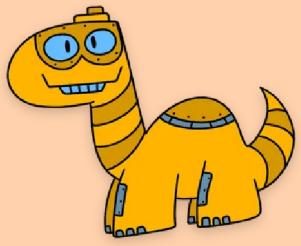
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

The Five Parts of a Sign

Every sign is made of five parts. Match each part to what it means, then answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Every sign is made of five parts. Change just one part and you can make a different sign.

Draw a line from each part to what it means.

Handshape	**where you make the sign, like near your chin**
Palm orientation	**what your face shows while you sign**
Location	**the shape your hand makes**
Movement	**which way your palm faces**
Facial expression	**how your hand moves**

Name the part.

The sign is made next to your forehead.

_____

Your hand taps two times.

_____

Your eyebrows go up.

_____

Your hand is shaped like the letter B.

_____

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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

Eyebrows Ask Questions

In ASL your eyebrows show what kind of question you are asking. Circle up or down for each question.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



For a **yes or no question**, raise your eyebrows **up**. For a question that starts with **who, what, where, when, why, which** or **how**, pull your eyebrows **down** and together.

Circle what your eyebrows do for each question.

Do you like pizza?	Up	Down
Where is the library?	Up	Down
Is it raining?	Up	Down
Who is your teacher?	Up	Down
Can you sign?	Up	Down
What is your name?	Up	Down
Are you hungry?	Up	Down
Why are you sad?	Up	Down
How old are you?	Up	Down
Do you have a pet?	Up	Down

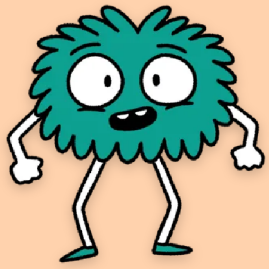
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–4

Which Hand Do I Sign With?

Read about your dominant hand and answer the questions.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Read

Most people have a dominant hand: the hand they write with and use the most. When you fingerspell or make a one-handed sign, use your dominant hand.

If you are right-handed, your right hand is dominant. If you are left-handed, your left hand is. Both are correct in ASL.

Pick one hand and stick with it. Switching hands back and forth makes your signing harder to read.

In two-handed signs where the hands do different things, the dominant hand usually moves and the other hand stays still, like a base.

Answer the questions.

What is a dominant hand?

_____

Which hand do you use to fingerspell?

_____

Is it OK to sign with your left hand?

_____

Why should you not switch hands?

_____

Which hand is your dominant hand?

_____

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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

ASL Word Search

Find twelve words about ASL and Deaf culture. They go across, down and diagonally.



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Find the twelve words. They go across, down and diagonally.

F H S P G S I G N N R N

I I A F Y C M T R G R T

N S N N O I S F A A M E

G L C T D K K W I L O E

E A L C E S R P H L V Y

R L E A S R H Y S A E E

S P R P H R P A P U M B

P H C T A R D R P D E R

E A E I S L B E E E N O

L B M O A M M N A T T W

L E D N E H A R W F E S

A T U S A A N I N W H R

- [ ] ALPHABET
- [ ] CAPTIONS
- [ ] CLERC
- [ ] DEAF
- [ ] EYEBROWS
- [ ] FINGERSPELL
- [ ] GALLAUDET
- [ ] HANDSHAPE
- [ ] INTERPRETER
- [ ] MOVEMENT
- [ ] PALM
- [ ] SIGN

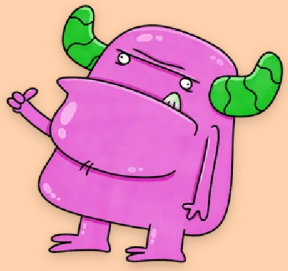
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

ASL Vocabulary Match

Draw a line from each ASL word to what it means.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____



Draw a line from each word to what it means.

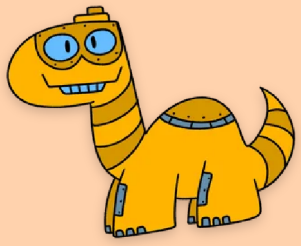
Fingerspelling	words on a screen that show what is said
Interpreter	a short sign that stands for one person
Name sign	spelling a word letter by letter with your hand
Dominant hand	people who share ASL and Deaf culture
Captions	a person who changes one language into another
Deaf community	the hand you use most when you sign

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ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: The Five Parts of a Sign

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



Every sign is made of five parts. Change just one part and you can make a different sign.

Draw a line from each part to what it means.

Handshape	the shape your hand makes
Palm orientation	which way your palm faces
Location	where you make the sign, like near your chin
Movement	how your hand moves
Facial expression	what your face shows while you sign

Name the part.

The sign is made next to your forehead.

Location

Your hand taps two times.

Movement

Your eyebrows go up.

Facial expression

Your hand is shaped like the letter B.

Handshape

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ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: Eyebrows Ask Questions

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



For a **yes or no question**, raise your eyebrows **up**. For a question that starts with **who, what, where, when, why, which** or **how**, pull your eyebrows **down** and together.

Circle what your eyebrows do for each question.

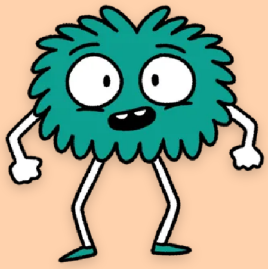
Do you like pizza?	**Up**	Down
Where is the library?	Up	**Down**
Is it raining?	**Up**	Down
Who is your teacher?	Up	**Down**
Can you sign?	**Up**	Down
What is your name?	Up	**Down**
Are you hungry?	**Up**	Down
Why are you sad?	Up	**Down**
How old are you?	Up	**Down**
Do you have a pet?	**Up**	Down

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–4

Answer Key: Which Hand Do I Sign With?

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



Read

Most people have a dominant hand: the hand they write with and use the most. When you fingerspell or make a one-handed sign, use your dominant hand.

If you are right-handed, your right hand is dominant. If you are left-handed, your left hand is. Both are correct in ASL.

Pick one hand and stick with it. Switching hands back and forth makes your signing harder to read.

In two-handed signs where the hands do different things, the dominant hand usually moves and the other hand stays still, like a base.

Answer the questions.

What is a dominant hand?

The hand you write with and use the most

Which hand do you use to fingerspell?

Your dominant hand

Is it OK to sign with your left hand?

Yes, if you are left-handed

Why should you not switch hands?

It makes signing harder to read.

Which hand is your dominant hand?

My right hand (answers vary)

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ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 2–5

Answer Key: ASL Word Search

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



Find the twelve words. They go across, down and diagonally.

F	H	S	P	G	S	I	G	N	N	R	N
I	I	A	F	Y	C	M	T	R	G	R	T
N	S	N	N	O	I	S	F	A	A	M	E
G	L	C	T	D	K	K	W	I	L	O	E
E	A	L	C	E	S	R	P	H	L	V	Y
R	L	E	A	S	R	H	Y	S	A	E	E
S	P	R	P	H	R	P	A	P	U	M	B
P	H	C	T	A	R	D	R	P	D	E	R
E	A	E	I	S	L	B	E	E	E	N	O
L	B	M	O	A	M	M	N	A	T	T	W
L	E	D	N	E	H	A	R	W	F	E	S
A	T	U	S	A	A	N	I	N	W	H	R

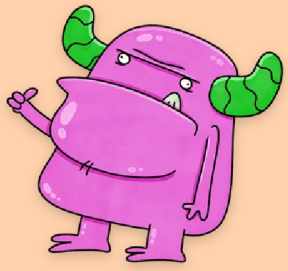
- [ ] ALPHABET
- [ ] CAPTIONS
- [ ] CLERC
- [ ] DEAF
- [ ] EYEBROWS
- [ ] FINGERSPELL
- [ ] GALLAUDET
- [ ] HANDSHAPE
- [ ] INTERPRETER
- [ ] MOVEMENT
- [ ] PALM
- [ ] SIGN

Art © Kevin Coulston

ANSWER KEY · HOW ASL WORKS · GRADES 3–5

Answer Key: ASL Vocabulary Match

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



Draw a line from each word to what it means.

Fingerspelling	spelling a word letter by letter with your hand
Interpreter	a person who changes one language into another
Name sign	a short sign that stands for one person
Dominant hand	the hand you use most when you sign
Captions	words on a screen that show what is said
Deaf community	people who share ASL and Deaf culture

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