

10 reasons to learn sign language

10 Reasons to Learn Sign Language: Expanding Your World, One Sign at a Time

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Introduction:

Learning a new language is always a rewarding experience, but learning sign language offers a unique set of advantages that extend beyond simple communication. This article will explore 10 compelling reasons to learn sign language, considering both the challenges and the immense opportunities this skill unlocks. It's not just about learning a language; it's about bridging cultural divides, enhancing cognitive skills, and enriching your life in profound ways. So, let's delve into the 10 reasons to learn sign language that will change your perspective.

1. **Enhanced Communication and Connection:** This is perhaps the most obvious reason. Learning sign language allows you to communicate directly with the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, fostering genuine connections and breaking down communication barriers. This opens doors to friendships, romantic relationships, and professional collaborations that might otherwise be inaccessible. Understanding the nuances of sign language helps foster empathy and understanding, enriching relationships beyond just the ability to exchange information.

1. **Cognitive Benefits: Sharpening Your Mind:** Studies consistently demonstrate that bilingualism enhances cognitive function, and learning sign language is no exception. The visual-spatial processing required to understand and produce signs strengthens memory, problem-solving skills, and multitasking abilities. This cognitive boost can be beneficial throughout life, improving academic performance, professional productivity, and even mitigating the effects of age-related cognitive decline.

1. **Career Opportunities: Expanding Your Horizons:** The demand for qualified sign language interpreters and specialists in Deaf education is steadily increasing. Learning sign language significantly broadens your career options, opening doors to roles in healthcare, education, social work, and various other fields requiring communication with the Deaf community. This skill adds a valuable asset to your resume, making you a more competitive candidate in a diverse job market.
1. **Cultural Enrichment: Immersing Yourself in Deaf Culture:** Sign language is more than just a language; it's a vibrant part of Deaf culture. Learning sign language provides a window into this rich cultural heritage, its history, traditions, and unique perspectives. This immersion broadens your understanding of diversity and challenges preconceived notions about disability.
1. **Increased Empathy and Understanding:** Learning sign language cultivates empathy by requiring you to understand another perspective, to actively listen visually, and to engage in meaningful communication despite different modalities. This enhanced empathy translates to improved interpersonal skills and a greater understanding of human experiences, regardless of hearing status.
1. **Personal Enrichment: A Lifelong Journey of Learning:** Learning any new language is a challenging yet rewarding endeavor. The process of learning sign language pushes you beyond your comfort zone, demanding patience, perseverance, and a commitment to continuous learning. This personal growth contributes to a greater sense of accomplishment and self-confidence.
1. **Improved Nonverbal Communication Skills:** Sign language emphasizes visual communication, honing your skills in interpreting body language, facial expressions, and other nonverbal cues. This improved understanding of nonverbal communication benefits all aspects of your life, from interpersonal relationships to professional settings.
1. **Access to Information and Resources:** Learning sign language opens up access to a wealth of

information and resources previously unavailable. You gain access to Deaf-centric media, literature, and online communities, furthering your understanding of Deaf culture and current events.

1. **Enhanced Problem-Solving Skills:** Sign language utilizes spatial reasoning and visual-motor skills, which directly impact problem-solving abilities. The creative and visual nature of sign language requires quick thinking, adaptation, and the ability to find innovative solutions, all of which translate into broader life applications.
1. **Making a Difference: Contributing to Inclusivity:** By learning sign language, you actively contribute to a more inclusive society. You demonstrate respect for the Deaf community and actively work towards removing barriers to communication and participation. This commitment to inclusivity makes a tangible difference in the lives of others and fosters a more equitable world.

Challenges of Learning Sign Language:

While the benefits are numerous, it's crucial to acknowledge the challenges. Learning sign language requires dedication, consistent practice, and a willingness to embrace a different learning style. Finding qualified instructors and consistent practice opportunities can be challenging depending on location. Furthermore, mastering the nuances of sign language, including regional variations and subtle facial expressions, takes time and effort. However, these challenges are surmountable with commitment and passion.

Conclusion:

Learning sign language offers a multitude of personal, professional, and societal benefits. The 10 reasons to learn sign language outlined above highlight the transformative power of this unique skill. While challenges exist, the rewards—from enhanced cognitive abilities and career opportunities to increased empathy and cultural enrichment—far outweigh the effort. Embarking on this journey of learning will not only enrich your own life but also make a positive impact on the lives of others.

FAQs:

1. **Is sign language universal?** No, sign languages vary significantly across different countries and regions, much like spoken languages. American Sign Language (ASL), British Sign Language (BSL), and French Sign Language (LSF) are distinct languages with unique grammatical

structures and vocabulary.

1. How long does it take to learn sign language? The time it takes to achieve fluency varies greatly depending on factors such as learning style, frequency of practice, and immersion opportunities. Basic conversational skills can be acquired in months, but achieving fluency requires years of dedicated study.
1. What are the best resources for learning sign language? Various resources are available, including online courses (Coursera, edX), apps (Handspeak, Sign Language Alphabet), classes at community colleges and universities, and local Deaf communities.
1. Can I learn sign language solely through online resources? While online resources are valuable tools, in-person interaction with Deaf individuals and qualified instructors is crucial for developing accurate pronunciation, fluency, and cultural understanding.
1. Are there different levels of sign language proficiency? Yes, similar to spoken languages, sign language proficiency is graded from beginner to advanced levels, reflecting varying degrees of comprehension, fluency, and cultural awareness.
1. Is it important to know spoken language to learn sign language? No, prior knowledge of a spoken language is not a prerequisite for learning sign language. However, understanding the concepts of grammar and language structure can be beneficial.
1. Can anyone learn sign language? Yes, anyone can learn sign language regardless of age, hearing status, or prior language experience. However, early exposure can benefit cognitive development.
1. How can I find opportunities to practice sign language? Seek out local Deaf communities, participate in sign language meetups or social events, volunteer with organizations serving the Deaf community, and engage in conversations with Deaf individuals.

1. What are the ethical considerations of using sign language? It's crucial to approach sign language with respect for Deaf culture and avoid cultural appropriation. Proper training and ethical conduct are vital when working with the Deaf community as an interpreter or in any related capacity.

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10 reasons to learn sign language: Sign to Learn Kirsten Dennis, Tressa Azpiri, 2005-09-22 Everyone is talking about signing with young children. As a form of early communication for infants and toddlers, or as a transitioning tool for children just beginning to speak, the benefits of signing with hearing children are endless. Sign to Learn is the first complete introduction to sign language curriculum for hearing preschoolers. In this unique resource, you will learn how to integrate American Sign Language (ASL) into your classroom to enhance the academic, social, and emotional development of children, and how to respectfully introduce children to Deaf culture. This comprehensive, fully illustrated curriculum contains captivating activities and lesson plans grouped by themes, including feelings, food, seasons, animals, songs, and families. Sign to Learn also contains strategies for using sign language with children with special needs and in multilingual classrooms, and it describes how ASL can assist you in developing a literacy program and in managing your classroom. Information-rich appendices include a thorough ASL illustration index, sample letters to families, and resources for further reading.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Postlingually Acquired Deafness Roddy Cowie, Ellen Douglas-Cowie, 2011-06-01 *TRENDS IN LINGUISTICS* is a series of books that open new perspectives in our understanding of language. The series publishes state-of-the-art work on core areas of linguistics across theoretical frameworks as well as studies that provide new insights by building bridges to neighbouring fields such as neuroscience and cognitive science. *TRENDS IN LINGUISTICS* considers itself a forum for cutting-edge research based on solid empirical data on language in its various manifestations, including sign languages. It regards linguistic variation in its synchronic and diachronic dimensions as well as in its social contexts as important sources of insight for a better understanding of the design of linguistic systems and the ecology and evolution of language. *TRENDS IN LINGUISTICS* publishes monographs and outstanding dissertations as well as edited volumes, which provide the opportunity to address controversial topics from different empirical and theoretical viewpoints. High quality standards are ensured through anonymous reviewing.

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10 reasons to learn sign language: Questions About Language Laurie Bauer, Andreea S. Calude, 2020-05-19 Questions About Language sets out to answer, in a readable yet insightful format, a series of vital questions about language, some of which language specialists are regularly asked, and some of which are so surprising that only the specialists think about them. In this handy guide, sixteen language experts answer challenging questions about language, from What makes a language a language? to Do people swear because they don't know enough words? Illustrating the complexity of human language, and the way in which we use it, the twelve chapters each end with a section on further reading for anyone interested in following up on the topic. Covering core questions about language, this is essential reading for both students new to language and linguistics and the interested general reader.

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10 reasons to learn sign language: Research and Innovation Forum 2021 Anna Visvizi, Orlando Troisi, Kawther Saeedi, 2021-09-20 This book features research presented and discussed during the Research and Innovation Forum (Rii Forum) 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic and its social, political, and economic implications had confirmed that a more thorough debate on these issues and topics was needed. For this reason, the Rii Forum 2021 was devoted to the broadly defined question of the short- and long-term impact of the pandemic on our societies. This volume serves as an

essential resource to understand the diverse ways in which Covid-19 impacted our societies, including the capacity to innovate, advances in technology, the evolution of the healthcare systems, business model innovation, the prospects of growth, the stability of political systems, and the future of education.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Mobile Web and Intelligent Information Systems

Irfan Awan, Muhammad Younas, Perin Ünal, Markus Aleksy, 2019-08-19 This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Mobile Web and Intelligent Information Systems, MobiWIS 2019, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in August 2019. The 23 full papers presented together with 3 short papers were carefully reviewed and selected from 74 submissions. The papers of the MobiWIS 2019 deal with areas such as: mobile apps and services; web and mobile applications; security and privacy; wireless networks and cloud computing; intelligent mobile applications; and mobile web and practical applications.

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10 reasons to learn sign language: 2014 Li Yuming, Li Wei, 2019-09-23 China, with the world's largest population, numerous ethnic groups and vast geographical space, is also rich in languages. Since 2006, China's State Language Commission has been publishing annual reports on what is called language life in China. These reports cover language policy and planning initiatives at the national, provincial and local levels, new trends in language use in a variety of social domains, and major events concerning languages in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Now for the first time, these reports are available in English for anyone interested in Chinese language and linguistics, China's language, education and social policies, as well as everyday language use among the ordinary people in China. The invaluable data contained in these reports provide an essential reference to researchers, professionals, policy makers, and China watchers.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Sign Language Ideologies in Practice Annelies Kusters, Mara Green, Erin Moriarty, Kristin Snoddon, 2020-08-10 This book focuses on how sign language ideologies influence, manifest in, and are challenged by communicative practices. Sign languages are minority languages using the visual-gestural and tactile modalities, whose affordances are very different from those of spoken languages using the auditory-oral modality.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Emergentist Approaches to Language Brian MacWhinney, Vera Kempe, Ping Li, Patricia J. Brooks, 2022-02-16

10 reasons to learn sign language: Advances in the Sign Language Development of Deaf Children Brenda Schick, Marc Marschark, Patricia Elizabeth Spencer, 2005-09-02 The use of sign language has a long history. Indeed, humans' first languages may have been expressed through sign. Sign languages have been found around the world, even in communities without access to formal education. In addition to serving as a primary means of communication for Deaf communities, sign languages have become one of hearing students' most popular choices for second-language study. Sign languages are now accepted as complex and complete languages that are the linguistic equals of spoken languages. Sign-language research is a relatively young field, having begun fewer than 50 years ago. Since then, interest in the field has blossomed and research has become much more rigorous as demand for empirically verifiable results have increased. In the same way that cross-linguistic research has led to a better understanding of how language affects development, cross-modal research has led to a better understanding of how language is acquired. It has also provided valuable evidence on the cognitive and social development of both deaf and hearing children, excellent theoretical insights into how the human brain acquires and structures sign and spoken languages, and important information on how to promote the development of deaf children. This volume brings together the leading scholars on the acquisition and development of sign languages to present the latest theory and research on these topics. They address theoretical as well as applied questions and provide cogent summaries of what is known about early gestural development, interactive processes adapted to visual communication, linguistic structures, modality effects, and semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic development in sign. Along with its companion

volume, *Advances in the Spoken Language Development of Deaf and Hard-of Hearing Children*, this book will provide a deep and broad picture about what is known about deaf children's language development in a variety of situations and contexts. From this base of information, progress in research and its application will accelerate, and barriers to deaf children's full participation in the world around them will continue to be overcome.

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10 reasons to learn sign language: The Auditory Culture Reader Michael Bull, Les Back, 2020-05-31 The first edition of *The Auditory Culture Reader* offered an introduction to both classical and recent work on auditory culture, laying the foundations for new academic research in sound studies. Today, interest and research on sound thrives across disciplines such as music, anthropology, geography, sociology and cultural studies as well as within the new interdisciplinary sphere of sound studies itself. This second edition reflects on the changes to the field since the first edition and offers a vast amount of new content, a user-friendly organization which highlights key themes and concepts, and a methodologies section which addresses practical questions for students setting out on auditory explorations. All essays are accessible to non-experts and encompass scholarship from leading figures in the field, discussing issues relating to sound and listening from the broadest set of interdisciplinary perspectives. Inspiring students and researchers attentive to sound in their work, newly-commissioned and classical excerpts bring urban research and ethnography alive with sensory case studies that open up a world beyond the visual. This book is core reading for all courses that cover the role of sound in culture, within sound studies, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, history, media studies and urban geography.

10 reasons to learn sign language: **Computer Vision - ECCV 2020 Workshops** Adrien Bartoli, Andrea Fusiello, 2021-01-02 The 6-volume set, comprising the LNCS books 12535 until 12540, constitutes the refereed proceedings of 28 out of the 45 workshops held at the 16th European Conference on Computer Vision, ECCV 2020. The conference was planned to take place in Glasgow, UK, during August 23-28, 2020, but changed to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 249 full papers, 18 short papers, and 21 further contributions included in the workshop proceedings were carefully reviewed and selected from a total of 467 submissions. The papers deal with diverse computer vision topics. Part II focusses on commands for autonomous vehicles; computer vision for ART analysis; sign language recognition, translation and production; visual inductive priors for data-efficient deep learning; 3D poses in the wild challenge; map-based localization for autonomous driving; recovering 6D object pose; and shape recovery from partial textured 3D scans.

10 reasons to learn sign language: *Deaf Culture* Irene W. Leigh, Jean F. Andrews, Raychelle L. Harris, Topher González Ávila, 2020-11-12 A contemporary and vibrant Deaf culture is found within Deaf communities, including Deaf Persons of Color and those who are DeafDisabled and DeafBlind. Taking a more people-centered view, the second edition of *Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States* critically examines how Deaf culture fits into education, psychology, cultural studies, technology, and the arts. With the acknowledgment of signed languages all over the world as bona fide languages, the perception of Deaf people has evolved into the recognition and acceptance of a vibrant Deaf culture centered around the use of signed languages and the communities of Deaf peoples. Written by Deaf and hearing authors with extensive teaching experience and immersion in Deaf cultures and signed languages, *Deaf Culture* fills a niche as an introductory textbook that is more inclusive, accessible, and straightforward for those beginning their studies of the Deaf-World. New to the Second Edition: *A new co-author, Topher González Ávila, MA *Two new chapters! Chapter 7 "Deaf Communities Within the Deaf Community"

highlights the complex variations within this community Chapter 10 “Deaf People and the Legal System: Education, Employment, and Criminal Justice” underscores linguistic and access rights *The remaining chapters have been significantly updated to reflect current trends and new information, such as: Advances in technology created by Deaf people that influence and enhance their lives within various national and international societies Greater emphasis on different perspectives within Deaf culture Information about legal issues and recent political action by Deaf people New information on how Deaf people are making breakthroughs in the entertainment industry Addition of new vignettes, examples, pictures, and perspectives to enhance content interest for readers and facilitate instructor teaching Introduction of theories explained in a practical and reader-friendly manner to ensure understanding An updated introduction to potential opportunities for professional and informal involvement in ASL/Deaf culture with children, youth, and adults Key Features: *Strong focus on including different communities within Deaf cultures *Thought-provoking questions, illustrative vignettes, and examples *Theories introduced and explained in a practical and reader-friendly manner

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10 reasons to learn sign language: Applied Problems Solved by Information Technology and Software Azman Ismail, Fatin Nur Zulkipli, Mohd Amran Mohd Daril, Andreas Öchsner, 2023-12-28 This book explores a dynamic landscape where cutting-edge technologies are revolutionizing various domains. This captivating book delves into the advancements in security, communication, and environmental management, highlighting their profound impact on society. The developments bridge the gap between human needs and technological innovation. Readers will uncover the fascinating world of IoT-driven devices that seamlessly integrate into our lives, ensuring enhanced safety and communication efficiency. This book is a must-read for technology enthusiasts, researchers, and anyone curious about the transformative power of technology in shaping our present and future.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research, Volume 2 Susan D. Fischer, Patricia Siple, 1991-06-25 The recent recognition of sign languages as legitimate human languages has opened up new and unique ways for both theoretical and applied psycholinguistics and language acquisition have begun to demonstrate the universality of language acquisition, comprehension, and production processes across a wide variety of modes of communication. As a result, many language practitioners, teachers, and clinicians have begun to examine the role of sign language in the education of the deaf as well as in language intervention for atypical, language-delayed populations. This collection, edited by Patricia Siple and Susan D. Fischer, brings together theoretically important contributions from both basic research and applied settings. The studies include native sign language acquisition; acquisition and processing of sign language through a single mode under widely varying conditions; acquisition and processing of bimodal (speech and sign) input; and the use of sign language with atypical, autistic, and mentally retarded groups. All the chapters in this collection of state-of-the-art research address one or more issues related to universality of language processes, language plasticity, and the relative contributions of biology and input to language acquisition and use.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Advances in Computing and Data Sciences Mayank Singh, Vipin Tyagi, P. K. Gupta, Jan Flusser, Tuncer Ören, V. R. Sonawane, 2021-10-20 This two-volume book constitutes the post-conference proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Advances in Computing and Data Sciences, ICACDS 2021, held in Nashik, India, in April 2021.* The 103 full papers were carefully reviewed and selected from 781 submissions. Part II is devoted to data

sciences, organizing principles, medical technologies, computational linguistics etc. *The conference was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Inclusion in Southern African Education Dipane Hlalele, Tsedisio Michael Makoelle, 2023-10-18 This book reflects on more than two decades of adoption practices of inclusive education policy in Southern Africa. It is aimed at taking stock of the successes, challenges and achievements during this journey of making education inclusive and equitable. It responds to the educational needs of learners at all levels, regardless of their diverse needs, such as disability, gender, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity and language background. This book furthers the understanding and conceptualization of the notion of inclusion in education, and explores the challenges experienced during the operationalization and implementation of the process. It extends debates spawned by international and national policy mandates that sought to transcend exclusionary educational practices in order to realize inclusive societies and, by implication, inclusive classrooms. It offers a comprehensive conceptual framework for inclusive education in the Southern African context while drawing parallels from the regional and international experience. This book can be used as a reference or critical reading for scholars and researchers in the field of inclusive education. It will empower practitioners, administrators, teachers and school leaders, curriculum developers and planners, as well as policy makers with knowledge about theory and practice regarding inclusive education in the Southern African schooling system.

10 reasons to learn sign language: The Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics James Simpson, 2011-03-15 The Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics serves as an introduction and reference point to key areas in the field of applied linguistics. The five sections of the volume encompass a wide range of topics from a variety of perspectives: applied linguistics in action language learning, language education language, culture and identity perspectives on language in use descriptions of language for applied linguistics. The forty-seven chapters connect knowledge about language to decision-making in the real world. The volume as a whole highlights the role of applied linguistics, which is to make insights drawn from language study relevant to such decision-making. The chapters are written by specialists from around the world. Each one provides an overview of the history of the topic, the main current issues and possible future trajectory. Where appropriate, authors discuss the impact and use of new technology in the area. Suggestions for further reading are provided with every chapter. The Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics is an essential purchase for postgraduate students of applied linguistics. Editorial board: Ronald Carter, Guy Cook, Diane Larsen-Freeman and Amy Tsui.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Sign Language in Action Jemina Napier, Lorraine Leeson, 2016-01-26 This book defines the notion of applied sign linguistics by drawing on data from projects that have explored sign language in action in various domains. The book gives professionals working with sign languages, signed language teachers and students, research students and their supervisors, authoritative access to current ideas and practice.

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10 reasons to learn sign language: The Linguistics of British Sign Language Rachel Sutton-Spence, Bencie Woll, 1999-03-18 This is the first detailed explanation of the way British Sign Language works and is the product of many years' experience of research and teaching sign linguistics to deaf and hearing people. It assumes no previous knowledge of linguistics or sign language, and is not structured around traditional headings such as phonology, morphology and syntax. Instead it is set out in such a way as to help learners and their teachers understand the linguistic principles behind the language. There are sections on BSL grammar and also on the use of BSL, including social acceptability in signing, variation, and poetry and humour in BSL. Technical terms and linguistic jargon are kept to a minimum, and the text contains many examples from English, BSL, and other spoken and sign languages. The book is amply illustrated and contains

exercises, as well as a reading list for further study. An accompanying 90-minute DVD is available from Talk With Sign Books. To find out more, visit <http://www.talkwithsign.com/linguistics-british-sign-language-p-741.html>.

10 reasons to learn sign language: American Sign Language (Speedy Study Guide) Speedy Publishing, 2014-12-07 An American Sign Language Guide helps someone trying to learn sign language, by allowing the person to study at their own pace and in their own time. Also, an American Sign Language Guide allows the person who is wanting to learn Sign Language to study anywhere that is convenient for them. This could be; a classroom, the person's residence, the library, or any other place that the person feels comfortable reading the guide and practicing the techniques the guide teaches.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Linguistic Disorders and Pathologies Gerhard Blanken, Jürgen Dittmann, Hannelore Grimm, John C. Marshall, Claus-W. Wallesch, 2008-07-14 This handbook is geared towards the following aims: Reviewing the state of research on disordered language perception and production in adults and children. Describing and discussing present attempts at modelling human language processing by using linguistic disorders and pathologies as a data base. Presenting diagnostic and therapeutic concepts. Pointing out gaps and inconsistencies in current knowledge and theories. In bringing together knowledge of different sources and disciplines under a common roof, the editors have achieved a comprehensive overview of the state of the art in the field of language pathology. Because of the diversity of the disciplines contributing to this scientific field, the chapters differ clearly in theories and methodologies. Yet this handbook represents a clear and common interdisciplinary contribution to linguistic disorders and pathologies and, furthermore, demonstrates the amount of interdisciplinary interaction still required. We chose this title in order to encompass as broadly as possible abnormalities and alterations of language perception, comprehension and production in adults and children, including nonpathological disorders. This handbook will be of interest to anybody involved with disordered language and/or language and speech disturbances, such as linguists and psychologists working in related research areas or teaching related subjects, scientists analyzing and modelling linguistic and cognitive processes (e.g. in Cognitive Psychology, Psycholinguistics, Neurolinguistics, Neuropsychology, Behavioural Neurology, Artificial Intelligence Research, and Cognitive Science), clinicians dealing with acquired or developmental language disorders, and speech pathologists and therapists. Besides presenting the state of the art, the handbook provides rich bibliographical information for research workers, clinicians, and advanced students.

10 reasons to learn sign language: Come Sign with Us Jan Christian Hafer, Robert Mills Wilson, 1996 Here is a fully illustrated activities manual for teaching children sign language. Come Sign With Us features more than 300 line drawings of adults and children signing familiar words, phrases, and sentences using American Sign Language (ASL) signs in English word order. Each of the twenty lively lessons introduces ten selected target vocabulary words in a format familiar and exciting to children. Used in conjunction with reading and grammar studies, sign language can improve vocabulary retention and reading comprehension. All signs have equivalent words listed in English and Spanish as well. Come Sign With Us shows exactly how to form each sign, and offers a variety of follow-up activities and practice signing in realistic situations.

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