

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
- Lean 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.

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.

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. 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 above arm and below arm]
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	First
97	Second
100	Third
1,024	Fourth
9,121	Fifth
100,053	Sixth
965,876	Seventh
1,521,325	Last
189,428,210	
1,687,943,121	
998,876,543,321	

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	GOOD
NO	BAD
MAYBE	BETTER
NOT	BEST
AND	NICE
HELP [ME] [YOU]	MEET
AGAIN	NICE TO MEET YOU
SLOW	KNOW
PLEASE (open palm on chest)	DON'T-KNOW
SORRY ("s" on chest)	UNDERSTAND
Cover "WHAT SIGN FOR <finger spell or point>".	FORGET
Or "SIGN FOR-FOR <finger spell or point>"	REMEMBER
MY NAME...	RIGHT (correct)
Then introduce each other in sign language "MY NAME H-A-W-K-E"	WRONG
Optional, if applicable, sign given NAME	NONE
SIGN.	ALL
THANKYOU	MORE
THANK YOU SO MUCH [SINGLE SIGN]	LESS
YOU ARE WELCOME [alternate to just THANKYOU]	START
	FINISH
	WITH
	TRY
	CAN
	CAN'T

3.2 Interrogatives

ASK
WHO, WHO
WHAT, WHAT
HUH
WHEN
ABOUT
WHERE (waggle)
WHY (WHAT-FOR), WHY-WHY
FOR
FOR-FOR
WHICH
HOW [1 or 2 hands]
HOW MUCH / HOW MANY [1 or 2 hands]
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

3.3 PRONOUNS

I (snooty)	Possessive
ME	MY
YOU	YOUR
IT (just point to object)	HIS (to person)
THAT (Y horizontal to object)	HIS (placed in space)
THAT-ONE (Y side hand pinky to object)	HERS (to person)
THIS (finger to palm)	HERS (placed in space)
HE (to person)	ITS
HE (placed in space)	OUR
SHE (to person)	THEIRS
SHE (placed in space)	MYSELF
WE / US (W-WE)	YOURSELF
	OURSELVES
	THEIRSELVES/THEMSELVES

3.4 RELATIONSHIPS

Gender & Relatives, Friends, etc.

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

RELATIONSHIP

MALE

FEMALE

CHILD

CHILDREN (polite version)

CHILDREN (brats version)

BOY

GIRL

MAN

WOMAN

FATHER

MOTHER

GENTLEMAN

LADY

MARRIED

HUSBAND

WIFE

SEPARATED

DIVORCED (reversed MEET)

GRANDFATHER

GRANDMOTHER

PARENTS

GRANDPARENTS

RIGHT (correct)

BROTHER

SISTER

BABY

SON

DAUGHTER

GRANDSON

GRANDDAUGHTER (GIRL-GRAND-DAUGHTER)

FRIEND

GOOD FRIEND

BOYFRIEND

GIRLFRIEND

AUNT

UNCLE

COUSIN (MALE)

COUSIN (FEMALE)

NIECE

NEPHEW

LAW

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

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

FALSE

HALF

ADOPTED

STEP/FOSTER SON, FATHER, etc...

STEP/FOSTER DAUGHTER, MOTHER, etc...

ROOMMATE

GREW UP

3.5 TIME

TIME	DINNER (s-e-e sign)
BEFORE	SECONDS, 1 SECOND, 2 SECONDS, 3 SECONDS
AFTER	SECONDS
LONG TIME AGO (DISTANT PAST)	MINUTES, 1 MINUTE, 2 MINUTES, 3 MINUTES
HISTORY (“h” as long time)	MINUTES
LONG TIME FROM NOW (DISTANT FUTURE)	HALF HOUR
TOMORROW	HOURS, 1 HOUR, 2 HOURS, 3 HOURS
YESTERDAY	HOURLY
MORNING	DAY, 1 DAY, 2 DAYS, 3 DAYS
NOON	DAILY
AFTERNOON	DAY BEFORE, 2 DAYS BEFORE/AGO, etc.
EVENING	DAY FROM NOW, 2 DAYS FROM NOW, etc.
NIGHT	WEEK, 1 WEEK, 2 WEEKS, 3 WEEKS, etc.
MIDNIGHT	WEEKLY
DAY	1 WEEK FROM NOW, etc.
NOW	1 WEEK AGO, etc.
TO-DAY (NOW_DAY)	MONTH, 1 MONTH, 2 MONTH, 3 MONTH, etc.
ALL DAY	MONTHLY
ALL NIGHT	YEAR, 1 YEAR, 2 YEARS, 3 YEARS, etc.
LATE	YEARLY/ANNUALLY, EVERY TWO YEARS, etc.
LATER	
NOT YET	OLD
DURING	OLDER
SINCE	YOUNG
RECENTLY	YOUNGER
EAT	
BREAKFAST (correct ASL sign)	
BREAKFAST (s-e-e sign)	
LUNCH (correct ASL sign)	
LUNCH (s-e-e sign)	
DINNER (correct ASL sign)	

3.5.1 DAYS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY (and then every Monday)
TUESDAY (and then every Tuesday)
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

3.5.2 MONTHS OF THE YEAR

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE (spell out)

JULY (spell out)

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER (spell 4 letters)

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

3.5.3 SEASONS

SPRING

SUMMER

WINTER (cold)

FALL

3.5.4 HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS

EASTER

HALLOWEEN

THANKSGIVING

4TH OF JULY

NEW YEARS

NEW YEARS EVE

MEMORIAL DAY

LABOR DAY

COLUMBUS DAY

VETERAN'S DAY

3.6 IMPERATIVES

IMPERATIVE

NEED

MUST

WANT

DONT-WANT

ORDER

REQUIRE

SHOULD (bouncy NEED)

CAN

CAN'T

TRY

START

STOP

FINISHED

NOW

WATCH OUT!

NOW START EAT (start eating now!)

COME ON

GO AHEAD

GO ON

4 ADJECTIVES

4.1 Emotions/Feelings/States of Being

HAPPY

SAD

CRY

ANGRY/FURIOUS (RIP OUT GUTS)

MAD (one hand to face)

FURIOUS

GRUMPY/CRANKY

NERVOUS

SLEEPY

TIRED

AWAKE

PROUD

SCARED

CONFUSED

EMBARRASSED

BLUSH

ANNOYED (giving a little headache)

WORRIED

HATE

DETEST

EXCITED

SICK

PAIN

BORED

ANXIOUS (nervous squirming in char)

ANXIETY

SERIOUS

LAUGH

BELLY-LAUGH

FUNNY

FUN

HUNGRY

FULL (appetite example)

FULL (garbage can full example)

4.2 COLORS

RED
PINK
GREEN
BLUE
YELLOW
WHITE
BLACK
GREY
ORANGE
PURPLE
BROWN

4.3 DIRECTIONS

NORTH
SOUTH
EAST
WEST
LEFT
RIGHT
UP (initialized and non-initialized (point up))
DOWN (initialized and non-initialized (point down))
HERE

5 FOOD

5.1 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

FRUIT
VEGETABLE
ORANGE
PEACH
STRAWBERRY
APPLE
LEMON
BERRY
ONION

5.2 DRINKS

SODA POP
LEMONADE
WHISKEY
ALCOHOL
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 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.

6.1 INSTITUTIONS

SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL
COLLEGE
RESIDENTIAL (DEAF) SCHOOL
CHURCH
TEMPLE
COMPANY / BUSINESS
STORE

6.2 PLACES

KITCHEN
BATHROOM
BEDROOM
HOUSE
HOME
COMMUNITY
CITY
TOWN

7 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.

8 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.

9 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

<http://www.spokaneasl.com>

Cell/Text: 509-481-5437

