

Week 6 Assignment: ASL 100L

1. Review and memorize vocabulary in Learning American Sign Language (LASL) 1-4 and Signing Naturally Units 1-3. Drill yourself on vocabulary until recognition of each sign is automatic. Go over your class notes. If your teacher has taught you any new signs that are not in either book, take time to remember and practice them now.
2. Read the glossed representation of the signed dialogues in Unit 4 of Learning American Sign Language (LASL). Work with one dialogue at a time. Copy the signers until you are comfortable signing each dialogue on your own.
3. After signing the dialogues, read the information on how to give descriptive information in LASL pages 37-43. Practice vocabulary and take notes on grammatical information. Look at what you are wearing. Can you describe your clothing? Your hair? Look around the room. Can you describe what other students are wearing or what they look like? Practice signing descriptions of people in your family. What does your best friend look like? What was he or she wearing the last time you saw each other? How would you ask what someone looks like? Remember to use the non-manual signals for a 'wh' question when asking for physical descriptions using the sign LOOK^LIKE.
4. Carefully re-read the grammar note and examples on pages 44-45. Notice that the topic portion of the sentence, which can be either the subject or the object of a sentence, requires raised eyebrows. Topic/comment is a common ASL sentence structure. It is produced with raised eyebrows for the topic portion (either the subject or the object of a sentence) followed by a comment with the eyebrows in neutral position about the specified topic. A short pause separates the topic phrase from the comment. Using the pictures on pages 44-45, practice signing the examples given. Do Exercise 4C.
5. Practice signing the sentences in Exercise 4C as many times as you want before recording yourself on videotape.

6. Watch the video of yourself signing. Pay special attention to your non-manual behaviors. If you did not look directly into the camera and it is difficult to tell whether or not you produced the non-manual behaviors appropriately, record the sentences again. Are your eyebrows up for the topic portion of each sentence? Is there a slight pause before the comment? Do your eyebrows return to a neutral position for the comment? You do not need to turn in your video, but do not record over your work. Keep the videotape as a portfolio to document your progress during the semester.
7. Study information and preview vocabulary in LASL, Unit 5.
8. Carefully read Unit 4 in Signing Naturally, Level 1 (SN). Remember to take notes on any culture, language, or grammar information. Look for the key phrases in Conversation 1 printed in bold in the workbook. Copy the signs used to express the highlighted phrases. Copy the key concepts again, making sure to include facial expressions. Repeat the exercise for Conversation 2.
9. Watch Flo model numbers 11-20 on the SN video. Rewind and practice the numbers until you can produce each one correctly. Look on the inside cover of LASL to see a drawn representation of each signed number.
10. In SN Unit 4, watch the signers demonstrate how to identify a square in a grid that is marked with an 'X'. Notice how the marked box is identified from *the signer's* perspective. This means that when you are reading this kind of spatial information—commonly used for giving directions or for discussing the movement of people, animals or objects—you must remember to think of it from the opposite perspective. Think of a mirror. If you hold your right hand up, the hand of the image in the reflection will go up on the same side. This is NOT what the assignment is asking for. You will be identifying the square opposite of a mirror image. Watch the examples provided again and look to see which boxes are marked. When you are comfortable with the examples, move on to the “Grid Game” on page 31. Check your answers in the back of the book. If you identified objects on the opposite side of the grid, turn your paper over and try it again.

11. Complete all remaining workbook exercises in SN Unit 4.
Remember that you will have to rewind often to do each exercise.

12. If you have more than a couple of incorrect answers in each section, go back and review the videotape. Can you see now what went wrong? If you are having substantial difficulty with any of the sections even after you checked the answers in the back of the book, write a short paragraph to explain what you are struggling with and e-mail it to me at mbsmith@palomar.edu or submit it to a lab assistant for credit.