



Signing For Dummies

By Adan R. Penilla II, Angela Lee Taylor

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American Sign Language (ASL) is something we've all seen Deaf people use in restaurants, hospitals, airports, and throughout the marketplace. The communication is fascinating to watch; to see people sharing ideas by using handshapes and body language is remarkable in a world so defined by sound.

Signing For Dummies gives you a general understanding of the properties of Sign, as well as an understanding of Deaf culture. Designed to act as an introduction or a refresher, the book focuses solely on ASL. Although certainly not the only form of Sign Language, ASL is the most popular in the Deaf community within the United States.

Categorized by subject, this illustrated guide covers grammar and sentence structure, along with the tools to get you going in basic conversation by knowing how to

- Introduce and greet people
- Ask questions and make small talk
- Order food and chat with salespeople
- Handle medical emergencies
- Talk on the phone
- Get around town for fun or business

Although "speaking" American Sign Language (ASL) is mostly a matter of using your fingers, hands, and arms, facial expression and body language are important and sometimes crucial for understanding Signs and their meaning. *Signing For Dummies* gets the whole body into the action as the fun-to-read resource explores

- Signs that look like what they mean
- Expression of emotions and feelings
- Signing sports and weather
- Compass points conversations: Getting or giving directions
- Descriptions of where it hurts
- Deaf community customs, norms, and culture

Each chapter throughout the book invites you to practice specific Signs in a "Fun & Games" section. Translation guides complement the video CD-ROM, which features demonstrations by ASL Signers and actual conversations in progress – all designed to have you moving your hands, body, and face to convey meaning that reaches way beyond linguistic barriers.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

"As an ASL teacher . . . I love the complete and simple layout of this book."

—Don Cabbage, PhD, author, International Sign Language Series

Filled with hundreds of detailed illustrations

"This book really caught my attention. Everyone should read the chapter on Deaf Etiquette."

—Dr. Neal Weaver, President Louisiana Baptist University

Want to discover more about ASL? This friendly guide explains the basics you need to start communicating right away, from proper handshapes and body language to vocabulary and grammar. With the conversations in the book and on the CD-ROM, you'll build your skills for use in the home, office, and out and about town.

All this on the bonus CD-ROM:

- Pick up Signing the easy way –through actual conversations
- Features demonstrations by ASL Signers
- Allows you to see ASL in action
- Reinforces lessons from the book

About the Author

Adan R. Penilla, II is President of the Colorado Registry of Interpreters, Pikes Peak Affiliate. He has his NAD IV interpreting certification and his legal qualification. In 1995, he was an interpreter at the World Federation of the Deaf in Vienna and is currently teaching ASL at Trinidad State Junior College. He has written an ASL Quick Study Bar Chart and WW II for the Deaf. He lectures on Sign language throughout the United States and is currently working on his PhD.

Angela Lee Taylor is the Interpreter Coordinator at the Colorado Springs School for the Deaf and Blind. She was born deaf and is a native of Dixon, Illinois. Taylor graduated from Illinois School for the Deaf in 1985 and later received her bachelor's degree from Gallaudet University in 1997. During the past five years, Taylor has taught ASL for Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, and the community. Taylor has annually coordinated for the statewide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Symposium for four years running. She is a tutor for the shared Reading Project (SRP) and is also involved with ASLTAC. Taylor resides in Pueblo, Colorado.

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