

“French Sign Language [fsl] (A language of France)

- **Alternate Names:** Langue des Signes Française, LSF
- **Population:** 100,000 in France (2014 EUD). 169,000 (2014 IMB). Of these, approximately 1,000 use Marseille Sign Language (Sallagoity 1975).
- **Location:** Scattered.
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing).
- **Dialects:** Marseille Sign Language (Southern French Sign Language). Marseille Sign Language (Southern French Sign Language), is used in Marseille, Toulon, La Ciotat and Salon de Provence. Many sign languages have been derived from or influenced by LSF, but are not necessarily intelligible with it. When Deaf and hearing people interact in sign, they use a mixture of elements drawn from LSF and French, and deaf people themselves vary in how much their signing is influenced by French. Lexical similarity: 58% with American Sign Language[ase] in an 872-word list (Woodward 1978).
- **Typology:** One-handed fingerspelling.
- **Language Use:** Deaf schools. Deaf associations.
- **Language Development:** New media. Films. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 2011.
- **Other Comments:** Promoted by the educational efforts of Charles Michel de l’Épée in the 18th century and one of the first sign languages in the western world to gain recognition as an actual language. Consequently it has influenced several other sign languages, especially in Europe and the Americas. 360 working sign language interpreters (2014 EUD). Taught as an L2 to parents and others. Christian (Roman Catholic).”

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 Readings

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Sinte, Aurélie
2013 Expression of Time in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB). Sign Language Research, Uses and Practices 1: 205-236.

Woodward, James, and Susan Desantis
1977 Negative Incorporation in French and American Sign Language. Language in Society 6(3): 379-388.

Niederberger, Nathalie, and Ulrich H Frauenfelder
2005 Linguistic Proficiency of the Deaf Bilingual Child in French Sign Language and Written French: What is the Relation Between the Two?. Proceedings of the Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development 29(2): 413-423.

Maeder, Christine, and Filip Loncke

1996 Spatial, Temporal, and Temporo-Logical Notions in French Sign Language:
Comparative Study of Deaf and Hearing Subjects. Sign Language Studies 38.

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