

Lesson 03

Etiquette in the Deaf Community (Part One)

Toby Fitch

- There are MANY “rules” when it comes to using sign language. Just like English with its own set of norms and “mannerisms” when speaking, sign language has its own set of rules to ensure communication is effective
- The following slides is a collection of basic information about these rules

Quick Facts

- Deaf people are usually very blunt and straightforward. They will tell you what they see.
 - Hearing society in the United States tend to drop subtle hints which can create confusing messages
 - Deaf: “You've lost weight!”
 - Hearing: “Wow, you look different!”
- It isn't rude to walk between two Deaf people using sign language if you need to get by, unless you hesitate or draw attention to yourself. It's best to walk through at a steady pace, which allows the speakers to continue their conversation with minimal interruption
- The movement of a person's hand can be misinterpreted or hard to see if they are wearing the wrong type of clothing.
 - Examples: Bright shirt, multiple colored shirts, or clothing with designs very distracting to the “listener”
 - To be more deaf-friendly, wear plain and neutral colors.

Importance of Eye Contact, Facial Expressions, Body Language, Movement

- Deaf people do not hear with their ears but they hear with their eyes
- Facial expressions / body language / movement = influences “tone of your voice”
- Constant eye contact helps create a 'polite' tone
 - Lack of eye contact can be interpreted as rude / ignorant
- Body Language – Deaf people have an uncanny ability to read subtle cues in body language to pick up on moods
- Facial expressions – Deaf people emphasize facial expressions to help give visual cues in conversations
- Movement – Quick/choppy movements vs slow/exaggerating movements

Looking Away

- When a Deaf speaker wants you to know and understand an important topic, if you look away, they will pause and wait until you look back. Often the audience may get disappointed and get the attention of the person not paying attention to look at the speaker.
- Another method Deaf speakers tend to use is continue to talk while the person looks away, and then when they are done, they will directly ask the person that looked away to repeat what the Deaf speaker has said or paraphrase what the Deaf speaker was talking about.

Signing Space

- Include the signer's head and chest.
 - Allows the “listener” to see the signs and facial expressions without having to concentrate on an entirely different area.
- Give enough space and room for the conversation to take place
 - Could be as little as 12 inches from the body to as much as 3-4 feet in radius because some signers are very animated and like to move in space when they sign

Spatial Signs

- These signs often give space to give “physical volume” to a conversation
- ASL speakers will sometimes turn to an imaginary person. They do this to signify a conversation they had or observed with someone else.
 - It is the same concept as “he said/she said” in English
 - This can appear to be confusing because it looks like the speaker is suddenly talking to someone else, but if you are the “listener”, continue to focus on the speaker.

Meeting / Getting a Deaf Person's Attention

- Call his/her name. If there is no response, lightly tap on their shoulder, wave your hand, flash your lights, stomp your feet, etc.
 - Do NOT wave your hand in front of their faces. We might be extremely focused on something or just simply ignoring you.
 - Hand-waving in front of faces may be upsetting. It could bring back unpleasant memories of what Deaf people endured through education in their youth.

Greetings / Departures

- Upon arrival, it is polite to say hello to as many people as you can before “settling in” and declare where you came from
- Upon departure, it is polite to say goodbye to everyone and declare where you are going

Acknowledgement

- There are a wide range of hearing losses and communication methods. If you do not know the individuals' preferred communication method, ASK!

Like regular people, every single Deaf person communicates differently.

(There is never one solution that solves all methods of communication.)

No Voice Zone | **Rules**

You may not use your voice (and this includes whispering!)

If you need to get someone's attention, wave, stomp the floor, pound the table, etc.

You can ask any questions about ASL/Deaf culture or even about my personal experiences. Do ask the most random/craziest questions, this is a judgement-free zone. The more you know, the better it is for all parties involved!

If you don't understand, don't hesitate to stop me, get my attention!

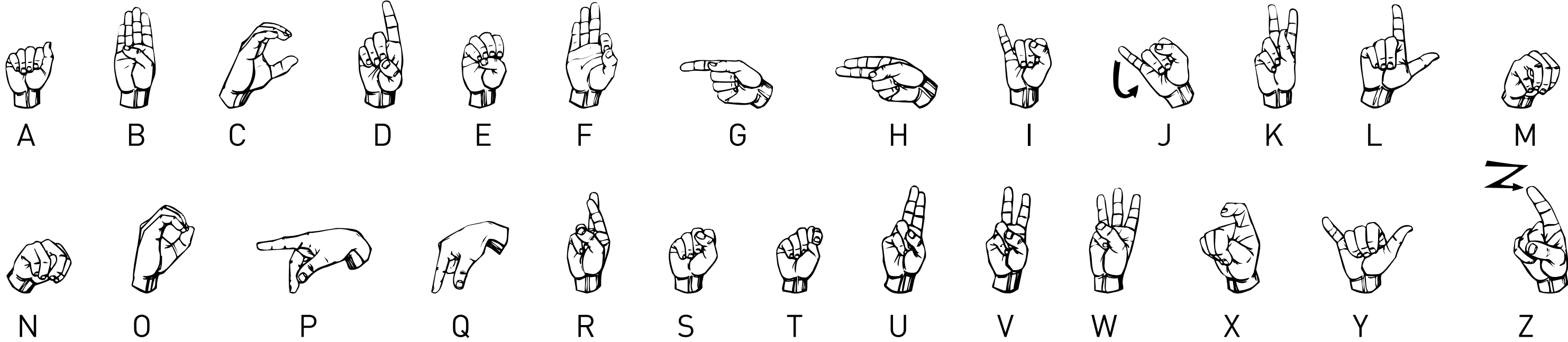
Have fun!

REVIEW | **NUMBERS & ABC'S**

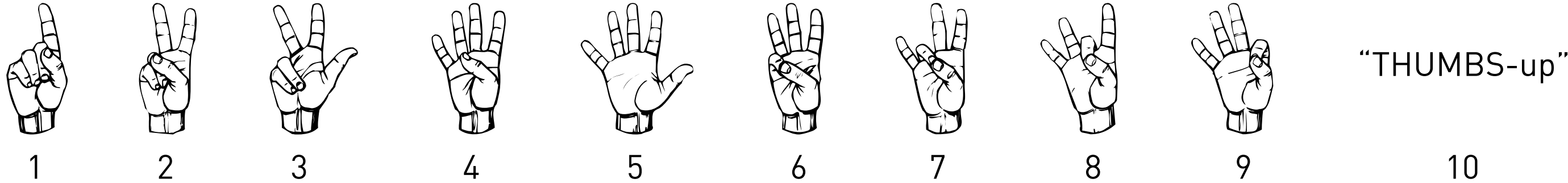
Quick Activity

- Activity #1 – Round Table Discussion
 - Each person takes turn going around the table and recites two letters/numbers of the ABC's in order before it's the next person's turn to recite two letters (or numbers)
- Activity #2 – Hot Potato
 - Pick a person to start, then that person can pick the next individual to recite the next letter in the ABC or number.
- Activity #3 – Guess the Word
 - The instructor will fingerspell the word several times with different fingerspelling speeds at each pass.

Alphabet



Numbers



REVIEW | **WORDS**

LESSON 02 WORDS

- CHILD
- CHILDREN
- GIRL
- SISTER
- MOM
- GRANDMA
- WOMAN / LADY
- BOY
- BROTHER
- DAD
- GRANDPA
- MALE
- SINGLE
- MARRIAGE
- DIVORCE
- HAVE

- HOW
- HOW-MANY
- FAST
- SLOW
- SPELL
- WORK

POSSESSION WORDS

- HIS / HER / it's
- MY
- OUR
- THEIR
- YOUR

LESSON 01 WORDS

- AGAIN
- DEAF
- GOOD
- HEARING
- HELP-me / HELP-you
- LEARN
- LIKE
- HOW
- MEANING
- MEET
- MY
- NAME
- NICE
- NO
- NUMBER
- REVIEW

- SAME
- SIGN
- SLOW
- STUDENT
- TEACHER
- THANK-you
- UNDERSTAND
- WANT
- WELCOME
- WHAT
- WHERE
- WHO
- WHY
- WORD
- YES

INDEXING

- HE / SHE / IT
- ME / I
- YOU
- THIS / THERE
- THEY / them / those
- WE / us
- YOU-all

NEW WORDS | **LESSON 03**

ALL

#ALL (lexicalized sign)

Also means WHOLE

ASK / ASK-to

(REQUEST vs. index finger)

BAD / GOOD

BATHROOM

also means TOILET, RESTROOM

BETTER

(outward horizontal movement)

BEST

(quick motion with dip before upward motion)

BIG

CITY

COME

(come-on)

DON'T

GO

also means 'go-there', 'go-to',

prefix for: ATTEND

FAMILY

(class, group, team, category, cluster)

FAVORITE

also means PREFER

FINE

FROM

HERE

HOUSE

LIKE

MORE

NO

NOT

NEED

also means MUST, HAVE-to, SHOULD, OUGHT-to

SCHOOL

also means ACADEMIC

SO-SO

also means 'sort-of'

SMALL

THINK

also means BRAIN, MIND
prefix to THINK-about, WONDER

RAISED

also means GROW-up

REVIEW | **WORDS**

LESSON 03 WORDS

- ALL
- #ALL
- ASK
- ASK-to
- BAD
- DON'T
- GOOD
- BETTER
- BEST
- BATHROOM
- BIG
- CITY
- COME
- GO
- FAMILY
- FAVORITE
- FINE
- FROM
- HERE
- HOUSE
- LIKE
- MORE
- NEED
- NOT
- SCHOOL
- SO-SO
- SMALL
- THINK
- RAISED
- WANT

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- SLOW
- STUDENT
- TEACHER
- THANK-you
- THEY / them / those
- THIS
- UNDERSTAND
- WANT
- WELCOME
- WE / us
- WHAT
- WHERE
- WHO
- WHY
- WORD
- YES
- YOU
- YOU-all

ACTIVITY | **CHARADES**

DIRECTIONS

- Split into teams of at least 3 people, and get something to write with (but not necessary).
- Each team must choose one member as their “delegate”. The delegate will write the team's answer down.
- If it is your team's turn, one member from your team needs to act out the topic. The remaining members can still participate in the round.
- No one is allowed to TALK or WHISPER, only writing/signing/fingerspelling is acceptable. The 'actor' cannot sign the word, speak or use props.
- The fastest team with the correct answer written down will win the round
- A topic will be given, and on “GO”, the actor will act out the scene

** The main goal is to practice on expressive / gestural sign language and facial expressions. These expressive / gestural signs are often the descriptive “terms” that the Deaf community uses to describe things. Be creative!

RESOURCES

www.tobyfitch.com/asl