FACE + BODY

Facial Grammar + NMMs

The face, head and body carry language too.

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Raised brows

Often mark yes/no questions; a slight forward tilt may join them.



Lowered brows

Often mark WH-questions such as who, what, where, when and why.



Head shake

Can mark negation across part or all of a signed phrase.



Head nod

Can affirm, confirm or help mark a boundary in discourse.



Head + shoulders

Tilts, shifts and posture can add stance, structure and perspective.



Mouth movements

Can add information about manner, degree, size or intensity.

Nonmanual signals are grammar, not decoration.

Watch the face and body. They carry the grammar.

Source: Gallaudet ASL Standards + ASL University