

## Lesson 04

# Etiquette in the Deaf Community (Part Two)

Toby Fitch

- Not all Deaf people know how to lipread
- Many factors weigh in while lip-reading including but not limited to:
  - Facial hair such as mustaches, beards
  - Lip shape
  - Enunciation of words
  - Accent
  - Speaking speed (talking too fast is exhausting)
  - Lighting situations (dark situations like in a low-lit room)
  - Keep hands and objects away from mouth when speaking (like food, cigarettes, etc)
  - Position of face (looking at whiteboard or computer while speaking)
- Try your best to consider all of the situations above. Speak directly with the Deaf person and ask first what you can do in order to make the communication the best it can be
- Speak clearly at a good speed, and expressively to determine if the person can read your lips
  - Do not exaggerate your speech or raise your voice. This is extremely an annoying and frustrating experience.

- People who read lips don't always understand 100% of what is being said as it depends on the person's level of skill in lipreading.
- Don't assume that when a Deaf person nods their head means that they are understanding. (This happens all the time.) Instead, look at the person's eyes and face expressions to see if they truly understand.
- Lipreading is a skill that takes time to hone. It takes time to “memorize” a person's lips and their tendencies / behavior to help the Deaf person to understand what they are saying.
- VIDEO: “CAN YOU READ MY LIPS?” by Little Moving Pictures on Vimeo
  - <http://www.vimeo.com/148127830>

- Group settings with hearing people are extremely difficult for Deaf people
  - We can't read everyone's lips
  - Conversations in group settings are difficult to interpret and keep track of who said what
  - We can't see everyone at the same time, (this is especially true in situations where tables are rectangular)
- Let the Deaf individual determine the best seating arrangement in order for them to see the speaker and the interpreter
- Watch for signals that the Deaf individual wishes to contribute
- Do not talk with your back to the audience while writing on a flipchart or blackboard/whiteboard
- Incorporate visual aids, demonstrations, flipcharts, written agendas, handouts of presentations, or share group notes
  - “Deaf Gain” - benefits everyone, not just the Deaf person
- Do not change the topic of conversation without warning. Use transitional phrases such as “Okay, we need to discuss...”
  - The reason why this was suggested is because conversational changes often have changes in pitch/tones of voice, which Deaf people can't hear.

- High quality interpreters are extremely valued by the Deaf community. The more qualified an interpreter is, the more advanced situations an interpreter can be used in (ie: Healthcare, courtroom, etc.)
- When using an interpreter:
  - Always address your comments, questions, and concerns directly to the person you are talking to, never to the interpreter. The interpreter will relay everything they hear and pinpoint location of where the sound is coming from.
  - Look directly at the Deaf person, even when they are not looking at you due to looking at the interpreter.
- The interpreter is not a point of entertainment.
  - It is considered rude and offensive to include interpreter in a speech, or use interpreters as a point of jokes.
- Interpreters are not teachers
  - Many interpreters are often hired by educational institutions only to be employed as an teacher's aide. This causes a lot of issues since they do not know how to educate Deaf individuals and are not qualified to do so.

## Quick Tips

- The interpreter is there for both you and the Deaf person's benefit. (“our interpreter” vs “his/her interpreter”)
  - Having no interpreter for something extremely important allows the situation to become a liability
    - For example, doctors should always have an interpreter since it ensure all information is clear and correct.
- Never address the Deaf person in third person, it creates uncomfortable and unwelcome feelings

## 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!

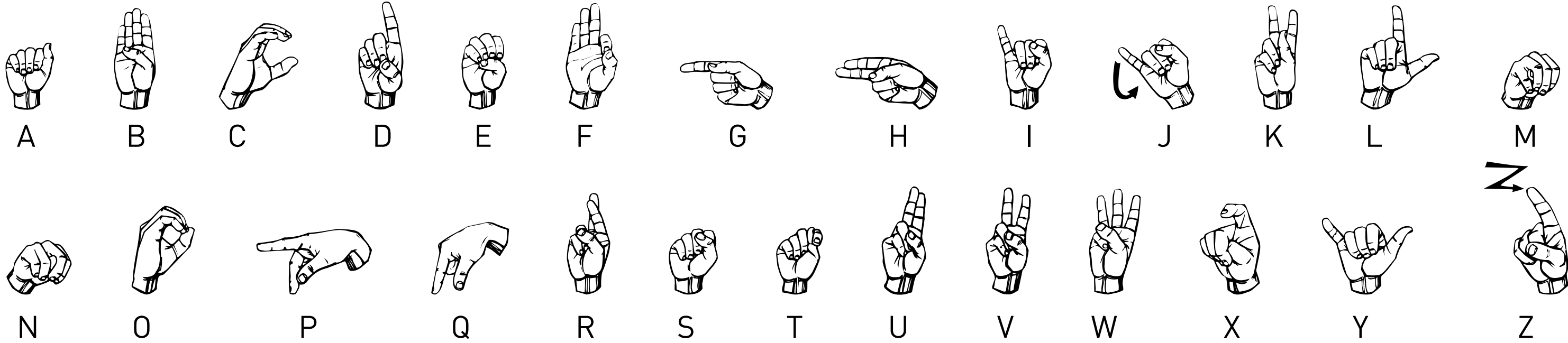
# REVIEW | **LESSONS 00 - 02**

## Quick Activity – Guess the Word

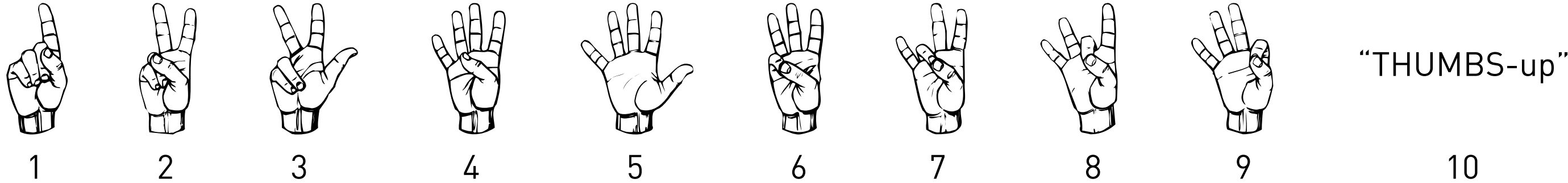
- The instructor will fingerspell the word several times with different fingerspelling speeds at each pass.
- You can either reply by signing the word the instructor spelled, or writing it on a piece of paper.
- If you'd like the instructor to repeat, please ask!



# Alphabet



# Numbers



**LESSON 02 WORDS**

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

- HEY
- HOW-MANY
- MANY
- FAST
- SLOW
- SPELL
- FINGERSPELL
- WORK

**POSSESSION WORDS**

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

**LESSON 01 WORDS**

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

- SAME
- SIGN
- STUDENT
- TEACH
- TEACHER
- THANK-you
- UNDERSTAND
- WANT
- DON'T WANT
- WELCOME
- WHAT
- WHERE
- WHO
- WHY
- WORD
- YES

**INDEXING**

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

# REVIEW | **LESSON 03**

**#ALL**

(lexicalized sign)

**ALL**

also means WHOLE

**ASK**

also means REQUEST

ASK-to

(index finger)

BAD / GOOD



**BETTER**

(outward horizontal movement)

# BEST

(quick motion with dip before upward motion)

**BIG**

**CITY**

COME

(come-on)

# GO

also means 'go-there', 'go-to',  
prefix for: ATTEND

ATTEND

**FAMILY**



CLASS

GROUP

**TEAM**

# CATEGORY

FAVORITE

also means PREFER

**FINE**

FROM

**HERE**



HOUSE

LIKE

**MORE**

NOT

also means “don't”

# NEED

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

RAISED

also means GROW-up

**SCHOOL**

also means ACADEMIC

SO-SO

also means 'sort-of'



SMALL

# THINK

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

THINK-about / WONDER

**LESSON 03 WORDS**

- ALL  
 - #ALL  
 - ASK  
 - ASK-to  
 - BETTER  
 - BEST  
 - BIG  
 - COME  
 - GO  
 - ATTEND  
 - GROW-up  
 - FAMILY  
 - CLASS  
 - GROUP  
 - TEAM  
 - CATEGORY

- FAVORITE  
 - FINE  
 - FROM  
 - HERE  
 - HOUSE  
 - CITY  
 - LIKE  
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 - SO-SO  
 - SMALL  
 - THINK  
 - THINK-about

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 - MALE  
 - SINGLE  
 - MARRIAGE  
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 - HAVE

- HIS / HER / it's  
 - HOW  
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 - SPELL  
 - FINGERSPELL  
 - WORK  
 - MY  
 - OUR  
 - THEIR  
 - YOUR

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 - BAD/GOOD  
 - DEAF  
 - HE / SHE / IT  
 - HEARING  
 - HELP  
 - HELP-me  
 - HELP-you  
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- NUMBER  
 - REVIEW  
 - SAME  
 - SIGN  
 - STUDENT  
 - TEACH  
 - TEACHER  
 - THANK-you  
 - THEY / them / those  
 - THIS / THERE  
 - UNDERSTAND  
 - WANT  
 - DON'T WANT  
 - WELCOME  
 - WE / us

- WHAT  
 - WHERE  
 - WHO  
 - WHY  
 - WORD  
 - YES  
 - YOU  
 - YOU-all

# NEW WORDS | **LESSON 04**

ANGRY

AUNT

UNCLE



**BABY**

prefix to SON / DAUGHTER

SON

DAUGHTER

BEDROOM

[box / room]

# BRUSH-TEETH

CRY

# EXCUSE

also means FORGIVE, LAY-off, PARDON

FEEL



FRIEND

HAPPY

# HURT

also means PAIN, INJURY

IDEA

LOVE

SAD

SORRY

also means APOLOGIZE, REGRET

STOP



# WASH

(wash-car or wall vs LAUNDRY)

REVIEW | **WORDS**

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- IDEA
- LOVE
- SAD
- SORRY
- STOP
- WASH

# ACTIVITY | **CHARADES**

## DIRECTIONS

- A topic will be given, and on “GO”, the selected “actor” will act out the scene
- Everyone will take turns in “acting” out a scene
- The actor cannot talk, whisper, or sign any words. Just gestural signing.
  - They also cannot use any objects to help.
- Anyone can guess. To answer, raise your hand and answer in sign language if you are called.
  - If the answer is incorrect, someone else may guess.

\*\* 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](http://www.tobyfitch.com/asl)