

What is ASL & What is our goal?

Spoken languages are naturally developed complex systems that use a set of conventionalized sound-based symbols and grammatical rules. They are used to express an open-ended range of ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Sign languages are no different from spoken languages in any of the key features except in the channel in which the language occurs.

Instead of sound-based symbols (words), sign languages use signs. Signs use a set of specific handshapes, produced in particular locations on or around the signer's body, combined with specific movements. ASL (American Sign Language) is the most widely known and used.

The purpose of this picture book is to help you learn the basics of American Sign Language through images of certain signs and further explanations.

Guide to contents / how to practice

The words that you would need to practice are all grouped up into sections. You can further explore these in the table of contents. The best way to retain all of this information is to split your learning over the course of 8 days- practicing a new section each day.

For example, on your first day, you would get through the 'Basics' chapter. Stand in front of a mirror and try your best to mimic the signs shown in the picture book. After you have done that a few times and got the hang of it- try again, but this time without looking at the pictures. Continue this until you can go through the whole section by yourself, without looking at the book!

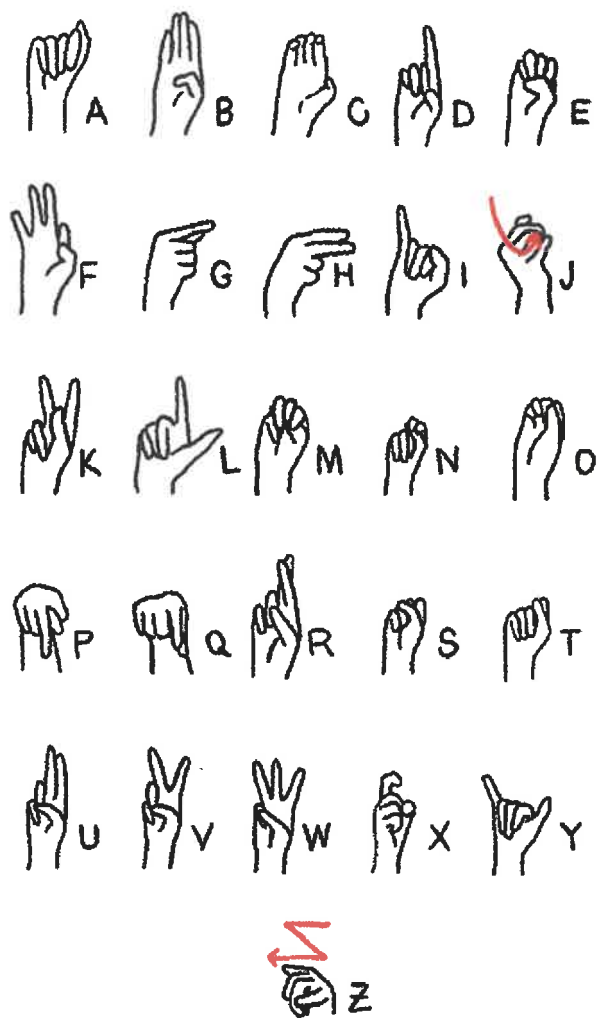
On your second day, you would start, again, in front of the mirror- and you would repeat all of the signs you already know. If you forget one, just take a look in the book again and go back to practicing. Once you have that under control, start with the new section- in this case, that would be the 'Everyday' chapter.

Continue with this method until you have gone through all 8 chapters in 8 days!

Basics

The Alphabet

Finger spelling



In American Sign Language, fingerspelling is used to indicate places, names, or ideas for which there is no official sign. Finger-spelled words can also be used if you do not know the sign for something.

Hold your dominant hand in a comfortable position upright and in front of your shoulder with your palm facing forward at a slight angle.

Maintain a smooth rhythm as you spell the words. Aim for articulation, not speed. Speed will come naturally. Right now, you just want to make sure you form the letters correctly so people will understand you. Try not to bounce your hands as you spell, or you will make someone very dizzy! Also, allow a slight pause between words.

Mouth each word as you fingerspell it—not each letter.

For words with double letters, open your hand slightly between the letters. For open letters such as B and L, move your hand slightly to the right with a very slight bounce for the second letter.

Signing questions

When you want to ask a question in American Sign Language (ASL), you simply sign the question word at the end of the sentence — words such as who, what, when, where, which, why, and how. After you sign your question, as a rule, you sign the manual question mark repeatedly.



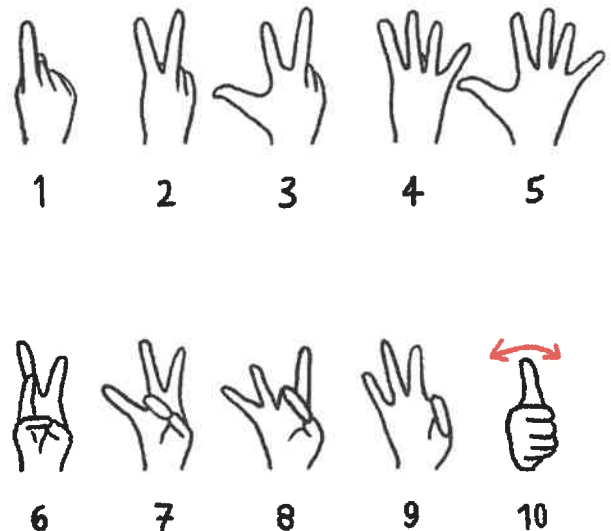
Basic grammar

In American Sign Language, the syntax (word order) is different than English. In general, the word order follows a “Subject” + “Verb” + “Object” sentence structure. You will also see the structure “Time” + “Subject” + “Verb” + “Object”, or “Time” can be at the end of a sentence. An example of this would be:

English: I went to Ireland a year ago.

ASL: Last year I went (go + finish)
Ireland.

Numbers



Days of the Week



Every day

Daily

Hello



Goodbye



Nice to meet you



yes



No



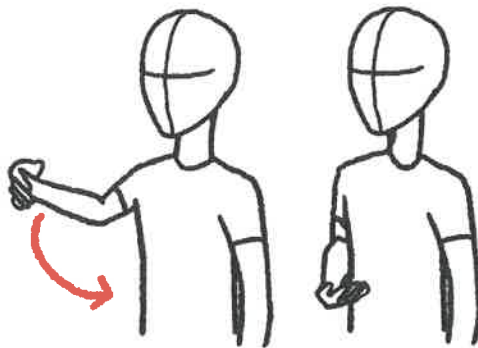
Please



Thank you!



Welcome!



Excuse me



Every day

Daily

Time on clock



Time of day



I/Me



You



He/She/They



My/Mine



Your



His/Her/Their



Every day

Deaf



Hard of hearing



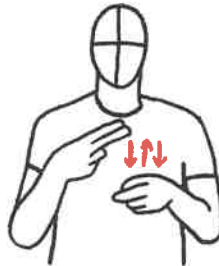
Hearing



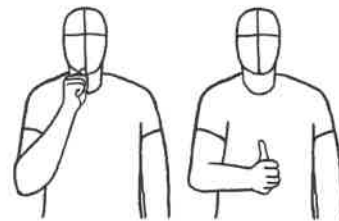
Fingerspell



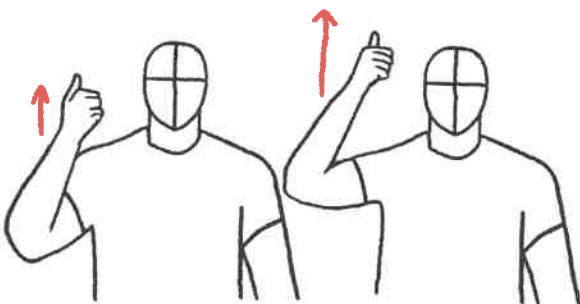
Name



Not/negation



Comparative & superlative

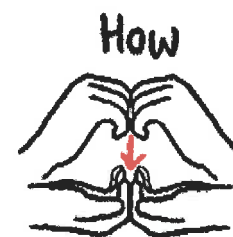
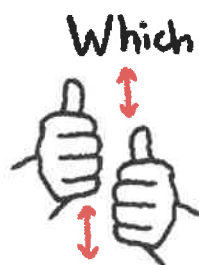
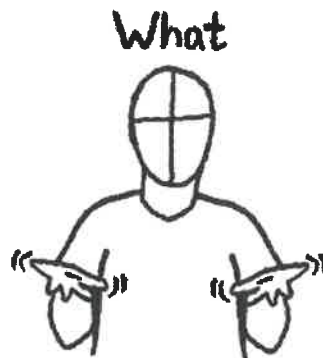


A comparative in ASL is roughly comparable to the "-er" concept in English. Just as a superlative is roughly comparable to the "-est" concept in English.

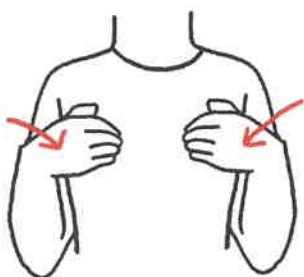
There are signs for the suffixes "-er" and "-est."

Communication

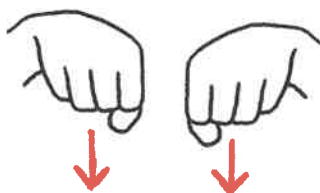
Wh questions



Have



Can



That



Directions



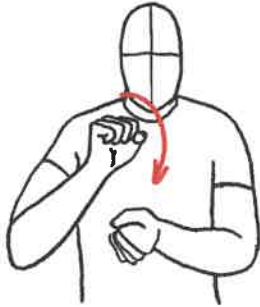
Left



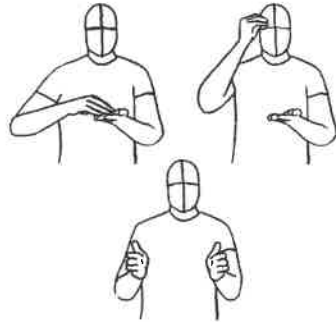
Right

In The Classroom

Work



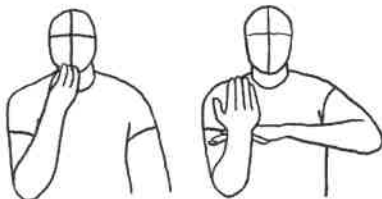
Student



Teacher



Breakfast



EAT

MORNING

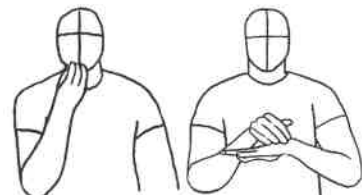
Lunch



EAT

AFTERNOON

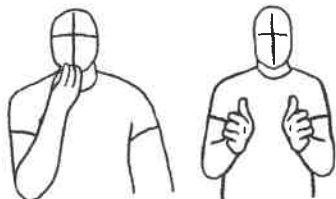
Dinner



EAT

EVENING

Snack



EAT

LITTLE

Food



FOOD

Water



Class

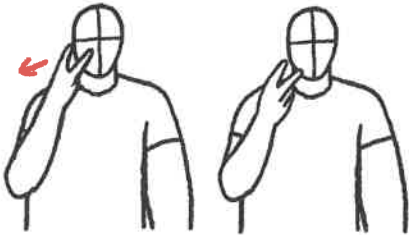


Bathroom

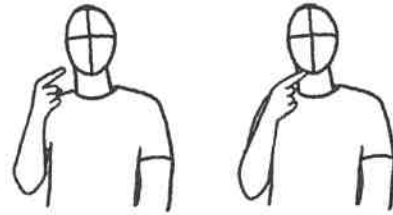


Verbs

See



Say



Hear



Read



Stop



Go

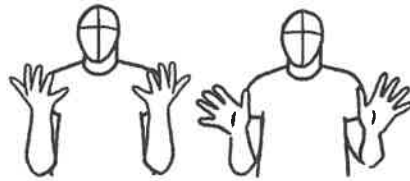


Verbs

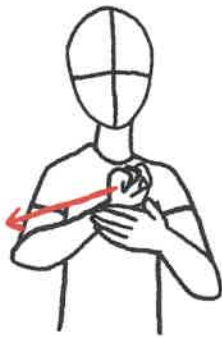
Do



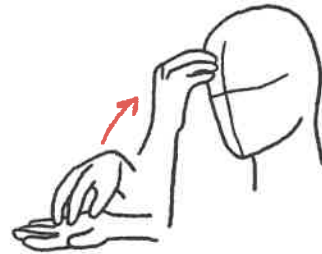
Finished



Write



Learn



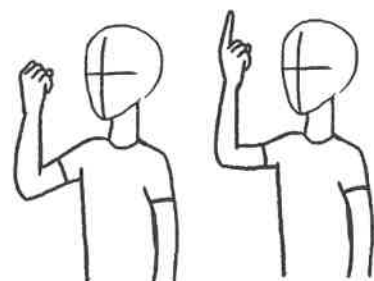
Know



Think

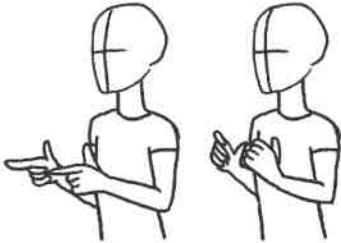


Understand



Adjectives

Fast



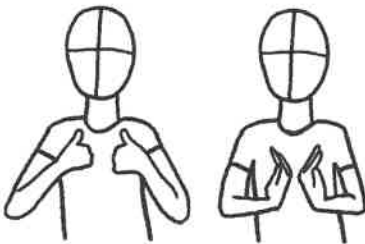
Slow



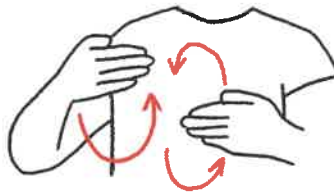
Correct



Tired



Happy



Sad



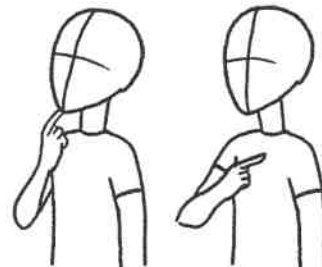
Hurt



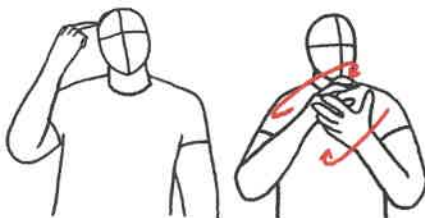
Hungry



Thirsty



Confused



Clear



Quantity

A lot

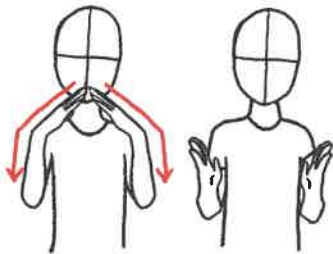


A little



Nouns

House



School



Book



Pencil



Help

