

Person Affix / Agent Affix

Course 3 Day 14

The agent sign is added to another sign to create a new concept of "a person who does...that particular thing." You would add agent to something when you want it to be a person.



Not all PERSON signs use the agent sign.

Q: How do I know when to use the agent sign or not to?

A: Learn more ASL vocabulary and/or hang out with Deaf people. Or you can apply this concept: If in English you add an affix to a word, then you would add the PERSON sign in ASL. For example, in English we can take "teach" and add "er" to change the verb to a noun, so you'd do the same in sign TEACH + PERSON.

TEACH

+

AGENT (ER)



+



DOCTOR (no agent)



A: On the other hand, if you have an English word where an affix cannot be added, then the same is true in ASL. For example, in English "doctor" can't be a verb, it is only a noun. So, in ASL, for "DOCTOR," it is what it is; you would not add a "PERSON" sign, just sign DOCTOR.