

Must know Signs

Santa (Claus)	outline a big beard/ chin to chest with 'c' hand 1 or both
North Pole	“N” hand moves up ... finger-spell POLE
Snow	fingers mimic snow fall... downward at angle (can add 'man')
Sled/ Sleigh	“X” hand mimics runners
List	1 hand open like paper while other flat hand taps down it (long)
Nice/ Sweet	brush open hand over open palm or open hand down at chin
Christmas	“C' hand in front like tracing a wreath
Tree	right elbow in left palm arm up fingers wiggle
Lights	hand flashes open. (can show location/ intensity)
Decorations	“X” hand hangs the ornament
Milk –	Open and close your fist. Looks like you are milking a cow.
Cookies –	Non-dominate hand hold your hand out flat (represents the plate). Dominant hand, make a C shape and use hand as if cutting out cookies.
Merry/ Happy	open palm, touch chest forward circle 1 or 2 hand *variations on Merry Christmas... (1) use 2 signs Happy Christmas OR (2) follow shape of wreath start with “M” change to “C” (3)sign Tree start with “M” change to “C” instead of wiggling fingers
Reindeer	open 5 hands touch your thumbs on the sides of your head –
Elf	thumb and index finger at ear ... come together to show point
Rudolph	(1) Make the R shape with your hand and touch your nose (2) Light flashing -all fingers open/ close- at tip of nose
Gift	“X” hand (1 or 2) move toward recipient (show size too?)
Book	open palm hands in front mimic opening a book
Doll	“X” hand rubs down bridge of nose twice can add 'baby'
Baby	Mime holding baby in arms/
Car/ Truck	2 hands mimic driving motion (big/small steering wheel)
Ball	mimic holding ball at chin level
Train	“N” hands in front... left is 'track' right 'rides' in back/ forth motion
Video game	mimic teen holding controller playing with thumbs
Phone	“Y” hand moves up to ear

Camera	mimic taking a picture
Candy	pointer finger at 'dimple' and twist or "U" brushes chin (sweets)
Dog	snap fingers pat thigh (like trying to get dogs attention) or snap from "D" to "G", spelling dog
Cat	2 fingers move like pulling whiskers from cheek
Toy	finger-spell or Play "Y" hands facing chest shake up down
Game	"A" hands facing chest tap each other twice

Language and Grammar

ASL doesn't use many linking verbs, as they are implied. Signed English will include the, a, is, are etc. but ASL is a concise pictorial language with facial expression and direction of action shown in signs. Concepts are shown and often give a more intense meaning. A conversational story will likely set up locations of place, person or event and then movements to that location will imply who, what or where action is directed. See why I cannot teach you ASL in less than 2 hours?

Questions are shown by expression. Hunch your shoulders a bit. Jut your head forward a bit. Use a WH-Q (wh-question) facial expression. (Think... "WHAT?") Intensity is shown by level of movement or facial expression.

Conversational Signs

Hello	wave/ salute, H I, ILY hand is common greeting
Pronouns I/you/he/she	point to person
Possessive pronouns my/yours	open palm toward person
Name	"H" hands dominant hand taps other 2 times
Masculine persons	signs are near top of head/ temple
Feminine persons	signs are near to chin/ cheek
Parent	Open finger hand chin for mom/ forehead for dad
Parent plus	Move forward 1 time for grand or 2 for great grand
Boy	As if closing on the bill of a ballcap
Girl	"A" hand thumb traces down cheek like a bonnet strap
Sibling Boy/Same or Girl/Same - Same	pointer fingers side by side
Cousin	"C" hand shakes/ rocks at either temple or chin

Aunt/ Uncle	“A” or “U” shakes/ rocks at either temple or chin
Friend	“X” hands interlock and move downward
Please	flat hand moves clockwise on chest
Thank you	hand movement like blowing a kiss but no pucker
Who	thumb on chin with your index finger extended. Bend your index finger twice.
How	“A” hands in front, palms facing, right hand rocks forward
what	index finger is rubbed across open palm
wh- questions...	facial expression is needed open hands forward at waist moving back and forth... can be who/ what/ where/ when
do	finger-spell D O... repeatedly is a question in itself
Come	wave them toward you
Sit	loose “N” hands in front face down, right 'sits' on left
With	“A” hands chest levels, heels of hand touching
Want	Claw hand in front facing up pulls back toward you
Have	Flat hand, finger tips are brought to the chest
Sign	pointer fingers circle inward in front of chest,
Slow	“B” hands downward by waist right moves slowly up other hand
For	pointer finger at forehead moves forward (repeated means why)
Know	“B” hand taps temple
Idea	“I” hand taps temple
Good	“B” hand at mouth moves down to other open palm, still facing up
Bad	“B” hand at mouth, moves down to other open palm, facing down
Wow	Claw hand waved in front of your mouth with lips pursed
Wonderful	open hands taps forward (like high five) twice
Excited	open hand/ middle finger bent touches chest and circles forward
See	“V” hand taps under the eye twice (move forward to 'look' at)
Maybe	2 hands forward palms up. Move up down alternating (to weigh)

Simple Sentences

Hi! Merry Christmas
Good (to) see you my friend.
What's your name?
I (am) Santa
(I am) excited (to) see you!
Who's with you? Your sister/ Brother?
What (do you) want for Christmas?
(Do) you have (a) Christmas tree? Lights? Decorations?
Wow... Wonderful
Please sign slow. I sign slow.
Good (to) see you.
See you (at/for) Christmas.
(You have) good ideas for gifts.
Maybe – I give you - (a) little gift.
Thank you.

As presented for IBRBS Mentor Moments by:
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RESOURCES

Resources online and lending books/videos

<https://tndeaflibrary.nashville.gov/library>

YouTube... Any of the Dr. Bill Vicars' ASL videos

"Signs for Santa" video lesson: <https://youtu.be/6B7orPGHA1M>

ASL University <http://www.lifeprint.com/>

Practice fingerspelling that helps correct your handshape

<https://fingerspelling.xyz/>

Online Sign School (Free)

<https://www.signschool.com/>

Dictionary of ASL signs

<https://www.signasl.org/>

Best video of Christmas signs... KIDS!!

<https://youtu.be/35-h2dH-sf0>

ASL Language and culture (stories and poetry in ASL)

<https://aslized.org/library/>

Sign for babies... videos of toys/ simple communication

<https://mybabycantalk.com/dictionary-of-signs>

Several video classes here

<https://deafwebsites.com/asl-videos/>

ASL SENTENCE STRUCTURE (from insurance website)

<https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/index/sign-language-phrases.htm>

An example of the site... Practice Sheet: 07.A

- 01. APPLE, GREEN, YOU LIKE EAT? (Do you like to eat green apples?)*
- 02. CANDY, YOU LIKE WHAT-KIND? (What type of candy do you like?)*
- 03. CEREAL, YOU LIKE WHAT-KIND? (What type of cereal do you like?)*
- 04. YOU LIKE COOKIES WITH MILK? (Do you like cookies and milk?)*
- 05. WATER YOU DRINK EVERYDAY, CUP HOW-MANY YOU? (How many cups of water do you drink daily?)*

Android Phone Apps (not an apple user, sorry)

Sign Language ASL

Intersign – learn ASL

Facebook group: Signingsantasyndicate

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/972381716709665>

PLEASE NOTE:

There are amazing resources online. Be sure to find correct sources though, as there are Sign languages from around the world. Even signs within a country can vary by region. Search for **American Sign Language** online. You can find MANY different sign classes but you need to be sure it is ASL and try to find those with deaf teachers. Dr Vicars is my favorite.

Updated 3/12/26 for IBRBS class

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