

Victorian Fan Language

In the past, hand fans were used not only to cool but also as a secret way to communicate love messages. For example, by running ones fingers through the fan's ribs, one is trying to say "I want to talk to you". The language of the fan was widely used by women and men.

1. Fan placed near the heart.
You have won my love
2. Closed fan touching the right eye.
When may I be allowed to see you?
3. Close fan moved threateningly.
Do not act so impudently!
4. Half opened fan pressed to the lips.
You may kiss me.
5. Covering left ear with an open fan.
Do not betray my secret.
6. Hiding the eyes behind an open fan.
I love you.
7. Shutting a fully open fan slowly.
I promise to marry you.
8. Fanning slowly.
I am married.
9. Letting the fan rest on the right cheek or left
Yes, No
10. Opening and closing the fan several times.
You are cruel

11. Fan in front of the face
Follow me.
12. Twirling the fan in the left hand.
We are being watched
13. Fan held over left ear.
I wish to get rid of you.
14. Carrying the open fan in the left hand.
Come and talk to me
15. Opening a fan wide
Wait for me.
16. Placing the fan behind the head with finger
Goodbye