



Learning ASL Through Song

OLLI FALL 2022

Class Objectives

- ▶ At the end of this class, students will be able to:
 - ▶ Reproduce and notate ASL vocabulary (knowledge, comprehension)
 - ▶ Construct basic ASL sentences (application)
 - ▶ Discover additional resources to learning (synthesis)
 - ▶ Demonstrate an awareness of Universal Design, Deaf Culture/History (knowledge, analysis)
 - ▶ Prepare and interpret select songs into sign and perform (synthesis and evaluation)

Review & New

- ▶ ABC Song
- ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjmKJKG5Nx0&ab_channel=JackHartmanKidsMusicChannel
- ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4FKufhMc44&ab_channel=LauraBergLife
- ▶ Numbers 1-21 (+ ending, such as 1st, 2nd, etc.)
- ▶ Days of the Week
- ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecKe9Z67ifU&ab_channel=TreeSchoolPreschoolandKidsSongs
- ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhD6QC1IEOs&ab_channel=LauraBergLife

Why is ASL a different language?

ASL Sentence Structure – Grammar Basic

In American Sign Language, the syntax (word order) is different than English.

In general, the word order follows a “Subject” + “Verb” + “Object” sentence structure. You will also see the structure “Time” + “Subject” + “Verb” + “Object”, or “Time” can be at the end of a sentence.

English: I went to Ireland a year ago.

ASL: last year me went (go + finish) Ireland.

Breaking it down:

“Time” – Year past

“Subject” – Me

“Verb” – went (go + finish)

“Object” – Ireland

▶ <https://www.asldeafined.com/2009/06/asl-sentence-structure-basic/>

White Christmas (Irving Berlin)

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas

Me dream what? white Christmas

Just like the ones I used to know

Past Christmases, me remember, similar (nod)

Where the treetops glisten and children listen

Where tree – tops glisten, children, they listen

To hear sleigh bells in the snow

[they] hear what?...bells, snow, horse, sleigh, bells

I Will (The Beatles)

Who knows how long I've loved you

Who knows how-long me love you?

You know I love you still

You know me love you...however

Will I wait a lonely lifetime

me wait life-time long, lonely?

If you want me to, I will

If you want me wait...yes, I will

Practice Time!

- ▶ Using your song, write out interpretation
- ▶ <https://www.signasl.org/>
- ▶ Think about what sign best fits the meaning you are trying to act out
- ▶ Paint a picture!
 - ▶ TIME...
 - ▶ ...SUBJECT (could be a place)
 - ▶ ...VERB
 - ▶ ...OBJECT (Me? You?)

Deaf Culture: The Legacy of Bell

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmAuo7oznC0>

The great project of Alexander Graham Bell's life was, perhaps surprisingly, not the telephone.

He focused much of his life on the education of deaf people, funded by his earnings from his famous invention. He was an early pioneer of oralism, a belief that all deaf people should learn to communicate by lip-reading and speaking, rather than with sign language.

But not all deaf people can learn to speak, or believe they should be compelled to do so. According to author Katie Booth, the harm of oralism still reverberates.

"I can't even begin to express the deep, deep, deep trauma that so many deaf people still carry from those educations," Booth, author of *The Invention of Miracles: Language, Power and Alexander Graham Bell's Quest to End Deafness*, told *Ideas*. Booth's book, released earlier this spring, compiles years of her research into Bell's letters and other archival material, [according to publisher Simon & Schuster](#).

While Bell's precise methods are no longer in use, critics say the philosophy of oralism — that speech is inherently better than sign language — still has a harmful ripple effect to this day.

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/unsound-the-legacy-of-alexander-graham-bell-1.6020596/alexander-graham-bell-s-oralist-mission-still-harms-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing-people-say-critics-1.6025659>

Review and Variation

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GXYUnqOEFJI>

