

In American Sign Language, there are no signs for “-s,” “-ed,” “-ing”. They are expressed in other ways using techniques you have learned in previous units. Let’s take a look at these now.

“-S” makes things plural. There are several options to pluralizing a concept.

1. Sweeping motion.

English: The boys are fine.

ASL: BOYS, THEY FINE.

2. Demonstration.

English: I go to all the big schools.

ASL: BIG SCHOOLS++, ME GO++

“-Ed” is a tense marker for the past. There are several options to express past tense.

1. Sign FINISH in the sentence.

English: I worked at GMC.

ASL: G-M-C FINISH WORK ME.

2. Use a time marker.

English: Last week, I worked at GMC.

ASL: WEEK PAST, G-M-C ME WORK.

3. Use a date.

English: 1998 I did not work at GMC.

ASL: 1998 G-M-C, ME WORK (Not).

4. Sign PAST/BEFORE.

English: I worked at GMC a month ago.

ASL: MONTH PAST, G-M-C ME WORK.

“-Ing” is understood by the movement of the sign.

1. Movement.

English: The airplane is flying.

ASL: PLANE-FLY++

2. Repeat.

English: I’m studying.

ASL: ME STUDY++

English: I’m studying hard.

ASL: ME STUDY++ (NMM)

3. Speed.

English: I am raising 3 children.

ASL: 3 CHILDREN, ME RAISE.