




Structure of American Sign Language

-  1. Demonstrate command of the standard ASL grammar and usage when signing (live and published).


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Knowledge of Language


1. Use knowledge of language and its structure when signing and viewing (live and published).

a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, viewer interest, and style.

-  b. Recognize variations from standard ASL in their own and others' signing and identify and use strategies to improve expression in conventional language.


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a. Vary sentence patterns for meaning, viewer interest, and style.

-  b. Fingerspell correctly and use a chaining approach when introducing new academic signs.

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Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning signs, fingerspelled words, spatial use, and phrases based on grade 6 viewing and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

a. Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a sign, fingerspelled word, classifier, or phrase.

b. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., general dictionaries and content-specific references), both print and digital, to determine and clarify its meaning.

-  c. Verify the meaning of a sign, depiction, or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or other accessible resource).

2. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, sign relationships, and nuances in sign meanings

a. Interpret figurative language in context (e.g., personification, allusions, irony, and puns).

b. Use relationships between particular concepts/signs (e.g., cause/effect, part/whole, item/category, synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each sign.


c. Distinguish among connotations (associations) of signs with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., POLITE, WITH-MANNERS, FORMAL, DIPLOMATIC).

3. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific signs, fingerspelled words, and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering signs, fingerspelled words, or phrases important to comprehension or expression.

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning signs, fingerspelled words, spatial use, and phrases based on grade 7 viewing and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

a. Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a sign, fingerspelled word, classifier, or phrase.

b. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., general dictionaries and content-specific references), both print and digital, to determine and clarify its meaning.

-  c. Verify the meaning of a sign, depiction, or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or other accessible resource).

2. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, sign relationships, and nuances in sign meanings.

a. Interpret figurative language in context (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions).

b. Use relationships between particular sign choices (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the concepts/signs.


c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of signs with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., RESPECT, HONOR, LOOK-UP).

3. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific signs, fingerspelled words, and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering signs, fingerspelled words, or phrases important to comprehension or expression.

1. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning signs, fingerspelled words, spatial use, and phrases based on grade 8 viewing and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

a. Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a sign, fingerspelled word, classifier, or phrase.

b. Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., general dictionaries and content-specific references), both print and digital, to determine and clarify its meaning.

-  c. Verify the meaning of a sign, depiction, or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or other accessible resource).

2. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, sign relationships, and nuances in sign meanings.

a. Interpret figurative language in context.

b. Use relationships between particular sign choices to better understand each of the concepts/signs.

c. Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of signs with similar denotations (definitions).

d. Use common, phonology awareness as clues to the meaning of a word.

3. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific signs, fingerspelled words, and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering signs, fingerspelled words, or phrases important to comprehension or expression.