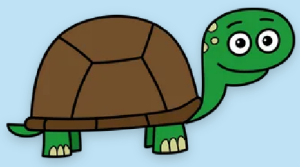
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

What Is ASL?

Read about American Sign Language and answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

American Sign Language, or ASL, is a language you see instead of hear. Signers use their hands, their faces and their bodies to share ideas. Many Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States and much of Canada use ASL, and so do their families and friends.

ASL is not English on the hands. It has its own words and its own grammar, the rules for putting signs together. A sentence in ASL often puts its signs in a different order than English does.

Sign language is not the same all over the world. Many countries have their own. British Sign Language is very different from ASL, even though people in both countries speak English. ASL is related to French Sign Language, because a Deaf teacher from France helped start the first lasting school for the deaf in America in 1817.

Fingerspelling, spelling a word letter by letter, is one part of ASL. Signers use it for names, places and words that do not have a sign.

Answer the questions.

What does ASL stand for?

_____

Signers use their hands. What else do they use?

_____

Is ASL the same as English? How do you know?

_____

Is sign language the same everywhere in the world?

_____

When do signers use fingerspelling?

_____

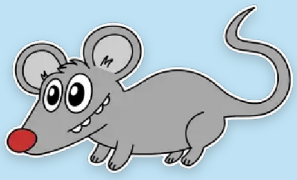
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

ASL True or False

Read each sentence about ASL and Deaf people. Circle true or false.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Circle True or False.

ASL has its own grammar.	True	False
Every country uses the same sign language.	True	False
Your face is part of signing in ASL.	True	False
ASL and British Sign Language are the same language.	True	False
ASL is used in the United States and much of Canada.	True	False
Fingerspelling is used for names and places.	True	False
Deaf people can only talk with other Deaf people.	True	False
Shouting is a polite way to get a Deaf person's attention.	True	False
ASL is related to French Sign Language.	True	False
Hearing people can learn ASL too.	True	False

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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

Getting Someone's Attention

Sort the ways to get a Deaf person's attention into polite and not polite.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Ways to get attention

- tap their shoulder gently
- wave where they can see you
- flick the lights for a group
- tap the table so they feel it
- shout their name
- grab their face to turn it
- throw something at them
- wave right in front of their eyes

Write each one under Polite or Not polite.

Polite	Not polite

Answer the questions.

Once you have their attention, where should you look while you sign?

_____

Why is it rude to look away while someone signs to you?

_____

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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

What Is a Name Sign?

Read about name signs and who gives them, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

Many people in the Deaf community have a name sign. A name sign is a short sign that stands for one person, so friends do not have to fingerspell the whole name every time.

In Deaf culture, a name sign is given to you by a Deaf person who knows you. You do not make up your own. Until someone gives you one, you fingerspell your name.

Some name signs use the first letter of the person's name, made in a special place or with a special movement. Others show something about the person, like curly hair or a big smile.

Answer the questions.

What is a name sign?

_____

Who gives you a name sign?

_____

What do you do until you have a name sign?

_____

Name two kinds of name signs.

_____

Why are name signs handy?

_____

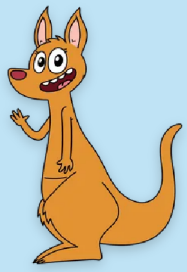
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

Ways We Communicate

Deaf and hard of hearing people communicate in many ways. Match each tool to what it does.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Deaf and hard of hearing people choose what works for them, and many use more than one of these.

Draw a line from each tool to what it does.

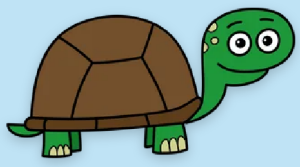
Interpreter ●	● **a device placed by a doctor that sends sound signals to the hearing nerve**
Captions ●	● **a person who turns signs into spoken words and spoken words into signs**
Hearing aid ●	● **a light that blinks when someone rings the bell**
Cochlear implant ●	● **words on a screen that show what people are saying**
Video phone ●	● **a small device worn on the ear that makes sounds louder**
Flashing doorbell ●	● **a call on a screen so people can sign to each other**

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ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: What Is ASL?

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Read

American Sign Language, or ASL, is a language you see instead of hear. Signers use their hands, their faces and their bodies to share ideas. Many Deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States and much of Canada use ASL, and so do their families and friends.

ASL is not English on the hands. It has its own words and its own grammar, the rules for putting signs together. A sentence in ASL often puts its signs in a different order than English does.

Sign language is not the same all over the world. Many countries have their own. British Sign Language is very different from ASL, even though people in both countries speak English. ASL is related to French Sign Language, because a Deaf teacher from France helped start the first lasting school for the deaf in America in 1817.

Fingerspelling, spelling a word letter by letter, is one part of ASL. Signers use it for names, places and words that do not have a sign.

Answer the questions.

What does ASL stand for?

American Sign Language

Signers use their hands. What else do they use?

Their faces and their bodies

Is ASL the same as English? How do you know?

No. It has its own words and grammar.

Is sign language the same everywhere in the world?

No. Many countries have their own.

When do signers use fingerspelling?

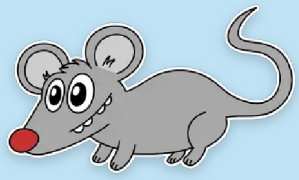
For names, places and words with no sign

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ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: ASL True or False

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Circle True or False.

ASL has its own grammar.	**True**	False
Every country uses the same sign language.	True	**False**
Your face is part of signing in ASL.	**True**	False
ASL and British Sign Language are the same language.	True	**False**
ASL is used in the United States and much of Canada.	**True**	False
Fingerspelling is used for names and places.	**True**	False
Deaf people can only talk with other Deaf people.	True	**False**
Shouting is a polite way to get a Deaf person's attention.	True	**False**
ASL is related to French Sign Language.	**True**	False
Hearing people can learn ASL too.	**True**	False

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ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

Answer Key: Getting Someone's Attention

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Ways to get attention

tap their shoulder gently · wave where they can see you · flick the lights for a group · tap the table so they feel it · shout their name · grab their face to turn it · throw something at them · wave right in front of their eyes

Write each one under Polite or Not polite.

Polite	Not polite
tap their shoulder gently	shout their name
wave where they can see you	grab their face to turn it
flick the lights for a group	throw something at them
tap the table so they feel it	wave right in front of their eyes

Answer the questions.

Once you have their attention, where should you look while you sign?

At the person, keeping eye contact

Why is it rude to look away while someone signs to you?

Signing is seen, so looking away means you stopped listening.

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ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: What Is a Name Sign?

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Read

Many people in the Deaf community have a name sign. A name sign is a short sign that stands for one person, so friends do not have to fingerspell the whole name every time.

In Deaf culture, a name sign is given to you by a Deaf person who knows you. You do not make up your own. Until someone gives you one, you fingerspell your name.

Some name signs use the first letter of the person's name, made in a special place or with a special movement. Others show something about the person, like curly hair or a big smile.

Answer the questions.

What is a name sign?

A short sign that stands for one person

Who gives you a name sign?

A Deaf person who knows you

What do you do until you have a name sign?

Fingerspell your name

Name two kinds of name signs.

First-letter signs and signs that show something about the person

Why are name signs handy?

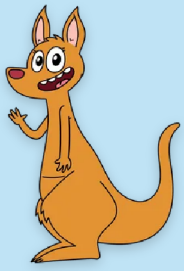
They are faster than spelling a whole name.

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ANSWER KEY · DEAF CULTURE AND MANNERS · GRADES 1–4

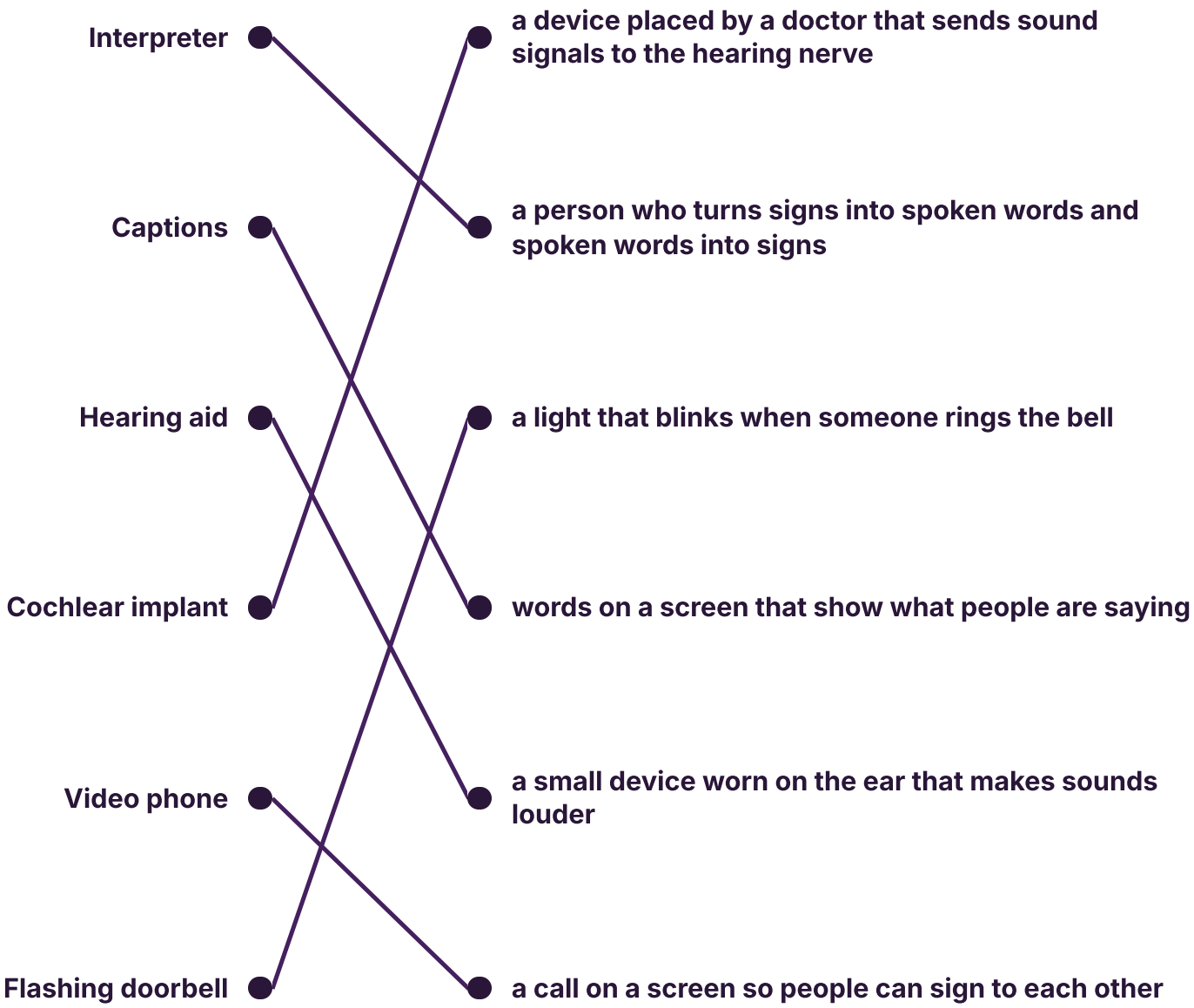
Answer Key: Ways We Communicate

Answers for grown-ups. Where kids write their own ideas, the key shows one example.



Deaf and hard of hearing people choose what works for them, and many use more than one of these.

Draw a line from each tool to what it does.



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