American Sign Language
Grammar Rules

Twelveth Draft: January 2008
by Kevin Struxness, MA

Declarative Sentence Structures

English:  **Subject-Verb-Object**  I love apple pie.  
          **Subject-Verb-Object-Subject**  I love apple pie.
          **Object-Subject-Verb**  Apple pie I love.
          **Verb-Object-Subject**  Love apple pie.
          **Object-Verb-Subject**  Apple pie love.

Interrogative Type: Yes/No Questions

Symbol --- **Q** --- (1) raised eyebrows, 2) tilted or diagonal head with shoulders forward and 3) hold the last sign a little longer)

--- ----------- **q** -------------

English:   Do you want some ice cream?            ASL:   1) You want ice cream? *(Delete "Do")*
               2) Ice cream you want some?

--- **q** ---

Are you deaf?  
               You deaf? *(Delete “Are”)*

--- **q** ---

Have you met Alexander Graham Bell?  
               You finish meet AGB? *(Delete “Have”) We use “have” for possession.*

--- **q** ---

Have you been there?  
               You finish touch there?

--- **q** ---

I have a question for you.  
               (Sign a question mark in the air.)

Interrogative Type: **Wh-Questions** *(who, what, where, why, how, which, how many, how much)*

Symbol --- **WQ** --- (with squeezed eyebrows and tilted or diagonal head)

--- **wq** ---

English:   What time is it?                          ASL:   1) What time?
               2) Time?

--- **wq** ---

Who is Laurent Clerc?  
               1) Who Laurent Clerc?

--- **wq** ---

Note:  *if you place who at the beginning, use the non-manual markers from the beginning to the end.

--- **wq** ---

2) Laurent Clerc who?

Note:  *if you place who at the end, adopt the non-manual markers only at the location of who

--- **wq** ---

3) Who Laurent Clerc who?

Note:  *if you use a double wh-question, use the non-manual markers from the beginning to the end.*
Exception:

English:    How are you?            ASL:   How you? (This is intended to start a conversation)

----------- q -------------

Why don’t we go to the movies?     Why not we go movie?   (In a state of excitement)

--- q ----

Who won the game?      Who won?  (With strong curiosity)

-------- q --------

Where did you find it?     Where you find? (In a state of happiness)

-

Why not?       Why not?  Or, why-not? (In a state of excitement, not asking for an explanation)

Note: If you use Wh-words for a non-Wh-question function, you keep your facial expression in a neutral manner

ASL: I know where Bob work.
     Mother know what I want.

Rhetorical Questions. (who, what, where, why, how, how many, what for, how much)

Symbol --- RQ --- with raised eyebrows and head tilted down or diagonally.

This type of question is used for someone to answer their own questions. It should not be used too much. As a general rule, use the RQ every 15-25 sentences. Many ASL users sign “why” in the RQ mode as a substitution for “because”.

--- rq ----

English:    I had pancakes for breakfast.                                          ASL: I breakfast what? pancake.

-- rq --

Larry became deaf from a bout of spinal meningitis.                 Larry become deaf how? spinal meningitis

- n -           - rq -

Mother could not come because she was sick.             Mother not come why? she sick.

Although this type of question deals with the Wh questions most of the time, the rhetorical question can be used for a yes/no question, too.

Do I want to go? Yes, I want to go.             Want go I ?  Yes, I want go.

Exclamation

This situation occurs when someone is excited, surprised or even angry. They increase intensity in signing as well as sign faster. Sometimes they nod their head.

--- y --- (head nodding)

English:    The San Diego Padres won!                        ASL:   San Diego Padres won!
      Good!            Good!
      I passed the class!                                   I pass class!
      He kicked me!                                       He kick me!

Affirmatives

Symbol --- y --- (head nodding)

English: Tom can sign ASL

------ y ------------

Tom can sign ASL. (This is permissible if the sentence is very brief.)
Negatives/Negation

Symbol --- n --- (with squeezed eyebrows and headshake)

English: I don't have time.  
[--- n --- ]

ASL: 
1) I not have time.  
2) I have no/none time.  
3) Time have no/none I.

He no longer works here.  
[--- n --- ] 

He no more work here.

I don't agree.  
[--- n --- ]

I agree.

Unable  
[--- n --- ]

Notes:

The negative sign not can be left out while preserving the negative facial expression.  
Sometimes we replace negative prefixes (un, im, in, dis) with "not"  
Use "not" for negative contractions such as "don't", "isn't"  
Use "can't" for "can not"  
"Won't" and "refuse" share with same sign while mouthing "won't"

Special sign don't (using the gesture "safe" in baseball) used for emphasis or scolding. Ex: Don't run.

Exception: No one, nobody and refuse don't require a negative facial expression.

Double Pronouns

Note: 1) Single pronouns are perfectly okay.  
2) Don't mouth the repeated pronoun in the same sentence.

English: I like Gallaudet.  

ASL: I like Gallaudet I. (Don't mouth the second "I.")

Do you like ASL?  

You like ASL you?

Articles/Determiners

Note: Delete a (indefinite), an (indefinite), the (definite).  
Seldom, keep the for specifying a person or an object, especially in the presence of the signer.

English: Five days a week  

I have the TTY.  

You have a pager.  

The car needs repair.

ASL:  Five-day every-week  

I have TTY.  

You have pager.  

Point-car need repair.

Exception: 1) Keep the if it is part of the name ["The Long Summer" or Georgia School for the Deaf].  
It also applies to the "a" and "an".

2) Keep the for pointing with an index finger to an object or person, especially in the presence of the signer.

Plurality

Note: English prefers the plural, while ASL prefers the singular. In many cases, you need to change from a plural English word to a singular ASL word. ASL is always singular unless notified otherwise. ASL functions on singularity on the widespread assumption some situations are always plural. Below are examples for clarification.
### Note:
However, if the ASL signers want to emphasize something plural in their sentences, below is the guide for plurality.

1) **Use a number if known.** If the count is three or more, list them by number on the fingers, leaving out “and”

2) **Or, use a quantifier** [some, many, several, pile, row, both, all, etc.] to make a plural.

3) **Use cluster affix such as “group”** or demonstrative pronouns such as “these” with an index finger

4) **If not, repeat the noun sign twice to the right** (This is called reduplication or repetition) You can’t use repetition along with a quantifier or a number except for child+ and parent+. It is okay to say “many child+”.

5) **Use plural pronouns** (we, they, all-of-you)

### English:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I have two ASL poetry books.</th>
<th>ASL: I have two ASL poem book.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We have blue bowls.</td>
<td>1) We have blue bowl++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) We have some blue bowl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The kids are outside.</td>
<td>1) Kid they outside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Kid group outside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We like cool things.</td>
<td>We like cool thing. (Same sign movement for singular or plural uses.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We go home on Fridays.</td>
<td>Every-Friday we go home. Or, we go home every-Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We saw cars on the lot.</td>
<td>We saw car (CL:3 move to the right).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are a lot of apples.</td>
<td>There have apple CL:5 (pile).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent and children</td>
<td>Parent++, child++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For years and years</td>
<td>Year ++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Exception:
five feet, pay bills

### Verb Types

Like English, ASL sentences should have a verb. A complete sentence contains a noun and a verb. Of course, there are exceptions such as where?, your name?, what time? Also, ASL doesn’t have verb conjugations in many cases. Below are many types with explanations and examples for your better understanding.

#### State of Being Verb: To Be

**Note:** There are no **To Be verbs** in ASL.

| English: The captioned movie is thumbs up. | ASL: Caption movie thumb++ up. |
Exception: 1) Self pronouns can function as linking verbs. Example: She herself student.
2) Become can function as a to-be verb. Example: I become sick.
3) Use “past/before” for the past tense “was/were”
4) Use “future/will” for “will be”
5) Use “now/present” for “am/is/are”

Modals (Helping/Auxiliary Verbs) (need to, should, must, can, would, might, could)

Note: In ASL, a modal can be placed either before or after a main verb, or both (for emphasis).

English: You should get an interpreter.
ASL: 1) You should get interpreter.
2) You get interpreter should.
3) You should get interpreter should. (for emphasis)

Present Tense

Note: ASL uses present tense verbs for both past and present tenses.

English: My mother received a hearing dog.
ASL: Mother finish get hearing dog.
I wanted to know if I can leave now.
I want know if I can leave now.
I had breakfast this morning.
This morning I have breakfast.

Exception: born, broke, caught, forgot, got, left, lost, saw, sold, told, won, fed up, shot, wrote, stole, tore

English: I saw you.
I was born in Utah.
I look surprised.
They came here recently.
The parents have three children.
They shop normally.
They shop weekly.

English: Kathy wants to go to NTID.
You look surprised.
They came here recently.
The parents have three children.
They shop normally.
They shop weekly.

Noun Plural/ Present Tense Verb/ Participial Endings

Note: While English verbs are regularly conjugated to show tense and number, ASL has no endings and modified verbs. Inflection markers are usually omitted.

English: Kathy wants to go to NTID.
You look surprised.
They came here recently.
The parents have three children.
They shop normally.
They shop weekly.

Exception: 1) Any words with permanent -s or -es markers (i.e., United States, scissors, pants, glasses, clothes, physics, always, politics, gymnastics).

2) Also adjectives/adverbs/nouns with permanent -ing or -ly markers (i.e., outstanding, friendly, rubbing alcohol, measuring cup, baking soda, whipped cream, pudding, frosting, shortening.)

3) Did is an accepted modified verb. Fingerspell “it” only. Example: I did show up.
Infinitives

Note:  1) ASL does not have infinitives.
  2) Delete the to infinitive marker in combination with a verb.

English:  They need to complete the task  ASL:  They need finish job.
The kids want to play.  They kid want play

Exception: have to (use the sign for “must” while mouthing “have” and then fingerspell “to” while mouthing “to”.
Technically, “have to” is not an infinitive.

Present Particiles

English:  Bob keeps thinking.  ASL:  Bob continue think++.
Stop eating.  Eat ++ stop.

Get

English:  The dog gets better.  ASL:  Dog become better. Or, dog better.
They got married.  They finish marry.

Directional Verbs

Note:  1) Only certain verb signs can be moved in any direction.
   Examples: look, send, pay, meet, give, bring, move, help, tell, show, call, ask, throw, drive, teach.
   2) Some verb signs have limited movement in direction. Examples: go, come.
   3) Non-directional verbs include: complain, read, discuss, eat, want, play, need, say, live, feel.

English:  I will meet you at the deaf club.  ASL:  I-meet-you there/at deaf #club (clb).
(Note: Use hyphens to combine words into one sign.)

When I sign, you should look at my face.  When I sign, you-look-me my face should.

Noun-Verb Pairs with a Change in Movement

Note:  A noun sign requires multiple movements.  A verb sign requires one movement.

Note: Sentences below are in ASL.

Help yourself. (once for a verb)
I need your help (tap several times for a noun).

Tea taste good. (once for a verb)
You have good taste with clothes. (several times for a noun)

You work fast (once for an adverb)
The speed is slow (several times for a noun)

Sixty minute equal one hour (once for a verb)
We like equality (several times for a noun)

Exception: Clean-up/clean (verb) requires multiple movements. Clean (adjective) requires one movement.
Noun-Verb/Adjective Pairs with No Change in Movement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertisement</th>
<th>Advertise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advice</td>
<td>Advise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>Entertain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoyment</td>
<td>Enjoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Introduce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Communicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>Interesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation</td>
<td>Observe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Voice/Passive Voice

Note: There is no passive voice in ASL.

Exception: make/build by (The garage build by father), write by (The book write by Paul.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My house was sold by the realtor.</td>
<td>Realtor sold my house finish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was told by someone.</td>
<td>Someone told me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This animal is called barn owl.</td>
<td>Point-index-finger animal call barn owl.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill is survived by his wife, Tammy.</td>
<td>Bill die, but his wife Tammy still live.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviated Verbs

English can have full verb spelling or abbreviated verbs such as can not or can’t. This is also true for ASL with a notable exception.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We can not do that.</td>
<td>We can’t do that.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time Indicators/Tense Markers

Note: In many cases, you need to place time indicators at the beginning of the sentence to set up the tense AND raise eyebrows. This rule applies to past, present and future tenses.

If there is no time indicator in the sentence, the listener would assume the present tense.

Symbol --- TI --- (with raised eyebrows)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We visited Deaf West Theatre yesterday.</td>
<td>Yesterday we visit Deaf West Theatre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We will leave tomorrow.</td>
<td>Tomorrow we leave.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exception: We must study for a test next week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have an appointment for tomorrow.</td>
<td>I have appointment for tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See you later/tomorrow.</td>
<td>See you later/tomorrow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I worked three hours.</td>
<td>I work three hour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We attend a NAD conference every two years.</td>
<td>We attend NAD conference every-two-year. (Frequency)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Replace “in” or “on” with “past” or “future”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 1966…</td>
<td>Past/back 1966…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2015…</td>
<td>Future 2015…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the morning…</td>
<td>This morning or during morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This past week</td>
<td>Last-week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Thursday</td>
<td>Thursday, Last Thursday, This Thursday, Next Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On March 1</td>
<td>March 1st, Last March 1st, This March 1st, Next March 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Frequency (every night, always, sometimes, every other day, every month, etc.)**

English: I go to work every morning.  
ASL: I go work every-morning.  
Every-morning I go work.

Every fall  every-year fall

**Adjective and Noun Phrases**

**Note:**  ASL can place an adjective before or after a noun, or both.

English: We are eating a hot meal.  
ASL: 1) We eat hot meal.  
2) We eat meal hot.  
3) We eat hot meal hot. (for emphasis)

**Note:** If there is more than one adjective, place all adjectives after the noun.

English: I hate long and boring movies.  
My family loves warm, fresh peach cobbler.  
ASL: Movie long, bore, I yuck.  
My family kiss-fist peach cobbler warm, fresh.

**Note:** Sometimes an adjective can be signed twice rather than once if the adjective is placed after a noun.

English: I have a new car. (Single movement)  
I go to different places.  
ASL: I have car new. (Single or Double movement)  
I go different ++ place. Or, I go to place different++.  

**Time**

English: The local news is broadcast at 6:00 p.m.  
ASL: Local news announce time 6:00 night.

**Note:** Flip 12 once for 12:05. Flip once or twice for 12:00.

**Age**

English: She is ten years old.  
ASL: 1) She age ten.  
2) She old ten.

**Note:** Display numbers 1-9 in front both for age and for telling time.

**Year**

**Note:** Don’t mention thousand in the year.

English: In two thousand four (2004)  
ASL: 2004 04

**Numbers**

English: 1600 = sixteen hundred  
ASL: 1,600

16 year (move "16" once before the noun)  
Age 16 (move "16" once or multiple times)

**Names**

English: I just met Colleen, a new friend. His name is Leo Jacobs.  
ASL: Recent I meet new friend name Colleen.  
His first name Leo, last Jacobs.
Fingerspelling

Note: Fingerspelling is used for proper names and words that have no signs.

English: Laura Bridgman was a famous deaf-blind woman. ASL: 1) Laura Bridgman-fs famous deaf-blind woman.

Note: Don’t mouth the name letter by letter.

Mouth Morphemes

Note: There are more than 100 mouth movements in ASL that replace or complement English adjectives and adverbs.

English: I like to drink a large glass of tea. ASL: I like drink cha tea.

My sister finally became a teacher of the deaf. My sister pah become teacher for deaf.

You are struggling with the chemistry book. You struggle-ra-ra with chemistry book.

Bob hardly works. Bob work little (one side of face pulled up)

Why did you ask me? Ask-me for-for?

I finished the job. I fah job.

I made four errors. I wrong four.

Remove your cap. Your cap off.

He broke the chair. He bre chair.

Conditional Clause/AdverbialClause (although, as, as long as, after, before, during, if, once, suppose, until, when, while)

(Because and unless are questionable for their use in ASL)

Symbol -- CC -- with raised eyebrows

Note: 1) Always place the conditional clause at the beginning.

2) If you use when for a conditional clause, the when question requires a different sign (happen).

--------------------------------- cc --------------------------------

English: I learned ASL when I was seven. ASL: When I age/old seven, I learn ASL.

If you know two languages, you are bilingual. If you know two language, you bilingual.


If so, you ..... If (move head up with raised eyebrows, then put head down quickly), ..... 

Exception: At times place the conditional clause farther in a sentence if it is time-sensitive sequence.

English: I will eat continuously until I am full. ASL: I eat-continuous until I full.

I will not go to Coco’s until next month. I will not go Coco’s until next month

Connective/Compound “And”

Note: We use “and” sparingly in ASL. When we sign “and”, it is usually for nouns, not for actions.

English: My brother likes red and white. ASL: 1) My brother like red and white.

2) My brother like 1) red, 2) white.

3) My brother like red plus white.

4) My brother like red, white (while shifting shoulders).

Note: We sometimes throw out “and”. See below for examples.

English: M & M ASL: M M (move right)
Abbreviations

*Note:* No periods in abbreviated words with the exception of an initialized middle name and the U.S.

*Example:* John F. Kennedy. The fingerspelled letter with a period is moved in a circle.

*Exception:* We don’t move around the hand while fingerspelling Mrs. or Dr. (okay to have a period)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My Riverside friend hopes to go to NTID.</td>
<td>My Riverside friend hopes to go NTID.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two generations of that deaf family have gone to ASDB.</td>
<td>Two generations of that deaf family have gone to ASDB.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Possessives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My dog’s name is Salsa.</td>
<td>My dog’s name Salsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My sister’s name is Brenda.</td>
<td>My sister her name Brenda.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day, Lion’s Club, Valentine’s Day</td>
<td>Mother Day, Lion Club, Valentine Day (without the apostrophe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi’s</td>
<td>Levis (without the apostrophe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver’s license</td>
<td>Drive license (without the apostrophe and “r”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Exception:* You cannot delete an apostrophe from proper names. Ex: Denny’s, Carl’s Jr., Coco’s

**There is/There are**

*Note:* These phrases, not available in ASL, are expressed with the existential have.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a book on the shelf.</td>
<td>1) Shelf-there have book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) Book have shelf-there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is a big sale at Sears</td>
<td>Sears have big sale.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Intensifiers (very, quite, rather, more, most, really, somewhat, less, too, pretty)**

*Note:* 1) Hyphen is substitute for “very” which doesn’t really belong in ASL. When you imply “very”, you need to gain strength and speed in the adjective sign along with an increase in the facial expression. Two words become one word.

2) Another option is to sign “wow”, “really” or “too much/extreme”

3) Fingerspell “too”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I was very sick last week.</td>
<td>Last week I very-sick.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Valley is pretty hot in the summer.</td>
<td>During summer, Death Valley wow hot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pie is too sweet for me.</td>
<td>Pie too sweet for me.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Topicalization** (Topic-Comment construction)

Symbol —— T —— with raised eyebrows and raised head

*Note:*
1) *In most cases, place the main idea at the beginning of the ASL sentence.*
2) *We can’t have more than one topic marker in one sentence.*

**English:** I am a member of the NAD (National Association of the Deaf).  
**ASL:** NAD me member.

**ASL:** WGD past 1985, happen there LA.

**Lexical-Based Signs or Fingerspelled Loan Signs**

*Note:*
1) *There are about 75 signs that involve modified fingerspelling and are indicated by the pound sign [#]. Examples: #job, #bank, #busy, #early, #ng [no good], #back, #or, #car, #oh, #gas, #bus, #ha, etc.*

2) *The pound sign is not used for spelling names, etc.*

**English:** The TTY is not any good.  
**ASL:** TTY #ng.

You did an outstanding job.  
**ASL:** You outstanding #job.

What can I do?  
**ASL:** Me #do-do?

**Pronominalization**

*Note:*
1) *Pronouns are expressed by pointing at a person or an object.*

2) *If the person or the object is not present, decide where you want to point and keep the same place as a referent throughout the conversation.*

**English:** Bob was a great guy. I miss him.  
**ASL:** Bob he-right great guy. I miss him-right.

**Reflexive Pronouns**

*Note: *Re reflexive pronouns can function as either pronouns or linking verbs.

**English:** Kip is a coda (child of deaf adults).  
**ASL:** Kip himself coda.

She is a dod (deaf child of deaf adults).  
**ASL:** Herself dod.

**Proper Nouns in Direct Address**

*Note: *ASL does not use the person’s name during direct address.

**English:** Bill, can you see me?  
**ASL:** Hey, can you see me?

**Comparatives/Superlatives**

**English:** A gorilla is larger than a monkey.  
**ASL:** 1) Gorilla larger than monkey.

2) Gorilla more large than monkey.

3) For body size, Gorilla beat monkey.

Shaq is not the tallest player in the NBA.  
**ASL:** Shaq not tallest player NBA.

Tom walks faster.  
**ASL:** Tom walk faster or Tom walk more fast.

Tom runs fastest.  
**ASL:** Tom run fastest or most fast.
Preposition

Note: Sometimes we need to leave out prepositions. As a general rule, keep prepositions only for location.

English: Class of 2005	ASL: Class 2005
Mother-in-law	Mother law
Take care of yourself	Take-care yourself
90% of the time, most of the time	90% time, most time
I am not afraid of the snake.	I not afraid snake.
The pain is in my mouth.	Pain mouth (sign “pain” at the mouth)
I am proud of you.	I proud you.
See you on Monday.	See you Monday.
Coldest place in the world	Coldest place world/coldest place world
Not my cup of tea
She gave a birth to a son
Peace of mind
On Thursday
On September 10
Mary of Fallbrook
Pat, 26, died of cancer

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Note: Prepositions are embedded in classifiers.

English: The book is under the table.	ASL: Table CL: B Book CL: B-under
The cat is sitting on the hood.	Car CL: 3 cat CL: V-sit

Note: Replace “in” and “at” with an index finger for specifying place without a roof or a cover..

English: We saw our aunt in Riverside.	ASL: We saw our aunt there Riverside.
See you at the park.	See you there park.

Fingerspelled “It”

ASL: Forget it
Worth it
Do it
Make it
Go for it

In other cases, we also discard “it” in commonly used phrases.

English: Take it easy
It is Friday.	ASL: Take easy or Take-easy
Today Friday

Compound

Note: In most cases, the repetitive movement is reduced to one-time movement for the first part of the compound glosses.

Examples: Bookstore
Boy Scout
Peanut butter (In this case, each sign is moved once.)
Boy and girl (In this case, each sign is moved once.)

Self

Note: The “self” sign is normally moved several times. However, the movement can be one-time movement for command or for emphasis.

Examples: You bring chair yourself! (command)
I can cook myself! (for emphasis)
**Early, Mid, Late**

Early in the day = morning  
Late in the day = afternoon/evening  

Early in the week = Sun-Tues  
Late in the month = last-one/two-week-month  

Mid-year = summer  
Late 1990s = 1997-1999  
Early 2007 = winter 2007  
Late 2007 = fall 2007  

**The Not only …., but also …. Sentence Construction**

English: We sell not only coffee, but also sandwiches, ice cream, etc.  
ASL: We sell coffee plus sandwich, ice-cream, etc.  

**Prefixes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>prefix</th>
<th>ASL</th>
<th>word example</th>
<th>ASL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mis</td>
<td>wrong</td>
<td>mismanage</td>
<td>wrong manage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>imbalance</td>
<td>not balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dis</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>disapprove</td>
<td>not approve/accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re</td>
<td>again</td>
<td>reuse</td>
<td>again use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Name/Word Substitutions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English:</th>
<th>ASL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas/Vegas</td>
<td>LV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Flags</td>
<td>Magic Mountain or MM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School</td>
<td>Hearing School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th of July</td>
<td>July 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)</td>
<td>Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>HQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humans</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do the dishes</td>
<td>Wash dish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is for real</td>
<td>True business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard-boiled eggs</td>
<td>Water-boil egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator, fridge</td>
<td>Ref</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devil cake</td>
<td>Chocolate cake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two dozens</td>
<td>24 (ASL prefers numbers over words)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alphabet</td>
<td>ABC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trick or treat</td>
<td>Tease or candy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar school</td>
<td>Elementary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complimentary continental breakfast</td>
<td>Free light breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vending machine</td>
<td>Food/drink machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admire, love</td>
<td>Kiss-fist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street taco</td>
<td>Small taco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will catch you later/See you around</td>
<td>See you later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ER</td>
<td>Emergency Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TP</td>
<td>Toilet Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known for</td>
<td>Famous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten seasons</td>
<td>Ten year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortunate</td>
<td>Lucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misconduct</td>
<td>Bad/wrong behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someday</td>
<td>Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offspring/infant</td>
<td>Baby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ounce</td>
<td>Oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to</td>
<td>Why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because</td>
<td>Why (rhetorical question)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibling</td>
<td>Brother/Sister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition/Clarification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ounce</td>
<td>Oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White hair</td>
<td>Yellow hair or Blonde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red hair</td>
<td>Orange or red hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby shower</td>
<td>Baby party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridal shower</td>
<td>Bridal (fingerspelled) party or New wife party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix the bed</td>
<td>Make bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fix salad</td>
<td>Make salad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>HC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A year and a half</td>
<td>1 1/2 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Graham Bell</td>
<td>AGB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion’s Club</td>
<td>Lion Club or Clb (without the “u”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day</td>
<td>Mother Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decade</td>
<td>Ten Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ton</td>
<td>2,000 pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knock it off</td>
<td>Finish (mouth “fish”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What went wrong?</td>
<td>What happen wrong! or what wrong!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Besides, Further</td>
<td>Plus, what more, other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hence, Thus</td>
<td>So</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endangered species</td>
<td>shrink ++ animal or type</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>