

*Selected Excerpts from www.lesstutor.com's
Series 1, Introduction to American Sign Language*

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About the Author

Elaine Ernst Schneider entered the classroom as a special education teacher in the 1970's. Since then, she has taught mainstream English Grammar, Literature, music K-12, deaf education, psychology, Algebra, creative writing, social studies, law, and science in both public and private schools. Presently, Elaine is a curriculum author for multiple educational publishers and is the managing editor of Lesson Tutor, a lesson plan website found at <http://www.lesstutor.com>. Her most recent books, *52 Children's Moments* (Synergy Publications) and *Taking Hearing Impairment to School* (JayJo Books and the Guidance Channel) can be found at Amazon.com. She is currently working on a project with Pearson Prentice Hall as an author of an on-line teacher's professional development course for the Council for Exceptional Children.

Introduction: American Sign Language (ASL) vs. Signed English (SE)

When communicating with the hearing impaired, both American Sign Language (ASL) and Signed English (SE) are used. The basic signs for words are the same; however, with Signed English a sign is executed for every word in a sentence whereas American Sign Language seeks to convey a concept. For example, if I were to sign "I have two sisters" in Signed English, I would make a sign for each word. In ASL, I might make the signs for "two" and "sister" and then point to myself, conveying the thought "two sisters, me."

Signed English is used most often in a classroom setting where sentence structure is being emphasized. ASL is used in settings where the focus is on the thought or message. As a classroom teacher of the hearing impaired, I have used both. When I taught science, for example, I used ASL because the point of the lesson was to focus on the science content. However, when I taught reading or English, I used Signed English. Hearing impaired students often have a difficult time writing in complete sentences that utilize tense or in making use of articles, conjunctions, and prepositions. They don't hear it to learn it incidentally, and when we "talk" in ASL, those parts of speech are generally not present. Therefore, Signed English is used to introduce students to sentence structure.

Initialized signs are another tool for teaching as they help students differentiate between words that can be represented by one single sign. For instance, one sign can mean car, bus, or truck. But by using a "C" when car is made, a "B" when bus is made, and a "T" when truck is made, the signer can increase the expanse of vocabulary introduced. Initialization can or cannot be used in ASL, although often it is not. For the purpose of these lessons, signs will be introduced in "families." There is indeed a unit where the signs for family members are introduced using the sentence "I have a sister," "I have a brother," etc. This method seems to best lend itself to an online course.

Please know that when speaking with the hearing impaired, you will likely encounter less sentence structure than this. But, the signs are the same for both ASL and SE, with only a few exceptions. If you learn these lessons, you will be able to communicate. I have hearing impaired friends who use ASL and others who use SE. I adapt my sentence structure depending on the friend I am with.

Choosing a Signed Language

Learning American Sign Language (ASL) or Signed English (SE)

Hello I read your article on website - [lesstutor.com](http://www.lesstutor.com) and have a question. I am totally ignorant of sign language, although as a Spanish HS teacher I believe I have a basic concept of language learning. My grandson is 6 years old, is autistic, has very little speech. His teacher is starting to teach him signed English. The only classes offered in my area (small town rural) are ASL. Is this my best route, do you think? OR would you suggest other - such as an internet site or a book? I am an excellent self learner. Thanks for any input.

Sincerely, K L. October 1, 2004

Dear K,

The use of sign language is becoming more and more popular in teaching language concepts to children who are autistic or have other language processing difficulties because signs provide a "middle" step between brain thoughts and words. In much the same way that teachers encourage autistic children to draw what they are thinking (and I do recommend this also), signs provide a conceptual picture "in the air." A difference does exist between American Sign Language (ASL) and Signed English (SE). I want to point this out more for the benefit of your knowledge, but not so much because I think it will matter which you use with your grandson *in the early stages of signing* except in the choice of initialized signs (I'll explain later.) We have an article at our web site that explains the two signing systems:

<http://www.lesstutor.com/eesASLIntro.html>

At this point in your son's training, I am betting that the teacher is teaching him signs *for words* (as opposed to concepts or phrases) and that is why she has chosen Signed English. She also has probably selected Signed English because the sentence structure is more like spoken and written English. Also, Signed English offers a more extensive dictionary than ASL because they initialize signs to show a difference between similar meanings. For example, when I taught 5th grade science in an inclusion setting, I would have signed the basic concept "land" for "terrain" except that I knew the word "terrain" would be on the test. I initialized the "land" sign with "t" to make sure that the students knew that "t-e-r-r-a-i-n" was the word that would appear on the test - so, I used SE instead of ASL. In that instance, SE fit the need better than ASL.

Most autistic children begin with Signed English. The use of SE can trigger some spoken words and the similarity of the SE sentence pattern reinforces speech. If, however, a child does not respond to SE - if it is too overwhelming - my suggestion is to revert to concepts, (which would mean using ASL.) Again, though, I would agree with the teacher that at a point of early intervention, Signed English is the first method to try. For this reason, I would

Choosing a Signed Language... continued

recommend that you NOT go to any of the ASL classes in your area - you will find them much different from Signed English and you will also find that ASL signers usually do not welcome Signed English - it's an ongoing battle between interpreters and teachers. Interpreters are looking for the fastest way to say something in signs that they are hearing and translating to a hearing impaired audience on the spot, i.e. using concept signing or ASL.

Teachers, however, have a different agenda. As a teacher of the hearing impaired, I vote for Signed English because it enhances written and spoken language. (I do, however, recommend ASL for children who were born profoundly deaf at birth. They have no incidental language stimuli since they have heard nothing since birth, and conceptual thinking is a means to communicate which they otherwise would not have.) All of that I say because I think you would be quickly discouraged in an ASL class setting.

I would recommend a Signed English dictionary. The best one that I know of is [*The Comprehensive Signed English Dictionary*](#) by Gallaudet. Purchase this book and use these signs - one sign for one word - to communicate with your grandson in complete sentences. Speak while you sign. Make the sign at the same time that you say the word so that your grandson will connect the sign with the word. Be consistent. If you are going to use SE, use it all the time. Don't fall back on "home signs" or gestures - use SE for all communication.

Lastly, a few suggestions: I remember my professor in college saying, "Bathe the child in language." You want to use every stimulus that you possibly can to trigger the language recessed in your grandson's mind - use your voice, use your hands, use facial expressions, draw pictures. I would also recommend singing. Children who do not speak often will sing. Try a video tape. You sing along first; then see if he will join in and sing with you. Also try singing "work" songs around the house - things that you can put an action to..."This is the way we sweep the floor" or "this is the way I comb my hair." By doing this, you have added the dimensions of melody and kinesthetic motion because you are singing and using hand motions or acting it out. The brain remembers what is triggered by senses - the more senses you use, the better the connection with the brain. Hang in there. Try everything. Couple all with reinforcement and lots of love.

Sincerely,

Elaine Schneider

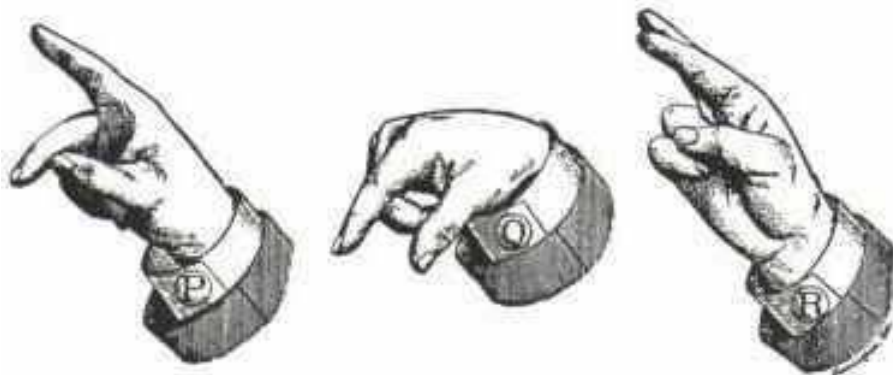
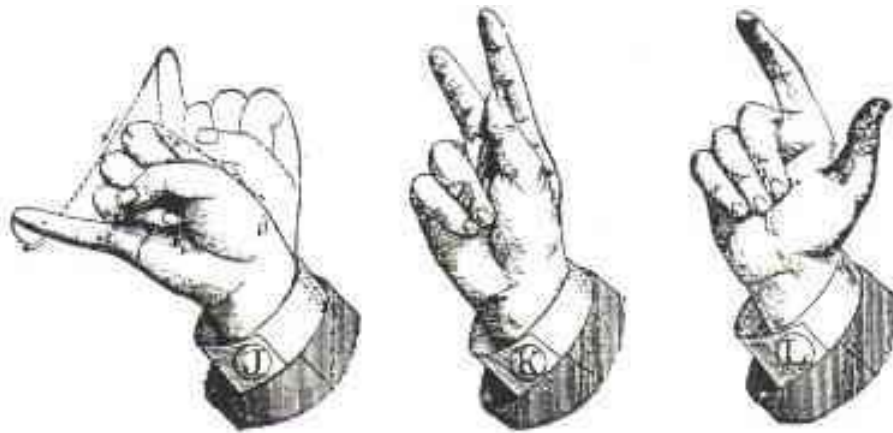
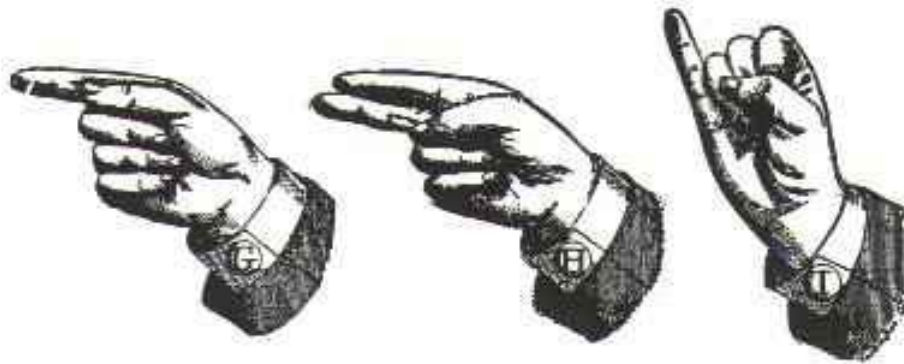
Lesson 1: Fingerspelling the Alphabet

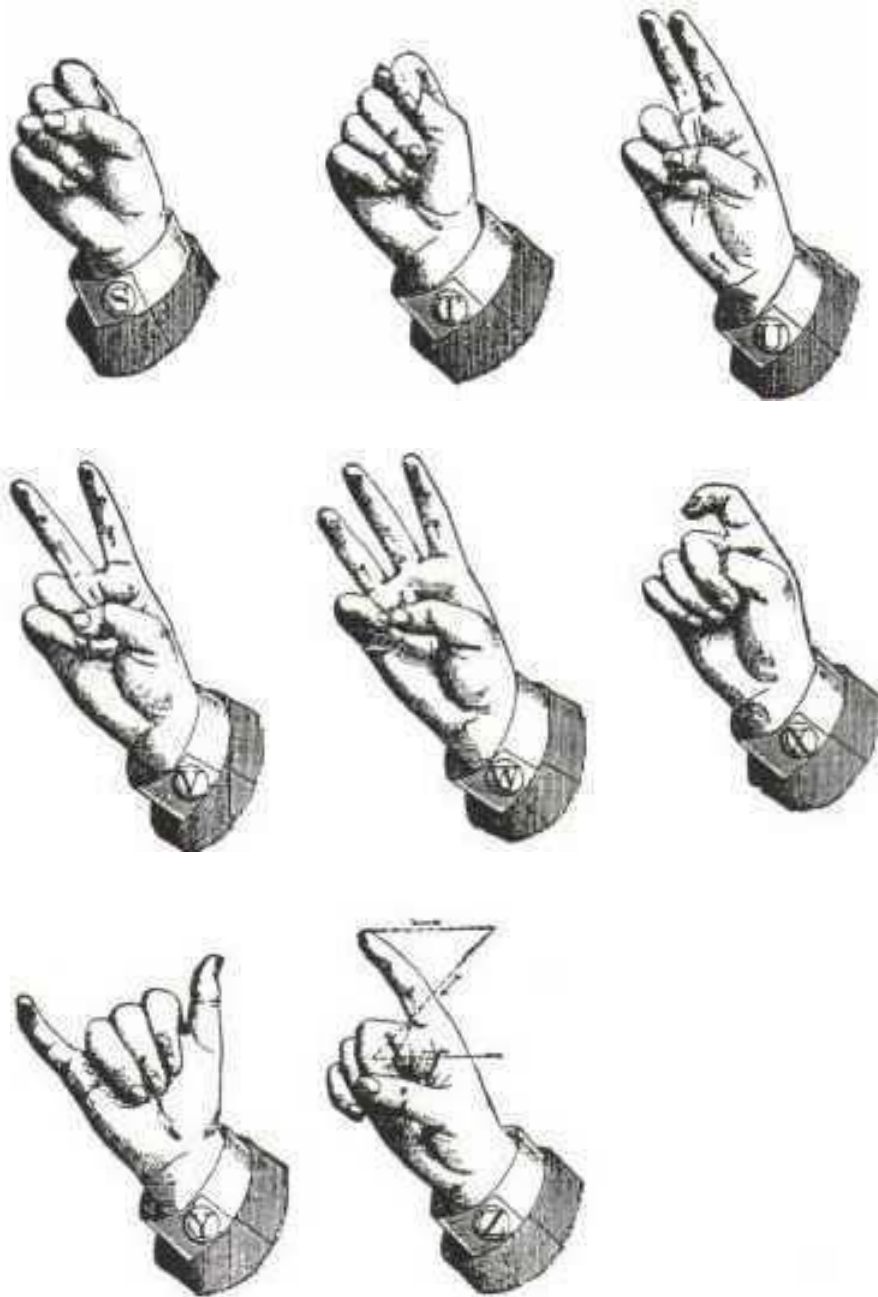
One baby in one thousand is born with a hearing loss so severe that he or she cannot understand speech through hearing alone, even with the use of a hearing aid. These children most often converse through use of Total Communication, which is a combination of American Sign Language (ASL), informal gestures, finger spelling, facial expressions, body language, and spoken words. American Sign Language is the visual/gesturing part of Total Communication, which is the primary means of communication for deaf people in American and most of Canada.

American Sign Language is flourishing and is so extensively used that many colleges, air lines, commercial companies, and educational institutions recognize it as a second language. Some high schools and home school associations accept ASL as a foreign language credit, right alongside Spanish, French, and German. Those who sign can find professional fields in many areas, including science, law, community, and education.

American Sign Language often combines gestures and finger spelling to make a visual expression of language. For example, the same basic sign represents “car” when made with a “c” hand, “taxi” when made with a “t” hand, and “bus” when made with the “b” hand position. Because some signs double for several related words, finger spelling is important when a certain word is to be conveyed and therefore is the first thing to be learned. Below is the sign language alphabet. These pictures were made from engravings by Professor Joseph C. Gordon, M.A., of the Deaf-Mute College. They were first published by Brentino Brothers in 1886. While signs for words have evolved and changed with time (1886 was before the Modern Rocket Age; hence, there was no need then for the gamut of rocket signs available today), finger spelling has remained much as it was in Professor Gordon’s day. Note the alphabet markings that are on the cuff links so that you may easily denote A – Z hand signs.







Assignment: Spell the following words. Work on making the signs clearly. Speed will come later.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. every | 10. instant | 18. splash |
| 2. totally | 11. the | 19. quick |
| 3. saying | 12. faithful | 20. velvet |
| 4. now | 13. bashful | 21. wet |
| 5. time | 14. darts | 22. oxen |
| 6. good | 15. hospital | 23. payment |
| 7. come | 16. joyous | 24. zealous |
| 8. aid | 17. back | 25. pizza |
| 9. artful | | |

Practice for incidental situations:

When you have a moment with no planned activity, spell the things around you. For instance, while you wait for your doctor's appointment, spell desk, chair, television, magazine, door, window, nurse. Such short practices have been shown to be effective learning experiences.

Lesson 2: Welcome. Let's Get Introduced

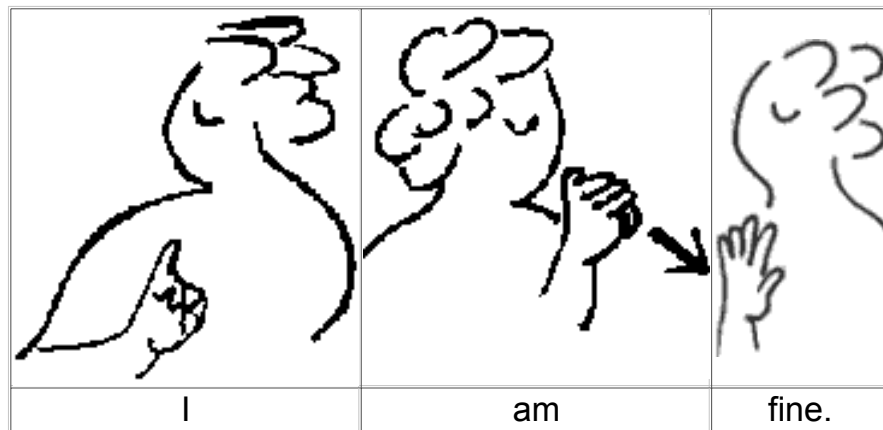
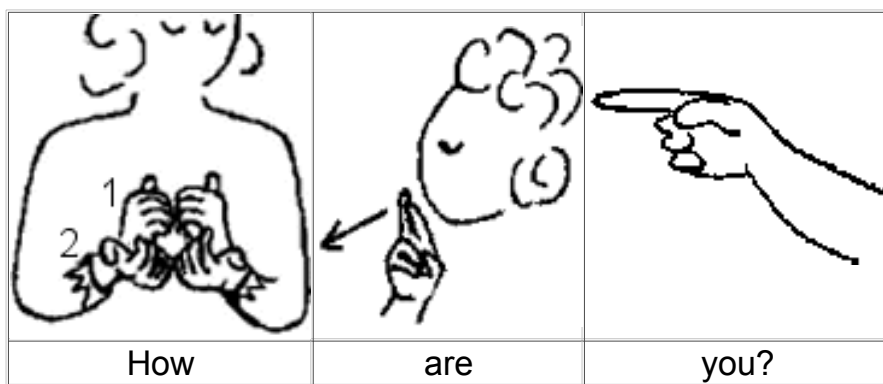
Words




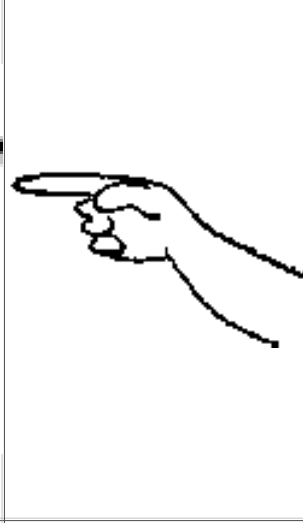
Hello. We come.
 How are you?
 I am fine.
 Who are you?
 I am ... (name).
 Happy to meet you.



Signed English Signs and order of use




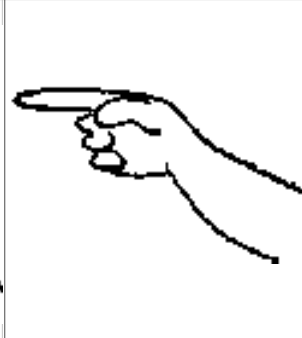
Hello. We come.
 How are you?
 I am fine.
 Who are you?
 I am ... (fingerspell your name).
 Happy to meet you.

Signed English (SE)



			
Who (newer sign)	Who (older sign)	are	you?

		Fingerspell your Name
I	am	

			
Happy	to	meet	you.

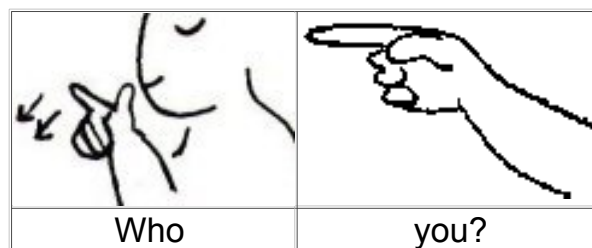
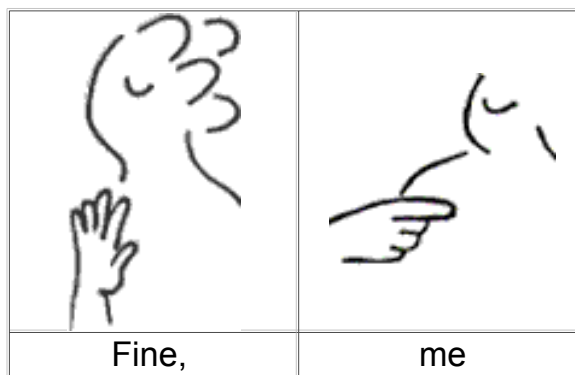
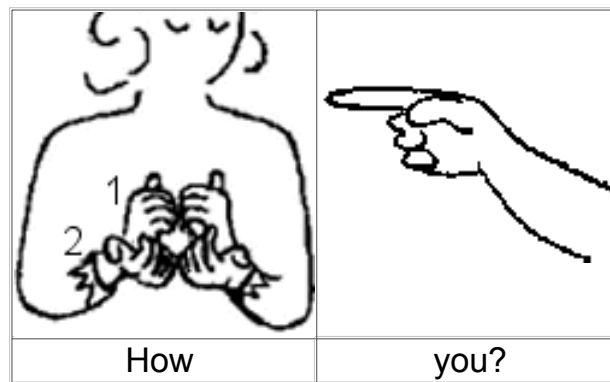
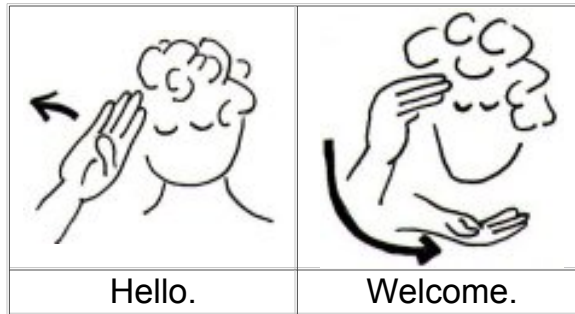
American Sign Language (ASL)


Words



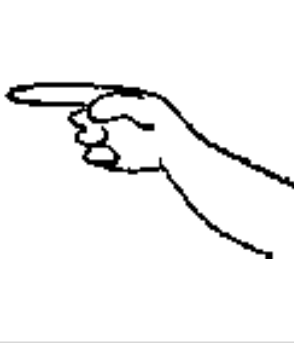
Hello. Welcome.
How are you?
I am fine.
Who are you?
I am ... (name).
Happy to meet you.

ASL Signs in order of use

Hello. Welcome.
How you?
Fine, me.
Who you?
Me... (spell name).
Happy meet you.



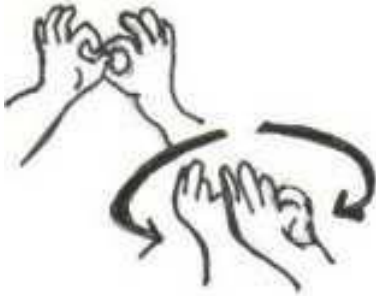
	Fingerspell your Name
Me,	...

		
Happy	meet	you.

<i>Signs</i>	<i>Word Descriptions of Actions</i>
am	Touch touch an "a" hand to the lips and arc forward and upward.
are	Place right "R" hand to bottom lip. Move sign outward, arcing slightly upward.
fine	Touch the thumb of the open right hand (fingers spread) to the center of the chest area.
happy	Touch chest with closed fingers of both hands in a forward circular motion, as if "stirring" emotions of joy.
hello	Place hand on forehead as if to salute (but not as rigid). Move hand outward, ending up with palm facing forward in the air just a few inches from the forehead.
how	Place hands back to back in front of the chest area, hands slightly bent, palms downward. Knuckles will slightly touch. Revolve hands in and then upward until hands end in a position where palms are flat and turned upward.
I, me (ASL)	Point to self, touching the center of the chest.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest
meet	Bring "d" hands together, palm to palm.
to	Move the right index finger to touch the left index finger.
welcome	Using a right "w" hand, touch the forehead and then the middle of the chest, arcing the movement to indicate that you are welcoming someone to you.
who	Place the right "L" hand on the chin, touching with the thumb. Slightly move the index finger twice.
you	Point in the direction of where someone is located. If no one is there, point to an "imaginary" person.

Lesson 3a: Family

The family is an important unit in someone's life. Special signs indicate familial relationships. There is a sign for family. Then there are signs for mother, father, sister, and brother – even baby. Let's learn these signs:



Family



Father



Mother



baby



sister



brother

Now let's learn the signs for 'has' and 'have.'



"S" Hands for 'HAS'
(SE)



"V" hands for 'HAVE'
(SE)



Have (ASL)

Sign	Description of Action
baby	Cradle an imaginary baby in arms, the right arm lying on top of the underside of the left arm.
brother	Use the right hand to touch the forehead with the index finger. Then bring the index fingers of both hands together, palms facing down and fingers facing forward, touching them twice to indicate sameness.
father	Place the thumb of right open hand (fingers spread) in middle of forehead.
has (SE)	"S" hands rest on chest to indicate possession.
have (ASL)	Place fingertips of both hands, palms bent back toward wrists, on the chest to indicate possession.
have (SE)	Place "V" fingers of both hands on the chest to indicate possession.
mother	Place the thumb of right open hand (fingers spread) in middle of chin.
sister	Using a right "d" hand, touch the right cheek near the mouth. Then bring the right "d" hand down to meet the left "d" hand, palms down and fingers pointing forward, touching them twice to indicate sameness/similarity.

Lesson 3b: Describing Eye and Hair Colors

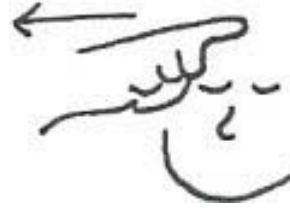
American Sign language (ASL) relies heavily on descriptive signs to indicate which specific person is being talked about. This includes eye and hair color. Let's learn these signs:



eyes



hair



"B" hand on brow
black



"B" hand brown



"R" hand red



"B" blue



"G" hand green



white

Sign	Description of Action
black	Touch the index-finger side of a right "d" hand to the forehead. Then move it across the forehead, (just above the eyebrows) in a left to right motion.
blue	Slight shake a right "B" hand as you hold it to the right of the body.
brown	Draw a right "b" hand across the right cheek, starting at the right side of the nose and ending at the bottom of the mouth.
eyes	Point to eyes with right hand.
green	Slightly shake a right "g" hand.
hair	Using the index finger and thumb of the right hand, grasp a lock of hair.
red	Touch a right "d" hand to the lips, glancing the top and then the bottom lip in a downward motion.
white	Touch all fingertips and thumb of an open and slightly curved right hand to the chest. Move the hand forward, while closing it so that the fingertips touch about eight inches in front of the chest.

Assignment:

Make a family mobile. Choose family photos or cut out pictures from magazines that represent family members. Punch a hole in the top of each picture and attach pictures to a coat hanger using yarn. Prepare a description of each family member using the ASL sign from this lesson. For example: Mother has blue eyes. Father has black hair.

Lesson 4: Numbers 1 - 10

Let's count!



1 one



2 two



3 three



4 four



5 five



6 six



7 seven



8 eight



9 nine



10 ten

Practice these numbers:

5, 7, 8, 10

Now practice these combinations:

33, 45, 89, 75

For the number one hundred, think about Roman numerals! "C" is used for hundreds. It is used for hundreds in American Sign Language as well. Sign "1 C" and you have signed one hundred. Sign "4 C" and you have signed four hundred.

Practice, practice!

Supplementary Lesson on Numbers

January 1, 2003

I had to write to let you know how much I love your sign language lessons. They have been helping me so much.

There are a few of the signs that I do not understand (white – due to the graphics) but the one thing I am having the most difficulty with is the signing of numbers above 10. I do not know how to combine the hand movements to make 33. Should I first make the ten sign and then the 3 or the 3 and then the 10 sign followed by a 3 again? I would appreciate clarification on this aspect if you have the time to explain.

Thanks again for such a wonderful free resource. I am thankful for all your hard work.

Angela Johnston

Dear Angela,

Numbers are tricky! After ten, there are signs for 11 and 12. Then after I get you through 12, I'll explain about the "10 plus" signs that apply to 13 - 18.

11 - Make an "s" hand, palm turned upward. "Flick" the index finger out. The "s" hand represents a "bundle" of ten and when you flick out the index finger, you are adding one to the ten bundle.

12 - Same as 11, but flick two fingers, i.e. the bundle of ten plus 2.
NOW - 13 - 15 can be done in one of two ways. Since you asked and since you are really focusing on numbers, I want to tell you a way that we don't cover on Lesson Tutor but that is also an alternative.

13 - Make an "s" hand, palm turned upward, just like you did for 11 and 12, but this time, hold out the two index fingers and the thumb. Wiggle your two fingers twice. That represents the bundle of ten plus two fingers, plus the thumb.

14 - Make an "s" hand, palm turned upward, but hold out the four fingers. (Keep thumb tucked in.) Wiggle the four fingers. This represents the bundle of ten plus four fingers.

NOW - You can also make 13 and 14 another way. You can do the "ten plus" way. You make the sign for 10 (an "a" hand held with the palm facing left and the thumb on top.) You don't hold this sign for long. You quickly twist the wrist so that the palm is turning outward; and while you do this, you change into the sign for 3. This shows 10 plus 3, or 13. The same thing works with 14. You start with the sign for 10, palm facing left. Then twist so that the palm will end up facing outward and change your fingers while you twist so that you end up with four fingers showing.

Supplementary Lesson on Numbers Continued

NOW (I keep saying that, huh?) Regardless of which style you choose for 13 and 14, the numbers 15 - 19 are all done in the 10 plus fashion. There are some regional differences (for instance, when I taught deaf education in Texas, they had a 'quick' way to do 15 - 19) but the most universal is to do the 10, twist the wrist, and end with the appropriate number, 5 for 15, 6 for 16, 7 for 17, 8 for 18, and 9 for 19.

NOW - Let's keep going. The sign for 20 is to make an "s" hand with the right hand, palm facing downward, but with the thumb and index fingers free. Tap the ends of the index finger and thumb twice to indicate two sets of ten.

21 - Make an "L" hand and turn the palm toward the left. It should look like a little water gun. Cock the trigger of your thumb by wiggling the thumb twice. This is to indicate 2 tens (that's why you move the thumb twice) plus one (indicated by the index finger.)

After that, the signs are easier. You make the sign for "two" for the twenties, the sign for "three" for thirty, etc. You asked exactly how to do this, so let me make a few suggestions. For 33, for example, make the three once in front of you; then move it in the air just a little to the right. You don't refashion the three - it just stays open. You show that there are two 3's by moving the hand left to right in front of you. Think of it as number columns, like when you teach children math - you have the ones columns, the tens columns, the hundreds column. You "make" those in the air space in front of you. If I were to sign Room 258, I would make the sign for "room," then make a 2, 5, and 8, moving the numbers left to right.

I hope this helps. Do you have a good sign dictionary? The Perigee Visual Dictionary of Signing by Butterworth and Flodin is my favorite and it has an extensive treatment (including pictures) of numbers in the front of the book. You can order it through Lesson Tutor by clicking on this link: [Click HERE](#)

I think you'd find a hundred other uses for the dictionary - it's a wonderful, wonderful book. At the back, it lists sign synonyms - words that are related closely enough in visual conception that you'd use the same sign for them. And you'll absolutely love the section on numbers!

Keep Smiling and Signing,
Elaine Schneider
schoolmarm@lesstutor.com

Lesson 5: "I can..."



I (SE)



can



I (ASL)



sing



cook



learn



read



study



teach



work



sign

Sign	Description of Action
can	Hold "a" hands in front of the chest area, thumbs pointing upward. Move both hands down firmly together, stopping at the waist.
cook	Place the palm side of the right hand in the upturned palm of the left hand. Then turn the right hand over, resting the back side of the right hand in the left palm. Note: the sign is to suggest turning food over in a frying pan, for example, flipping a pancake.
I (ASL)	Point to self, mid chest.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest.
learn	Gently touch the fingers of the right "and" hand to the left upturned palm. Move the right hand to the forehead, as if transferring information from the hand to the brain.
read	Move a right "v" hand downward across a left open palm.
sign	Using "d" hands, rotate in a circular motion toward the body. Hands should not be parallel - keep one hand up when the other is down and vice versa.
sing	Wave right flat hand in the crook of the left arm.
study	With right open fingers pointing toward the open palm of the left hand (left palm facing right, fingers closed), wiggle fingers slightly. Note: Some signers also move the right hand back and forth a short distance from the left hand, to indicate pouring over the same material again and again.
teach	Hold closed hands, palms facing outward and fingers touching thumbs, in front of the body, leaving about six inches between hands. Open and close hands twice to indicate the imparting of information.
work	Tap the right "s" hand on the back of the left "s" hand.

Lesson 6: "I will..."



I (Signed English)



will



go



I (ASL)



phone



dance



sit



sleep



stand



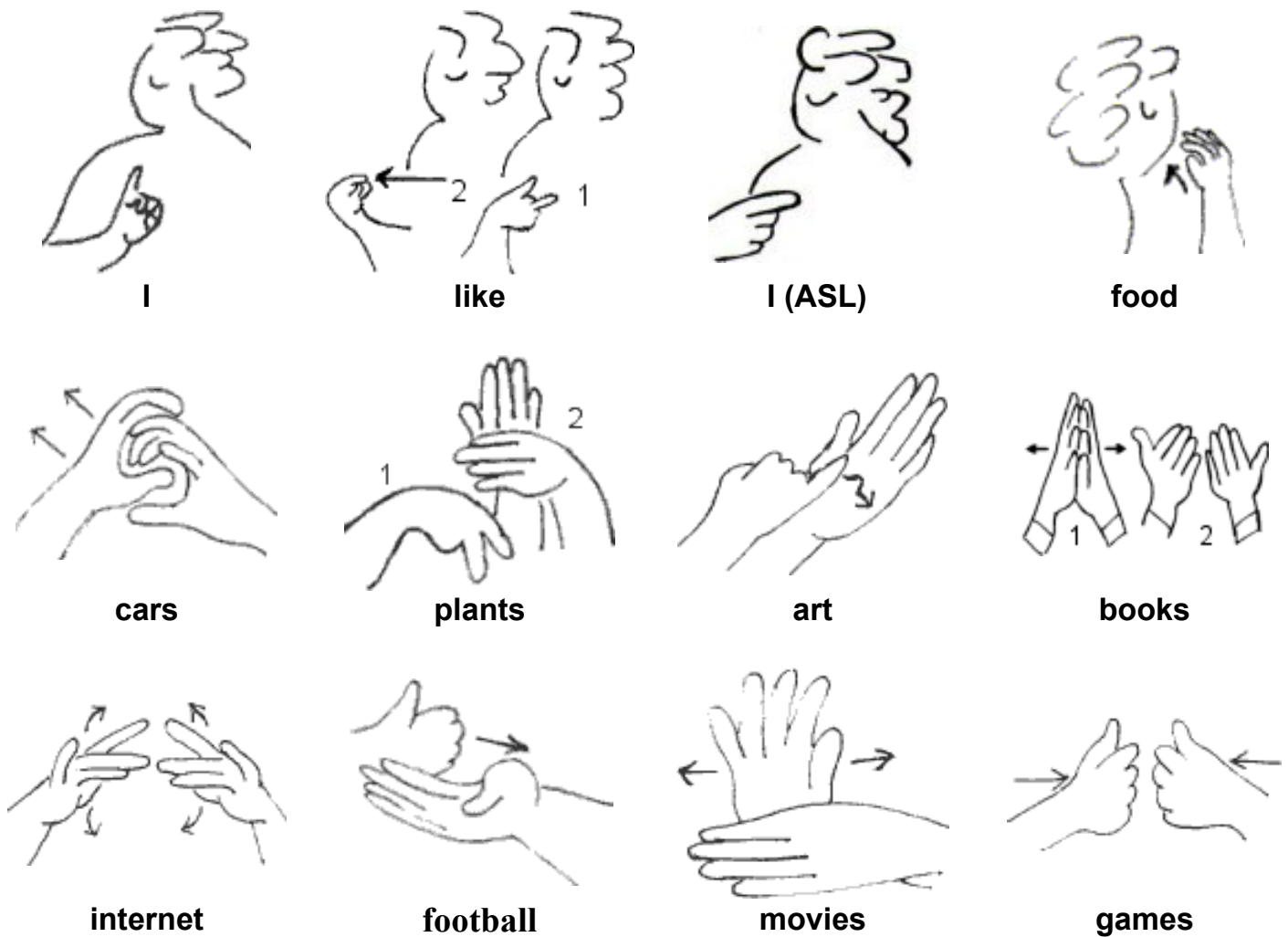
with



by, near

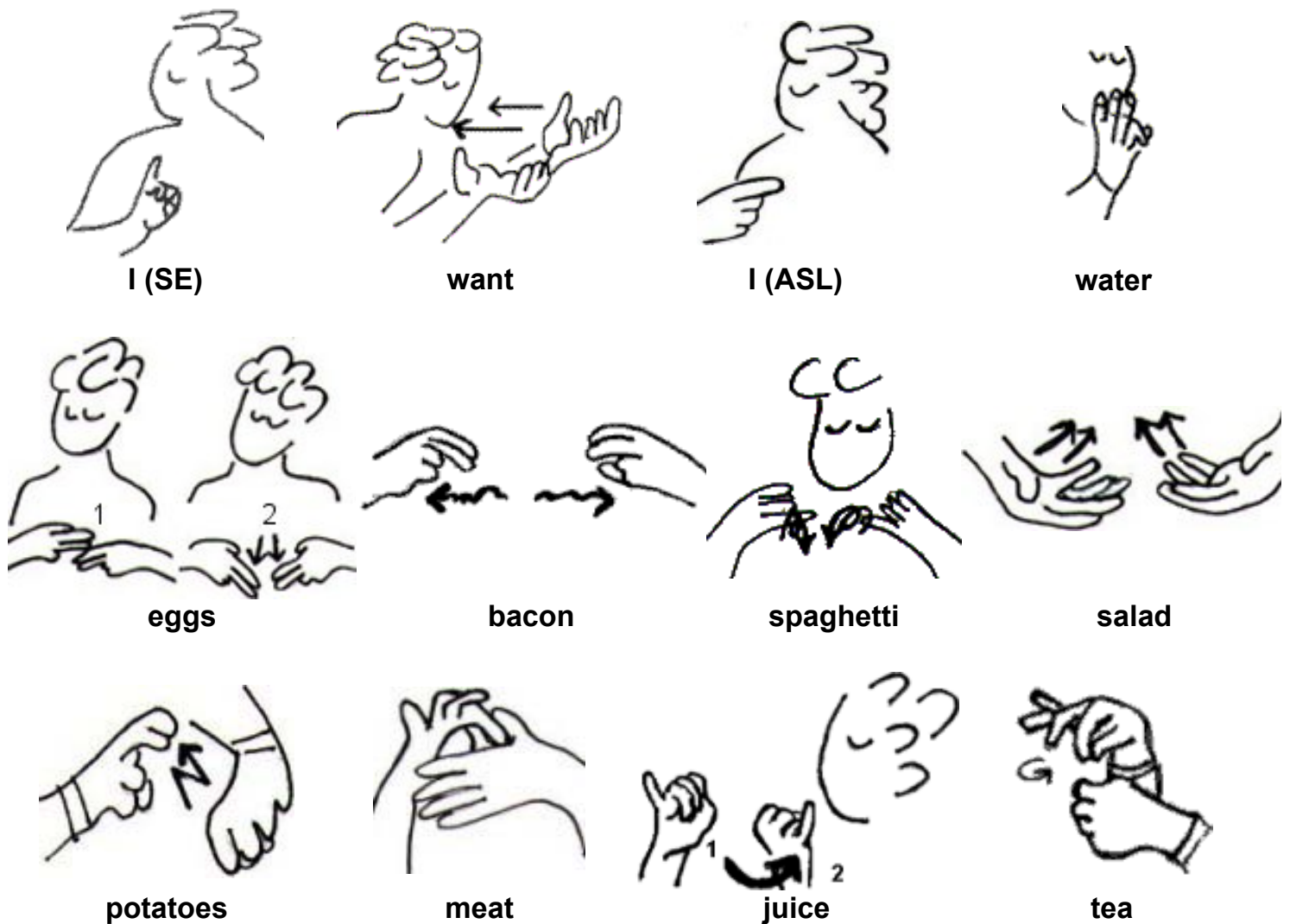
Sign	Description of Action
by	Touch the back of a slightly curved left hand (palm facing inward) with the palm of the slightly curved right hand.
dance	Move the right "v" hand right to left several times, across the upturned palm of the left hand.
go	"G" hand pushes away from the body in front. "Shoo!"
I (ASL)	Point to self, mid chest.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest.
phone	Hold a "y" hand to the side of the head, much as you would a telephone receiver.
sit	Using "h" hands, "sit" the right "h" hand on the top of the left "h" hand, palms facing downward.
sleep	Hold a semi open hand in front of your eyes, then close them gradually as you bring them down, to mimic closing your eyes.
stand	Place a right "v" hand vertically in the left upturned palm of the left hand.
will (verb)	Place the "w" hand on the right side of the face, index finger lighting touching the chin to the right of the mouth. Move hand straight forward, palm facing to the left, as if to indicate a future time that is ahead of you.
with	Bring both hands together as "a" hands, touching palms at the end of the motion.

Lesson 7: " I Like... "



Sign	Description of Action
art	Use a right "i" hand to imitate drawing in the left upturned palm.
books	You don't judge a book by its cover. Palms together, fingertips up, then 'open' your hands, thumbs leading, to display the contents.
cars	"c" hand hovers over left fist, then moves up imaginary steering column of car
food	Using the right hand, touch fingers to thumb and move in a motion toward the mouth, as if taking food to the lips.
football	Push a right "a" hand (thumb turned upward) outward twice across the left upturned palm of the left hand, as if kicking the football out of the left hand.
games	Slightly touch the knuckles of both "a" hands.
I (ASL)	Point to self, mid chest.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest.
internet	Slightly spread fingers of both hands, palms facing, letting the middle fingers bend forward and almost touch. Turn hands in opposition.
like	Place the right thumb and index finger against the chest as if picking lint from the shirt. Then pull the right hand away from the body, bringing the thumb and index finger together. Note: Some signers use the thumb and middle finger for this sign.
movies	Hold the right hand, fingers spread, slightly behind the left hand, fingers closed and palm down. Move the right hand side to side to indicate film moving through a projector.
plants	Hold a right "p" hand slightly behind the left hand. Draw the right hand upward, rotating the wrist to the rights, and letting the right hand's fingers open, as if a plant is bursting forth through the soil.

Lesson 8: "I want..."



Sign	Description of Action
bacon	Start with "u" hands facing each other about an inch apart. Move hands outward, wiggling the fingers slightly in a wavelike motion to simulate bacon frying.
eggs	Touch "u" hands, the right middle finger resting gently on the left index finger. Then move hands outward and down as if cracking an egg and letting the contents spill into an imaginary bowl.
I (ASL)	Point to self, mid chest.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest.
juice	The letter "j" sign swings wide towards your mouth
meat	Using the thumb and index finger of the right hand, slightly pinch the skin between the thumb and index finger of the left hand.
potatoes	Using a right curved "v" hand, mimic piercing a potato (letting the left "s" hand represent the potato.)
salad	Using curved open hands, palms upward, mimic tossing a salad.
spaghetti	Begin with "i" hands facing each other, about an inch apart. Using the small fingers of the "i" hands, twirl small circles as the hands move outward.
tea	Use the thumb and index finger of the right hand to mimic dipping a tea bag into the left "s" hand which represents a teacup. Slightly rotate the wrist as if "swishing" the tea bag in the hot water.
want	Extend both hands forward, palms up. Move both open curved hands toward the chest several times, as if drawing in the desired object.
water	The letter "W" signed at chin level.

Lesson 9: "I am... "



I (Signed English)



am (SE)



am, is, be (ASL)



smart



happy



tired



fine



sick



sad



excited



alone



wonderful

Sign	Description of Action
am, be, is (ASL)	Using the right "d" hand, touch under the chin and then move forward and outward.
am (SE)	Touch "a" hand to chin and then straight forward, keeping the tilt of the hand sideways, palm facing to the left.
alone	Make a right "d" hand and turn the back of the hand outward. Make one circular rotation, right, forward, left, and then back to the starting position.
excited	Using both middle fingers, touch the chest alternately in a forward and upward motion, as if "stirring up" emotions.
fine	Touch the thumb of the open right hand (fingers spread) to the center of the chest area.
happy	Touch chest with closed fingers of both hands in a forward circular motion, as if "stirring" emotions of joy.
I (ASL)	Point to self, mid chest.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest.
sad	Spread fingers and place hands several inches in front of the face, palms in . Move hands in a downward position to indicate a flow of tears.
sick	Middle fingers, both hands, point to head (right) and chest (left) at the same time.
smart	Touch a right "d" hand to the forehead; then move the "d" hand outward with a "saluting" motion. The wrist will rotate so that when the sign is finished, the palm faces outward.
tired	Place fingertips of bent "c" hands on upper chest. Move hands in a downward motion, pivoting the hands so that each finger touches the chest as the hands rotate into the final position where fingertips point upward, no longer touching the body.
wonderful	Hold open hands, palms facing outward, near the sides of the face. Move hands up and forward several times. Note: Some signers use spread fingers; others close the fingers. Either is acceptable.

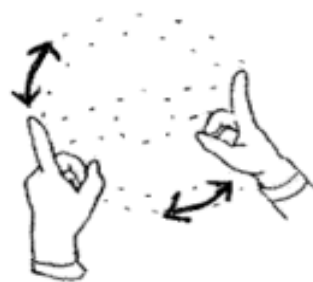
Lesson 10: "I can drive to..."



I (SE)



can



drive



to



the



lake *N.B. view from top



mountain



store



house



town



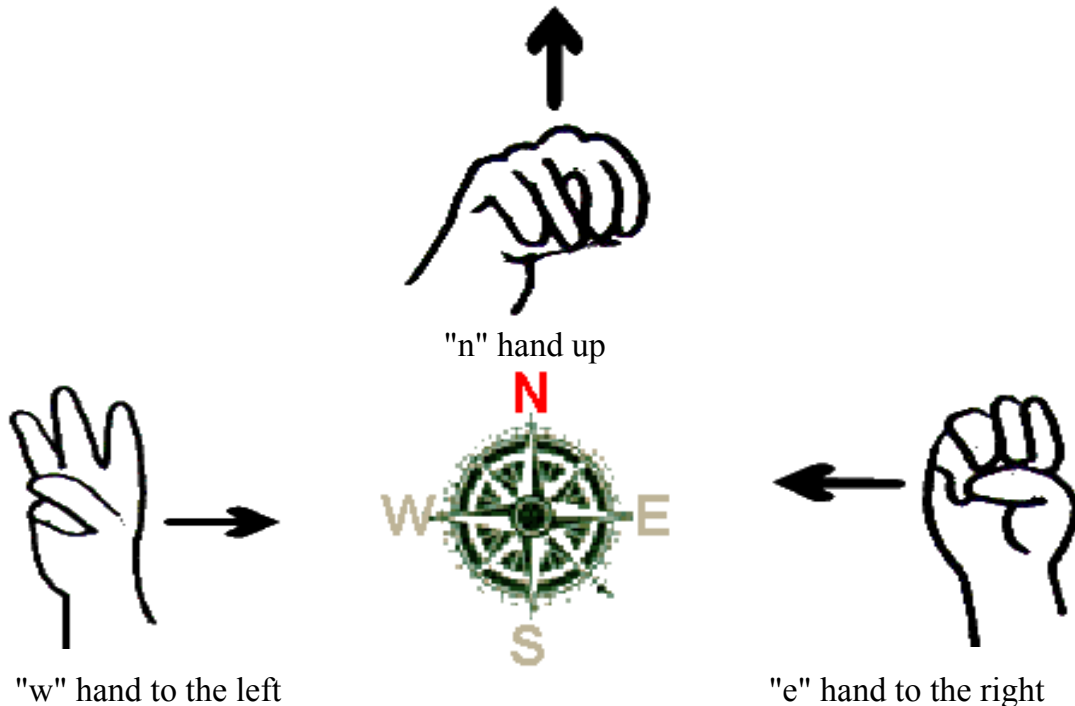
bank



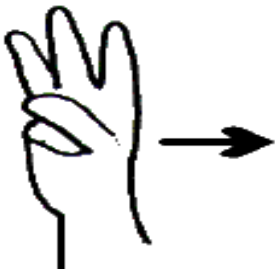
church

Sign	Description of Action
bank	Make a left "c" hand. Then gently push the right open hand (palm down, fingers closed) through the space created by the "c" as if depositing money in a bank vault.
can	Hold "a" hands in front of the chest area, thumbs pointing upward. Move both hands down firmly together, stopping at the waist.
church	Make a left "s" hand and hold it with the palm facing downward. Place a right "c" hand on the back of the left hand. Note: The sign symbolizes that the church is set on the rock.
drive	Hold an imaginary steering wheel with "D" fingers extended and following the curve of the wheel. Make small turns of the wheel left and right.
house	Hold open hands (fingers together) in front of body with palms facing. Touch the fingertips to create a rooftop. Note: Some signers continue the image by moving the hands downward to trace the walls.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest.
lake	Touch the thumbs of "L" hands held palm down in front of chest. With "L" hands, draw a circle, moving the hands outward and then forward, touching thumbs again when the circle meets further in front of the body.
mountain	Touch the thumb of the closed right "s" hand to the back of the closed left "s" hand (this is the sign for "rock"). Then move both open hands, palms facing outward, upward in front of the body, as if outlining the side of an imaginary mountain.
store	Touch fingertips and thumbs of both hands held slightly in front of the body. Then move hands forward twice as if dispensing money across a sales counter.
the	Make the "t" sign with the right hand, letting the hand face palm forward. Then rotate hand inward in a semi-circle so that the palm faces inward.
to	Move the right index finger to touch the left index finger.
town	Make 'house' sign; touch fingers 3 times, like 3 houses.

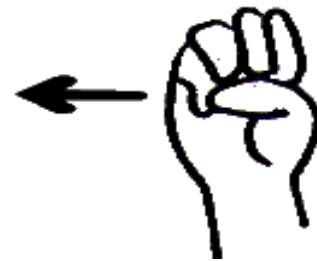
Lesson 10 Supplement: Signs for Giving Directions



"n" hand up

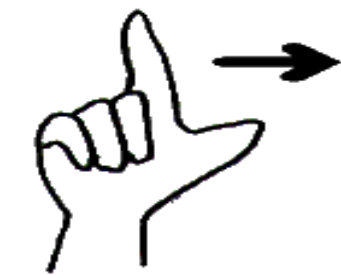


"w" hand to the left



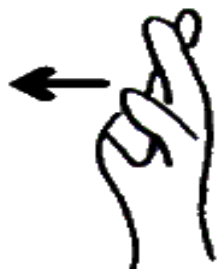
"e" hand to the right

"s" hand down



left

"L" hand to the left.



right

"R" hand to the right.



go

"G" hand pushes away from the hand in front. "Shoo!"



stop

Bring right "b" hand down firmly to a perpendicular position on the extended left palm. The "little finger" side of the right hand touches the palm of the left hand.

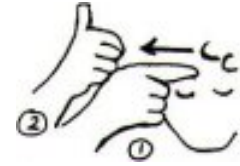
Lesson 11: Conjunctions and Introducers



and



but



because



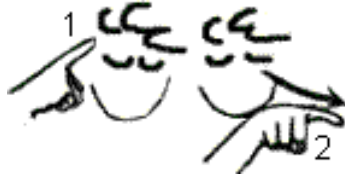
or



while



when



for



since



if

Sign	Description of Action
and	Hold right hand in front of the chest with palm facing in and fingers pointing left. Move right hand to the right of the body, closing the fingertips and thumb together during the gesture.
because	Move right index finger across forehead, left to right, ending in an "a" hand just to the right of the face.
but	Cross "d" hands (palms down); then draw them apart, ending with "d" hands pointing outward on both sides of the body.
for	Using the right hand, touch the right side of the forehead with the index finger. Then move the index finger out and up. The index finger should end in a position that is pointing outward and slightly up.
if	Touch the right "i" hand to the right side of the forehead.
or	Point the index finger of the left "L" hand to the right in front of the chest area. Using a right "o" hand, touch the left thumb and then the end of the left index finger.
since	Touch both index fingers of "d" hands to the right shoulder, palms down. Move hands up and over (actually running the index fingers up the chest a few inches) and then forward into the space in front of the shoulder. Hands will end palms up, with index fingers pointing outward.
when	Hold the left "d" hand in front of body, palm up. The right index finger moves in a clockwise motion around the left, then rests on the left index finger to symbolize the element of time.
while	Touch "w" hands to either side of the body. Move both hands forward simultaneously.

Lesson 12: Pronouns



I (Signed English)



I (ASL)



you



it



he (used in Signed English)



she (used in Signed English)



we



they



mine



us



our



your/yours

Sign	Description of Action
he	Touch an "h" hand to the forehead and "salute," turning the "h" hand slightly so that the hand finishes palm facing outward.
I (ASL)	Point to self, mid-chest.
I (SE)	Touch the "i" hand to the center of the chest.
it	Touch the right "i" hand once on an open (palm facing upward) left hand.
mine	Place the right palm (fingers pressed together) against the chest, as if holding something you own close to you.
our	With cupped right hand, touch the right shoulder with the thumb side of the hand; then rotate the hand in front of the chest to touch the left shoulder with the little finger side of the right hand. The movement is meant to indicate that all belonging to "us" - the signer and the observer - is being scooped in as "ours."
she	Touch an "s" hand to the right side of the chin and make a "salute" motion (salute from the chin instead of the forehead) turning the "s" hand slightly so that the hand finishes palm facing outward.
they	Hold an open right hand (fingers closed, palm upward) in front of the body and then move the hand to the right (as if indicating where people are seated or standing.) Note: Some signers use the index finger rather than the open hand.
us	Using the right "u" hand, touch the right shoulder and then the left.
we	Using the right "w" hand, touch the right shoulder and then the left.
you	Point in the direction of where someone is located. If no one is there, point to an "imaginary" person.
your/yours	Hold right palm outward.








American Sign Language (ASL) Alphabet Worksheet: Crossword

A crossword puzzle grid consisting of empty rectangular boxes. The grid is composed of the following numbered starting points:









- 1:** A single box at the top right.
- 2:** A vertical column of two boxes on the left side.
- 3:** A vertical column of three boxes in the upper middle.
- 4:** A horizontal row of three boxes, with the first box directly below box 1.
- 5:** A horizontal row of five boxes on the left side.
- 6:** A vertical column of three boxes, starting from the second box of row 5.
- 7:** A vertical column of three boxes in the middle.
- 8:** A horizontal row of four boxes, with the first box to the right of box 7.
- 9:** A horizontal row of six boxes in the lower middle.
- 10:** A vertical column of four boxes on the right side.
- 11:** A horizontal row of four boxes, with the first box to the left of box 10.
- 12:** A horizontal row of four boxes in the lower middle.
- 13:** A vertical column of three boxes, starting from the second box of row 12.
- 14:** A horizontal row of four boxes in the lower middle.

American Sign Language (ASL) Alphabet Worksheet: Crossword

Across

4. 
5. 
7. 
9. 
11. 
12. 
14. 

Down

1. 
2. 
3. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
10. 
13. 

American Sign Language: Alphabet Worksheet:
Word Search - Summertime Fun

M	D	T	R	I	P	T	A	O	B	F	A
O	A	B	M	C	O	I	A	D	O	L	L
O	E	R	O	F	D	G	C	H	N	I	K
N	S	H	S	T	N	A	I	N	F	E	S
L	S	G	Q	H	M	S	W	E	I	S	U
A	E	W	U	P	M	N	J	N	R	C	D
Z	H	J	I	B	K	A	L	T	E	N	T
Y	C	N	T	M	C	C	L	X	M	N	O
P	T	R	O	K	S	K	T	L	T	U	V
W	A	T	E	R	W	R	X	Y	O	G	F
H	M	T	S	T	A	R	S	D	Q	W	E
B	A	Z	N	E	E	R	C	S	N	U	S
S	T	A	R	G	A	Z	I	N	G	C	S

American Sign Language: Alphabet Worksheet: Word Search - Summertime Fun



American Sign Language Alphabet Worksheet: Crossword Answers

														1 g		
2 z							3 q						4 n	o	w	
e							u							o		
5 b	a	s	k	e	6 t		a			7 c	o	8 m	e	d	y	
r					i		i			o		a				
a					m		n			u		n				
				9 w	e	s	t	e	r	n		n				10 h
										t		11 e	x	t	r	a
					12 j	a	s	13 p	e	r		r				p
								e		y						p
								a								y
					14 e	v	e	r	y							
								l								

Across

- 4. now
- 5. basket
- 7. comedy
- 9. western
- 11 extra
- 12 jasper
- 14 every

Down

- 1. good
- 2. zebra
- 3. quaint
- 6. time
- 7. country
- 8. manner
- 10 happy
- 13 pearl

American Sign Language: Alphabet Worksheet: Word Search Hints

M		T	R	I	P	T	A	O	B	F	
O	A		M		O	I	A		O	L	L
O		R	O		D		C	H	N	I	K
N	S		S	T	N	A		N	F	E	S
	S	G	Q	H	M	S	W	E	I	S	U
	E	W	U	P	M	N	J	N	R	C	D
	H			B		A		T	E	N	T
	C		T	M	C	C	L	X			
	T		O	K		K	T	L			
W	A	T	E	R		R			O		
	M	T	S	T	A	R	S			W	
			N	E	E	R	C	S	N	U	S
S	T	A	R	G	A	Z	I	N	G		S

ANTS

BOAT

BONFIRE

BUGS

CAMP

DAWN

DUSK

EXTRA

FLIES

HAT

LIFEJACKET

MARSHMALLOWS

MATCHES

MOON

MOSQUITO

PICNIC

SNACK

STARS

STARGAZING

SUNSCREEN

SWIM

TENT

TRIP

WATER

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- **Preschool - K Songs** Adapted for ASL
- **O Canada!** Adapted for ASL
- **The Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America** Adapted for ASL Signs
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- **Girl Guide Promise and Law** Adapted for ASL Signs
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- **The Lord's Prayer** (SE) and the **10 Commandments** (ASL)
- **23rd Psalm** Adapted for ASL
- **Amazing Grace** Adapted for ASL
- **Easter Songs** Adapted for Signs
- **I'll Fly Away** Adapted for ASL
- **Sunday Songs and Prayers** Adapted for ASL
- **Sunday Songs and Pledges** Adapted for ASL
- **Sign and Sing** a Song for **Christmas Volumes 1, 2, and 3**
- **O Christmas Tree** Adapted for ASL Signs
- **Silent Night** Adapted for ASL
- **What Child is This** Adapted for ASL
- Introduction to ASL for Health Care Professionals