

Lesson 02

ASL & It's Relationship with Deaf Culture

Toby Fitch

Deaf people have a culture?

- Culture: A set of learned behaviors a group of people that share a language, values, rules for behavior, and traditions.
 - If you think about it, we do have a language, share common values, have certain rules for behavior and definitely have traditions. We will touch this often in our presentation and upcoming lessons.

Deaf Culture

- American Sign Language is:
 - The preferred language of the Deaf community
 - A visual gestural language
 - A language with its own syntax and grammatical structure
 - Tends to be collectivist rather than individualist; culturally deaf people value the group/community

Hearing Culture

- Spoken
- Written
- Universally used

Deaf Culture

- Rules of etiquettes
 - Eye contact
 - Getting attention: Hand waving; gentle tap on shoulder is acceptable; flickering lights on/off; etc.
 - Using a third person to relay information or get someone's attention, especially in crowded rooms
 - It is common to provide detailed information when leaving early or arriving late; withholding such information may be considered rude
 - Deaf people are more direct or blunt than hearing people
- Meeting others within Deaf community
 - Greetings often include hugs instead of handshakes
 - Conversations tends to be open and direct
 - Conversations tends to include elaboration about their lives and daily occurrences
 - There's a genuine interest in other people's connections with the Deaf community
 - Deaf Standard Time (DST)

Hearing Culture

- Conversations tend to be indirect, loud noises are unacceptable, and pretty much the opposite of everything above

Deaf Culture

- ASL
- Eyes (rely on vision)
- Hands/sign
- Videophone (VP); Relay Services; TTY
- Visual/vibrating alerting systems
- Video mail
- Interpreters
- Closed Captioning / Subtitles
- Deaf clubs, Deaf civic and social organizations
- Deaf schools (preserve the language and culture)
- Deaf rights

Can you think of other things Deaf people may value?

Hearing Culture

- Spoken language
- Ears (rely on sound)
- Mouth/speech
- Telephone
- Sound alerting systems
- Voice mail
- Speakers
- Dialogue
- Civic and social organizations

What other things do hearing people value?

Deaf Culture

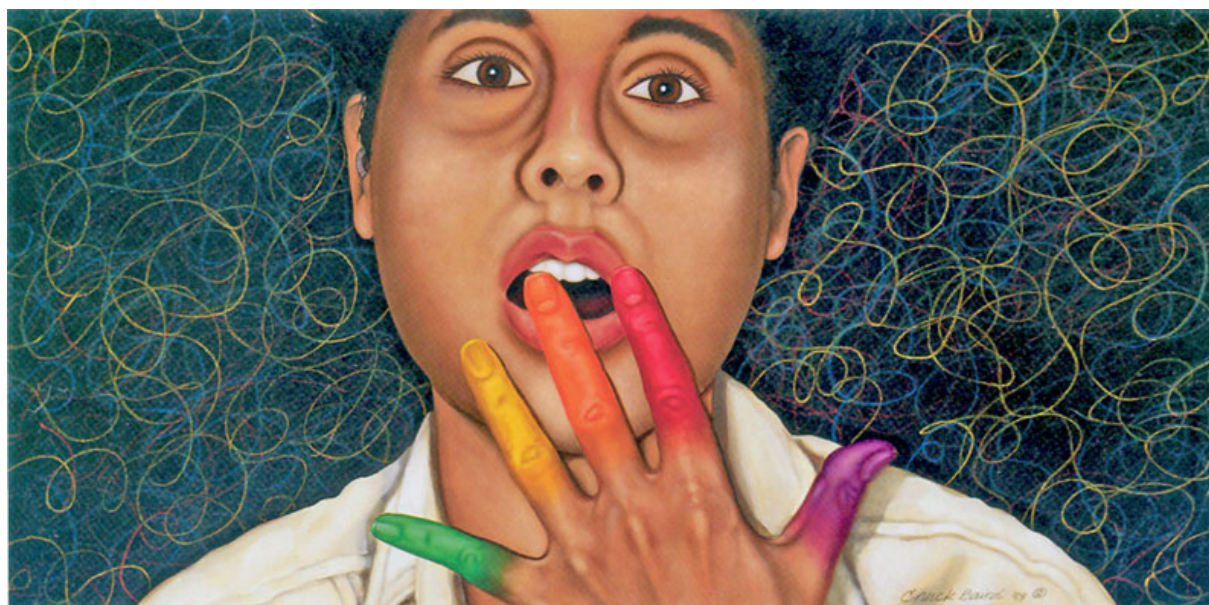
- Traditions are often a reflection of Deaf people's values
- Strong family-like ties and a lifelong relationship that develop between individuals
 - Strong devotion to community Deaf club/events, Deaf alumni events, senior citizen gatherings, conferences, sporting events at the local, regional and national levels
 - These events provide an atmosphere for social gathering opportunity where a lot of different dynamics of the Deaf community come into play, such as exchanging political/economical decision-making that may affect Deaf citizens
 - Also provide a ground for grooming new leaders to carry on Deaf community traditions
- Deaf folklore, arts, history, ASL poetry and joke-telling
 - Deaf jokes: “Tree”; “Train Ride”; “Marriage”
 - ABC storytelling
 - Well known ASL performances from: Clayton Valli, Peter Cook, CJ Jones, and many others
 - Deaf artists include Nancy Rourke, Betty G. Miller and Chuck Baird
- Giving sign names to other people
 - Unwritten rule that only Deaf people can give a person a sign name
 - Considered a “right of passage” to the Deaf culture/community

Examples of Deaf Art



Chuck Baird - "Alligator" (top left); "Color" (bottom left)

Warren Miller - "Between Two Worlds" (top middle);
"Grounded" (bottom middle); "George Veditz" (right)



- Not all Deaf cultures are the same
- Members of the Deaf community tends to view deafness as a difference in human experience rather than a disability
 - Common “motto” - We can do anything, except hear.
 - Members of the Deaf community may include family members, CODAs and sign-language interpreters
- Not all Deaf people are aware of Deaf culture
 - Reasons:
 - Background (Hearing family, etc.)
 - Exposure (No other deaf people around, isolated)
- Terminology
 - Little “d” vs capital “D”
 - deaf – refers to the physical condition of deafness
 - Deaf – refers to the culturally deaf and uses ASL as their primary language
 - “hearing impaired”
 - Very sensitive to the Deaf community because it makes a Deaf person sound “broken”. They usually reject the label “impaired” and other labels that imply that deafness is a pathological condition

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 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!


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
 - Pick a person to start, everyone can guess what word this person is signing.


Alphabet




A




B




C




D




E




F




G




H




I




J




K




L




M




N




O




P




Q




R




S




T




U




V



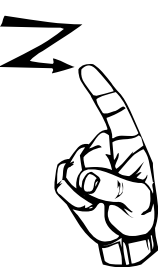
W



X




Y




Z


Numbers




1



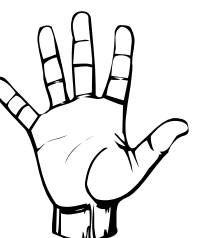
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3



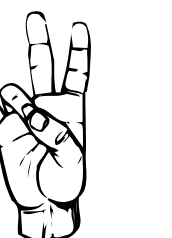
4




5




6



7



8



9

“THUMBS-up”

10

REVIEW | **WORDS**

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

REVIEW | **INDEXING**

HE / SHE / IT

(pointing movements)

ME / I

(pointing movements)

YOU

(pointing movements)

THIS / THERE-(point)

(pointing movements)

THEY / them / those

(sweeping movements)

WE / us

(sweeping movements)

YOU-all
(sweeping movements)

NEW WORDS | **LESSON 02**

CHILD

(prefix for: CHILDREN)

CHILDREN

GIRL

(prefix for: LADY, SISTER, WOMAN)

SISTER

MOM

(prefix for: GRANDMA)

GRANDMA

WOMAN

also means LADY

BOY

(prefix for: BROTHER, MALE, MAN)

BROTHER

DAD

(prefix for: MALE, MAN)

GRANDPA

MALE

also means MAN

SINGLE

also means ALONE, SOMEONE, JUST, ONLY, SOMETHING

MARRIAGE

also means HUSBAND, WIFE, MARRY, SPOUSE

DIVORCE

HAVE

HEY

HOW

HOW-MANY

(also see variation: MANY)

LIVE

also means: LIFE, ADDRESS

FAST

SLOW

SPELL

(prefix for: FINGERSPELL)

WORK

NEW WORDS | **POSSESSION**

HIS / HER / it's

MY

OUR

THEIR

YOUR

REVIEW | **LESSON 02**

NEW 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

OLD 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

All ASL resources

- www.tobyfitch.com/asl

Microsoft ASL Lunch

- 12pm @ The Commons
- Join the alias “asllunch” or contact Michael Anthony (janthony)