

Spokane

American Sign Language

Study Guide 1

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1 Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide an approximate guideline for the weekly ASL study group. THIS IS NOT WRITTEN IN STONE, MERELY A GUIDELINE. It can easily be changed, modified, tweaked, or disregarded as desired. This varies heavily based on who actually shows up to a session. Sometimes if everyone is more advanced, the more rudimentary parts can be skipped, whereas if there are more novice signers, it is encouraged to cover the basics, and who among the non-natively-signing couldn't use some improvement in reading/receiving finger spelling?

Any parts can be used as much or as little as desired. It also encouraged to add to this document over time. It is planned to post this document as both a PDF and as a wiki page on the website, so that everyone (registered at <http://www.spokaneasl.com>) can add, and modify this document over time. Please feel free to do so!

Currently the following reference materials are regularly being used as guides (please feel free to others):

- <http://www.aslpro.com>
- <http://lifeprint.com>
- <http://handspeak.com>
- A Basic Course In American Sign Language 2nd Edition by T.J. Publishers
- A Basic Course In American Sign Language Student Study Guide by T.J. Publishers
- Learning American Sign Language 2nd Edition Levels I & II by Pearson Education
- Learn American Sign Language – Everything You Need to Start Signing – Complete Beginner's Guide – 800+ Signs, by James W. Guido
- Barron's 500 Flash Cards of American Sign Language by Geoffrey S. Poor.
- Additional resources:
 - <http://spokanehope.org/services/>
 - <https://www.ewu.edu/chsph/programs/communication-sciences-and-disorders/clinic>

1.1 Study Group Schedule

First hour is generally for beginners to intermediates.

Second hour is generally for intermediates and up.

All times are just approximations, it varies greatly on who shows up (and they skill level).

The schedule is given as a guideline for those who wish to show up for specific areas, though it is always best to try to participate for the full 2 hours. The first hour is mostly review/practice, the second hour is usually more social in interaction.

First Hour (All signing levels, *beginners and above*)

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Meet and greet. Introduce each other and “chat” as people arrive. | 5 | 4:00 - 4:05 |
| Warm up with finger spelling alphabet and numbers. | 5 minutes. | 4:05 - 4:10 |
| Then frequently used vocab. | 20 minutes | 4:10 - 4:30 |
| Then one chapter/set of other vocab | 20 minutes | 4:30 - 4:50 |
| Followed by corresponding chapter/set of sentences using that vocab. | 10 minutes | 4:50 - 5:00 |

Optional Second Hour (*intermediates and above*)

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Guided grammar & story time. | 15 minutes | 5:00 - 5:15 |
| Free form story time. | 30 minutes | 5:15 - 5:45 |
| Free form social time. | 30+ minutes | 5:45+ |
| Finish. | | |

2 WARM UP

For those who are not signing on a regular, daily basis, warm up helps not only from the physical aspect of stretching out, but also getting mentally into the mode of signing, this is also a great chance for less experienced signers to ramp up quickly and not feel left in the dark as much during the more “advanced” stages, especially the social hour.

Please note it is usually easier to sign with everyone sitting in a circle or roughly square, rather than a rectangle or scattered around the place. It is even better without tables between participants.

2.1 FINGER SPELLING

Unless signing on a regular daily basis, most people struggle with finger spelling, especially reading someone else's finger spelling at higher speeds.

- Start out with finger spelling the alphabet.
- First begin very slowly especially if any beginners or ASL I level participants.
- Run through alphabet 5 times, each time a little faster. The fifth time is as fast as each person can handle.

It is extremely important that each participant be WATCHING someone ELSE signing rather than themselves or looking off “into space”. It is recommend to be looking at a different person each time through the alphabet to get practice reading different “quirks” to each individuals method of finger spelling.

3 Most Frequently Used Vocabulary

If beginners are in attendance, perform the sign, then finger spell the sign, then verbalize the word, and finally perform the sign one more time. For *intermediate and higher participants*, for each vocabulary word, perform the sign, then finger spell the word, and then perform the sign a second time. If someone does not know the sign, repeat the sign and finger spelling until the everyone understands, do *not* verbalize.

This section provides a list of the more commonly used vocabulary. It is not by any means an exhaustive list of ASL signs, just the most frequently encountered.

3.1 Basic Survival Vocabulary

| | |
|--|--|
| YES | NOTHING (casual (from chin)) |
| NO | NOTHING-TO-IT (it was nothing (small motion of 2 F's or 2 zeroes)) |
| MAYBE | MORE |
| NOT | LESS |
| AND | START |
| HELP [ME] [YOU] | WITH |
| AGAIN | WITHOUT |
| SLOW | TRY |
| PLEASE (open palm on chest) | CAN |
| SORRY ("s" on chest) | CAN'T |
| Cover "WHAT SIGN FOR <finger spell or point>". | FINISH (1 or 2 hands) |
| Or "SIGN FOR-FOR <finger spell or point>" | FINISH (initialized) |
| NICE / CLEAN (adjective) | EXCUSE (me, pardon me) vs. |
| MEET | PARDONED vs. |
| NICE TO MEET YOU | CLEAN/NICE |
| MY NAME... | FROM |
| Then introduce each other in sign language "MY NAME H-A-W-K-E" | |
| Optional, if applicable, sign given NAME SIGN. | |
| THANKYOU | |
| THANK YOU SO MUCH [SINGLE SIGN] | |
| YOU ARE WELCOME [alternate to just THANKYOU] | |
| SPOKANE (S-P) | |
| SEATTLE (S + earthquake) | |
| OKAY (O-K) | |
| GOOD | |
| BAD | |
| BETTER | |
| BEST | |
| INTRODUCE | |
| KNOW | |
| DON'T-KNOW | |
| UNDERSTAND | |
| DON'T UNDERSTAND | |
| FORGET | |
| REMEMBER | |
| RIGHT (correct) | |
| WRONG | |
| ALL | |
| ZERO/NONE/NOTHING (1 zero) | |
| NONE (2 zeroes straight out) | |

3.2 NUMBERS

Practice number spelling from 1 through 30. Then in “Tens” from 30 to 100. Demonstrate both versions of representing hundreds (“C” versus “hooking”). 100 through 300. Below are some sample numbers to run through after counting to the hundreds, you can of course make up any you want:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 67 | FRACTION [9 hand above hand and below hand] |
| 86 | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 98 | $\frac{1}{3}$ |
| 99 | $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| 31 | $\frac{1}{8}$ |
| 25 | $\frac{1}{16}$ |
| 56 | $\frac{1}{32}$ |
| 79 | |
| 81 | PERCENT [zero hand, draw fraction] |
| 97 | |
| 100 | First |
| 1,024 | Second |
| 9,121 | Third |
| 100,053 | Fourth |
| 965,876 | Fifth |
| 1,521,325 | Sixth |
| 189,428,210 | Seventh |
| 1,687,943,121 | Last |
| 998,876,543,321 | |

3.3 Interrogatives

ASK

WHO, WHO

WHAT, WHAT

HUH

WHEN (also vertical variant)

ABOUT

WHERE (waggle)

WHY (WHAT-FOR), WHY-WHY

FOR

FOR-FOR

WHICH

HOW [1 or 2 hands]

HOW MANY/much [1 or 2 hands]

HOW MUCH (Variant)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

3.4 RELATIONSHIPS

Gender & Relatives, Friends, etc.

Clarify about male gender is signed above the nose level & females is below the nose level.

RELATIONSHIP (feely-fingers interlocking)

MALE

FEMALE

CHILD

CHILDREN (polite version)

KIDS/CHILDREN (brats version, swipe & wiggle version)

BOY

GIRL

MAN

WOMAN

FATHER

DAD

MOTHER

MOM

FANCY (vertical or horizontal)

GENTLEMAN

LADY

DATING (to-meet bounced)

MARRIED

HUSBAND

WIFE

SEPARATED (1 finger variant)

SEPARATED (whole hands variant)

DIVORCED (reversed MEET)

PARENTS

GRANDFATHER

GRANDMOTHER

GRANDPARENTS

GREAT (GRANDFATHER/MOTHER)

RIGHT (correct)

BROTHER (boy+right or boy+same (older))

SISTER (girl+right or boy+same (older))

BABY

SON

DAUGHTER

GRANDCHILD ((low) FUTURE + CHILD)

GRANDCHILDREN

GRANDSON

GRANDDAUGHTER (GIRL-GRAND-DAUGHTER)

FRIEND

GOOD FRIEND

BOYFRIEND

GIRLFRIEND

SWEETHEART

AUNT

UNCLE

COUSIN (MALE)

COUSIN (FEMALE)

NIECE

NEPHEW

LAW

BROTHER-IN-LAW, FATHER-IN-LAW, etc...

SISTER-IN-LAW, MOTHER-IN-LAW, etc...

FALSE (STEP/FOSTER)

STEP/FOSTER SON, STEP FATHER, etc...

STEP/FOSTER DAUGHTER, STEP

MOTHER, STEP MONSTER, etc...

HALF (aka SOME)

HALF/BROTHER, SISTER, etc.

ADOPTED (2 variants: hooked fingers

ADOPTED or full hands grabbing

KIDNAP (2 fingers or whole hand over 1 finger)

ROOMMATE

GREW UP

3.5 PRONOUNS

I (considered a bit snooty)

ME (is more common not snooty "I")

YOU

IT (just point to object)

THAT (Y horizontal to object)

THAT-ONE (Y side hand pinky to object)

THIS (finger to palm)

HE (to person)

HE (placed in space)

SHE (to person)

SHE (placed in space)

WE (initialized W)

US/WE (non-initialized (we-all))

US (initialized U)

THE-THREE-OF-US

THE-FOUR-OF-US

EVERYONE (ten hand non-dom, + 1)

EVERYBODY (L + US/WE)

Possessive

MY

YOUR

HIS (to person)

HIS (placed in space)

HERS (to person)

HERS (placed in space)

ITS

OUR

THEIRS

MYSELF

YOURSELF

HIMSELF

HERSELF

OURSELVES

THEMSELVES

3.6 TIME

| | |
|---|---|
| TIME | DINNER (correct ASL sign) |
| BEFORE | DINNER (initialized D) |
| AFTER | SECONDS, 1 SECOND, 2 SECONDS, 3 SECONDS |
| PAST | MINUTES, 1 MINUTE, 2 MINUTES, 3 MINUTES |
| LONG TIME AGO (DISTANT PAST) | HALF HOUR |
| HISTORY (“h” as long time) | HOURS, 1 HOUR, 2 HOURS, 3 HOURS |
| FUTURE | HOURLY |
| LONG TIME FROM NOW (DISTANT FUTURE) | DAY, 1 DAY, 2 DAYS, 3 DAYS |
| TOMORROW | DAILY |
| YESTERDAY (non-initialized & initialized) | DAY BEFORE, 2 DAYS BEFORE/AGO, etc. |
| RECENTLY | DAY FROM NOW, 2 DAYS FROM NOW, etc. |
| MORNING | WEEK, 1 WEEK, 2 WEEKS, 3 WEEKS, etc. |
| NOON | WEEKLY |
| AFTERNOON | 1 WEEK FROM NOW, etc. |
| EVENING | 1 WEEK AGO, etc. |
| NIGHT | MONTH, 1 MONTH, 2 MONTH, 3 MONTH, etc. |
| MIDNIGHT | MONTHLY |
| DAY | YEAR (long version vs. short version) |
| NOW | 1 YEAR, 2 YEARS, 3 YEARS, etc. |
| RIGHT NOW (NOW+NOW) | YEARLY/ANNUALLY, EVERY TWO YEARS, etc. |
| TODAY (NOW_DAY, NOW+NOW) | 1 YEAR AGO / 2 YEARS AGO |
| ALL DAY | 1 YEAR FROM NOW / 2 YEARS FROM NOW |
| ALL NIGHT | OLD |
| LATE | OLDER |
| LATER | VERY OLD (one sign, very long beard) |
| NOT YET (related to LATE) | YOUNG |
| DURING | DIE |
| SINCE | YOUNGER (can't find, anyone know?) |
| EAT | |
| BREAKFAST (correct ASL sign) | |
| BREAKFAST (initialized B) | |
| LUNCH (correct ASL sign) | |
| LUNCH (initialized L) | |

3.6.1 DAYS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY (and then every Monday)
TUESDAY (and then every Tuesday)
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
also TGIF (not finger-spelled)
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

3.6.2 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE (spell out)
JULY (spell out)
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER (spell 4 letters)
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

3.6.3 SEASONS

SPRING (grow)
SUMMER
WINTER (cold)
FALL
WEATHER (W hands back and forth near stomach)
WEATHER (W hands above shoulders, wiggling down)

3.6.4 HOLIDAYS

BIRTHDAY (more appropriate version, less appropriate version)
CHRISTMAS (C rising, other: Santa beard)
EASTER
HALLOWEEN
HANUKAH
THANKSGIVING
4TH OF JULY (jul 4, and I day, and save day)
NEW YEARS (NEW + YEAR)
NEW YEARS EVE (NEW + YEAR + EVENING)
MEMORIAL DAY (REMEMBER + DAY)
LABOR DAY (WORK + DAY)
COLUMBUS DAY (C at head + DAY)
VETERAN'S DAY (FLAG + SALUTE + DAY)

3.7 IMPERATIVES

IMPERATIVE

NEED

MUST

WANT

DONT-WANT

ORDER

REQUIRE

SHOULD (bouncy NEED)

CAN

CAN'T

TRY

START

STOP

FINISHED

NOW

NOW START EAT (start eating now!) (having trouble finding this one now)

COME ON (come on over here)

GO AHEAD (angle hands, thumbs up)

GO ON (GO TO)

WATCH OUT! (one-hand version, and two hand, be careful (watch-careful))

4 ADJECTIVES

4.1 Emotions/Feelings/States of Being

ANNOYED (feely finger to temple, then twist)
ANXIETY (5 hands out wiggling)
ANXIOUS (nervous squirming in chair)
AWAKE
AWKWARD (unsteady on feet)
BLUSH (RED then hook hands to face)
BORED
BOTHER (chop to web of hand between thumb and forefinger)
CUTE
HAPPY
SAD (both hands)
CRY (one hand)
ANGRY/FURIOUS (RIP OUT GUTS)
MAD/GRUMPY/CRANKY (hand to face, scrunch)
CRABBY (crab past face)
NERVOUS (one nervous leg)
SLEEPY
TIRED
UGLY
WEAK (full hand)
PROUD
SCARED
UPSET
CONFUSED (puzzled one hand, and head to mixer 2 hand)
SHY
EMBARRASSED (main version, both 5-hands going up)

RED-FACED (with embarrassment)
(moving/rotating embarrassed)
<http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/e/embarrassed.htm>

SERIOUS
LAUGH (pointing to smiling lines)
BELLY-LAUGH
FUNNY
FUN
HA-HA-HA
HUNGRY
FULL (appetite example)
FULL (garbage can full example, sign toward self)
ENOUGH (away from self)
FAVORITE
WORRIED
HATE
DETEST (puke it out)
EXCITED
SICK
PAIN
MOST

4.2 COLORS

BRIGHT

DARK

RED

PINK

GREEN

BLUE

YELLOW

GOLD/CALIFORNIA/BLONDE

WHITE (2 forms, one from chest only, other from chest, then up to face)

BLACK

GREY

ORANGE

PURPLE

BROWN

TAN

4.3 DIRECTIONS

NORTH

SOUTH

EAST

WEST

LEFT

RIGHT

UP (initialized and non-initialized (point up))

DOWN (initialized and non-initialized (point down))

HERE (don't confuse with WHAT)

4.4 LOCATIONS

SPOKANE (S-P)

SEATTLE

TACOMA (also means TOILET)

WASHINGTON STATE (W spiral out, plus STATE)

Couer d'Alene (CDA?)

BOSTON (B hand in 7 motion)

TEXAS (X hand in 7 motion)

VACATION (wiggly hands, thumbs hooked in suspenders)

RETIRED (R hand shape, thumbs hooked in suspenders)

MILES (M-ish up arm)

5 FOOD

5.1 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

SWEET
FRUIT
VEGETABLE
ORANGE
PEACH
STRAWBERRY
APPLE
LEMON
BERRY
ONION

5.2 OTHER FOOD ITEMS

EGG
FISH
SALMON (trouble finding again)

5.3 DRINKS

SODA POP
LEMONADE
ALCOHOL/WHISKEY
BEER [not “B” sign]
WINE [“W”]
ROOT BEER [“R” & “B”]
PEPSI [“holy Pepsi sign”]
COCA COLA (show changes/differences from “old” signs for COKE AND DRUGS)
HOT CHOCOLATE [Not finger-spelled]
COFFEE
WATER
MILK

6 ITEMS / MISCELLANEOUS

PERMIT (ALLOW)

PERMIT (DOCUMENT, P hand shape, then CARD)

SUDDENLY / QUICKLY

POACHED (cooked)

POACHED (STOLEN)

SECTION (a portion of something, HALF with continued rounded backward motion)

WORK

HOME

HOUSE

CITY

TOWN

ROAD

FREEWAY

SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY

DEGREE

7 Additional Vocabulary

Flip randomly to a chapter from (any) ASL book (or batch of flash cards) using the vocabulary section, and run through the list of vocabulary from that chapter.

First give the ASL sign. Repeat as needed for those who request it. If some do not know what the sign means at all. *Do not speak the answer*, instead (slowly as needed) **FINGER SPELL THE ANSWERS**. Let each person in the group sign a few words from the book, then pass the book around to the next person, and so on, until everyone in the group has had a turn to sign from the book, and all the vocabulary from that section of the book has been covered.

7.1 INSTITUTIONS

SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE

RESIDENTIAL (DEAF) SCHOOL

CHURCH

TEMPLE

COMPANY / BUSINESS

STORE

7.2 PLACES

KITCHEN

BATHROOM

BEDROOM

HOUSE

HOME

COMMUNITY

CITY

TOWN

8 SENTENCES

Try to use the same or correlative chapter related to the same vocabulary used in the previous section (3), using example sentences from that book to build on the vocabulary just covered.

Have each person sign one sentence from the book, then pass it to the next person. Keep doing this until all the sentences from the book have been covered. Remember to FINGERSPELL the answers to unknown signs, not speak the answers.

9 STORY TIME

Now each person takes a turn telling a brief story (in ASL) about their day, their week, their past month, or any other story they would like to tell. If there are more people attending, the stories should be kept shorter so everyone has a turn, if there are fewer people attending, then more time can be spent on each story. The stories can be very basic (depending on the person's signing ability), such as:

MY CAR LAST WEEK NEED FIX.

I TAKE CAR TO SHOP.

MONEY IT COST EXPENSIVE.

CAR NOW DRIVE OK.

Of course, feel free to provide more elaborate stories as well.

10 SOCIAL TIME

Now that everyone has had some time to get into the “mode” of signing, it is a free form social chat time for as long as anyone wishes. Everyone can continue taking turns chatting with the group, or break off into separate conversations. However, please do still try to remain in a circle/square so that others can jump in on conversations. For the less advanced/experienced signers, they will likely be a bit overwhelmed by the more advanced signers, but it is still VERY IMPORTANT for them to “eavesdrop” on the conversations to get used to watching faster signing.

The study group “officially” ends at 4:00 pm (or end of 2 hours depending on when the group started), but can certainly run over as long as anyone wants to stick around and continue signing.

For any questions, sending updates, corrections, or other comments, please feel free to email me:
hawke at spokaneasl dot com

Happy Signing!

-Hawke

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