



Signing Online

Providing Interactive Web-Based Instruction in American Sign Language

Additional Activities

WHY AM I TAKING ASL?

So this is a pretty simple one, and since you're new to the class (or you're taking your second year), the teacher would probably like to know why you're taking his class. Just ask yourself "Why did I take this class?" "Will it help me in the future somehow?" "Did I need a language credit?".

CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY SONG:

This project is due before the holiday Break, but it's good to choose a song and start practicing as soon as you can. All you need to do is pick a song, at least two to three minutes long in length, practice it, memorize it, and sign it to the class. You'll either need a CD or iPod/MP3 player, so you can have your song playing in the background.

CURRENT EVENT SPEECH:

Every ASL II student, to get an A in the class, needs to do two, one minute speeches before every 6-week grading period. Doing one every 6-weeks will get you a B; not doing it at all, you're stuck with a C at best. Your speeches only need to be one minute long, about a current event that you think would be interesting for the class to hear. After you do your speech, you need to give the teacher the article, and your summary of the article stapled together with your name on it, so he knows you did it. If you don't know a sign, either ask the teacher, or go to the "Helpful Sites" link above. If there are any signs that the class may need to know before you start, tell them what they are before you start doing your speech.

INFORMATIVE SPEECH:

This speech is due before Spring Break, but it is the biggest speech you have to do. Make sure your topic doesn't double up with something someone else has in your class; your classmates probably don't want to hear the same speech twice. You need to pick a topic that will be helpful, something your classmates might need to know in the future, such as how to buy a car, or how to get into college. A speech on how to make duck calls probably won't be such a good idea. Your speech needs to be 2 to 3 minutes long; well-rehearsed, practiced, make sure you know all your signs, and tell the class any signs you needed to make up.



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NAME SIGNS:

Name Signs -- In this paper, you went around to most (or all) of your classmates and asked them, using no voice, what their names and name signs were. The other person will fingerspell their first and last names, and then give you their name sign.

For those of you that might've forgotten, a name sign is a sign that you make up to represent your name (this is traditionally done by a Deaf person). Maybe you like volleyball, and your name is Miranda. Instead of using the sign "volleyball", you would change it to an "M", and still use the sign action. Or if your name is Kevin, and you like baseball, you would use "K"s for the sign, rather than your fists.

Quizzes: 20 Pts Each

If you are absent for one of the weekly quizzes, you won't be able to make it up. There are three types of quizzes that each class takes, Vocabulary (sentences are signed and everyone writes them down), Fingerspelling (words are fingerspelled and everyone writes them down) and Facts (questions are signed and everyone writes down the answers). The sentences and words are repeated only once or twice. Each quiz is worth 20 points; ASL I students do both sides and add up their scores for each side to get the total; ASL II does both sides as well, but they add up both scores and divide by two.

ASL FACTS:

The Three Sign Language Systems:

- Manual English - used to teach deaf children English, there is one sign for every word.
- Signed English - take ASL signs and put them into English word order. Often used between a hearing and a deaf person.
- American Sign Language (ASL) - true language of the Deaf community. There is no written form of ASL and no words. (ASL "gloss" represents an approximation only)



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Some Important People:

- Lou Fant - coined the term ASL
- Thomas Gallaudet - first teacher of the Deaf, opened the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut
- William Stoke - proved ASL is a real language
- Alice Cogswell - first student of Thomas Gallaudet
- Laurent Clerc - co-founded the American School for the Deaf with Gallaudet
- Alexander Graham Bell - had a deaf wife; invented the telephone
- I King Jordan - first deaf president of Gallaudet University
- David A Stewart (1954-2004)- creator of Signing Online, prolific writer, teacher of the Deaf, MSU Deaf Education Professor, Profoundly Deaf.

School Systems:

- Mainstream - a school where the Deaf student goes to public school with a translator, most of the other students aren't deaf. Example: Sprague High School
- Residential - the Deaf student lives at the school in a Dorm and goes home on the weekends. Example: Oregon School for the Deaf
- Day School - Deaf student goes to school Monday-Friday and goes home afterward everyday, like a normal school; all students are deaf. Example: Phoenix Day School for the Deaf

Schools:

- American School for the Deaf - the first deaf school open in the U.S., located in Hartford, Connecticut. Founded by William Stoke and Laurent Clerc in the late 1800s.
- Gallaudet University - the only Liberal Arts College for the Deaf
- OSD - Oregon School for the Deaf
- Western Oregon University - the number one college program in the Pacific Northwest for ASL. For: interpreting, teaching, and counseling the deaf.



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Four Characteristics of a Sign:

- Handshape (Example: Open 5, Closed 5)
- Location (Where the sign is)
- Orientation (positioning of the hand)
- Movement (motion of a sign)

Five Aspects of Deaf culture:

- Socialization
- Organization
- ASL
- Pride
- Schools

Three Dimensions of ASL:

- Visual
- Spacial
- Gestural

All Signs Fall into Two Categories:

- Iconic - means you can probably figure out what the sign means just by looking at it. (Examples: "drive" or "break")
- Symbolic - means you see the sign, but you probably don't know what it means by looking at it. (Examples: "early" or "physics")

Directional Verbs:

- Directional verb - verbs that move; if you change the movement, you change the meaning of it.
- Four Aspects of a Directional Verb: Source - where the sign starts
- Goal - where the sign ends
- Subject - the receiver of the sign
- Object - the signer of the sign



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Non-manuals: A non-manual is like an expression, you use it at certain times.

- Yes/No Question - Raise the eyes, tilt the head
- Information Seeking Question - Squint the eyes, tilt the head
- CS (like the sound that CS makes) - Close distance, close time
- Shake head - Form of negation
- Nod head - Form of "yes", or happy things in general
- Eye contact - Recognize someone; you want to talk to them
- Puff cheeks - Also referred to as "pah" (like the noise); shows a far distance or "a lot" (eg. used with the sign: Success!)
- Body shift - shows two different people talking
- Vertical eye gaze - shows a difference in status or height between two people
- To show intensity - squeeze eyebrows, purse the lips tightly; emphasis (hold the sign or pause)

Deaf Organizations:

- NAD - National Association for the Deaf, the largest and most powerful political organization for the Deaf.
- NTID - National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York. Best math/science school for the Deaf.
- RID - Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, the biggest organization of interpreters.

Hearing Loss:

- Decibels (dB) - unit used to measure sound
- 0 to 15 dB loss - Normal
- 15 to 40 dB loss (roughly) - Mild (considered to be "hard of hearing")
- 40 to 60 dB loss (roughly) - Moderate (considered to be "hard of hearing")
- 60 to 80 dB loss (roughly) - Severe (considered to be "hard of hearing")
- 90+ dB loss - Profoundly Deaf



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Types of Hearing Loss:

- Conductive Hearing Loss - damage to the outer or middle ear, it can be repaired and fixed.
- Sensori-neural Hearing Loss - there is damage in the inner ear, more specifically the cochlea or the nerves. It is a permanent loss, unless you get a cochlea implant.

Other Facts:

- English Gloss - a way to represent ASL on paper. Use English words to represent ASL signs in all capital letters.
- TDD (Telecommunications device for the deaf) - communication device used by deaf people to talk on the phone (looks like a typewriter).
- Closest spoken language to ASL: Chinese
- ASL came from France
- Referent - a spot in your signing space to show where a person or an object is
- Dominant hand - the hand you use for most of your signing
- Agent sign - used to change a verb to a noun (Example: if you sign the word "manage", and then put the agent sign after, the sign meaning changes from "manage" to "manager")
- Audiologist - tests your hearing and provides people with hearing aides
- Audiogram - a graph of someone's hearing loss
- Linguists - people who study languages. They've found 18 handshapes, 24 movements, and 12 locations when studying the signs used in ASL
- 35 states have accepted ASL as a foreign language
- Access - learning ASL is all about access



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Easy Way Textbook Additional Exercises and Signs

Going to the Dentist: page 385 – 402

Learn the Master Signs and dialogues.

Practice with classmates. Have one person be the dentist and one person is the patient.

Going to the Doctor: page 403 – 428

- Learn the Master Signs and dialogues.
- Practice with classmates. Have one person be the doctor and one person is the patient.