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Don't Just "Sign.." COMMUNICATE!

# A Student's Pocket Guide to Deaf Community Terminology



by Michelle Jay



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A Student's  
Pocket Guide to  
Deaf Community  
Terminology

by Michelle Jay

Judea Media, LLC—Los Angeles, CA  
2011

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Publisher's Cataloging-in-Publication

Jay, Michelle.

Don't just "sign" ... communicate! : a student's pocket guide to deaf community terminology / by Michelle Jay.

p. cm.

ISBN-13 978-0-984524-5-2

ISBN-10 0-9845294-5-4

Library of Congress Control Number: 2011902571

2. American Sign Language—Study and teaching. 2. American Sign Language—Terms and phrases. 3. Deaf culture. I. Jay, Michelle. II. Title.

HV2475.J397 2011

419 J39 djc

2011902571

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

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# Introduction

**W**hile learning American Sign Language, you will notice a lot of terminology and acronyms that you don't recognize. It is very important to have a glossary of Deaf Studies terms handy because these terms will come up a lot—especially in conversations with Deaf people.

This is a rather long list of the most important ASL and Deaf Studies terminology and acronyms that you need to be aware of.

You don't need to memorize them all because you can use this pocket-sized book to look up unfamiliar terms you may come across at any time.

The most common terms are preceded by an asterisk (\*). Those are the ones you should focus on memorizing.



## A

**AAAD:** American Athletic Association of the Deaf

**AAD:** Australian Association of the Deaf

**\*ADA:** *see* Americans with Disabilities Act

**ADARA:** American Deaf Advocacy and Rehabilitation Association

**ADVBA:** American Deaf Volleyball Association

**\*AGB:** *see* Alexander Graham Bell

**AGBAD:** Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf

**ALDA:** Association of Late Deafened Adults

**\*Alexander Graham Bell (AGB):** In general, Alexander Graham Bell is held in low esteem by the Deaf community. He supported the prohibition of the use of sign language in favor of oralism.

**\*American Manual Alphabet:** The American Manual Alphabet is the twenty-six handshapes that represent the letters of the American alphabet.

**\*American Sign Language (ASL):** American Sign Language is the natural language of around 500,000 deaf people in the U.S. and Canada.

**\*American Sign Language Teachers Association**

**(ASLTA):** The American Sign Language Teachers Association is a national organization dedicated to the expansion and improvement of the teaching of ASL and Deaf Studies.

**\*Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The Americans with Disabilities Act adds more legal protections to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for deaf and other disabled people in the areas of employment, public accommodations (i.e. restaurants), public services (i.e. city buses), and telecommunications. The ADA requires that reasonable access be provided for individuals who are disabled or are considered to have a disability. It also protects deaf and other disabled people from being discriminated against on the basis of their disability. The ADA was an important milestone in Deaf history and has had a very beneficial impact on the lives of Deaf people.

**\*Ameslan:** *see* American Sign Language

**ASDC:** American Society of Deaf Children

**ASHA:** American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

**\*ASL:** *see* American Sign Language

**\*ASLTA:** *see* American Sign Language Teachers Association

**\*Assistive technology:** Assistive technology is anything that assists deaf people with everyday life. For example, there are lights that deaf people can hook up to their

doorbell, telephone, or alarm clock to know when they go off. TTYs and Video Phones are also used so deaf people can use the telephone. Closed Captioning on movies and television is another assistive technology that is used by deaf people.

**\*Audism:** In Deaf Culture, calling someone an audist is like calling someone a racist. Audism is a negative or oppressive attitude toward deaf people and a failure to accommodate them. It is an attitude that people who hear and speak, or people who have good English skills are superior. For example, not using sign language in the presence of a sign language dependent person is considered audism.

**Auslan:** Australian Sign Language

## B

**\*Bi/Bi:** *see* Bilingual/Bicultural

**\*Bilingual/Bicultural (Bi/Bi):** Bilingual/Bicultural is an educational philosophy of embracing two languages and cultures. This approach gives deaf children the ability to learn in their natural language. ASL is used in the classroom and taught to the children first. Then, English is taught as the second language.

**\*British Sign Language (BSL):** British Sign Language is the sign language used in Britain and other areas of the world. One of the differences between BSL and ASL is

that BSL uses a two-handed manual alphabet.

**BRS:** Bell Relay Service

\***BSL:** *see* British Sign Language

## C

**CAD:** Canadian Association of the Deaf

\***CASE:** *see* Conceptually Accurate Signed English

\***CC:** *see* Closed Captioning

**CCSD:** Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf

**CDSA:** Canadian Deaf Sports Association

**Certificate of Interpretation (CI):** Interpreters who are holders of this certificate are recognized as fully certified in interpretation and have demonstrated the ability to interpret between ASL and spoken English for both sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign tasks ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Certificate of Interpretation and Transliteration (CI/CT):** Interpreters who hold both full certificates have demonstrated competence in both interpretation and transliteration ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Certificate of Transliteration (CT):** Interpreters who are holders of this certificate are recognized as fully certified in transliteration and have demonstrated the ability to transliterate between English-based sign language and

spoken English for both sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign tasks ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Certification Maintenance Program (CMP):** The Certificate Maintenance Program is used to monitor the continued skill development of certified interpreters. Certification maintenance is a way of ensuring that practitioners maintain their skill levels and keep up with developments in the interpreting field, thereby assuring consumers that a certified interpreter provides quality interpreting services ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**\*Children of Deaf Adults (CODA):** In the Deaf world, a hearing child of Deaf parents is referred to as a CODA. CODAs are considered to make the best interpreters because they are raised with ASL and Deaf Culture.

**CI/CT:** *see* Certificate of Interpretation and Transliteration

**CI:** *see* Certificate of Interpretation *or* Cochlear Implant

**\*Clerc, Laurent:** Laurent Clerc became deaf because of an accident when he was an infant. Clerc attended the National Institute for the Deaf in Paris. He graduated eight years later and became a tutor for the Institute. At the request of Thomas H. Gallaudet, Clerc traveled to America in 1817 and helped establish the first American school for the deaf.

**\*Closed Captioning (CC):** Closed captions are lines of text that show up on your television or computer screen that correspond to what is being spoken, along with music and background noises that are heard on the program. The closed captioning signal must be decoded for it to appear on your screen. Decoders used to be separate devices, but are now built into television sets. Captioning that appears without needing to be decoded is called “open captioning”.

**CMP:** *see* Certification Maintenance Program

**\*Cochlear Implant (CI):** A cochlear implant is a new mechanism for hearing that is used when a hearing aid is not sufficient. Cochlear implants are surgically implanted into the skull and send sound signals directly to the auditory nerve.

**\*CODA:** *see* Children of Deaf Adults

**COED:** Commission on Education for the Deaf

**\*Code Switching:** Code switching is modifying sign language for easier communication. This is normally used with hearing people who have varying degrees of sign language fluency. Deaf people will vary their signs to match the language skills of the other person—like including more mouthing of words, fingerspelling, gesturing, slower pace, simple sentences, English-like word order, etc.

**Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC):** Interpreters who are holders of this full certificate have demonstrated the ability to interpret between ASL and spoken English, and to transliterate between spoken English and an English-based sign language ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**\*Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE):** Conceptually Accurate Signed English is sometimes called Pidgin Signed English (PSE). It is a signing system that has developed between people who use ASL and people who use Manually Coded English (MCE). It uses signs based on both ASL and MCE.

**Contact Sign:** *see* Pidgin Signed English

**CSC:** *see* Comprehensive Skills Certificate

**CT:** *see* Certificate of Transliteration

**\*Cued Speech:** Cued Speech was developed in 1966 by R. Orin Cornett at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. The cues consist of eight handshapes used in four different positions. These cues are used in combination with the natural mouth movements that occur during speech. Cued Speech helps deaf individuals while lip-reading to clarify sounds that might otherwise be indistinguishable on the lips.

**\*Cultural View of Deafness:** People who believe in the cultural view of deafness feel that deafness is about language and culture. They do not believe that deafness

is something that needs to be “fixed”—which is the pathological or medical view of deafness.

## D

**DAA:** Deaf Artists of America

**DB:** Deaf-blind

**DBA:** Deaf Basketball Association

**\*Deaf Community:** In general, the Deaf Community consists of Deaf people who use sign language and share in Deaf culture.

**\*Deaf President Now (DPN):** Deaf President Now was a campus protest as well as an international Deaf movement. DPN took place the week of March 6, 1988 at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. Elizabeth Zinser, a hearing woman, was elected president of Gallaudet University. The students and international Deaf Community demanded that the school elect a Deaf president. After a week of protests, Zinser resigned and I. King Jordan was elected as the first Deaf president of Gallaudet.

**\*Deaf:** Deaf (with a capital “D”) refers to embracing the cultural norms, beliefs, traditions, attitudes, and values of the Deaf Community.

**\*deaf:** deaf (with a lowercase “d”) refers to physical deafness—the condition of lacking the sense of hearing to the extent that speech cannot be understood for communication purposes.

**Demonstrated Signing:** Signing on another person’s body or on an object.

**\*Disability:** In the Deaf community, the term “disability” is NOT used to describe Deaf people. Deaf people do not view themselves as disabled. Instead, Deaf people see themselves as a linguistic and cultural minority. They are an ethnic group with a shared culture and a common language. However, there are deaf people who do see themselves as disabled, but they are normally not fluent in ASL or a part of the Deaf community.

**DOE:** Department of Education

**\*Dominant Hand:** Your dominant hand is the hand you use to do most of your signing. This is the hand that moves when you use a sign that requires one hand to be stationary and one hand to move.

**\*DPN:** *see* Deaf President Now

**DVR:** Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

**DWU:** Deaf Women United

## E

### **Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment**

**(EIPA):** The Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment began in 1991 with the Boys Town National Research Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. The EIPA was developed to evaluate the skills necessary for interpreting for students in the classroom (as opposed to interpreting for adults). For more information, you can visit the EIPA website. ([www.classroominterpreting.org/EIPA](http://www.classroominterpreting.org/EIPA))

**EIPA:** *see* Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment

## F

**\*Fingerspelling (FS):** Fingerspelling is used in ASL to indicate places, names, or ideas for which there is no official sign. It consists of 22 handshapes that represent the 26 letters of the American alphabet when held in certain positions or produced with certain movements.

**FRAT:** Fraternal Society of the Deaf

**\*FS:** *see* Fingerspelling

## G

**GA:** GA means Go Ahead. GA is an abbreviation used while using a TTY (teletypewriter). It means you are done with your turn and it is the other person's turn to go ahead and type.

**\*Gallaudet University (GU):** Gallaudet University is located in Washington D.C. and is the main liberal arts college for deaf and hard of hearing students.

**\*Gallaudet, Edward Miner:** Edward Miner Gallaudet was the youngest son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. He was the founder of the Columbia Institute's college division (the National Deaf-Mute College) in Washington, D.C. that was renamed Gallaudet University in 1986.

**\*Gallaudet, Thomas Hopkins:** Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was born on December 10, 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Yale University and decided to join the ministry. When Reverend Gallaudet met Dr. Mason Cogswell and his deaf daughter, Alice, he began teaching Alice how to communicate. Wishing to have more success, Gallaudet traveled to England to study their methods of teaching deaf students. While in Europe, Gallaudet met a deaf educator, Laurent Clerc, and convinced him to come back to America to help establish the first American school for the deaf. The American School for the Deaf was founded

in 1817 in Hartford, Connecticut.

**\*Gestuno:** Gestuno is a system of signing that was developed to be non-offensive and therefore helpful for international communications. This can be regarded as an attempt to create an international sign language.

**Gesture:** A gesture is a body movement that is used to communicate.

**Grammar:** Grammar is the structure, principles, and rules of a language.

**GU:** *see* Gallaudet University

**GUAA:** Gallaudet University Alumni Association

## H

**\*Handshape:** The handshape of a sign is the shape of the hand, fingers, and palm used to form a sign.

**\*Hard of Hearing (HoH/HH):** The term “hard of hearing” refers to people with a hearing loss who can generally use the phone with amplification and can understand most speech.

**\*Hearing Impaired (HI):** The term “hearing impaired” is an obsolete term that was used to refer to all people with a hearing loss. This term is now offensive to members of

the Deaf community. Instead, use the phrase “deaf and hard of hearing” to be politically correct.

**\*Hearing of Hearing Adults (HOHA):** Hearing of Hearing Adults refers to the hearing children of hearing parents.

**\*Hearing People (Hearies):** Hearing people (or “Hearies”) are non-Deaf people. This term can refer specifically to hearing people who are unfamiliar with Deaf Culture, but this term can also include all hearing people.

**\*HH:** *see* Hard of Hearing

**\*HI:** *see* Hearing Impaired

**HKNC:** Helen Keller National Center

**\*HoH:** *see* Hard of Hearing

**\*HOHA:** *see* Hearing of Hearing Adults



**IC/TC:** *see* Interpretation and Transliteration Certificate

**\*IEP:** *see* Individualized Education Program *or* Interpreter Education Program

**\*Individualized Education Program (IEP):** An Individualized Education Program (or Individualized Educational Plan) is developed for every student with a

disability who meets the federal and state requirements for special education. The IEP is tailored to each student's needs and should describe how the student learns and what teachers and service providers will do to help the student learn more effectively. Deaf children are entitled to an IEP.

**\*Interpret:** In this field, the term "interpret" means to go from ASL to spoken English or spoken English to ASL.

### **Interpretation and Transliteration Certificate**

**(IC/TC):** Interpreters who are holders of this partial certificate demonstrated the ability to transliterate between English and a signed code for English, and the ability to interpret between ASL and spoken English. This individual received scores on the CSC examination which prevented the awarding of full CSC certification (**www.rid.org**).

**Interpreter Education Program (IEP):** *see* Interpreter Training Program

**\*Interpreter for the Deaf:** In the Deaf Community, interpreters are referred to as "interpreters" and not "translators." Another word that is often used is "terps."

**\*Interpreter Training Program (ITP):** An Interpreter Training Program (also called an Interpreter Education Program) is formal training for those who wish to become interpreters. There are two-year and four-year degrees and certificates available as well as some

graduate programs.

**\*ITP:** *see* Interpreter Training Program

## J

**Jr.NAD:** Junior National Association of the Deaf

**JSL:** Japanese Sign Language

## L

**\*Langue des Signes Québécois (LSQ):** A popular sign language used in Canada.

**\*Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):** As part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, “least restrictive environment” means that a student with a disability should have the opportunity to be educated with their non-disabled peers. In the Deaf community, the best educational environment for deaf children is debated. Most believe that the least restrictive environment would be with deaf peers, not hearing peers.

**\*Lip Reading:** The ability to understand oral language through reading the lip movements of the speaker.

**LOVE:** Linguistics of Visual English

**\*LRE:** *see* Least Restrictive Environment

\***LSQ:** *see* Langue des Signes Québécois

**LTD:** Little Theater of the Deaf

## M

\***Manually Coded English (MCE):** Manually Coded English refers to the several signing systems that have been designed to portray English on the hands.

\***MCE:** *see* Manually Coded English

## N

\***NAD:** *see* National Association of the Deaf

\***Name Sign:** Name signs are used to identify and refer to people. This eliminates the need to fingerspell a person's name repeatedly. There are three types of name signs used by Deaf people—arbitrary, descriptive, and a hybrid of both.

**NAOBI:** National Alliance of Black Interpreters

\***National Association of the Deaf (NAD):** The National Association of the Deaf is the world's oldest deaf advocacy organization.

**National Captioning Institute (NCI):** The National Captioning Institute is a nonprofit organization established in 1979. Their mission is to ensure that deaf

and hard of hearing people have access to television through closed captioning technology. They were the first to caption live television and home video.

**\*National Fraternal Society of the Deaf (NFSD):** The National Fraternal Society of the Deaf offers insurance as well as fraternal and community service activities to Deaf people.

**\*National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID):** The National Technical Institute for the Deaf is located in Rochester, New York and is a popular technological college for Deaf students.

**\*National Theater of the Deaf (NTD):** The National Theater of the Deaf is a theater group composed of deaf as well as hearing actors who entertain audiences worldwide through sign language, music, and the spoken word.

**NBDA:** National Black Deaf Advocates

**NCI:** *see* National Captioning Institute

**NCLD:** National Center for Law and the Deaf

**NCOD:** National Center on Deafness

**\*NERDA:** *see* Not Even Related to a Deaf Adult

**NFSD:** *see* National Fraternal Society of the Deaf

**NIC:** National Interpreter Certification

**\*NMM:** *see* Non-Manual Markers

**\*Non-Manual Markers (NMM):** Non-manual markers are facial expressions and body movements. They are used to inflect signs much like vocal intonations are used to inflect spoken words. Inflect means to change, influence, or emphasize the meaning of a sign or signed sentence.

**\*Not Even Related to a Deaf Adult (NERDA):** NERDA is a comical reference to hearing people who don't have any ties to the Deaf World.

**NRID:** National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

**NSAD:** National Softball Association of the Deaf

**\*NTD:** *see* National Theater of the Deaf

**\*NTID:** *see* National Technical Institute for the Deaf



**OIC:C** *see* Oral Interpreter Certificate: Comprehensive

**OIC:S/V** *see* Oral Interpreter Certificate: Spoken to Visible

**OIC:V/S** *see* Oral Interpreter Certificate: Visible to Spoken

**Oral Interpreter Certificate: Comprehensive (OIC:C):** Interpreters who are holders of this generalist certificate

demonstrated both the ability to transliterate a spoken message from a person who hears to a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing, and the ability to understand and repeat the message and intent of the speech and mouth movements of the person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Oral Interpreter Certificate: Spoken to Visible**

**(OIC:S/V):** Interpreters who are the holders of this partial certificate demonstrated the ability to transliterate a spoken message from a person who hears to a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing. This individual received scores on the OIC:C examination which prevented the awarding of full OIC:C certification ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Oral Interpreter Certificate: Visible to Spoken**

**(OIC:V/S):** Interpreters who are holders of this partial certificate demonstrated the ability to understand the speech and silent mouth movements of a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing and to repeat the message for a hearing person. This individual received scores on the OIC:C examination which prevented the awarding of full OIC:C certification ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Oral Transliteration Certificate (OTC):** Interpreters who are holders of this generalist certificate have demonstrated, using silent oral techniques and natural gestures, the ability to transliterate a spoken message from a person who hears to a person who is deaf or hard-

of-hearing. They have also demonstrated the ability to understand and repeat the message and intent of the speech and mouth movements of the person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**\*Oralism:** Oralism is a philosophy of encouraging (sometimes forcing) Deaf people to speak and read lips instead of use sign language.

**OSERS:** Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

**OTC:** *see* Oral Transliteration Certificate

## P

**\*Pathological/Medical View of Deafness:** People who believe in the pathological/medical view of deafness feel that deafness is a problem that needs to be “fixed.” They do not believe that deafness is about language and culture—which is the cultural view of deafness.

**\*Pidgin Signed English (PSE):** Pidgin Signed English (also known as “contact signing”) is often used when Deaf and hearing individuals communicate in sign language. It is a middle ground between signed English systems and ASL. PSE is not a real language—it just follows English word order while using ASL signs.

**\*PL 94-142:** *see* Public Law 94-142

**Postlingual Deaf:** This is the term used to describe a person who became deaf after acquiring a language.

**Prelingual Deaf:** This is the term used to describe a person who was deaf at birth or became deaf before acquiring a language.

**\*PSE:** *see* Pidgin Signed English

**\*Public Law 94-142 (PL 94-142):** Public Law 94-142 (Education of All Handicapped Children Act) now codified as IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) was passed by Congress in 1975. The goal of this law was to promote free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for all children.

## R

**\*Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf, Inc. (RID):** The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf is the world's largest association of interpreters for the deaf. The RID conducts and promotes interpreter certification. Visit their website for more information: ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**\*Relay Service:** A relay service allows hearing people to call deaf people, and vice versa. A communication assistant answers the call, then relays information back

and forth between the hearing person using a telephone and the deaf person using a TTY (teletypewriter), video phone, or some other device.

**\*Residential School for the Deaf:** A Residential school for the Deaf, “school for the deaf,” or “Deaf School” is the type of school deaf children attend. They are an educational facility as well as a housing facility for deaf students. Deaf adults who attended residential schools are very proud of that fact.

**Reverse Skills Certificate (RSC):** Interpreters who are holders of this full certificate have demonstrated the ability to interpret between ASL and English-based sign language, or transliterate between spoken English and a signed code for English. Holders of this certificate are deaf or hard-of-hearing and interpretation/transliteration is rendered in ASL, spoken English and a signed code for English or written English (**[www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)**).

**\*RID:** *see* Registry of Interpreter for the Deaf, Inc.

**\*Rochester Method:** The Rochester Method is also known as Visible English and focuses on fingerspelling and speech. This method is based on English where each word in a sentence is fingerspelled. This method isn't used much anymore because spelling out each word is a time consuming process.

**RSC:** *see* Reverse Skills Certificate

## S

**S/V:** Sign to Voice Interpreting

**SC:L** Specialist Certificate: Legal

**\*School for the Deaf:** *see* Residential School for the Deaf

**\*SE:** *see* Signed English

**\*SEE:** *see* Signing Exact English

**\*SEE1:** *see* Seeing Essential English

**\*SEE2:** *see* Signing Exact English

**\*Seeing Essential English (SEE1):** Seeing Essential English was developed by David Anthony in 1966. SEE1 was intended to teach proper English grammar by using gestures borrowed from ASL. In SEE1, all compound words are formed as separate signs. For example, instead of using the ASL sign for “butterfly,” SEE1 uses the signs for “butter” and “fly” separately in sequential order. SEE1 also uses the same sign for all homonyms. For example, the same sign is used for “blue” and “blew.” Also, many ASL signs are initialized in SEE1. For example, the sign for “have” is signed with the H-handshape. SEE1 also uses signs for the “-ing” English ending as well as for articles such as “the”—neither of which are used in ASL.

**SHHH:** Self-Help for Hard of Hearing

**\*Sign Language:** Sign language is a manual language

expressed by visible hand gestures.

**\*Sign Supported English (SSE):** Sign Supported English is the British equivalent of Conceptually Accurate Signed English (CASE).

**\*Signed English (SE):** Signed English refers to different sign systems that have been developed using borrowed signs from ASL as well as invented signs that represent the words and grammar of English.

**\*Signing Exact English (SEE2):** Signing Exact English is no longer referred to as SEE2, but rather SEE. This is because SEE1 is no longer formally used. SEE2 was developed by Gerilee Gustason and Esther Zawolkow in the early 1970s. Many features of SEE2 are identical to SEE1. Initializations and grammatical markers are also used in SEE2, but compound words are signed using the corresponding ASL sign.

**\*SIMCOM:** *see* Simultaneous Communication

**\*Simultaneous Communication (SIMCOM):** Simultaneous Communication is when you sign and voice at the same time. Simcom is normally discouraged in the Deaf community because when using Simcom with English and ASL, both languages suffer grammatically which causes confusion. Simcom is more accurately used with English and SEE.

**SK:** *see* Stop Keying

**Speech Reading:** *see* Lip Reading

**SSA:** Social Security Administration

**SSDI:** Social Security Disability Income

**\*SSE:** *see* Sign Supported English

**SSI:** Supplemental Security Income

**Stop Keying (SK):** Stop keying is abbreviated as SK. SK is used to end a TTY (teletype) conversation, indicating that you are going to hang up or terminate the conversation. SKSK (a double SK) is a response by the other person that he or she acknowledges that you are ending the conversation and that he or she is hanging up as well.

**Syntax:** The order in which signs are placed to form sentences.

## T

**\*TC:** *see* Total Communication

**\*TDD:** *see* Telecommunication Device for the Deaf

**TDI:** Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc.

**\*Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD):**

These days, a telecommunication device for the deaf is the same thing as a teletypewriter (TTY). In the old days,

a TTY was larger and needed a wheelbarrow to move around. TTYs have since shrunk in size and people began calling them TDDs, but the Deaf Community continues to refer to the devices as TTYs.

**\*Teletypewriter (TTY):** A teletypewriter (or a telecommunication device for the deaf) is a device that enables deaf people to use ordinary telephone lines to communicate. In a Deaf household, the telephone is normally connected to a lamp. When the telephone rings, the light goes on and off. The Deaf person then picks up the telephone handset and places it on the coupler on the TTY. The Deaf person would then type something like, "ROB HERE GA" and then wait for a response from the caller. The conversation generally takes place in all caps with no punctuation. You type Q if you have a question, GA to mean "go ahead" when it's the other person's turn to type, SK to mean "stop keying" to indicate you are ready to end the call, and SKSK (double SK) in response to SK to mean you are ready to end the call as well. TTY use is not as common since the advent of video phones, instant messaging, and text messaging.

**TERPS-L:** An internet discussion list for sign language interpreters.

**\*Total Communication (TC):** Total Communication is an educational philosophy where teachers can use sign, mime, writing, speech, fingerspelling, pictures, or

any other educational method that works. The method should depend on the child and the situation. Basically, it is the philosophy that deaf children should be able to learn with whichever method works best for them.

**\*Transliterate:** In this field, the term “transliterate” means to go from spoken English to Signed English or vice versa.

**\*TTY:** *see* Teletypewriter

## V

**VESID:** Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities

**\*Video Phone (VP):** A video phone is a telephone that has a video screen. Deaf people use video phones to communicate in real time using sign language. Deaf people can use a video relay service in order to call someone who does not know sign language or who does not have a video phone.

**\*Video Relay Service (VRS):** A video relay service is a video telecommunication service that enables deaf people to communicate over the phone with hearing people through a sign language interpreter. The deaf person calls the VRS with their video phone and the VRS interpreter calls the hearing person with their telephone and then interprets the conversation for both parties.

**Vocational Rehabilitation (VR):** Vocational Rehabilitation is a government agency that provides training and employment assistance for Deaf people.

**\*Voicing:** The term “voicing” in the Deaf community is used to refer to using one’s voice. Voicing is generally discouraged in the Deaf community. You will rarely see any Deaf person use their voice. It is also considered rude to use your voice in the presence of Deaf people who don’t prefer to read lips.

**\*VP:** *see* Video Phone

**VR:** *see* Vocational Rehabilitation

**\*VRS:** *see* Video Relay Service

## W

**WFD:** World Federation of the Deaf

**WFDYS:** World Federation of the Deaf Youth Section

**WGD:** World Games for the Deaf

**WRAD:** World Recreation Association of the Deaf

**WWGD:** World Winter Games for the Deaf

## About the Author

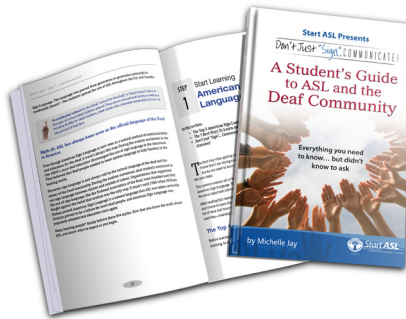
Beginning when she was only thirteen years old, Michelle Jay has understood her passion and love for ASL. As a hearing person in the Deaf community, Michelle was determined to master everything she could about ASL... not just “how to sign,” but the very best ways to learn to sign as well!



As the founder of **StartASL.com**, the leading online resource for ASL and Deaf Culture, Michelle has tremendous insight into this unique community. Michelle earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Deaf Studies, with an emphasis in teaching, from one of the nation’s premier programs at California State University, Northridge.

When not writing books or tending her website, Michelle contributes thought-provoking articles to academic publishers such as Greenhaven Press. Her unique articles have done much to support Deaf Culture, and have been printed in resource publications such as *American Chronicle* and *Perspectives on Diseases & Disorders: Deafness & Hearing Impairments*.

## Don't Just "Sign"... Communicate! A Student's Guide to ASL and the Deaf Community



### The Heart Of Any Language Is Found Within Its Culture...

As anyone who has learned a foreign language will tell you, all language is an experience. And that experience is found through a language's culture – its people.

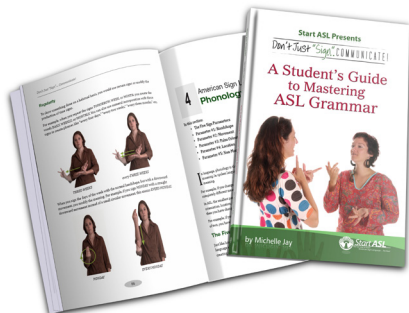
The journey toward complete comprehension and usage of American Sign Language includes the recognition, not only of the sovereignty of the language, but of the understanding that ASL lives within its own community and culture.

*Don't Just "Sign"...Communicate!* focuses on giving you a better understanding of the ASL community and culture, as well as a better and more comprehensive understanding of learning the language. This guide successfully takes you inside the Deaf community and gets you involved in its fascinating culture.

Take advantage of this informative and handy resource that will make your journey into ASL a fulfilling adventure. This guide provides you with tools, advice, and helpful resources not available anywhere else!

<http://books.startasl.com>

## Don't Just "Sign"... Communicate! A Student's Guide to Mastering ASL Grammar



### Are You Making Common Signing Errors?

Make no mistake about it...when venturing into the world of American Sign Language, the first thing you must understand is that ASL is its own language. It is different from English.

Like any other Language, ASL contains its own unique rules of syntax, phonology, grammar, etc. To become fluent in the ASL language, you must first be armed with these essential rules and terminology.

This carefully outlined guide not only illustrates the importance of understanding ASL's overall differences in grammar, the topics are broken up into the six (6) major aspects of the language, making it that much easier for you to understand and follow!

Regardless of your reasons for learning to communicate in ASL, once you have read this book with its expert advice and hints, you will truly be prepared to master the communication nuances of the ASL Language!

<http://books.startasl.com>

