

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE ON THE
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**THE “MARRIAGE” OF SIGNING EXACT
ENGLISH AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE**

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HOW DO SEE AND ASL STAY MARRIED?

- SEE incorporates ASL features
- Formation of SEE signs is “framed” by the formation of ASL signs/rules.
- When no SEE sign exists (aka . . . A word has no sign in the “YELLOW BIBLE”); SEE seeks the ASL sign as long as: (1) It can be translatable into one word; (2) The sign does not already appear in the SEE dictionary as another word.

DEFINITIONS

American Sign Language—The syntax “word order” is different from English. ASL word order tends to start with a time marker or the most striking element of the sentence.

Signing Exact English—about 80% of SEE is ASL, but words are signed in the same order as spoken English with prefixes/suffixes attached to the sign.

FEATURES OF ASL WITHIN SEE SIGNS

- Modification
- Emphasis
- Space/Placement
- Negation
- Verb Directionality
- Expressions (match speaker's tone)

FEATURES OF ASL WITHIN SEE SIGNS (CON'T.)

- Question Markers (freeze/eyebrows)
- Placement of Pronouns (pointing/signing)
- Translation/Comparison
- Sequencing/Indexing (finger tips/push aside)
- Duplication (plurality, habit, intensity)
- Sight-line/Dialogue

SEE TAKES THE ASL SIGN AND ADDS FIRST INITIAL TO “RETAIN” ASL ELEMENTS

- SEE signs are famous for initials
- ASL has some initials from French (Search = Cercher). The “C” is used for the sign “search.”
- These initials form SEE “sign families.” The SEE sign looks just like the ASL sign; the first letter of the word is used in the sign.
 - Class: family, department, group, team, etc . . .
 - Happen: chance, event, fate, etc . . .

ASSIGNMENT: INCORPORATE ASL FEATURES WITH THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES, BUT USE THE SEE SIGN.

- She gave me 15 dollars.
- The mom gave the child a strong look.
- We will eat chicken, eggs, soup, and crackers.
- Jumping out of trees is dangerous.

SEPARATING NOUNS FROM VERBS

- In ASL nouns and verbs can have a very similar sign, however, ASL will have a short repeated movement for the noun. The verb will be held longer or have a continuous movement.
 - Chair vs. Sit
 - Flight vs. Flying

- SEE has elements of this as well.
 - Advice vs. Advise
 - Success vs. Succeed

MODERN ASL SIGNS/MOVEMENTS THAT CAN BE USED IN SEE

- There are no SEE signs for the following words, thus the ASL sign can be used in K-12 programs that use SEE
 - Cuba, Haiti, agent, Skype, Wi-fi, lure, colonoscopy, bipolar, relapse
 - Bikini, Casino, pepperoni, Verizon, Wal-Mart, accent, visa, Puerto Rico,
- Use of “letter” on left hand when numbers and letters are mixed together in a series.
- Phone numbers (1 number then 2 digits); use two hands for the last four numbers; Arch of hand between area code/prefix/suffix of phone number
- Height and scores (of games).

UNAMBIGUOUS ASL SIGNS ARE RETAINED IN SEE

- Grandmother, Misunderstand, Child, Butterfly
- Reason, Why, When, Because
- Law, Hunger, Promote, Degenerate, Baby
- Love, Lord, Understand,
- AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON

RULES FOR INVENTING SIGNS IN SEE THAT RESPECT ASL (PAGE XV OF *SIGNING EXACT ENGLISH* ~~DICTIONARY~~)

- Vocabulary that is essential to the lesson or everyday life.
- (1) Seek an existing sign
 - (2) Modify an existing sign
 - (3) Consider fingerspelling
 - (4) If invent, stay close to ASL principles of signs *Do not block your mouth
*Smaller movements are okay near mouth

RULES FOR INVENTING SIGNS IN SEE THAT RESPECT ASL (PAGE XV OF *SIGNING EXACT ENGLISH* ~~DICTIONARY~~)

- *Signs made near mouth/neck generally are one handed, have “smaller movements” and have finer distinctions.
- *Signs made below neck generally use 2 hands
- *If both hands move, the handshapes should be the same
- *If two hands are needed, the non-dominant hand (the one that does not move) should have one of the 7 neutral handshapes (1-A-S-B-C-5-0), or the same handshape as the moving hand. Note: This is not the case when the dominant hand brings attention to the non-dominant hand.

RULES FOR INVENTING SIGNS IN SEE THAT RESPECT ASL (PAGE XV OF *SIGNING EXACT ENGLISH* ~~DICTIONARY~~)

- *Generally ASL uses only one handshape on each hand. Do not involve more than 2 handshapes for invented signs
- **Four Major Contact areas: head, trunk, arm, and hand. If there are double contacts, both contacts are made on the same major area (e.g. LAW, MEMBER, HEALTH). (Exceptions to this are compound signs in ASL such as DAUGHTER, LADY)
- **Signs that are related in meaning are commonly related in formation. (e.g. TEAM, FAMILY, GROUP, etc.)

RULES FOR INVENTING SIGNS IN SEE THAT RESPECT ASL (PAGE XV OF *SIGNING EXACT ENGLISH* ~~DICTIONARY~~)

- If a sign is “far” from the center (neck/mouth), What tends to happen with the formation of that sign?
- If a sign is below the neck, what tends to happen with the formation of that sign?
- If both hands move, what tends to happen with that sign?
- If a sign is done near the mouth, what is generally true?

HOW DO SEE AND ASL STAY MARRIED?

- There is a place for both of them in the “home” (Deaf Education).
- They both can be used within the same sentences.
- When a SEE signer “invents” he/she respects the formation of ASL signs with the invention
- SEE signs often take the ASL sign and incorporate the first letter to form synonyms.
- Notice these videos