

## “Japanese Sign Language [jsl] (A language of [Japan](#))

- **Alternate Names:** Shuwa, Temane
- **Population:** 317,000 (Van Cleve 1986).
- **Language Status:** 6a (Vigorous).
- **Dialects:** None known. Related to Taiwanese [\[tss\]](#) and Korean [\[kvk\]](#) sign languages.
- **Language Use:** Over 95% of the deaf understand Japanese Sign Language. 107 deaf schools. The first school opened in Kyoto in 1878.
- **Language Development:** TV.
- **Other Comments:** ‘Temane’ is the former name. Pidgin Signed Japanese is distinct, and used often in formal situations, lectures, speeches, and for interaction with hearing people. 80% of the deaf understand finger spelling.”

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.)  
2015. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Eighteenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

### **Related Research**

Ktejik, Mish

2013 Numeral Incorporation in Japanese Sign Language. *Sign Language Studies* 13(2): 186-210.

Masataka, Nobuo

1998 Perception of Motherese in Japanese Sign Language by 6-Month-Old Hearing Infants. *Developmental Psychology* 34(2): 241-246.

Peng, Fred C.

1974 Kinship Signs in Japanese Sign Language. *Sign Language Studies* 5: 31-47.

Last Updated: March 23, 2015