

VIAMINGLE TEAM

Learn underwater signals **10+**



SPEAK FLUENT FISH

WELCOME, FUTURE EXPLORER

A SILENT WORLD, A BEAUTIFUL

Abdelrahman
YOUR VIAMINGLE HOST

First Conversation with the Red Sea

MASTERING WATER SIGNAL

HAND GESTURES FOR DIVERS

The world beneath the waves is a silent one, but it's far from quiet. It's a world filled with the gentle hum of life, the crackle of coral, and the silent poetry of fish gliding by. To join this world, we must learn a new language a simple, beautiful language spoken with our hands.

At Viamingle, we believe that a great dive isn't just about what you see; it's about how safe, confident, and connected you feel. That's why we've created this essential guide. These are not just hand signals; they are your first conversation with your dive buddy and your guide, the building blocks of trust and safety that allow for true underwater magic.

“Make the signal firm and clear. A lazy or shaky “OK” sign might be misinterpreted as something being wrong.”

Master these few simple signs, and you'll be ready to leave your worries on the shore and descend into the breathtaking beauty of the Red Sea.

Happy and safe diving,



Hand Signal 1:

OK?/ I'm OK.

What it Means:

This is the most important signal in diving. It is both a question and an answer. Your guide will frequently ask you, "Are you okay?". You must respond with this same signal to confirm that everything is fine. If you don't respond, your guide will assume there is a problem.

H O W
P E R F O R M
I T :

Touch the tip of your thumb to the tip of your index finger, forming a circle. Extend your other three fingers upwards.



Viamingle Pro Tip:

Make the signal firm and clear.
A lazy or shaky "OK" sign might be misinterpreted as something being wrong.



Hand Signal 2: Problem / Something is Not Right

What it Means:

W This signal communicates that you are not okay, but the problem is not a major emergency. After giving this signal, you should immediately point to the source of the problem (e.g., point to your ear if you have trouble equalizing, or to your mask if it's leaking).

How to Perform It: Extend your hand with your fingers flat and your palm facing down. Gently rock your hand back and forth from the wrist.



Viamingle Pro Tip: Don't hesitate to use this signal for small issues. It's much better to solve a small problem early than to let it become a big one.



Hand Signal 3: Go Up / Ascend

What it Means:
W This is a command, not a question. It means “Let’s go up” or “End the dive.” It can be given by the guide to signal the end of the dive, or by you if you need to ascend for any reason.

How to Perform It: Make a fist and point your thumb straight up towards the surface.



Important: Unlike on land, “thumbs up” does not mean “good” or “OK.” It only ever means “Go Up.” This is a critical difference to remember!



Hand Signal 4: Go Down" / "Descend

What it Means:

This signal means "Let's go down" or "Let's descend." Your guide will use this at the beginning of the dive or when moving to a deeper part of the reef.

H O W
P E R F O R M
I T :

Make a fist and point your thumb straight down towards the bottom.



Viamingle Pro Tip: Descend slowly, feet first, and equalize your ears every meter. If you feel any pain, ascend a little, equalize, and then try again. Never force a descent – the reef will wait for you!



Hand Signal 5: Stop / Hold Still

What it Means:

What it Means: This signal means “Stop,” “Hold your position,” or “Wait here.” Your guide will often use this to get the group to pause and look at something interesting (like a hidden moray eel!) or to check on everyone. It is a command for immediate attention.

How to Perform It: Hold your hand up with your palm facing forward towards the person you are signaling.



Viamingle Pro Tip: When your guide gives this signal, stop immediately and look at them. They may be about to point out a rare and beautiful creature you wouldn't want to miss!



Hand Signal 6: Safety Stop

What it Means:

This signals the mandatory "Safety Stop." Near the end of every dive, you will ascend to a depth of 5 meters (15 feet) and wait there for 3 minutes. This is a crucial safety procedure that allows your body to slowly release absorbed nitrogen. Your guide will always signal for this stop.

H O W
P E R F O R M
I T :

Hold your non-dominant hand out flat, palm down. Place the three middle fingers of your dominant hand on top of your flat hand.



Viamingle Pro Tip: When your guide gives this signal, stop immediately and look at them. They may be about to point out a rare and beautiful creature you wouldn't want to miss!



Hand Signal 7:

How Much Air?/ Check Air

What it Means:

This is a routine question from your guide: "How much air pressure is left in your tank?". It's the underwater equivalent of checking your fuel gauge.

H O W
P E R F O R M
I T :

With one hand, use your index and middle fingers to tap firmly on the palm of your other hand.



Viamingle Pro Tip: Your guide will ask this frequently. It's a normal check-up, not a sign of trouble. Always respond honestly with the amount of air you have.

**100 BAR****50 BAR**

Hand Signal 8: Reporting Air (Numbers)

What it Means: You are communicating your remaining air supply. 50 BAR is the critical point where you should plan your ascent.

How to Perform It: You use your fingers to show the numbers on your pressure gauge. The two most important signals are:

100 BAR: Make a “T” shape with both hands .

50 BAR (Half Tank): Hold up a flat, open hand with five fingers.



Viamingle Pro Tip: The most important signal to give your guide without being asked is when you reach 50 BAR (or 700 PSI). This tells your guide it's time for the whole group to start heading towards the surface safely.



Hand Signal 9: Look / Look at That

What it Means:

This is the signal for excitement! It means “Look at me,” followed by “Look over there!” Your guide will use this to show you a hidden octopus, a passing turtle, or a beautiful piece of coral.

H O W
P E R F O R M
I T :

First, point to your own eyes with your index and middle fingers. Then, point with your index finger towards the object of interest.



Viamingle Pro Tip: When you see this signal, stop what you are doing and look at your guide. They’ve likely spotted something amazing! This is the signal that leads to the best memories.



Hand Signal 10: I'm Cold

W It simply means “I’m starting to feel cold.” This is a very important signal for your comfort and safety.

How to Perform It: Cross your arms over your chest and rub your upper arms with your hands, as if you are shivering.



Viamingle Pro Tip: Don’t be a hero. Feeling cold uses up your energy and your air much faster. Signaling this early allows your guide to plan the rest of the dive safely and comfortably, ensuring the experience remains enjoyable for everyone.



You're Ready to Speak the Language!

Mastering these six simple signals is your passport to an incredible underwater adventure. It's the key that unlocks a world of wonder with confidence and peace of mind.

At **VIAMINGLE**, we don't just book tours; we craft experiences. Every dive we organize is led by certified, passionate guides in small, intimate groups. We ensure the equipment is top-notch, the boats are comfortable, and the experience is nothing short of magical.

Ready to turn this knowledge into a memory? Let us design your perfect Red Sea diving adventure.

Start Designing Your Egypt Journey Now



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 "community is a place for travelers to share stories, ask questions, and get expert advice. Join the conversation and become part of the Viamingle family."

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