

“German Sign Language [gsg] (A language of [Germany](#))

- **Alternate Names:** Deutsche Gebärdensprache, Dgs
- **Population:** 80,000 (2014 German Deaf Association). 80,000 signers (2014 German Deaf Association). 200,000 signers (2014 EUD). 395,000 (2014 IMB).
- **Location:** Scattered.
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2002, Disability Equality Act, Section 6, paragraph 1).
- **Dialects:** Many regional lexical variations. Dialects in eastern and western Germany are similar, with differences comparable to those between northern and southern regions (Hessmann 1992). Some similarity to French [fsl] and other European sign languages. Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl].
- **Typology:** One-handed fingerspelling.
- **Language Use:** 80 deaf schools with 11,000 students. Also schools that integrate deaf with hearing students (Müller 2012). Deaf associations. Some Deaf students are becoming bilingual in written English [eng], which is taught in schools. Some schools are teaching English using British Sign Language [bfi] or American Sign Language [ase]. (Müller 2012). Some Deaf students are becoming bilingual in written German [deu], which is taught in schools. (Müller 2012).
- **Language Development:** Theater. TV. Dictionary. Bible portions: 1998.
- **Other Comments:** 500 working sign language interpreters (2014 EUD). Teachers of the Deaf have to complete a 5-year program at one of 5 universities. Two nationwide associations of professionals in deaf education (Müller 2012). Taught as L2. Christian.”

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