

Lesson 01

Learning About ASL and It's History

Toby Fitch

## Who uses it?

- Parents who want to communicate with babies.
- People who are in loud environment (or underwater).
- Approximately 2 million Deaf/HoH people in the United States, but at least 500,000 are using daily.



## Official Definition

- Merriam-Webster: A sign language for the deaf in which meaning is conveyed by a system of articulated hand gestures and their placement relative to the upper body. (1960)
- Recognition of ASL
  - Still not officially recognized, even though it's been around for over a century!
- Brief history of ASL
  - Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet / Alice Cogswell
    - Gestural based
  - Searching for solutions abroad
    - Where did ASL come from?
  - Martha's Vineyard
  - More in-depth history will come in future lessons

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

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

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

You can ask any questions about ASL/Deaf Culture, (even the most random/craziest questions!) The more you know, the better it is for all parties involved!

Have fun!

REVIEW | **NUMBERS & ABC'S**

A

**B**

c



D

E

F

G

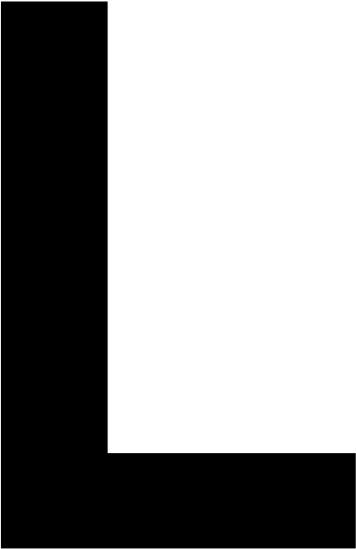
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**17**



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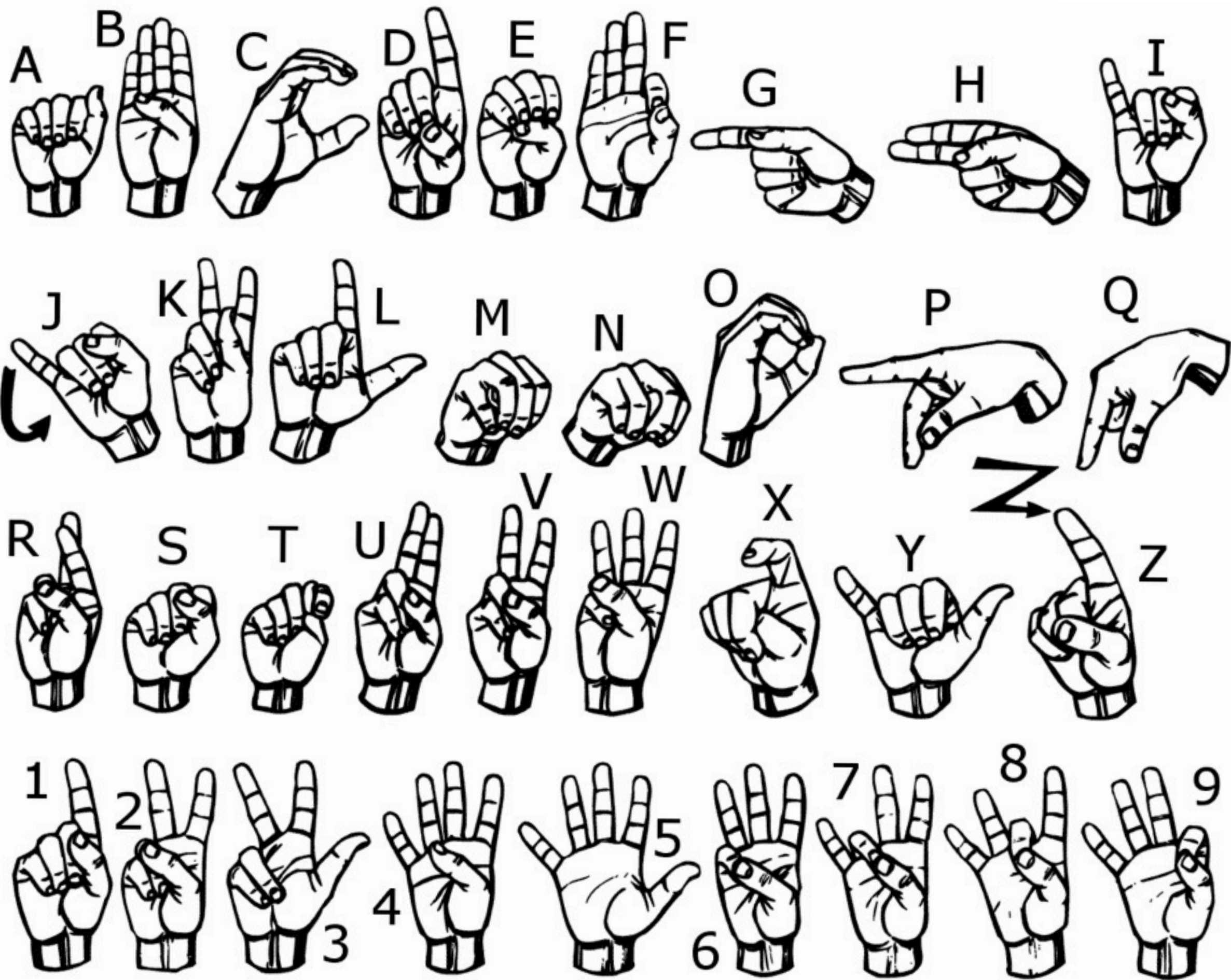
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NEW WORDS | **BASICS**

AGAIN

DEAF

GOOD

# HEARING (culturally)

also means PUBLIC

HELP-me

HELP-you



LEARN

LIKE

HOW

# MEANING

MEET

MY

NAME

# NICE

also means CLEAN



NO

NUMBER

# REVIEW

SAME

SIGN

SLOW

STUDENT

TEACHER



THANK-you

UNDERSTAND

WANT

WELCOME

WHAT

WHERE

WHO

WHY



WORD

YES

YOUR

NEW WORDS | **INDEXING**

# Pointing Movements

HE / SHE / IT

(pointing movements)

ME / I

(pointing movements)

YOU

(pointing movements)



THIS / THERE-(point)

(pointing movements)

# Sweeping Movements

THEY / them / those

(sweeping movements)

WE / us

(sweeping movements)

YOU-all

(sweeping movements)

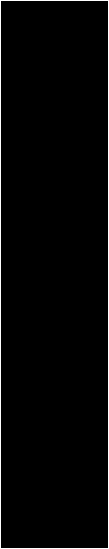
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1

19



**B**



4

D

8

G

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**Y**

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12

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**V**



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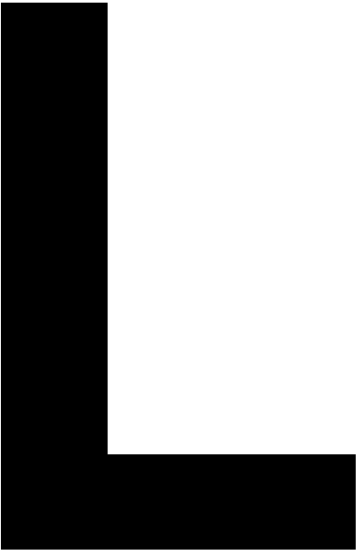
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THEY / them / those

(sweeping movements)

**WE / us**

(sweeping movements)

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# ACTIVITY | PRACTICE ACTIVITY

## DIRECTIONS:

- Find a partner. You will be asking each other questions, try your best!
- Your partner should pick different sections. For example: If your partner picked A, you can pick B, or C.

### Section A

1. "YOU NAME?" - *(You are named what?)*
2. "DEAF YOU?" - *(Are you Deaf?)*
3. "STUDENT YOU?" - *(Are you a student?)*
4. "YOUR TEACHER NAME 'HUH'?" - *(What is your teacher's name?)*
5. "YOU UNDERSTAND HE/SHE?" - *(Do you understand him/her?)*

### Section B

6. "WHO HE/SHE?" - *(Who is he/she?)*
7. "AGAIN, NAME YOU?" - *(What is your name again?)*
8. "NICE MEET-you" - *(It is nice to meet you.)*
9. "THIS YOUR?" - *(Is this yours?)*
10. "WHERE \_\_\_\_\_" - *(Spell the name of the person in the room)*

### Section C

11. "YOU LIKE LEARN SIGN?"  
- *(Do you like learning sign language?)*
12. "HEARING YOU?"  
- *(Are you Deaf?)*
13. "YOU LEARN SIGN WHERE?"  
- *(Where are you learning sign?)*
14. "YOUR TEACHER, WHO?"  
- *(Who is your teacher?)*
15. "THEY LEARN SIGN?"  
- *(Are they learning sign language?)*

# Resources

<http://www.tobyfitch.com/asl>