

Beginning American Sign Language (ASL)

with Franklin Smith

For adults ages 18+ of all abilities



American Sign Language is a beautiful, visual language. With signing, the brain processes linguistic information through the eyes, and facial expressions and body movements play an important part in conveying information. Remember, sign language is not a universal language. Each country has its own sign language much like the many languages spoken all over the world. Like any spoken language, ASL is a language with its own unique rules of grammar and syntax. Taking this 6-week class will help you learn the basic sign of ASL:

1. Basic sign language phrases
2. Common vocabulary words
3. Rules of grammar and syntax



Meet Your Instructor: Franklin Smith is a West Virginia native who lost his hearing (severely Deaf) at the age of 2. From a young age, he communicated mostly through lip-reading and fingerspelling. It wasn't until his college years that he became immersed in the Deaf world and fluent in American Sign Language. It was then that he found his identity and joined the Deaf community. Franklin is a dynamic professional with a unique background of more than 10 years teaching ASL and working with Deaf students providing mentoring, advocating, coaching, career development training and job readiness among other skills. Franklin is currently an ASL Adjunct Professor and full-time ASL Lab Manager at the St Petersburg College. He is a people person who loves baking, bowling, arts and crafts, and making a difference in his community.

Dates: Tuesdays at 11am EST September 7th- October 12th

Location: Zoom

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