

signing naturally student workbook units 1 6

Signing Naturally Student Workbook Units 1-6: Your Complete Guide to Mastering ASL Basics

Are you diving into the fascinating world of American Sign Language (ASL) using the popular "Signing Naturally" curriculum? Congratulations! Learning ASL is a rewarding journey, and the "Signing Naturally Student Workbook, Units 1-6" is an excellent resource to get you started. This comprehensive guide will walk you through everything you need to know about these crucial first six units, providing insights, tips, and resources to maximize your learning experience. We'll cover key vocabulary, grammar points, and practical application strategies to help you confidently navigate these foundational units. Get ready to sign your way to fluency!

Unit 1: Laying the Foundation – Greetings, Introductions, and Basic Signs

Unit 1 sets the stage for your ASL journey. You'll learn essential greetings like "hello," "goodbye," and "thank you," alongside crucial introductions involving names and ages. This unit emphasizes proper finger spelling technique and the importance of facial expressions in conveying meaning. Remember, ASL is more than just hand movements; it's a complete language incorporating body language and facial expressions.

Key Concepts Covered:

Finger spelling: Mastering the alphabet is paramount. Practice consistently to build speed and accuracy. Use flashcards and online resources to reinforce your learning.

Basic greetings and farewells: These are your conversational building blocks. Practice them in front of a mirror to refine your form.

Introducing yourself and others: Learn how to sign your name and age correctly. Focus on clear articulation and proper handshapes.

Number signs (1-10): These are foundational for many future concepts. Practice forming each number distinctly.

Pro-Tip: Record yourself signing these basic phrases and watch them back critically. This helps identify areas for improvement in handshape, movement, and facial expressions.

Unit 2: Expanding Your Vocabulary – Family, Colors, and More

Unit 2 significantly expands your vocabulary, introducing signs related to family members, colors, and

common objects. You'll start to incorporate more complex sentence structures and learn about directional verbs, which add depth to your signing. Understanding directional verbs is vital because they eliminate the need for prepositions.

Key Concepts Covered:

Family members: Learn the signs for parents, siblings, grandparents, etc. Practice forming family trees using ASL.

Colors: Learn the signs for basic colors and practice describing objects using color.

Common objects: Expand your lexicon with signs for everyday items like chair, table, and book.

Directional verbs: This is a crucial concept that distinguishes ASL from English. Mastering these will significantly improve your fluency.

Unit 3: Mastering Questions and Negation – Asking and Answering with Confidence

This unit focuses on asking and answering questions, along with expressing negation in ASL. You'll learn various question forms, including "wh" questions and yes/no questions. Mastering negation is critical for fluent communication.

Key Concepts Covered:

Asking "wh" questions: Learn to ask questions starting with "who," "what," "where," "when," and "why."

Asking yes/no questions: Understand the subtle differences in facial expressions and body language used to ask these types of questions.

Negation: Learn different ways to express negation in ASL, using signs like "not" or modifying the sign itself.

Using classifiers: Start learning basic classifiers to describe objects and their movement.

Unit 4: Describing People and Things – Adding Detail and Nuance

Unit 4 delves into detailed descriptions of people and objects. You will expand your descriptive vocabulary and learn how to effectively convey details about appearance, characteristics, and qualities.

Key Concepts Covered:

Describing physical appearance: Learn signs to describe height, weight, hair color, and other physical traits.

Describing personality traits: Learn signs related to personality characteristics like kind, funny, and shy.

Advanced classifiers: Continue practicing classifiers to enhance your descriptive abilities.

Compound signs: Start learning compound signs, combining two signs to create a new meaning.

Unit 5: Expanding Sentences – Building Complex Communication

In Unit 5, you'll build upon previous knowledge to construct more complex sentences. You'll learn about sentence structure, topic-comment sentence formation, and the importance of maintaining a natural flow in your signing.

Key Concepts Covered:

Topic-comment structure: Understand the typical structure of ASL sentences.

Conjunctions: Learn to use signs for “and,” “but,” and “or” to connect ideas.

Time expressions: Learn to incorporate time-related information into your sentences.

Advanced grammar rules: Build on previously learned grammar concepts and refine your signing skills.

Unit 6: Putting it all Together – Real-World Application

Unit 6 provides opportunities to synthesize your newly acquired skills. You will practice having conversations, applying your knowledge of vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structure to create meaningful interactions. This unit often includes role-playing exercises and real-life scenarios.

Key Concepts Covered:

Conversation practice: Engage in various role-playing scenarios to enhance conversational fluency.

Review of units 1-5: This section reinforces the fundamental concepts learned in previous units.

Applying ASL in real-life situations: Learn to use your signing skills in practical situations.

Conclusion

Completing "Signing Naturally Student Workbook Units 1-6" is a significant achievement. You've laid a strong foundation in ASL grammar, vocabulary, and communication strategies. Remember that consistent practice is key to fluency. Continue practicing regularly, engage with the Deaf community (respectfully and ethically), and don't be afraid to make mistakes – they are part of the learning process. Keep signing, and enjoy the enriching experience of connecting with others through this beautiful language!

FAQs

1. Are there online resources to supplement the "Signing Naturally" workbook? Yes! Numerous online videos, dictionaries, and communities can aid your learning. Search for "ASL resources" or "Signing Naturally videos" on YouTube or other platforms.

1. How can I find Deaf individuals to practice with? Look for local ASL clubs, Deaf community events, or online forums dedicated to ASL learning. Remember always to approach interactions with respect and cultural sensitivity.
1. Is it necessary to purchase the accompanying DVD or online resources? While helpful, the workbook itself provides ample material for learning. Supplementary resources can enhance your learning but are not strictly mandatory.
1. What's the best way to memorize new signs? Flashcards, spaced repetition software, and consistent practice are effective methods. Try creating sentences and incorporating new signs into everyday conversations.
1. How long does it typically take to complete Units 1-6? The time required depends on your learning style, frequency of study, and prior language learning experience. Allow yourself ample time for consistent practice and review.

Additional Resources

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