

NATIONAL ASL DAY

Saturday, April 15

Interesting Facts about American Sign Language

ASL is considered as a foreign language

ASL has its own vocabulary, grammar, word order and style and does not necessarily reflect English words. ASL originates from France, that's why French Sign Language is very similar to ASL.

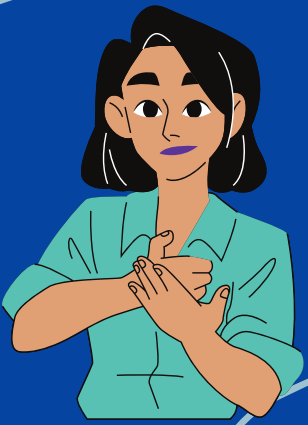
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Sign language is not only a sign, gesture language but also a facial expression language

Even though many deaf individuals sign with their hands, facial expressions still play a fundamental role in interpersonal communication. When hearing people use spoken language, rhythm and tone are present while speaking. In American Sign Language, facial expressions notate rhythm and tone. That said, the person "listening" in the conversation will also look at the signer's mouth.

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Children Acquire sign language in the same way they acquire spoken language

Through interactions with people use signs, deaf babies explore the hand shapes and movements that make up signs by babbling with their hands. In the early developmental stages, deaf children often substitute easier handshapes for more difficult ones.

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ASL is the third most popular language in the US

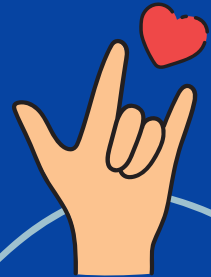
Behind English, Spanish and Chinese, ASL is the fourth most widely used language in the US with around 2 million users.



"I love you" in ASL

The combination of signs for the letter I, L and Y in ASL fingerspelling

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Sign Languages' grammar differs from spoken languages'

Sign language has grammatical rules for more than just what forms the hands take. These rules don't always parallel with spoken language, either. Eyebrow position, eye position, motions made by hands and where the signs occur in relation to the body all factor into the language. Incorrect grammar will result in confusion, just like spoken language.

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