

American Sign Language Dictionary

Introduction

Welcome to the American Sign Language Dictionary, a comprehensive guide to American Sign Language (ASL). This book is designed to provide you with the essential knowledge and skills you need to communicate effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Whether you are a beginner who wants to learn the basics of ASL or an experienced signer who wants to improve your skills, this book has something for you. We will cover everything from the alphabet and numbers to everyday phrases, grammar, and cultural etiquette.

ASL is a beautiful and expressive language that can be used to communicate a wide range of emotions and

ideas. It is also a vital tool for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, allowing them to fully participate in all aspects of life.

Learning ASL can be a rewarding experience, both for you and for the Deaf and hard of hearing people you interact with. It is a way to bridge the communication gap and build relationships that would not be possible otherwise.

This book is your guide to the fascinating world of ASL. We hope you enjoy learning and using this beautiful language!

In this book, you will learn:

- The alphabet and numbers in ASL
- Everyday phrases and greetings
- Basic grammar and sentence structure
- How to describe family members and friends
- How to communicate about work, school, and other activities

- How to use ASL in social situations
- The history and culture of the Deaf community
- And much more!

We have also included a number of helpful resources, such as a glossary of terms, a list of recommended books and websites, and a directory of organizations that support Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

We hope that this book will help you to learn ASL and to communicate more effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing people. Thank you for choosing American Sign Language Dictionary!

Book Description

American Sign Language Dictionary is the most comprehensive and up-to-date guide to American Sign Language (ASL) available today. Written by a team of experienced ASL instructors, this book provides everything you need to know to communicate effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Whether you are a beginner who wants to learn the basics of ASL or an experienced signer who wants to improve your skills, this book has something for you. We cover everything from the alphabet and numbers to everyday phrases, grammar, and cultural etiquette.

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Learning ASL can be a rewarding experience, both for you and for the Deaf and hard of hearing people you interact with. It is a way to bridge the communication gap and build relationships that would not be possible otherwise.

American Sign Language Dictionary is your guide to the fascinating world of ASL. With clear and concise instructions, helpful illustrations, and a wealth of practice exercises, this book will help you to learn ASL quickly and easily.

In addition to the core ASL curriculum, this book also includes:

- A history of the Deaf community and ASL
- A guide to Deaf culture and etiquette
- A directory of resources for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals
- And much more!

American Sign Language Dictionary is the perfect resource for anyone who wants to learn ASL. Whether you are a student, a professional, or a parent of a Deaf or hard of hearing child, this book will help you to communicate effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Chapter 1: ASL Basics

The alphabet

The American Sign Language (ASL) alphabet is a manual alphabet used to represent the 26 letters of the English alphabet. It is used by Deaf and hard of hearing people to communicate with each other and with hearing people who know ASL.

The ASL alphabet is a one-handed alphabet, meaning that it is signed with one hand. The hand is held in front of the body, with the palm facing the signer. The letters are formed by moving the hand and fingers in different ways.

Each letter of the ASL alphabet has a corresponding handshape, location, and movement. The handshape is the shape that the hand is held in. The location is the place where the hand is held in front of the body. The movement is the way that the hand moves to form the letter.

For example, the letter "A" is signed by holding the hand in a fist with the thumb extended. The hand is held in front of the body, with the palm facing the signer. The hand is then moved from side to side.

The ASL alphabet is a very efficient way to communicate. It can be used to spell out words, names, and places. It can also be used to sign entire sentences.

Learning the ASL alphabet is a great way to start learning ASL. Once you know the alphabet, you can start to learn how to sign words and phrases.

Here are some tips for learning the ASL alphabet:

- Start by learning a few letters at a time.
- Practice signing the letters in front of a mirror.
- Watch videos of people signing the ASL alphabet.
- Use flashcards to help you memorize the letters.
- Find a Deaf or hard of hearing person who can help you learn ASL.

With a little practice, you will be able to master the ASL alphabet and start communicating in ASL.

Chapter 1: ASL Basics

Numbers

Numbers are an essential part of any language, and ASL is no exception. Numbers can be used to express quantities, ages, dates, times, and more.

There are two main ways to sign numbers in ASL: using one-handed numbers or two-handed numbers. One-handed numbers are used for numbers 1-10, while two-handed numbers are used for numbers 11 and up.

To sign one-handed numbers, simply hold your hand in the shape of the number and move it up and down in front of your body. For example, to sign the number 5, hold your hand in a fist with your thumb extended and move it up and down in front of your body.

To sign two-handed numbers, use one hand to sign the tens digit and the other hand to sign the ones digit. For example, to sign the number 15, use your left hand to

sign the number 1 and your right hand to sign the number 5.

There are a few exceptions to the rules for signing numbers. For example, the number 10 is signed by holding both hands in fists with the thumbs extended and moving them up and down in front of your body. The number 100 is signed by holding both hands in fists with the thumbs extended and moving them in a circular motion in front of your body.

Numbers can be used in a variety of ways in ASL. They can be used to count objects, tell time, give directions, and more. With a little practice, you'll be able to use numbers in ASL to communicate effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Here are some examples of how numbers are used in ASL:

- To count objects, simply sign the numbers in order. For example, to count from 1 to 10, sign the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.
- To tell time, sign the hour, followed by the minutes. For example, to sign 3:30, sign the number 3, followed by the number 30.
- To give directions, sign the number of the street or building, followed by the name of the street or building. For example, to give directions to 123 Main Street, sign the number 123, followed by the sign for MAIN STREET.

Numbers are an important part of ASL, and with a little practice, you'll be able to use them to communicate effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Chapter 1: ASL Basics

Everyday phrases

Everyday phrases are an essential part of any language, and ASL is no exception. They allow us to communicate quickly and efficiently in a variety of situations.

Some of the most common everyday phrases in ASL include:

- Hello
- Goodbye
- Thank you
- You're welcome
- Please
- Excuse me
- I'm sorry
- I don't understand
- Can you repeat that?

- What's your name?

These phrases can be used in a variety of contexts, from greeting someone to asking for help. They are also a great way to start learning ASL, as they are relatively easy to learn and can be used immediately in everyday conversation.

In addition to the phrases listed above, there are also a number of other everyday phrases that you may find useful. These include:

- How are you?
- I'm fine.
- What's your name?
- My name is...
- Nice to meet you.
- Where are you from?
- I'm from...
- What do you do?
- I'm a...

- Do you speak English?
- I don't speak English very well.
- Can you help me?
- I need help with...
- Thank you for your help.

These phrases can be used to start conversations, ask for information, and express your needs. They are a valuable tool for communicating in ASL, and they will help you to interact more effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Here are some tips for using everyday phrases in ASL:

- Make sure to use clear and concise signs.
- Sign at a natural speed and volume.
- Use appropriate facial expressions and body language.
- Be patient and don't be afraid to ask for clarification if you don't understand something.

With a little practice, you will be able to use everyday phrases in ASL with confidence. This will help you to communicate more effectively with Deaf and hard of hearing people, and it will also help you to learn more about ASL and Deaf culture.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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