between British Sign Language (BSL)[[bfi](#)], Australian Sign Language (Auslan) [[asf](#)], and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) [[nzs](#)] and a high degree of mutual intelligibility (2003 T. Johnston, 2005 R. McKee). Linguists sometimes use the name BANZSL to refer to them as a group, while still recognizing them as separate related languages.
- **Typology:** Two-handed finger-spelling system derived from British Sign Language [[bfi](#)].
- **Language Use:** Developed informally among deaf people at school and in deaf organizations. Used since 1800s. First school for the deaf established 1880 with oralist policies until 1979.
- **Language Development:** TV. Dictionary. Grammar.”

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Related Research

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