8 Grammar Symbols

The 8 grammar symbols consist of 3 questions, 3 sentence initiators, and 2 emotional indicators. The 3 questions are WQ, RQ and Q. The 3 sentence initiators are T, TI, and CC. The 2 emotional indicators are Y and N. Each symbol has a facial expression that coincides.

You need to remember that the underlined symbol continues for the full part of the sentence that the facial expression is being used. It is possible to have more than one symbol per sentence.

Questions

All questions incorporate leaning or tilting forward. WQ and RQ share the same vocabulary. Q and RQ share the same facial expression.

Remember, do not start your facial expression early. If you are putting a question at the end of a sentence, make sure that symbol only goes over the end question part. This pertains to the rhetorical question symbol. Do not start your rhetorical question too early.

WQ – Open Ended “Wh” Questions:

- Who, what, where, when, why, which, how, how-many/how-much, for-for, #DO
- Can be signed as a full sentence question or an ending question
- Eyebrows down, lean/tilt head forward (HINT: Make a “W” with your eyebrows)

WQ o EX: WHERE YOUR CAR? YOU GRADUATE WHEN?

RQ – Rhetorical Questions:

- Who, what, where, when, why, which, how, how-many/how-much, for-for, #DO
- Always has an answer after it. You are not asking anyone anything, you are telling them
- Used for emphasis about once every 50 sentences
- Can be either in the middle or beginning of a sentence
- Eyebrows up, lean/tilt head forward

RQ o EX: MY SISTER BREAK LEG, HOW? SKATE-BOARD FALL-OFF.

Q – Yes or No Questions:

- Questions asking for a simple yes or no answer
- Can be signed as a full sentence question or an ending question
- Eyebrows up, lean/tilt head forward

Q o EX: CAN YOU HELP-ME MOVE? BUY NEW CAR COVER DON’T-MIND?
Sentence Initiators

There are 3 types of sentence starters: Topic, Time Indicator, and Conditional Clause. All 3 of these share the same rule: eyebrows up, and put at the beginning of the sentence.

You can't have a sentence with more than one of the following symbols in it. You can also have a sentence without one of these symbols entirely. Every sentence does not have to have a grammar symbol.

T – Topic:
- The topic is the main point of your sentence
- Eyebrows up, beginning of the sentence

\[T\]
- EX: THAT-ONE MAN BLACK HAIR, HE MY OLDEST COUSIN.

TI – Time Indicator:
- Time indicators are specific time only! They can be large times, but they happen only once
  - EX: TWO-YEAR-PAST, NEXT-WEEK SUNDAY, TIME-9 MORNING, YEAR 1492, etc.
- The reason we have time indicators at the beginning of the sentence is because ASL does not have past tense
- These do not include frequency adverbs such as OFTEN, EVERYDAY, SOMETIMES, etc.
  - The reason we don't include frequency adverbs is because they don't change the tense and happen more than once. These can be put anywhere in the sentence
    - ENG EX: I go to the movies every Friday = Every Friday I go to the movies.
- Eyebrows up, beginning of sentence

\[TI\]
- EX: JULY 4 YEAR 1776, AMERICA WIN INDEPENDENCE FROM ENGLAND.

CC – Conditional Clause:
- Conditional clauses are based on situations and the circumstances surrounding that particular instance
- If you see the words HAPPEN, DURING, BEFORE, AFTER, SINCE, or IF at the beginning of the sentence, you know it is a conditional clause
- Eyebrows up, beginning of sentence

\[CC\]
- EX: DURING SPEECH CLASS, POWER-OUTTAGE.

\[CC\]
- EX: IF TOMORROW RAIN, MYSELF STAY HOME.
Emotional Indicators

*Other than the regular emotions one uses naturally, the 2 emotions that are indicated with a symbol are Affirmation and Negation.*

*These are some of the hardest to remember because they come so naturally that the symbols are forgotten.*

*These symbols can be over any word*

**Y – Affirmation:**
- To affirm something is to show you agree or say it is correct
- Example words: CAN, WILL, OF-COURSE, etc.
- Nod
  - **Y**
  - *EX: OF-COURSE I WILL HELP-YOU CLEAN-UP!*

**N – Negation:**
- To negate something is to show you disagree or say it is negative
- Example words: NOT, NEVER, WON’T, CAN’T, DON’T-KNOW, DON’T-MIND, NONE, NO, etc.
- Shake head
  - **N**
  - *EX: AGAIN PLEASE, I UNDERSTAND.*