

Modes of Communication: Learn ASL in 60 Days Course 1 Day 1

ASL: American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete, complex language that employs signs made by moving the hands, combined with facial expressions and postures of the body. It has its own rules for pronunciation, word order, and complex grammar. For example, English speakers ask a question by raising the pitch of their voice; ASL users ask a question by raising their eyebrows, widening their eyes, and tilting their bodies forward.



Sample sentence in English: "I am not going to the store."

Sample sentence in ASL: "STORE ME GO." while shaking your head no to negate the statement.

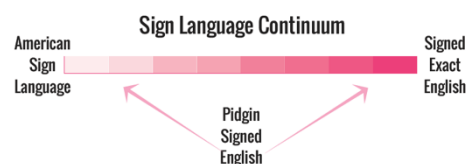
SEE: Signed Exact English is a signing system which incorporates word endings and English word order in a specific signing style with little regard for conceptual accuracy. SEE is signed in English word order without true meaning.

Sample sentence: "ME, AM NOT GOING TO THE STORE." Note: "am", "ing", and "the" would use the English based form.

PSE:

Pidgin Sign English. It is also known as pidgin or contact signing. It is a combination of ASL and SEE. It is not considered a language as ASL or English is. It is used for communication between hearing people that are not fluent in ASL with the deaf. It's a deaf person's way of "code switching" for the hearing person to understand better since it has a mixture of ASL and English.

Sample sentence: "ME, STORE NOT GO."



Oral:

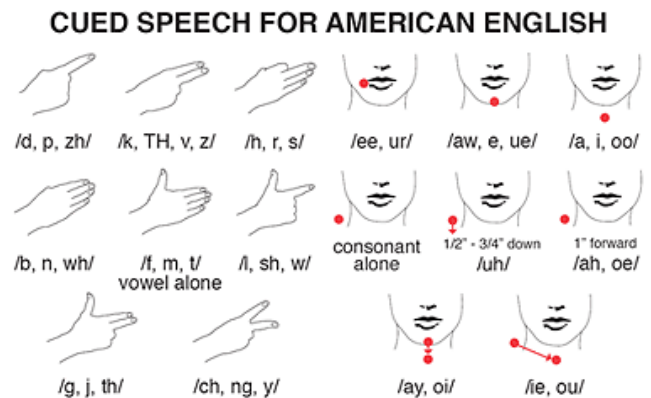
In this method, the deaf individual uses lip reading to access communication with another individual, and often the deaf individual is able to voice/talk for themselves.

Sample sentence: The deaf would watch the other person's mouth for understanding or speak the words themselves.

Cued Speech:

Is a phonemic-based system which makes traditionally spoken languages accessible by using a series of hand shapes, cues that represents consonants in different locations near the mouth and placement represent the vowels. This mode is used as a supplement to lip reading.

Sample sentence: This is produced in English order done all with a series of hand movements on or near the mouth.



Tactile:

This is used for those who are both deaf and blind, meaning a person who has some degree of both vision and hearing loss (this varies from person to person). The language, mode, style, speed, aids and devices used to facilitate communication are different from person to person. One may need signing in their hands (tactile) and another may need signing to be very close. Here's an article with more information on tactile communication.

<http://www.deafblind.com/slmorgan.html>

Rochester:

This type of communication is based on English with each word being spelled out using the ASL fingerspelling system. Its name is derived from the method of instruction at the Rochester School for the Deaf (formerly the "Western New York Institute for Deaf Mutes") in Rochester, New York. Due to it's laborious process, currently, it is not used much.

Sample sentence: The sentence would have each word spelled out in the ASL alphabet.

Home Signs:

This term is used to describe a gestural communication system developed due to a lack a language model in the family. This is a common experience for deaf children with hearing parents who are isolated from a sign language community.

Sample sentence: The sentence would be different in each case since the signs are made up, but would typically be in an English word order.