

Week 3 Assignment

Remember that the lab is here to support and reinforce what you are learning in your ASL class. Your first priority should be to complete your homework and practice projects and vocabulary to be successful beginning ASL students. The assignments here are to guide you through an independent study of ASL. If you find that a different activity will be more effective on a certain week, feel free to design your own independent study for that week. If you do not complete these assignments for any reason, submit a one-half page paper describing what you are currently working on. If you have any questions or do not feel adequately prepared to complete the assignments listed here, please contact Melissa Smith via e-mail at mbsmith@palomar.edu.

ASL 100L:

1. Review vocabulary in Learning American Sign Language (LASL) Units 1 and 2. It is important for you to memorize new vocabulary. One technique that students find helpful is to make flashcards by putting copies of the pictures in your book on one side of a 3 x 5 card and the English meaning on the other side of the card. Drill yourself on vocabulary until recognition of each sign is automatic.
2. Read the glossed representation of the signed dialogues in Unit Two of Learning American Sign Language (LASL) on pages 14, 17, and 18. Work with one dialogue at a time. Copy the signers until you are comfortable signing each dialogue on your own.

Watch the signers again, paying particular attention to facial expression. Can you tell how the signers feel about the topic of conversation? How do English speakers let the listener know how they feel about the topic being discussed? If people who can hear (“hearing” people) are angry or sad, how does their voice inflection change compared to when they are happy? Tired? Bored?

Since Deaf people cannot hear vocal inflection, most emotion is conveyed through facial expression. Keep this in mind when you meet Deaf people. If you don’t show any facial expression, you will appear to be disinterested and boring!

3. Remember that questions which anticipate a yes or no answer (yes/no questions) are made with raised eyebrows, head tilted slightly forward, and the last sign held (see page four in LASL.)

Questions that ask for more extensive information are often called 'wh' questions and are signed by squeezing your eyebrows together, tilting your head slightly forward, and holding the last sign (LASL page two).

Watch the dialogues again and copy each question with appropriate non-manual markers (raised or squeezed eyebrows, etc.). Practice signing questions 1-5 on page eight of your textbook. Question number three is a bit tricky. Often questions using the word "or" in English are signed with "WHICH?" in ASL. For example, YOU STUDENT (pause slightly) TEACHER (pause slightly) WHICH? In other words, questions 1-4 will follow the grammatical rules for 'wh' questions, and only number five will require raised eyebrows.

4. Read Unit 2, Conversation 1 in Signing Naturally, Level 1 (SN). Look for the key phrases printed in bold in the workbook. Copy the signs used to express the concepts printed in bold in your workbook. Copy the key concepts again, making sure to include facial expressions. Repeat the exercise for Conversation 2.
5. Read the grammar notes about forming questions in Unit 2 of SN. Remember that it is important to focus on a signer's face. We have already seen that the face conveys key information about emotional state and grammatical features. Do the Question Types exercise. Remember to read the workbook instructions carefully and record your answers on a separate piece of paper. Check your answers in the back of the book. If you got more than two wrong, watch the videotape again to figure out why. Rewind to the beginning of the Question Types exercise and practice signing each sentence.
6. Watch the video and learn numbers 1-10 with Ron. Practice each number several times. When you are looking at numbers 6-9, it is often easier to see how many fingers are left up rather than which

two fingers are touching. Do the Number Phrases exercise and check your answers in the back of the book. If you answer more than two numbers incorrectly, practice the numbers again, then turn your paper over and repeat the exercise.

7. Take notes on the all culture, language, and grammar notes in Unit Two of both LASL and SN and keep the notes in your notebook. There will be a self-test in a few weeks. You will be allowed to use your notes during the test.
8. What do you find most interesting about what you have learned so far in these lab activities? What do you find most confusing? Please write a two-paragraph essay answering these questions and submit them to a lab assistant for credit.
9. If you have completed these assignments and still have time, watch a videotape of your choice. Write down the name and producer of the video. What did you think about the video you chose? In what ways was it most helpful? What about the video was least helpful?
10. Turn in answers for step numbers eight and nine.