

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 is 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>
- 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

1.1 Schedule Overview

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.

Meet and greet. Introduce each other and “chat” as people arrive.	5	2:00-2:05
Warm up with finger spelling alphabet and numbers.	5 minutes.	2:05-2:10
Then frequently used vocab.	20 minutes	2:10-2:30
Then one chapter/set of other vocab	20 minutes	2:30-2:50
Followed by corresponding chapter/set of sentences using that vocab.	10 minutes	2:50-3:00
Free form story time.	30 minutes	3:00-3:30
Free form social time.	30+ minutes	3:30-4:00+
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.

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.

2.2 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.

Here are some sample numbers to run through after counting to the hundreds, you can of course make up any you want:

67
86
98
99
31
25
56
79
81
97
100
1,024
9,121
100,053
965,876
1,521,325
189,428,210
1,687,943,121

998,876,543,321

½

1/3

¼

1/8

1/16

1/32

First

Second

Third

Fourth

Fifth

Sixth

Seventh

Last

3 Vocabulary

Overview

(pending)

Fingerspell the words first, then the sign.

3.1 Most Frequently Used Vocabulary

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.

3.1.1 Basic Survival Skills

AGAIN

SLOW

PLEASE (open palm on chest)

SORRY (“s” on chest)

Cover “WHAT SIGN FOR <finger spell or point>”.

Or “SIGN FOR-FOR <finger spell or point>”

MY NAME...

Then introduce each other in sign language “MY NAME H-A-W-K-E”

Optional, if applicable, sign given NAME SIGN.

THANKYOU

GOOD

BAD

NICE TO MEET YOU

3.1.2 Interrogatives

WHO, WHO

WHAT, WHAT

HUH
 WHEN
 WHERE (waggle)
 WHY (WHAT-FOR), WHY-WHY, FOR-FOR
 WHICH
 HOW
 HOW MUCH/MANY
 WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

3.1.3 Pronouns

I
 ME
 YOU
 IT
 HE (to person)
 HE (placed in space)
 SHE (to person)
 SHE (placed in space)
 WE / US (W-WE)

Possessive

MY
 YOUR
 HIS (to person)
 HIS (placed in space)
 HERS (to person)
 HERS (placed in space)
 OUR
 THEIRS
 MYSELF
 YOURSELF
 OURSELVES
 THEIRSELVES/THEMSELVES

3.1.4 Relationships

Gender & Relatives, Friends, etc.

First clarify about male gender is signed above the nose level, and females is below the nose level.

MALE	PARENTS	COUSIN (FEMALE)
FEMALE	GRANDPARENTS	NIECE
BOY	RIGHT (correct)	NEPHEW
GIRL	BROTHER	LAW
MAN	SISTER	BROTHER-IN-LAW, FATHER-
WOMAN	BABY	IN-LAW, etc...
FATHER	SON	SISTER-IN-LAW, MOTHER-
MOTHER	DAUGHTER	IN-LAW, etc...
GENTLEMAN	GRANDSON	FALSE
LADY	GRANDDAUGHTER	HALF
MARRIAGE	FRIEND	ADOPTED
HUSBAND	BOYFRIEND	STEP/FOSTER SON, FATHER,
WIFE	GIRLFRIEND	etc...
GRANDFATHER	AUNT	STEP/FOSTER DAUGHTER,
GRANDMOTHER	UNCLE	MOTHER, etc...
	COUSIN (MALE)	

3.1.5 Time

TIME
BEFORE
AFTER
LONG TIME AGO (DISTANT PAST)
HISTORY (“h” as long time)
LONG TIME FROM NOW (DISTANT FUTURE)
TOMORROW
YESTERDAY
MORNING
NOON
AFTERNOON
EVENING
NIGHT
MIDNIGHT
DAY
NOW
TO-DAY (NOW_DAY)
ALL DAY
ALL NIGHT
LATE
LATER
DURING
SINCE
RECENTLY
EAT
BREAKFAST (correct ASL sign)
BREAKFAST (s-e-e sign)
LUNCH (correct ASL sign)
LUNCH (s-e-e sign)
DINNER (correct ASL sign)
DINNER (s-e-e sign)

SECONDS, 1 SECOND, 2 SECONDS, 3 SECONDS
MINUTES, 1 MINUTE, 2 MINUTES, 3 MINUTES
HALF HOUR
HOURS, 1 HOUR, 2 HOURS, 3 HOURS
HOURLY
DAY, 1 DAY, 2 DAYS, 3 DAYS
DAILY
DAY BEFORE, 2 DAYS BEFORE/AGO
DAY FROM NOW, 2 DAYS FROM NOW

WEEK, 1 WEEK, 2 WEEKS, 3 WEEKS
WEEKLY
MONTH, 1 MONTH, 2 MONTH, 3 MONTH
MONTHLY
YEAR, 1 YEAR, 2 YEARS, 3 YEARS
YEARLY/ANNUALLY

3.1.6 Days of the Week

MONDAY (and then every monday)
TUESDAY (and then every tuesday)
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

3.1.7 Months of the Year

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

3.1.8 SEASONS

SPRING
SUMMER
WINTER (cold)
FALL

3.1.9 HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS
EASTER
HALLOWEEN
THANKSGIVING
4TH OF JULY
(more pending)

3.1.10 Imperatives

NEED
MUST
WANT
DONT-WANT
ORDER
REQUIRE
(more pending)

3.1.11 Colors

RED
PINK
GREEN
BLUE
YELLOW
WHITE
BLACK
GREY
ORANGE
PURPLE
BROWN

3.1.12 Food

Fruits & Vegetables

FRUIT
VEGETABLE
ORANGE
PEACH
STRAWBERRY
APPLE
LEMON
BERRY
ONION

Drinks

SODA POP

LEMONADE
WHISKEY
ALCOHOL
BEER
WINE
ROOT BEER
PEPSI
COCA COLA (show changes/differences from “old” signs for COKE AND DRUGS)
HOT CHOCOLATE
COFFEE
WATER
MILK

3.1.13 Directions

NORTH
SOUTH
EAST
WEST
RIGHT
LEFT
UP
DOWN

3.2 Additional Vocabulary

Flip randomly to a chapter from (any) ASL book 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 vocabular from that section of the book has been covered.

4 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 form 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.

5 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.

6 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
or text or call me on my cell phone at:
509-481-5437

Happy Signing!
-Hawke