

What is ASL? Course 1 Day 1

Dictionary.com:

Noun. A visual-gesture language, having its own semantic (meaning of words) and syntactic structure (rules/order), used by deaf people in the U.S. and English-speaking parts of Canada.

Abbreviation: ASL.

My definition: American Sign Language is a visual language for the deaf and hard of hearing individuals utilizing a system of hand gestures and their placement relative to the body, that includes facial expressions, mouth morphemes, shoulder, and head movements, and has its own grammar rules to bring full meaning to communication.

In ASL, grammatical and syntax features (i.e., time, adjectives, and adverbs) will add or change the meaning of a sentence by doing some of the following actions: furrow your eyebrows, lift your eyebrows, wiggle your tongue, tilt your head, movement of mouth, glance in a certain direction, twist your body a certain way, puff your cheek, or any number of other "inflections" (car parked example).

ASL is not universal; note the term "American." The language is used by deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States and Canada and has a lot of similarities of sign language in France.

