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We have compiled a great collection of videos showing the top 150 basic sign language words.These are the words that you should learn first. Learning the signs for these ASL sign language words is a great way to build a basic vocabulary foundation before learning full American Sign Language. These 150 words were chosen by finding the most important words learned in our ASL 1 course. These are the words that students learn first in the class and are therefore extremely useful to learnespecially if you plan to take an ASL class in the future.These top 150 words have been organized into categories. This should make them easy to find and easier to learn. The more important categories are listed toward the top. These are the basic ASL sign language words that you will find yourself using the most often. The categories toward the bottom are best for enriching basic conversations. Keep in mind that this list is just a starter and contains only the most common basic signs used in American Sign Language.And, of course, there is more to American Sign Language than just memorizing vocabulary. ASL has its own grammar, syntax, culture, and history! Dont forget to check out our free American Sign Language online classes where you can learn sign language and not just the basic sign language words!First Signs Food & Drink School & Education More Sign Language Words: > Want to learn more? Take Our ASL 1 Course for Free >Basic Sign Language (ASL) Grammar ExplanationsThe Five ElementsJust like how we see English words as the arrangement of letters, there are five basic sign language elements that make up each sign. The five elements are: handshape, movement, palm orientation, location, and facial expression. American Sign Language is a very expressive language, and understanding these elements will give you a better understanding of how signs are made and what makes them different.Your Dominant HandYou have a dominant and non-dominant hand. If you are right-handed, your right hand is your dominant hand. If you are left-handed, your left hand is your dominant hand. If you are ambidextrous, choose one hand to use as your dominant hand, and stick with it.There are three types of signs when it comes to what hand you will use:One-handed signs: Uses only your dominant handTwo-handed symmetrical signs: Uses both your dominant and non-dominant hand where they both move the same wayTwo-handed non-symmetrical signs: Uses both your dominant and non-dominant hand where the dominant hand moves while the non-dominant hand remains stationaryYour non-dominant hand will never move unless your dominant hand is moving the same way. This is very important for when you graduate from basic sign language into more complex signing. You dont want to get confused!Basic HandshapesThese are a few basic sign language handshapes that are used to form many signs. Practice forming these handshapesyou will find them very helpful for learning ASL vocabulary.Open hand: Your hand is flat and your fingers are spread apart (5 hand)Flat hand: Your hand is flat and your fingers and thumb are touchingCurved hand: Your hand is curved and your fingers and thumb are touchingBent hand: Your hand is bent at the knuckles and your fingers and thumb are touching and held straightClawed hand: Your hand is curved and your fingers are separatedAnd hand: Your hand is formed so that all of your fingertips are touchingOne hand: Your index finger is up with your palm facing forwardYour Signing AreaYour signing area is the space in front of your body from the top of your head down to your waist and from shoulder to shoulder. Most signs are made in this space during everyday conversation. Your signs should not extend beyond this area unless you are signing for a huge audience (where you should sign larger and slower).DirectionBasic sign language direction is very important when it comes to the meaning of signs. A sign can have one meaning when it moves one way and another meaning when it moves the other way. For example, the signs for IN and OUT have different directions and different meanings.Direction can also provide information about the subject and the object of a sentence in basic sign language. You can move the sign GIVE away from you to signify that you are giving something to someone. You can move the sign GIVE from one person to another to signify that the first person is giving something to the second person. You can do this with many signs, such as: TELL, ASK, and SEND.TenseIn English, words are spelled differently to indicate the past, present, and future. In basic sign language, you use your body to indicate tense. Signs for the present are signed in front of your body (TODAY and NOW), signs for past are signed moving backward (BEFORE and YESTERDAY), and signs for the future are signed moving forward (TOMORROW and SOMEDAY).IntensityIn English, intensity is usually shown by adding words. In ASL, intensity is shown by varying the intensity or speed with which a sign is made or by incorporating facial expression.For example: the sign for WALK can be made quickly or slowly to indicate how the person is walking, LIGHT BLUE is signed with a slight wrist turning motion, and SMART becomes BRILLIANT and PRETTY becomes BEAUTIFUL when signs are exaggerated.Iconic SignsWhen signs look like the word they are representing, these are said to be iconic signs. These signs can often be recognized by people who dont know basic sign language. The sign for ELEPHANT is signed like an elephants trunk. The sign for SWIMMING looks like a breast stroke. There are many signs like this.Some signs seem to be arbitrary when you first see them. When you look at the root, though, some signs becomes more iconic. The sign for HOME is made by placing your hand on your lips, then on your head. This represents where someone eats and sleeps.Initialized SignsAn initialized sign is one that has the handshape of the first letter of the word. You will come across many of these signs in basic sign language and some are very helpful for knowing the specificity of the sign. For example, the signs for DOCTOR and NURSE look the same except that DOCTOR is signed with a D handshape and NURSE is signed with an N handshape.The Person EndingTo show a persons occupation or nationality, you would add the person-ending sign after the occupation or nationality. For example, you would sign TEACH + person-ending for the sign TEACHER. You could also sign AMERICA + person-ending for the sign AMERICAN. To make the person-ending, point both of your flat hands forward in front of your chest with your palms facing each other. Then, move both of your hands down at the same time.GenderLocation is what shows you the gender of some signs. Most male signs are formed on or near the forehead while most female signs are formed on or near the cheek or chin. For example, FATHER is signed by touching the tip of your thumb to your head, while MOTHER is signed by touching the tip of your thumb to your chin.Plurals and PossessivesTo form plurals, you have a few different options:The most common way is to repeat the sign several times on either side of your body. Repeating the sign for CAT would mean multiple cats.You can also add a number or sign that indicates quantity after the sign. You can sign CAR + MANY to mean many cars.You can also form the sign, then point with your index finger at a number of locations in your signing area. You can sign HOUSE then point around in your signing area to mean many houses.Possessives are rarely used because you can usually use context. However, you can sign the letter S with a twist of your wrist after you sign the noun or fingerspell the word that is in possession of the thing you are talking about.NegativesTo form a negative, you can do a few things:Sign the word NOT before the intended word. In relation to English, this adds the un-, im-, in-, or dis- prefix to the word (NOT + HAPPY = unhappy).Shake your head back and forth while signing the word (BELIEVE + (shake head) = dont believe).For some signs, you can twist your hand downward to indicate a negative (WANT + (twist hands so palms face downward) = dont want).ArticlesArticles (a, an, and the) are normally left out of basic sign language conversation. They are not necessary. However, articles are sometimes used for teaching deaf students English.PunctuationLike articles, punctuation marks are left out. They are also unnecessary (facial expression suffices). If you feel you need to add a punctuation mark, just trace the shape of the mark in the air with your pointer finger.NumbersPlease see the Numbers section of our ASL Dictionary for videos of how different numbers are signed in ASL.Repeating SignsRepeating a sign several times can make that sign plural.Repetition can also add another dimension to ASL. To show a continuous action, you would form the sign with a repeated, slow circular movement. To show a recurrent action, you would form the sign with several quick repeated movements. For example, you can sign LOOK several times with a slow motion to show that you gazed steadily at something, but signing LOOK with a quick repeated motion shows that you glanced at something numerous times.We hope we were able to clear some things up about basic sign language for you! Now that you are armed with this information, are you ready to learn some ASL? Then jump on over to our free American Sign Language lessons! If you are interested in learning sign language words, you may be wondering where to start. Sign language is a visual language that uses hand gestures, facial expressions, and body language to communicate. It is used by millions of people around the world, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as those who want to communicate with them.One of the first things you will need to learn when starting sign language is the sign language alphabet. This will help you spell out words and communicate basic ideas. From there, you can learn common words and phrases, such as greetings, questions, and basic sentences. As you become more proficient, you can learn more advanced vocabulary and grammar to express more complex ideas.Its important to note that there are different sign languages used around the world, including American Sign Language (ASL), British Sign Language (BSL), and others. If you plan to communicate with people in a specific region or community, it may be helpful to learn the sign language used in that area. With dedication and practice, you can become proficient in sign language and open up a new world of communication and connection.Sign Language Words Understanding Sign Language WordsLearning sign language is an excellent way to communicate with people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Sign language is a powerful non-verbal language that can help to foster understanding, empathy, and inclusivity within the Deaf community. In this section, we will explore the history of sign language and the importance of learning sign language.History of Sign LanguageSign language has been used for centuries as a way of communicating with people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The earliest known record of sign language dates back to the fifth century BC in ancient Greece. In the 18th century, a French teacher named Charles Michel de lEpee developed a system of sign language that became known as French Sign Language. This system was later adapted and used in other countries, including the United States.In the United States, American Sign Language (ASL) is the most commonly used sign language. It is a complete language with its own grammar and syntax. ASL has its roots in French Sign Language and was developed in the early 19th century by a man named Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet.Importance of Sign LanguageLearning sign language is important for several reasons. First, it allows you to communicate with people who are deaf or hard of hearing. This can help to break down barriers and foster understanding and inclusivity. Second, it can help to improve your own communication skills. Learning sign language can teach you how to communicate more effectively, even with people who are not deaf or hard of hearing.Learning sign language can also help to improve your job prospects. Many employers are looking for people who can communicate effectively with a wide range of people, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing. By learning sign language, you can demonstrate your commitment to inclusivity and your ability to communicate with a diverse range of people.Basic Sign Language WordsGreetings and SalutationsWhen meeting someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, it is important to know how to greet them. Here are some basic sign language words for greetings and salutations:SignMeaningHelloA wave with your handGoodbyeA wave with your handNice to meet youPoint to yourself, then to the other personThank youPlace your hand over your heart and then extend it outwardPleaseRub your chest in a circular motionSorryPlace your hand over your heart and then extend it outwardCommon PhrasesKnowing some common phrases in sign language can help you communicate more effectively with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Here are some basic sign language words for common phrases:SignMeaningYesNod your headNoShake your headHelpHold up one hand with your palm facing up, then touch it with the other handI love youCross your arms over your chest and point with your index fingerHow are you?Point to the other person and then make a questioning faceIm fineThumbs up and then point to yourselfNumbers and DaysNumbers and days are important to know in sign language for basic communication. Here are some basic sign language words for numbers and days:SignMeaning1Point your index finger up2Point your index and middle fingers up3Point your index, middle, and ring fingers upMondayMake an M with your handTuesdayMake a T with your handWednesdayMake a W with your handThursdayMake a Th with your handFridayMake an F with your handSaturdayMake an S with your handSundayMake an S with your hand and circle it around your chestRemember, sign language is a visual language, so it is important to use facial expressions and body language to convey meaning. With these basic sign language words, you can start communicating with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.Sign Language AlphabetIf youre interested in learning sign language, the first thing youll need to know is the sign language alphabet. This alphabet is used to spell out words and names, and its an essential part of sign language communication.The sign language alphabet is also known as the manual alphabet or fingerspelling. It consists of 26 letters, just like the English alphabet. Each letter is represented by a specific handshape or movement.Heres a table that shows the sign language alphabet, along with the corresponding letter and handshape:LetterHandshapeAFist with thumb extendedBClosed fistCThumb, index, and middle fingers extended, other fingers curledDFist with index finger extendedEFist with index and middle fingers extendedFFist with index and thumb extendedGFist with middle and ring fingers extendedHFist with index, middle, and ring fingers extendedIFist with pinky finger extendedJIndex finger and thumb extendedKFist with index and middle fingers extended, other fingers curledLFist with thumb and index finger extendedMFist with thumb and middle finger extendedNFist with thumb and index finger extended, other fingers curledOCircle made with thumb and index fingerPFist with thumb and pinky finger extendedQFist with index and middle fingers extended, thumb and pinky finger extendedRFist with index and middle fingers extended, thumb crossed overSFist with pinky and index fingers extended, other fingers curledTFist with index finger and thumb extendedUFist with index, middle, and ring fingers extended, pinky and thumb tucked inVFist with index and middle fingers extended, other fingers curledWFist with index, middle, and ring fingers extended, thumb and pinky extendedXFist with index and pinky fingers extended, other fingers curledYFist with index and middle fingers extended, thumb extendedZFist with index and middle fingers extended, other fingers curled, thumb tucked inSign Language for EmotionsIf you want to express your emotions and feelings in sign language, you can use a variety of signs and facial expressions to convey your message. In this section, we will cover some of the most common signs for emotions in American Sign Language (ASL).Positive EmotionsWhen you want to express positive emotions, such as happiness, excitement, or love, you can use the following signs:SignDescriptionHappyMake a smiley face and bring both hands up to chest level, palms facing inwards.ExcitedMake a V shape with both hands and shake them up and down.LoveCross both arms over your chest and make a heart shape with your hands.Negative EmotionsWhen you want to express negative emotions, such as sadness, anger, or frustration, you can use the following signs:SignDescriptionSadMake a frown and bring both hands down to chest level, palms facing downwards.AngryMake a fist with both hands and shake them in front of your body.FrustratedMake a F shape with both hands and move them up and down in front of your body.Remember that in sign language, facial expressions are just as important as hand gestures. When you want to convey a certain emotion, make sure to use the appropriate facial expression to enhance your message.Sign Language in Different CulturesJust like spoken languages, sign languages have their own grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. In this section, well explore three different sign languages used in different cultures: American Sign Language, British Sign Language, and International Sign Language.American Sign LanguageAmerican Sign Language (ASL) is the most widely-used sign language in the United States and Canada. It has its own grammar and syntax, and is not simply a visual representation of English. ASL has its own unique signs, and some signs may have different meanings depending on the context in which they are used.ASL is used by the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in North America, and is also used by hearing people who work with the deaf community, such as interpreters, teachers, and family members. Some features of ASL have been adopted by other sign languages around the world.British Sign LanguageBritish Sign Language (BSL) is the sign language used in the United Kingdom. It is a distinct language with its own grammar, syntax, and vocabulary, and is not simply a visual representation of English. BSL has its own unique signs, and some signs may have different meanings depending on the context in which they are used.BSL is used by the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities in the United Kingdom, and is also used by hearing people who work with the deaf community, such as interpreters, teachers, and family members. Some features of BSL have been adopted by other sign languages around the world.International Sign LanguageInternational Sign Language (ISL) is a sign language that is used by deaf people from different countries to communicate with each other. It is not a language on its own, but rather a pidgin language that uses signs from different sign languages around the world.Related Fire Words: Fire-Related Words to Ignite Your VocabularyISL is used in international settings, such as at conferences, sporting events, and other gatherings of deaf people from different countries. It allows deaf people from different countries to communicate with each other, even if they do not share the same sign language.Tips for Learning Sign Language WordsUsing Visual AidsVisual aids can be a great way to learn sign language words. Videos, diagrams, and flashcards can all be helpful tools to reinforce your learning. Many online resources offer visual aids that can assist you in learning sign language words at your own pace.Additionally, practicing with a mirror can help you see how your signs look and make it easier to correct any mistakes. You can also record yourself signing and watch the video to identify areas for improvement.Practicing RegularlyLike any language, consistency is key when learning sign language words. Set aside a regular time each day to practice and review what you have learned. Consistent practice will help you retain the information and build your vocabulary.Its also important to start with the basics and gradually work your way up to more complex signs. Dont overwhelm yourself by trying to learn too much too quickly. Instead, focus on a few words at a time and practice them until you feel comfortable before moving on.Engaging with the Deaf CommunityOne of the best ways to learn sign language words is to engage with the Deaf community. Attend local Deaf events or seek out Deaf individuals in your community to practice with. This will give you the opportunity to practice your skills in a real-world setting and learn from native signers.Additionally, joining a sign language class or hiring a private tutor can provide you with structured learning and feedback on your progress. Its important to find a tutor who is fluent in sign language and has experience teaching beginners.By using visual aids, practicing regularly, and engaging with the Deaf community, you can improve your sign language skills and become more fluent in this powerful non-verbal language.Frequently Asked QuestionsWhat are some basic sign language words for beginners?Learning basic sign language words can be a great way to communicate with those who are hard of hearing or deaf. Some basic sign language words for beginners include greetings like Hello and Goodbye, as well as common words like Yes, No, Please, Thank you, and Sorry.What are some common sign language words to know?There are many common sign language words that can be useful to know. Some examples include Family, Friend, Food, Drink, Home, Work, School, Money, and Time. These words can be helpful in everyday conversations.How can I learn sign language words?Learning sign language words can be done through a variety of methods. You can take classes, watch online tutorials, or use mobile apps to learn. Its important to practice regularly and immerse yourself in the language as much as possible.What are some printable resources for learning sign language words?There are many printable resources available for learning sign language words. Some examples include flashcards, posters, and worksheets. These can be found online or purchased at bookstores.Are there any offensive sign language words to avoid?Just like any language, there are offensive sign language words that should be avoided. Its important to educate yourself on what these words are and why they are offensive. Respect for the language and culture is key.What are some important sign language words for toddlers to learn?For toddlers, learning basic sign language words can help with communication and language development. Some important words to teach them include Mom, Dad, Eat, Drink, More, All done, and Sleep. These words can help them express their needs and wants more effectively. The sign for writing in American Sign Language (ASL) is made by forming your dominant hand into a fist, then extending your index finger and middle finger. You then move your hand back and forth in a motion similar to writing. "}},{"@type":"Question","name":"What is the ASL word for learning?","acceptedAnswer":{"@type":"Answer","text":" The ASL sign for learning is made by forming your dominant hand into a fist, then placing it on your forehead. You then twist your hand forward and down, as if you are absorbing knowledge. "}},{"@type":"Question","name":"Is there a dictionary for Sign Language?","acceptedAnswer":{"@type":"Answer","text":" Yes, there are many dictionaries available for American Sign Language. One popular option is the \"ASL Dictionary\" app, which includes over 5,000 signs and allows users to search for signs by keyword. "}},{"@type":"Question","name":"How can I learn Sign Language online?","acceptedAnswer":{"@type":"Answer","text":" There are many resources available for learning Sign Language online. Some popular options include online courses, YouTube videos, and apps such as \"ASL Coach\" and \"SignSchool\". It is important to find a resource that works best for your learning style and needs. "}},{"@type":"Question","name":"What are some common Sign Language words?","acceptedAnswer":{"@type":"Answer","text":" Here are some common ASL words and their meanings: Word Meaning Hello Greeting Thank you Appreciation Yes Agreement No Disagreement Help Assistance Sorry Apology "}},{"@type":"Question","name":"Where can I find Sign Language lessons online?","acceptedAnswer":{"@type":"Answer","text":" There are many websites that offer Sign Language lessons online, including SignLanguage101.com and StartASL.com. Additionally, many universities and community centers offer ASL classes, which may be available online or in-person. "}}]}On this page, view the top resources to begin learning American Sign Language. You'll learn some key conversational signs, the basics of sentence structure, and context around the language, who uses it, and how to approach learning.By the end of this video, you'll be able to engage in a signed conversation with some key, common, and important words and phrases.Now that you know a few signs, let's briefly go over what ASL is and isn't:ASL is American Sign Language, the visual language used by millions of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people across the United States and Canada. It is a full-fledged visual language, with complex morphological and grammatical structures equal to that of any spoken language. ASL has a rich vocabulary and grammar unique from any spoken languages. It is the language cherished and shared by the Deaf Community.ASL is not gesture, pantomime, spelling out English words, English on the hands, or universal. These are common misconceptions, but before you begin learning, it's important to understand...Sign languages are full languages possessing vocabularies and grammatical features comparable to those of any spoken language.Although ASL takes advantage of the visual mode of communication and makes occasional use of what might be perceived as mime, there are rules that govern signing. ASL is so much more than simple mime.Although ASL does have a fingerspelled alphabet, fingerspelling is used primarily for names of people, places, and businesses, and is not used for normal communication.ASL is not the same as spoken English; it has a completely different vocabulary (not all signs have an exact English translation!) and a separate grammar. This is proven by the fact that American Sign Language is not mutually intelligible with British Sign Language, even though both countries speak English.As mentioned above, ASL is used in North America, but other countries and regions of the world all have their own native sign languages. These languages develop independent of one another and of the local spoken languages. They are also mutually unintelligible; each sign language has its own unique vocabulary, and so knowing one does not guarantee you'll understand someone who speaks another.American Sign Language has a set of 26 handshapes that represent the written English letters of the alphabet. As mentioned above, fingerspelling is typically used for proper nouns - names of people, brands, etc. - and are not used to manually spell out every letter of English. That's called the Rochester Method, and is not language, and is not "ASL".That said, the alphabet is important to know! It can get you started communicating when you don't yet have a full vocabulary, and can allow you to introduce yourself by name and know the name of anyone you meet! Here's an intro to the alphabet. Don't worry if you don't immediately remember every letter; keep practicing as much as possible and you'll get there.Location: Keep your hand in the space in front of your shoulder, where it's easy for someone else to view without looking away from your face.Movement: Aim to maintain your wrist in about the same spot; avoid bouncing the letters around too much, or pressing the hand forward. The more you keep relatively still, the easier it is to "read" your fingerspelling.In general, if you do move, it should be in an outward direction - away from you. Don't run away with the word, but if you do move slightly one way or the other, it should be outward. So if you're fingerspelling with your right hand, the letters would progress out toward your right. For the left, the hand would move leftward.Double letters: For two of the same letter in a row, you can either re-produce the letter (such as for "M", you might release the three fingers and then place them back on the thumb, or for "L" to gently press it outward again) or slide it slightly outward.Palm orientation: The letters should be formed facing away from you, as shown in the video. Don't turn your hand to look at it so YOU see the letters; the palm should generally be facing outward.To practice fingerspelling, do it as much as possible! First, memorize the handshapes, and then begin fingerspelling everything and anything you see. You can also use the tool at ASL.ms - this allows you to watch a hand progressing through letters and then guess a word.When you begin signing with others, don't be afraid to ask them to repeat themselves or slow down. Use the signs learned in section #1 above! "Sorry, please repeat again, slowly."Pronouns in ASL are simple to learn, because the same hand shape is used for all the pronouns, and it's the location and orientation of the hand that tells who you're referring to. This video demonstrates, and the text below will summarize.INDEXING pronouns are those that reference the subject or object of a sentence. The English translations would be words like she, he, I, you, they, we. Those are the pronouns you'd use for the subject of a sentence -- that is, the "doer". In English, the object of a sentence would take a slightly different pronoun: her, him, them, us. ("I" and "you" remain the same in English, regardless of place in the sentence.)In ASL, these words are all produced with the index finger pointing toward the person in question:I, ME: point to yourselfYOU: point to the person you're speaking toSHE / HE: point toward that personIf the person is physically present, point directly to where they are located.If the person is not physically present during the conversation, you can establish a referent point for them. Basically, you'd point to the space beside you and treat that space as if the person were there. For example: "My friend, (point), he is learning ASL." Then everyone else in the conversation understands that that space is now "your friend", and if they want to refer to him, they'll point there as well.Notice there's no difference in gender here; ASL does not distinguish between male and female pronouns.THEY / THEM: point toward that group of people, and likely move your finger in an arc movement to capture the group.WE: This one is a little trickier, with a few versions:General "we": Use your index finger to draw an arc from your near shoulder to your far shoulder. (Near or far with respect to the hand you're signing with.)A quantifiable "we": If you're effectively saying "the two of us" or "the three of us", up to thePOSSESSIVE pronouns are those that indicate ownership. These use space similarly to indexing pronouns. However, we change the shape of the hand (the handshape) to a flat, extended palm, to change the meaning. This would now translate to English words like his, her/hers, my/mine, your/yours, their/theirs.Once again, there is no difference between the male or female versions of this sign.For "our"/"ours", you take the flat palm in toward yourself, fingers upward, and again draw an arc from your near shoulder to your far shoulder.Now that you know the pronouns, let's look at a common question: How are you? Here's a quick intro to asking and answering that question. The first video includes generic responses, and the second video introduces a range of emotions.Naturally, you'll want to begin putting signs together and making sentences. In the beginning, you might do this in English word order. That's okay, but know that it won't be true ASL yet! Just as different languages of the world have different grammar rules, so too does ASL have its own grammar that dictates the order in which you present words.You might also be looking for "little words" like a, the, to, is, are, and so on. Remember again that ASL is not English on the hands. As a result, English words and ASL signs do not always have a 1:1 ratio! Some English words don't translate into a single ASL sign, and vice-versa! Many ASL signs do not translate to a single English word. For articles and helping verbs like a, is, and so on, many of these concepts are included in the other sign. For example, when you point to yourself, this can mean "me", but can also mean "I am". So as you learn, keep an open mind, and refrain from expecting for the English sentence to be mapped exactly into ASL. It'll free you up to begin learning the language, as it is, with its own vocabulary and its own sentence structure.Let's dive into that next!Click here to see a summary of the most common ASL grammar rules to know.Copyright ASLMeredith, 2023Join us: Newsletter, YouTube, Beginner CourseDiscovering the world of sign language offers an opportunity to foster understanding, empathy, and inclusivity within the Deaf community. This comprehensive guide provides an introduction to basic sign language words, empowering you to embark on a journey toward fluency in this powerful non-verbal language.Sign language encompasses much more than hand gestures alone, as it is a complex and expressive mode of communication that incorporates facial expressions and body language. Recognizing and embracing this holistic approach is fundamental when embarking on your journey to learn sign language.Sign language serves as a visual medium of communication, employing hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions to convey meaning.It is important to note that sign language is not universally consistent and varies across countries and regions. In the United States and parts of Canada, American Sign Language (ASL) is widely used.Dispelling common misconceptions, sign language is not a mere translation of spoken language but possesses its own distinct syntax, grammar, and rules. For instance, ASL follows a unique structure known as TIME + TOPIC + COMMENT, which differs from the SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT format employed in English.Facial expressions and body language play a crucial role in sign language, serving as essential elements that convey additional meaning. In sign language, facial expressions function as adverbs, adjectives, or even punctuation marks, providing context and nuance to the signs being used.For example, a raised eyebrow can indicate a question, while a tilted body can signify the direction of an action. By incorporating these non-manual markers, sign language becomes a more nuanced and expressive form of communication.Starting your journey into learning American Sign Language can be intimidating, but breaking it down into basic words can help ease the process. Here are some frequently used words in American Sign Language (ASL):Greeting others is a crucial aspect of communication in any language, including American Sign Language (ASL). In ASL, the sign for Hello involves a saluting motion starting from the forehead and moving outward Greetings in ASL | ASL American Sign Language. To express Good morning in ASL, you would sign good by placing a flat hand on your chin and moving it downward towards your waist, and then sign morning by signing from the chest outward, mimicking the rising sun Learn ASL: Good Morning, Good Afternoon, and Good Night in American Sign Language.To say yes, form a fist with your hand and gently move it back and forth, resembling the motion of a nodding head. The sign for no is formed by taking your first two fingers and tapping them against your thumb, resembling a mouth making the motion of saying no. How to Sign Yes and No ASLA simple please can go a long way. The sign for Please is conveyed by rubbing the flat palm of your hand in a circular motion against your chest. Thank you in ASL means you touch the fingers of your open hand to your chin and then bring them forward as if blowing a kiss. Sign the words PLEASE, THANK YOU and YOURE WELCOME how to Sign Language.Help is performed by forming a flat shape with one hand and a thumbs-up with the other hand. You then place the thumbs-up hand on top of the other hand and lift it upward. How to Sign HELP Sign Language.Remember, practice makes perfect. Repeatedly practicing these signs can help you remember them better.Teaching sign language to kids can be an enjoyable and educational experience, benefiting their communication skills and promoting empathy and understanding. Here are some simple words to help them get started on their sign language journey:Kids are often drawn to animals, making them excellent starting points for ASL. For example, to sign dog, you can simulate patting your leg and snapping your fingers, mimicking the action of calling a dog Learn How to Sign the Word Dog. To sign cat, you can drag your fingers away from your face, imitating the movements of cat whiskers Cat in Sign Language, ASL Dictionary for kids.Teaching children to express their feelings in sign language can empower them with a valuable communication tool. To sign happy, they can place both flat hands on their chest and move them upward, symbolizing a feeling of joy. For sad, they can move both hands downward in front of their face, depicting a sense of falling or downward emotion. American Sign Language: Happy & SadLearning to sign family members can be an enjoyable and meaningful activity for children. To sign mom, they stretch out their fingers and place the thumb on their chin. Similarly, for dad, they can use the same handshape but touch the thumb to their forehead instead. Sign MOM DAD GRANDMOTHER GRANDFATHER How to Sign LanguageFood-related signs are practical and can be incorporated into daily routines. To sign eat, simply mimic bringing food to your mouth. For drink, form a C shape with your hand and lift it to your mouth, as if holding a cup. Remember, repetition and practice are key when teaching children sign language, so encourage them to use these signs in everyday communication. How to Sign FOOD EAT DRINK Sign Language ASLNow that you know some basic words, its crucial to learn how to sign them correctly. Here are some tips to ensure youre signing correctly:Maintaining smooth and precise movements is crucial in sign language. Choppy or tense movements can alter the intended meaning of a sign. Additionally, paying attention to the correct placement of signs is essential. Some signs may differ only in their location. For example, the signs for mom and dad are distinguished by whether the hand is placed on the chin or forehead. Practicing proper form and placement will help ensure accurate and effective communication in sign language.It is important to refrain from using spoken language while signing unless one is proficient in both spoken language and sign language. Mixing the two can result in a phenomenon called sim-com, or simultaneous communication, which can lead to incorrect grammar in American Sign Language.Additionally, it is advisable to avoid looking at your hands while signing. Instead, maintain eye contact with your conversation partner to ensure effective communication and to properly understand their signs and non-verbal cues. By focusing on your partner, you can create a more meaningful and inclusive conversation in sign language.Learning American Sign Language is an ongoing and enriching journey that goes beyond acquiring basic words. It opens up a world of opportunities for effective communication and deeper understanding.By dedicating oneself to the ongoing learning and practice of sign language, individuals can foster stronger connections, break down communication barriers, and promote inclusivity in various workspaces.Embracing sign language as a continuous journey allows for personal growth, cultural appreciation, and the ability to engage with a diverse community in a meaningful way.Fluency in sign language opens doors to effective communication and connection with a diverse range of individuals. This skill can have significant professional benefits, particularly in fields such as education, healthcare, and social work, where interaction with Deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals is common. The ability to communicate in sign language can enhance career opportunities and facilitate meaningful relationships with clients, students, and colleagues.Embracing sign language fluency goes beyond acquiring a new skill. It enriches personal and professional experiences, promotes inclusivity, and enhances overall cognitive abilities.Embarking on your American Sign Language journey is made easier with the abundance of resources at your disposal. Online platforms provide a range of options, offering both free and paid courses that cater to different learning styles and proficiency levels. These platforms allow you to learn at your own pace and conveniently fit sign language lessons into your schedule.In addition to online resources, libraries and bookstores offer a wealth of comprehensive sign language books and instructional materials. These resources can serve as valuable references, providing detailed explanations of signs, grammar rules, and cultural nuances.Local community centers often host sign language classes, providing opportunities for in-person learning and practice. Joining these classes allows you to connect with fellow learners and engage in hands-on activities that facilitate skill development and fluency.To further enhance your sign language proficiency, consider joining sign language groups or communities. These communities provide a supportive environment where you can interact with experienced signers, practice your skills, and receive valuable feedback.Now that weve covered the basics, lets delve a bit deeper. Sign language is more than a communication tool for the Deaf and hard of hearing community; its also a cultural identity.American Sign Language holds immense significance within Deaf Culture, serving as more than just a means of communication.It stands as a powerful symbol of identity and unity among Deaf individuals. When one shows respect for sign language, they are demonstrating respect for Deaf Culture and the Deaf community as a whole. By embarking on the journey of learning American Sign Language, you not only develop valuable communication skills but also wholeheartedly embrace a dynamic and distinctive community.When engaging in conversations with Deaf individuals, its essential to observe proper etiquette. Maintaining eye contact while signing demonstrates politeness and active engagement in the conversation.If you encounter a sign that youre unfamiliar with, dont hesitate to ask for clarification. Most signers are patient and understanding, willing to explain or demonstrate the sign again. Additionally, it is crucial to respect the signing space and never interrupt a signing conversation by crossing through the line of sight between signers.By following these etiquette guidelines, you can foster meaningful and respectful interactions with Deaf individuals.Taking on the journey of learning sign language offers numerous rewards, including improved communication skills, heightened empathy, and a richer appreciation for a vibrant culture.Mastering the foundational sign language words is a crucial initial step. However, it is essential to maintain consistency, practice diligently, and continue expanding your knowledge. Embrace the adventure of sign language learning, knowing that there are countless opportunities for growth and connection along the way!Is sign language universal?No, sign language is not universal. Each country or region has its own unique sign language. Others, such as British Sign Language or Chinese Sign Language, exist to cater to different people around the world.How long does it take to learn sign language?The time it takes to learn sign language varies depending on the individuals dedication and practice. It could take anywhere from several months to a few years to become fluent. Attending a sign language class will definitely help.How do you communicate with someone who is Deaf but doesnt know sign language?You can communicate with them using written notes, visual aids, or speech-to-text apps on a smartphone. Additionally, new technologies are being developed every day to help communicate with the Deaf community.What are some resources for learning sign language?Resources for ASL include online courses, community classes, books, and sign language groups.How can I improve my sign language skills?Practicing regularly, taking advanced courses, and interacting with fluent sign language users can help improve your skills.Are there sign language classes for beginners?Yes, many community centers, colleges, and online platformsSuccessfully communicating with others in American Sign Language (ASL) starts with learning to sign the manual alphabet, numbers 1 through 10, important expressions, and important one-word questions. And because good communication also involves manners, learning some basic dos and donts of Deaf etiquette is also helpful.Learning the manual alphabet in ASL will help you when you dont know a sign as you begin communicating. If you dont know the sign for something, you need to use the manual alphabet to spell the word, or fingerspell. Check out and practice the manual alphabet: Eddie Phantana / Shutterstock.comNote: If you need to fingerspell a word that has two letters that are the same, make a small bounce between the letters or simply slide the repeated letter over slightly.In ASL, knowing how to sign the cardinal (counting) numbers helps you in everyday situations like banking and making appointments. (The video below shows you how to sign numbers beyond one through ten.) Pay attention to the way your palm faces when you sign numbers. For 1 through 5, your palm should face yourself. For 6 though 9, your palm should face out toward the person whos reading the sign. Shutterstock.comPractice signing these basic expressions in ASL to meet and greet people, join in on conversations, answer questions, and be polite and courteous. Antonov Maxim / Shutterstock.comSigning one-word questions in ASL is a way to initiate small talk, get to know people, and gather information. When you sign these one-word questions, look inquisitive; the facial expression will come naturally when you are genuinely interested. Also, tilt your head and lean forward a little as you sign the question.As you become more confident in your ability to communicate through ASL and begin to meet Deaf acquaintances and form friendships, keep some simple etiquette dos and donts in mind.Dos:To get a Deaf persons attention, tap them on the shoulder or flick the light switch.Let a Deaf person know that you can hear and that youre learning ASL.If youre at a Deaf social function, allow the Deaf friend you came with to introduce you to others.Introduce yourself using your first and last name.Converse about sports, the weather, politics, pop culture, or whatever else youd discuss with your hearing friends.Donts:Dont barge into a Deaf persons house because you think they cant hear the doorbell.Avoid ordering for a Deaf person in a restaurant, unless they ask you to do so.Never try to correct a Deaf persons signing or lecture them that they dont sign the way your instructor does.Dont initiate a conversation about a Deaf persons hearing loss. Asking such questions implies that you think of the person as broken or inferior.Search for a sign (e.g., red, hello, kitchen...)In this vocabulary-packed lesson, Dr. Byron Bridges introduces you to essential everyday signs that will immediately boost your ASL communication! You'll learn signs for basic responses (yes, no, maybe), feelings (good, bad, hurt, sick), daily activities (eat, sleep, work, play), and important question words (who, what, where, when, why). Plus, discover signs for time concepts (day, night, now), status words (old, new, same, different), and crucial communication phrases like "understand" and "don't understand." These fundamental signs will help you navigate daily conversations and express basic needs. Get ready to expand your signing vocabulary with these must-know words! Learn the first 100 common signs to help you get started conversing basics quickly. But, that's not enough? Try the next second 100 common signs. And so on. But, don't forget grammar. See 'Learn' for tutorials in grammar, sentence structure, culture, etc. First 100 words First 100 words. Second 100 As you feel more comfortable with the first few hundreds of ASL signs, progress further with your vocabulary and learn signing more. Third 100 acceptafternoonagainstagreeallowalmostalonealwaysandangry, angeranimalanythingargueASL - American Sign Languageattitudeautumn, fallaverageavoidawaybasicbelieve, beliefbestbookbothbrothercalmcarchild, childrenclassclose, close-by, close tocomfortabledeep, depthdoubtEnglisheverydayeverythingexamplefatherfunnygamegiftgrowguesshearholdhouseideaifimportantincludeInternetinterpreterjokeletterlifelook likelose, losslovemoneymothermovemovienormalnumberoutsideoverlookpaperpartypaypenpictureproblemroomsafe, safetysellservicesharesicksincesistersmartsoonspringstorystrugglestudysummersurethattravelwashwaterweekweekendwinterwishwordyet, not yetyoungyourself The word list is subject to change over time. It doesn't have to be exactly 100, but it can be a bit more or less 100.

What are sign words. How to say basic words in sign language. Basic sign language words for beginners. Sign language word.