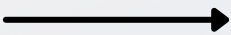




# Exploring American Sign Language and Deaf Culture

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INTRODUCTION TO  
AMERICAN SIGN  
LANGUAGE (ASL)



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UNDERSTANDING ASL,  
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# Introduction to American Sign Language (ASL)

## KEY FEATURES

**Visual Language:** Uses hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions.

**Grammar & Syntax:** Distinct from English.

## DEAF CULTURE

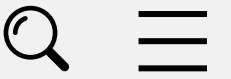
**Core Values:** Community, visual communication, and shared experiences.

**Etiquette:** Maintain eye contact.





# Understanding ASL, Deaf Culture, and Basic Signs



## ASL DEFINITION

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, natural language.

It is primarily used by Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities in the U.S. and parts of Canada.

## DEAF CULTURE VALUES

Core values of Deaf culture include community, visual communication, and shared experiences.

Etiquette emphasizes maintaining eye contact and respectful interaction.

## VISUAL LANGUAGE FEATURES

ASL is a visual language characterized by hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions.

It has distinct grammar and syntax, including non-manual markers.

## HISTORICAL INFLUENCES

ASL was influenced by French Sign Language and American home signing systems.

Key figure Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet played a significant role in its development.

## BASIC ASL GRAMMAR

ASL follows a Subject-Verb-Object structure.

Unique pronoun usage is achieved through pointing and sweeping gestures.

# ASL ALPHABET ILLUSTRATION



## FINGERSPELLING

**Fingerspelling is used to spell out words using hand shapes. It is essential for proper names and specific terms.**

## HAND SHAPES

**Hand shapes are fundamental in ASL for forming signs. Each letter of the alphabet has a unique hand shape.**



# What is ASL?

## ASL FEATURES

**Uses hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions.**

**Includes distinct grammar and syntax.**

## DEAF CULTURE

**Values community and visual communication.**

**Maintains eye contact and respectful interaction.**

## ASL GRAMMAR

**Follows a Subject-Verb-Object structure.**

**Uses pointing and sweeping gestures for pronouns.**



→

# Key Features of ASL

## DEFINITION

**American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, natural language that uses hand movements, facial expressions, and body language to convey meaning.**

## CORE VALUES

**Core values of Deaf culture include community, visual communication, and shared experiences.**

**Etiquette emphasizes maintaining eye contact and respectful interaction.**

## VOCABULARY

**A list of ASL words includes general vocabulary, actions, identity, pronouns, and church-related terms.**

**This list serves as an example of the vocabulary used in ASL.**

# A Brief History of ASL

## INFLUENCES

ASL was influenced by French Sign Language and American home signing systems. These influences contributed to the development of ASL as a distinct language.

## KEY FIGURE

Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet traveled to France and learned from Laurent Clerc, a Deaf educator. His efforts were pivotal in establishing ASL in the United States

## FIRST SCHOOL

The American School for the Deaf was founded in 1817. It was the first school for the Deaf in the U.S., marking a significant milestone in Deaf education.

## LANGUAGE EVOLUTION

ASL developed into a fully rich language over time. Its evolution reflects the cultural and social experiences of the Deaf community.

## DO YOU KNOW?



# Introduction to Deaf Culture

## CORE VALUES

Community is central to Deaf culture, fostering connections among individuals.

Visual communication is essential for effective interaction.

## CULTURAL IDENTITY

Being Deaf (capital D) signifies cultural pride and shared experiences.

The term 'deaf' refers to hearing loss and does not encompass the cultural aspect.

## ETIQUETTE

Maintaining eye contact is crucial during conversations.

Light tapping or waving is an appropriate way to get someone's attention.

## VISUAL COMMUNICATION

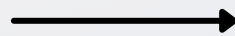
ASL relies on hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions to convey meaning.

Non-manual markers, such as facial expressions, play a significant role in communication.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Participation in Deaf community events strengthens cultural ties.

Sharing experiences and stories enhances understanding and connection.



# ASL Grammar Basics

## WORD ORDER

**ASL follows a Subject-Verb-Object structure. This structure is different from English, which often includes auxiliary verbs.**

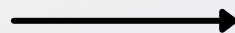
## PRONOUNS

**Pointing gestures indicate he, she, it, and this. Sweeping motions signify plural pronouns such as they, those, and you-all.**

## GESTURES

**Facial expressions and body posture serve as essential non-manual markers in ASL.**





# Activities

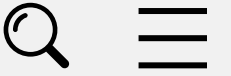
**PRACTICE  
FINGERSPELLING NAMES**

ABC'S

**DRILL NUMBERS**

1 TO 10

# ASL Vocabulary



## GREETINGS

- Thank you
- Nice/Clean
- No
- Yes
- What
- Where
- Who
- Why

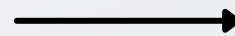
## ACTIONS

- Learn
- Like
- Meaning
- Meet
- Sign
- Slow
- Understand
- Again

## IDENTITY & ROLES

- Deaf
- Hearing
- Student
- Teacher
- Name

# ASL Vocabulary



## PRONOUNS & DEMONSTRATIVES

- He
- She
- It
- Me
- You/this (point)
- They/them/those (sweeping)
- You-all (sweeping).

## CHURCH VOCABULARY

- Church
- Prayer
- Bible
- Worship
- God

## ABC & NUMBERS

- A to Z
- 1-10

# History Lesson

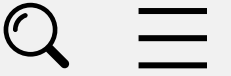
Watch a short video about ASL history

“Preservation” is a two-minute film featuring George W. Veditz, onetime president of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) of the United States, demonstrating in sign language the importance of defending the right of deaf people to their language.

Discuss how ASL evolved and its importance today



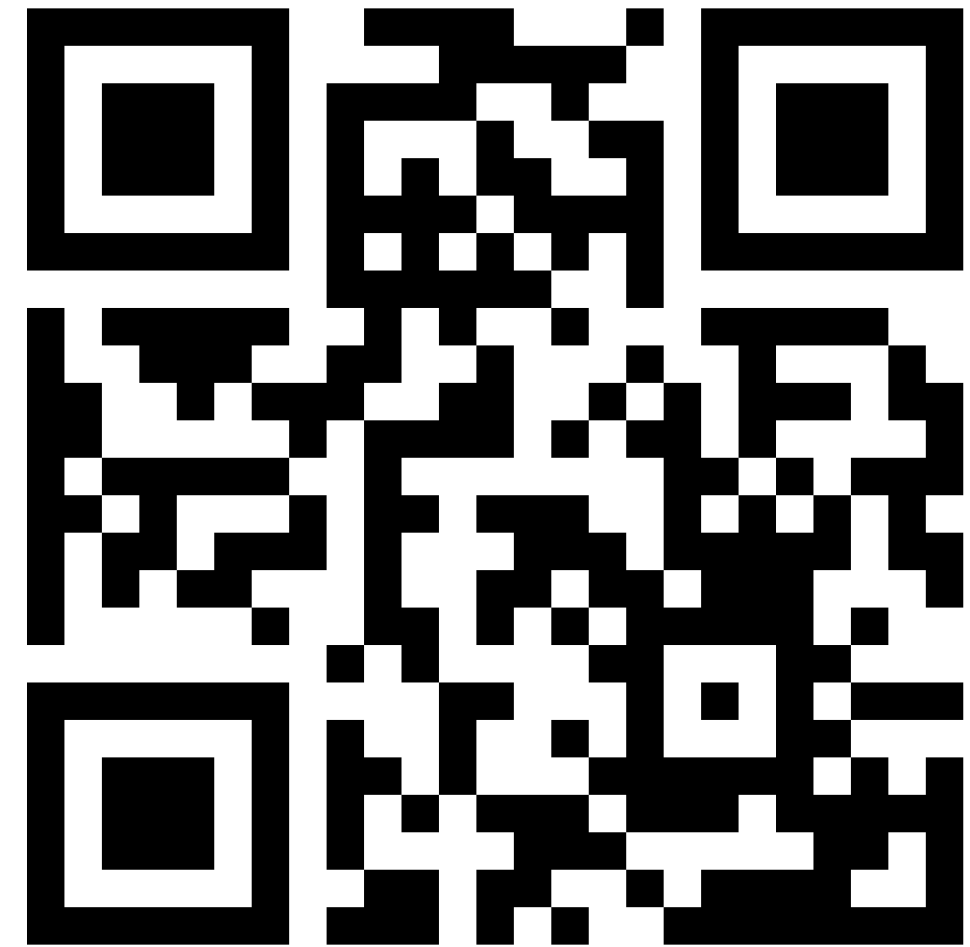




# Materials

- ASL alphabet.
- Numbers 1-10
- Copy Powerpoint
- Links to online resources (e.g., Lifeprint, ASL YouTube videos)
- Flashcards
- Access to short, captioned ASL history videos (Link)

## Our Website





# Contact

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# Thank You