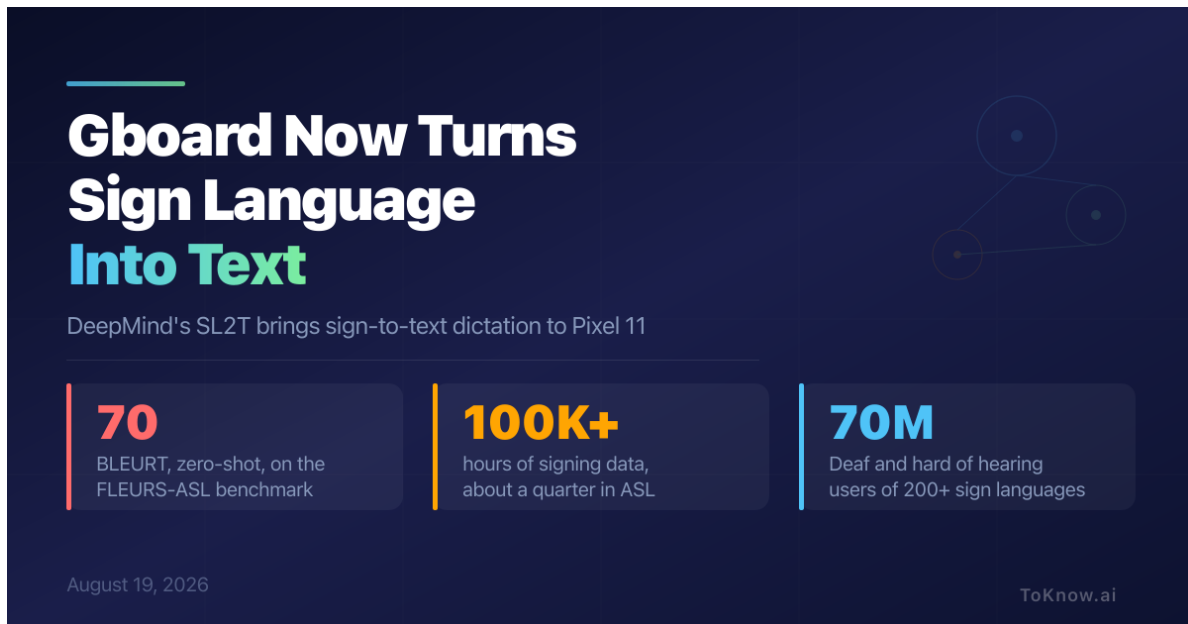


Gboard Now Turns Sign Language Into Text

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2026-08-19

[Read at ToKnow.ai](#)



The graphic is a dark blue rectangular banner. On the left, the title 'Gboard Now Turns Sign Language Into Text' is written in white and teal. Below it, a subtitle reads 'DeepMind's SL2T brings sign-to-text dictation to Pixel 11'. To the right of the text is a faint line-art illustration of three circles connected by lines, representing a sign language gesture. Below the subtitle are three vertical bars of different colors (orange, yellow, and blue) each containing a large number and a description. At the bottom left, the date 'August 19, 2026' is written. At the bottom right, the 'ToKnow.ai' logo is displayed.

Gboard Now Turns Sign Language Into Text

DeepMind's SL2T brings sign-to-text dictation to Pixel 11

70 BLEURT, zero-shot, on the FLEURS-ASL benchmark	100K+ hours of signing data, about a quarter in ASL	70M Deaf and hard of hearing users of 200+ sign languages
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August 19, 2026

ToKnow.ai

Google DeepMind launched SL2T, a sign-language-to-text model that powers sign-to-text dictation in Gboard and Live Transcribe on Pixel 11, starting with American Sign Language (ASL) to English. It is the first sign-language AI to reach a shipping consumer phone feature. It trained on more than 100,000 hours of signing across 50+ sign languages, about a quarter of it ASL, and it works from pose coordinates instead of raw video: an on-device [MediaPipe Holistic](#) tracker maps the signer's landmarks, only those coordinates leave the phone, and the

video is discarded. On [FLEURS-ASL](#), a benchmark of studio-recorded ASL, SL2T scores 70 BLEURT, a translation-quality score, zero-shot, above every previously reported result.

A Deaf person can now sign to their phone anywhere they would normally type, to search the web, draft a message, or ask Gemini, and in Live Transcribe answer a conversation by signing instead of typing back and forth. Testers found signing in ASL faster and more natural than typing English. Google is careful about limits: a committee of Deaf organizations co-wrote a [public impact report](#) that restricts SL2T to casual, informal use, excluding medical, legal, and police settings. Known weak spots include rare signs, rapid fingerspelling, and low light.

The larger point is that sign languages just became a first-class input method on the world's most common keyboard, at no extra cost. If the model extends beyond ASL, the roughly 70 million Deaf and hard of hearing people who use more than 200 sign languages get the dictation convenience hearing users already enjoy.

Read More: [WAXAL expands speech data for 27 African languages](#)

Sources:

- [Putting sign language AI into users' hands \(Google DeepMind\)](#)
- [Google DeepMind Brings Sign Language Translation to Phones With SL2T \(Unite.AI\)](#)
- [FLEURS-ASL dataset \(Kaggle\)](#)
- [AISLAC joint impact report for SL2T 1.0 \(PDF\)](#)

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