

AUSTIN'S GESTURE NOTATION

A working grammar

RODERICK LAIRD 2012 26 May, 2012

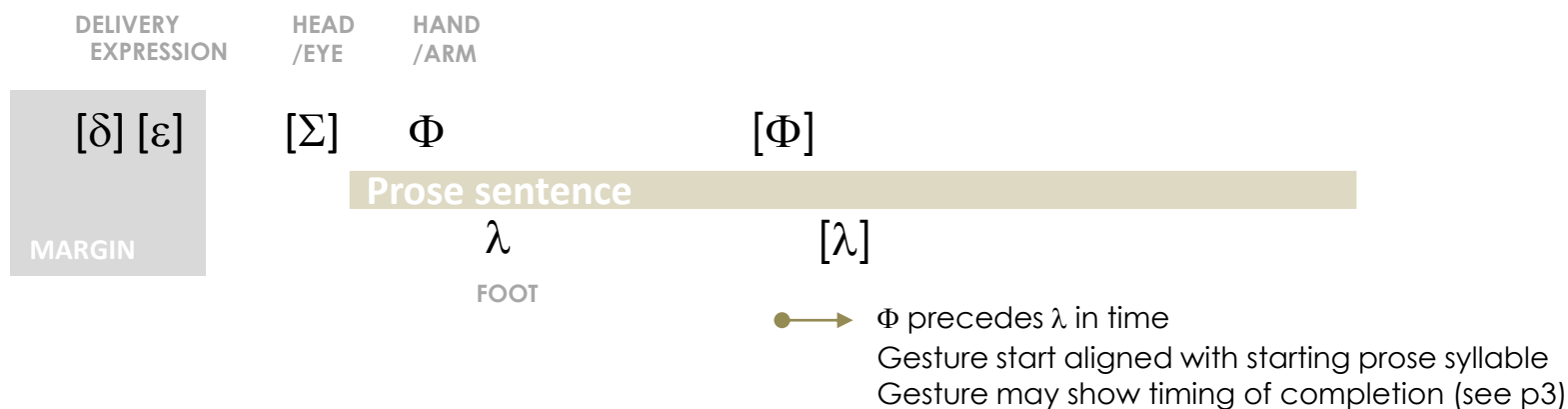
Grammar groups

Head / eye	Σ
Hands / arms	Φ <i>complete</i>
	ϕ <i>component</i>
Feet	λ
Expression	ε
Delivery	δ

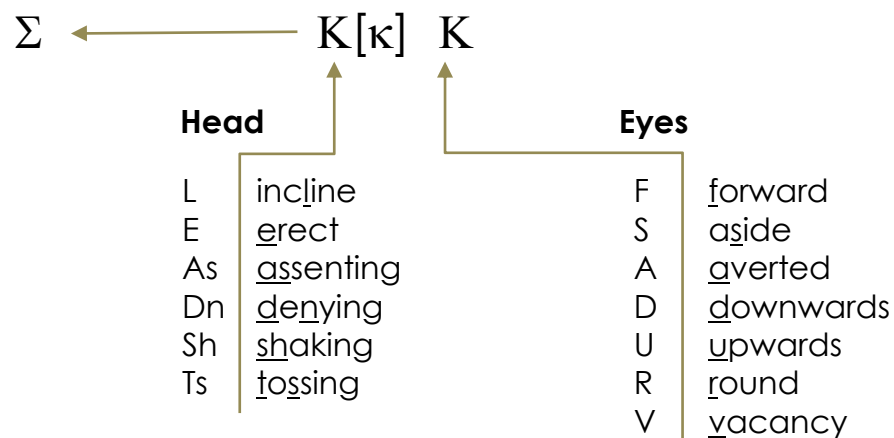
Syntactical definitions

- [] optional
- | or
- K capital letter
- κ lower case letter
- n number
- { } subgroup

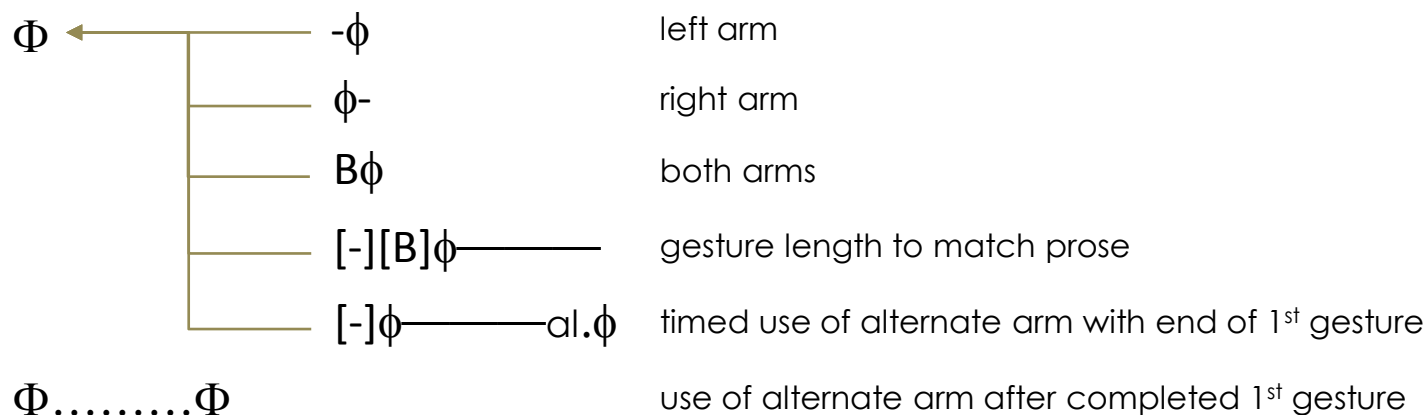
General syntax



Syntax & Vocabulary: Σ - Head / Eyes



Grammar: Φ - Hands / Arms



Syntax & Vocabulary: ϕ - Hands / Arms

ϕ ← {hand} {arm} {motion}

{hand} ← κ

Palm

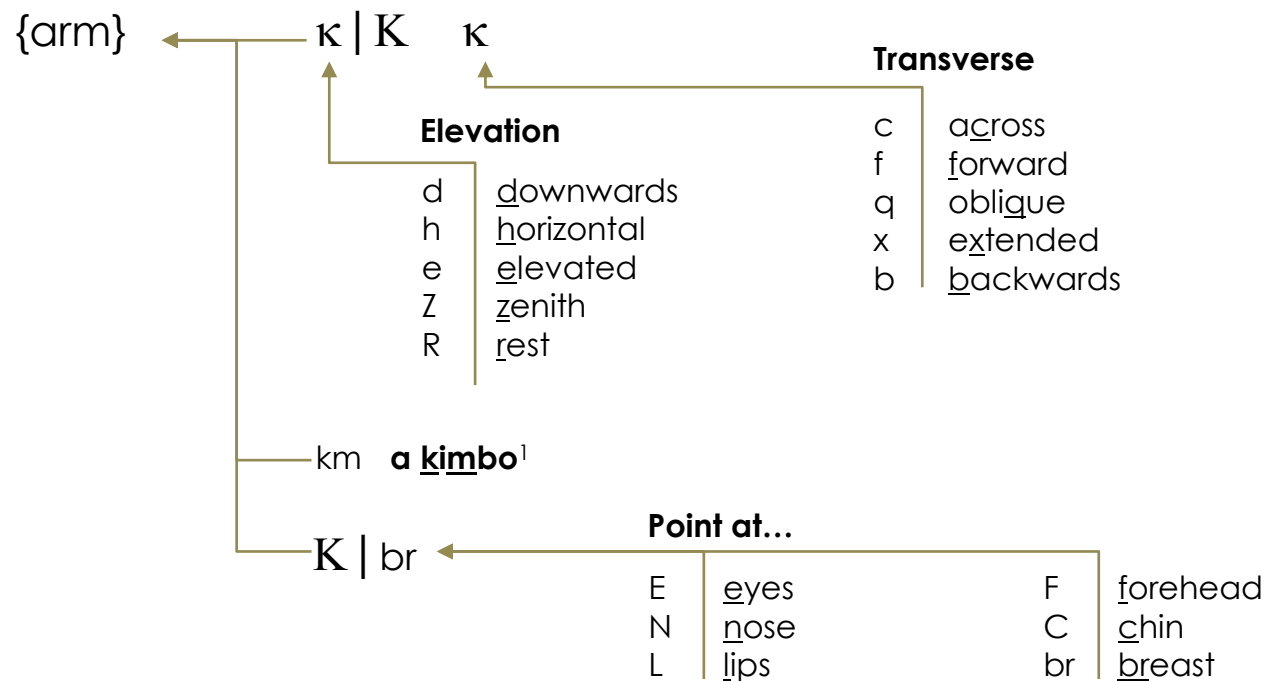
p prone
 s supine
 f forwards
 b backwards
 n inwards or natural
 v vertical
 o otwards

Fingers

i index
 n natural or inwards
 c clinched
 l collected
 g grasping
 x extended
 h holding
 m thumb
 w hollow

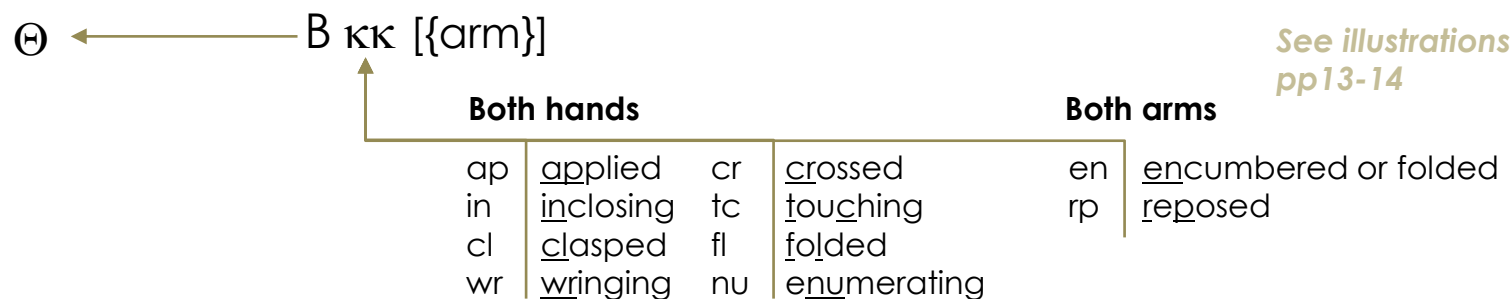
See illustrations
pp9-12

Syntax & Vocabulary: ϕ - Hands / Arms (continued)



See illustrations p19

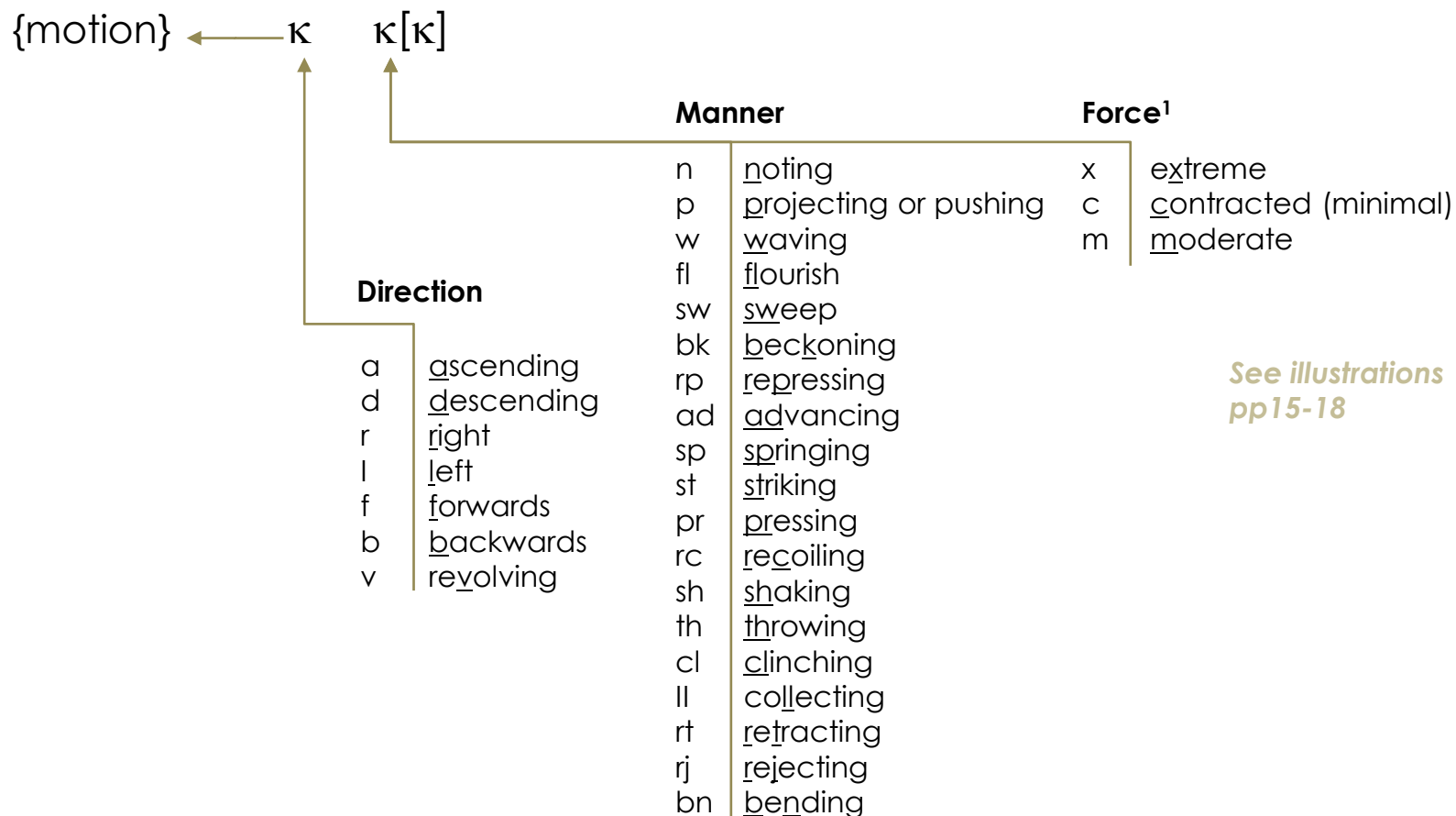
Bilateral special case



See illustrations pp13-14

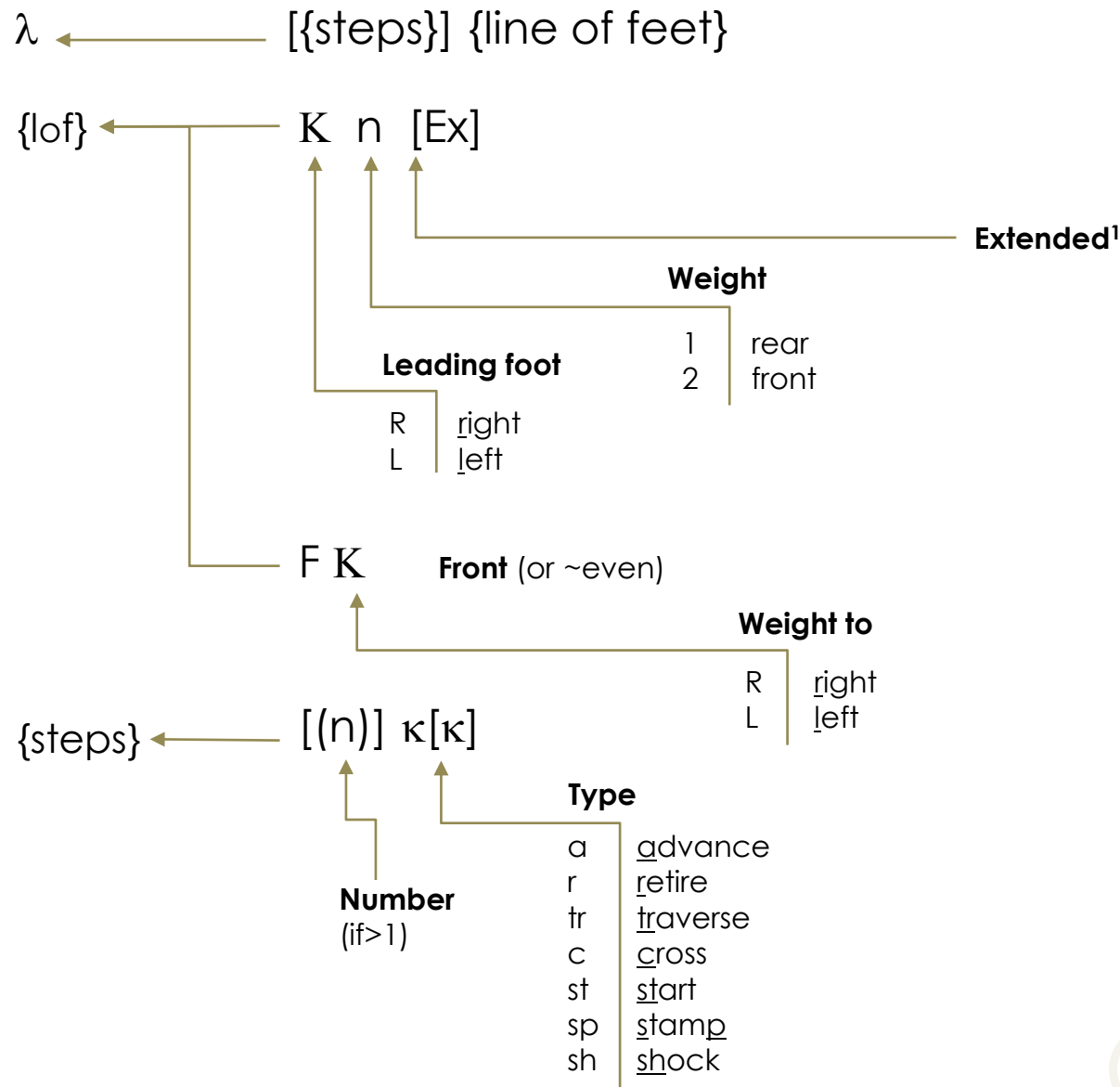
¹ Austin is ambiguous, may also be 'k'

Syntax & Vocabulary: ϕ - Hands / Arms (continued)



¹ As per Austin p364 ; not his p314-5 where these are a *manner*

Syntax & Vocabulary : λ - Feet

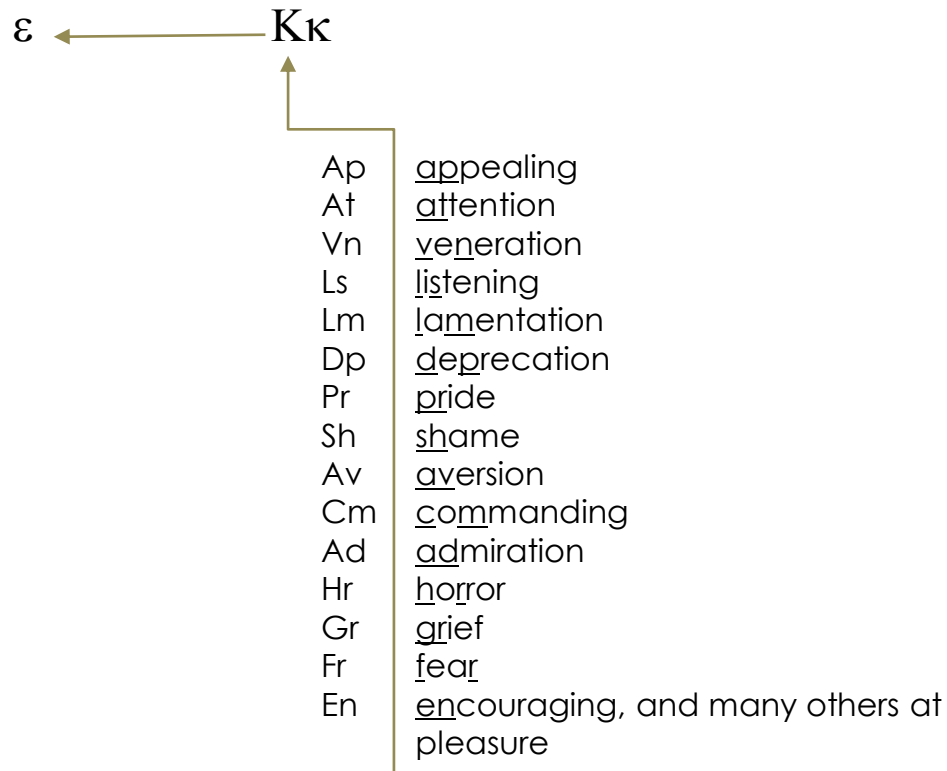


See illustration p20

See illustration p21

¹ Austin is ambiguous, may also be 'x'

Syntax & Vocabulary: ε - Expression



Syntax & Vocabulary: δ - Delivery

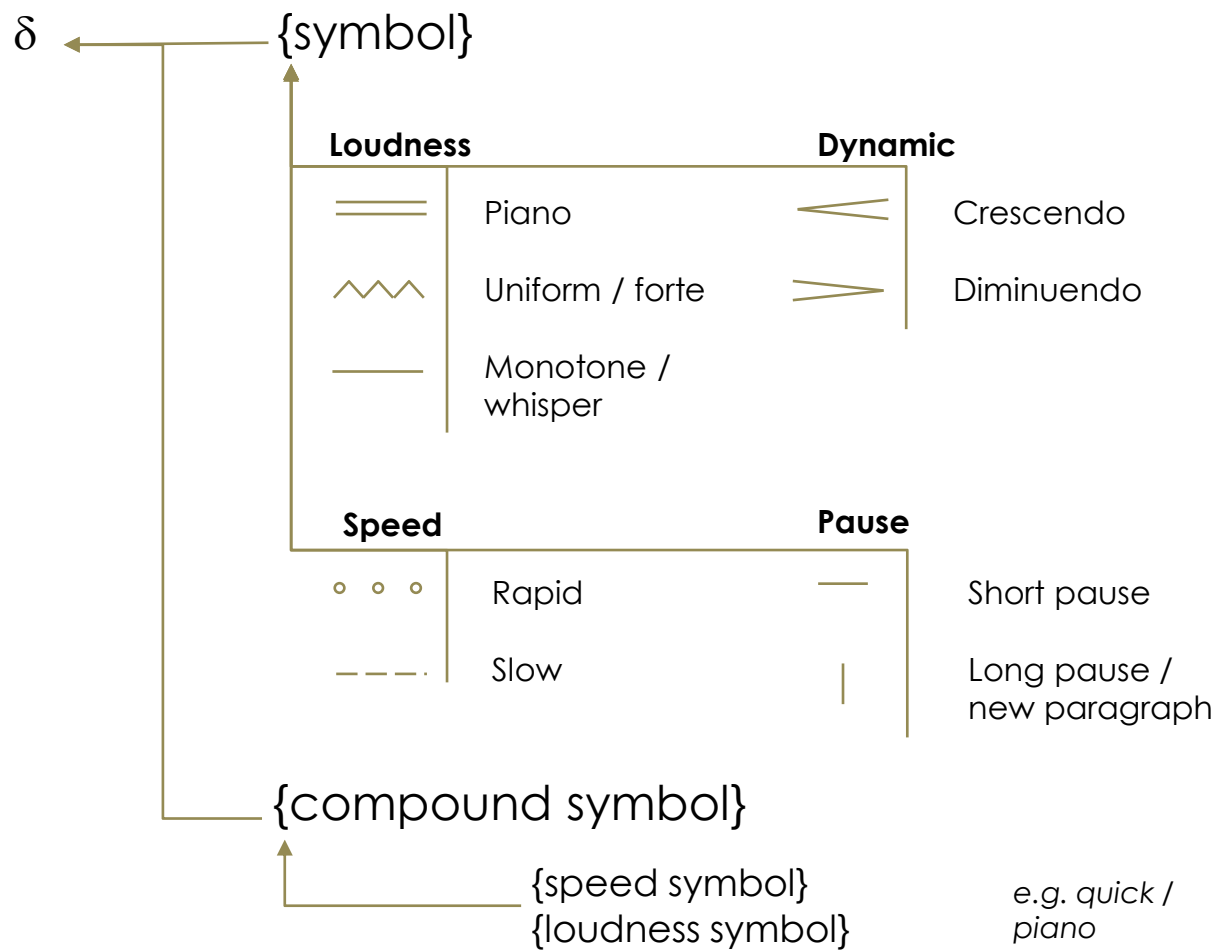


Illustration: {hands} - single



n **Natural.** The hand, when unconstrained in its natural and relaxed state, either hanging down at rest or raised moderately up, has all the fingers a little bended inwards towards the palm; the middle and third fingers lightly touch, the point of the middle finger resting partly on the nail of the third. The fore finger is separated from the middle finger, and less bended, and the little finger separated from the third, and more bended. The extremity of the thumb bends a little outwards, and in its general length and disposition, is nearly parallel with the forefinger. When raised horizontal, the hand is held obliquely between the positions inwards and supine.



x **Extended.** The fingers in this state, whatever may be the general position of the hand, are separated from each other with energy in proportion to the excitation of the speaker.

Illustration: {hands} – single (continued)



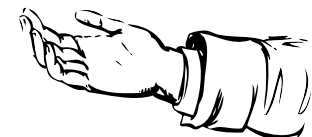
c

Clinched. The fingers in this disposition are firmly closed, and press their extremities upon the palm, the thumb aids the pressure, and is lapped particularly over the middle finger.



l

Collected. When the points of all the fingers are gently inclined towards or touch the point of the thumb.



w

Hollow. When the palm is held nearly supine, and the fingers turn inwards without touching.



i

Index. Pointing with the forefinger, and sometimes also with the middle finger extended, the other fingers turned inwards and contracted with force according to the energy of the speaker.



Illustration: {hands} – single (continued)



h **Holding.** The finger and thumb are pressed together, either the fore or middle finger or both, the other fingers are contracted or extended according to the energy.



m **Thumb.** Pointing with the thumb, the fingers are clasped down, and the thumb extended. When turned down *verso pollice*



g **Grasping.** The fingers and thumb seizing the garments or tearing the hair.



p **Prone.** When the palm is turned downwards.



s **Supine.** When the palm is turned upwards

Illustration: {hands} – single (continued)



- n** **Inwards.** When the palm is turned towards the breast, and the hand is held on the edge, the thumb erect.



- o** **Outwards.** When the palm is turned from the body .and towards the object, the thumb downwards, the hand held on the edge.



- v** **Vertical.** When the plane of the palm is perpendicular to the horizon, the fingers pointing upwards.

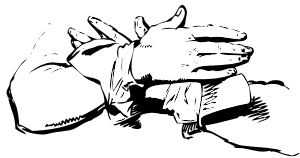
Illustration: {hands} - both



ap **Applied.** When the palms are pressed together, and the fingers and thumbs of each are mutually laid against each other.



cl **Clasped.** When the fingers are all inserted between each other and the hands pressed close together, particularly at the balls of the thumbs and at the fleshy muscle under the little fingers, in its whole length to the wrists



cr **Crossed.** When one hand is laid on the breast and the other is laid over it crosswise.



fl **Folded.** When the fingers of one hand at the second joint are all laid between the thumb and fore finger of the other, and are clasped down on its back: whilst its fingers fold the former from the lowest knuckle of the little finger to the wrist, the thumbs crossing each other nearly at the middle joint.

Illustration: {hands} – both (continued)



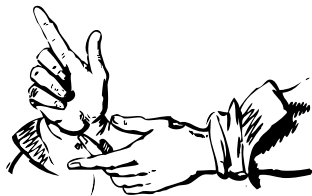
in ***Inclosed***. When the knuckles at the middle joint of one hand moderately bended are received within the palm of the other, the fingers of which stretch along the back of the inclosed hand nearly to its wrist, the thumbs crossing, or rather laid at length over each other.



tc ***Touching***. When the points of the fingers of each hand are brought lightly into contact.



wr ***Wringing***. When both hands are first clasped together and elevated, then depressed and separated at the wrists without disengaging the fingers.



nu ***Enumerating***. When the index of the right hand is laid successively upon the index or the different fingers of the left. If the number of divisions be more than four, the enumeration begins from the thumb.

Illustration: {arms} – motion



n Noting. When the hand, in whatever position, is first drawn back and raised, and then advanced, and with a gentle stroke depressed.



w Waving. When the fingers are first pointed downwards, and then by a smart motion of the elbow and wrist, the hand is flung upwards into a vertical position.

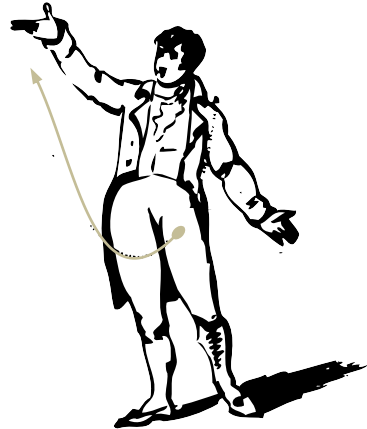


p Projecting or pushing. When the arm is first retracted and then thrust forwards in the direction in which the hand points.



fl The flourish. Describes a circular movement above the head.

Illustration: {arms} – motion (continued)



sw **The sweep.**

Describes a curved movement descending from the opposite shoulder, and rising with velocity to the utmost extent of the arm, or the reverse; changing the position of the hand from supine to vertical in the first case, and from vertical to supine in the latter. The sweep is sometimes doubled by returning the arm back again through the same arch.



st **Striking.** When the whole fore arm and the hand along with it descend from a higher elevation rapidly, and with a degree of force like a stroke which is arrested, when it has struck what it is aimed against.



rc **Recoiling.** When after a stroke as in the former gesture, the arm and hand return back to the position from whence they proceeded.

Illustration: {arms} – motion (continued)

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| bk | Beckoning. When with the fore finger or the whole hand the palm turned inwards, a motion is made inwards towards the breast. |
| rp | Repressing. The reverse of the preceding gesture, when the fore finger or the whole hand, the palm turned outwards, makes a motion in opposition to the person addressed. The motions in these two last gestures are often repeated. |
| ad | Advancing. When the hand being first moved downwards and backwards in order to obtain greater space for action, is then moved regularly forwards and raised as high as the horizontal position, a step being at the same time made in advance to aid the action. |
| sp | Springing. When the hand having nearly arrived at the intended limit of the gesture, flies suddenly up to it by a quick motion of the wrist ; like the blade of a pocket knife, when it suddenly and decidedly snaps into its proper situation by the recoil of the spring. |
| th | Throwing. When the arm, by the force of the gesture, is flung as it were in the direction of the person addressed. |
| cl | Clinching. When the hand being held forth prone or supine, and the arm moderately extended, the hand is suddenly clinched, and the arm raised and contracted in a position of threatening or contempt |

Illustration: {arms} – motion (continued)

- ll Collecting.** When the arm from an extended position sweeps inwards.
- sh Shaking.** When a tremulous motion is made by the arm and hand.
- pr Pressing.** When the hand already laid on some part, the effort of pressing is marked by raising the elbow and contracting the fingers.
- rt Retracting.** When the arm is withdrawn preparatory to projecting or pushing
- rj Rejecting.** The action of pushing the hand vertically towards the object, and at the same time averting the head
- bn Bending.** The gesture preparatory to striking



phxx–

extend



phx–

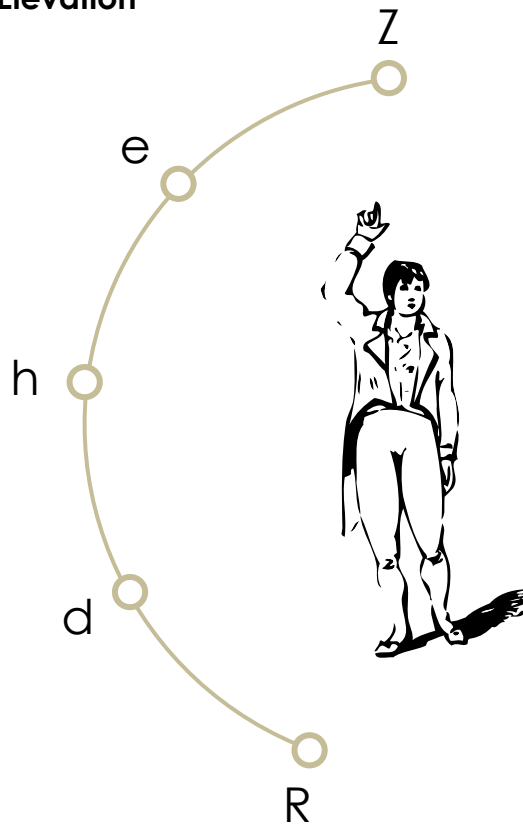
contract



phxc–

Illustration: {arms} - positions

Elevation



Transverse

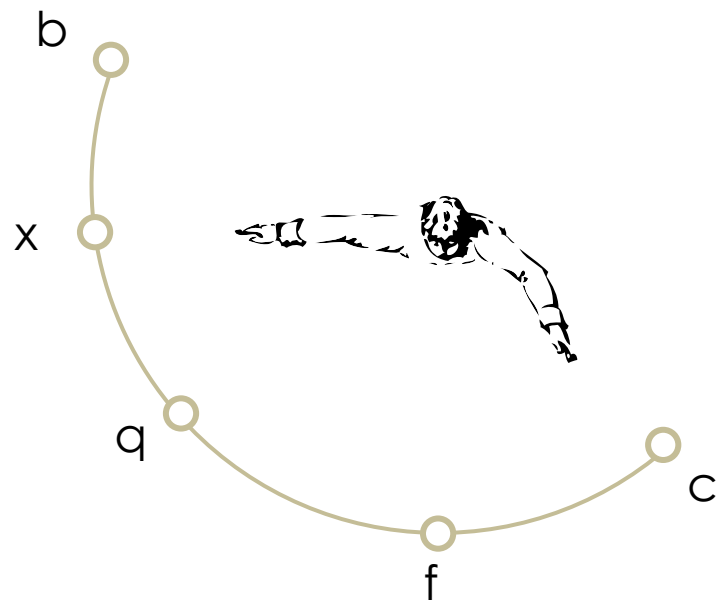


Illustration: {feet} - positions



{line of feet} ← K n [Ex]

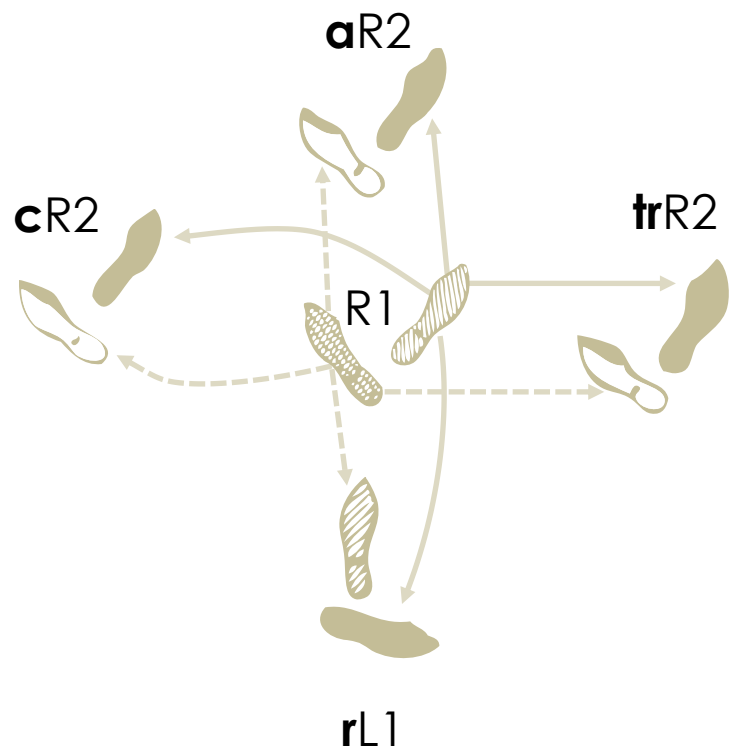
■ Weighted

Leading foot - K			
		R	L
Weight - n	1		
	2		
		Extended (Ex suffix)	Normal

Illustration: {feet} - steps

→ First movement

From R1



From R2

