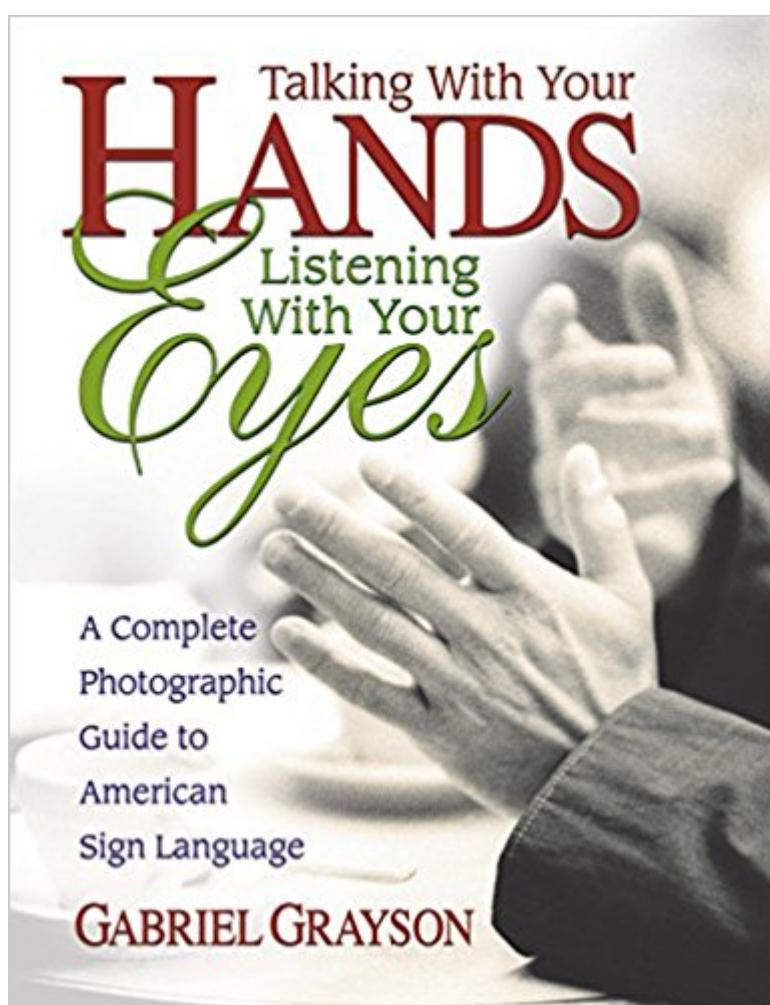


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# Talking With Your Hands, Listening With Your Eyes: A Complete Photographic Guide To American Sign Language



## Synopsis

After English and Spanish, it is the third most common language in North America. Over 22 million people use it to communicate. It has its own beauty, its own unmistakable form, and its own inherent culture. It is American Sign Language (ASL), the language of the deaf. Gabriel Grayson has put together a book that makes signing accessible, easy, and fun. Using almost 1,400 photographs, he has created a comprehensive primer to the techniques, words, and phrases of signing. Each word or phrase is accompanied by a photo or series of photos that show hand and body motions and facial expressions. Along with the images are step-by-step instructions for forming the sign, as well as a helpful tip that connects the sign with its meaning for easier recall. After examining the fascinating history and nature of both sign language and the deaf community, *Talking With Your Hands* explains signing basics, covering such topics as handshapes, fingerspelling, signing etiquette, and more. The remaining chapters provide over 1,700 words and phrases. Throughout the book, informative insets focus on fascinating aspects of deaf history, deaf culture, and significant deaf personalities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grayson, chair of the New School University's department of sign language, created this massive reference in the hopes of "making it easier to understand, duplicate and remember the vocabulary" of American Sign Language, which is used by an estimated 500,000 deaf people in the U.S. and Canada. Grayson can hear, but was born to parents who were both deaf, and his first means of

trained communication was sign language. The book covers more than 900 signs that represent nearly 1,800 words and phrases, with signs grouped by topic, e.g., common and polite phrases; mealtime and food; school and education; careers, jobs and the workplace; and the body and health. One or more photos of professional signers demonstrating the sign formation accompany a discussion of each sign. Grayson provides instructions for each word, explaining the hand shape, the position in front of the body where the sign is made and the type of movement involved in expressing the word. Perhaps most useful is the "visualize" portion of each entry, which often explains the essence of the sign. For example, when signing the word "farmer," which involves moving one's hand across the chin and then down the chest, visualize yourself depicting "the bushy beard of a farmer." Although the photos are on the small side (about two inches square), Grayson's instructions are detailed and clearly written. Especially valuable are the educational sidebars on what it's like to live as a deaf person in the U.S., including a suggested reading list on the history of deaf culture, a discussion of how technology has created more career options for deaf people and a list of American films featuring deaf protagonists. Index. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Adult/High School-An outstanding, user-friendly resource for those interested in learning ASL. Signs are grouped into chapters based on their meanings. The meanings and synonyms are in large, blue print; descriptions of the hand shape, position, and movement are set in smaller, black type. One or two black-and-white, 2" x 2" photographs of the entire torso show the beginning and end of a sign; superimposed arrows indicate additional movement. These pictures are clear enough for new signers to follow. Additional photos at the bottom of the page show only hand shapes, making clear what might not be visible due to the angle of the primary illustrations. Signers shown represent diverse cultural backgrounds. The index enables readers to locate both the desired sign and its antonym. Throughout, boxed inserts present thorough, insightful articles on such subjects relating to deaf culture as medical conditions and assistive technology. This information alone makes the book a wonderful resource. Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

As of 2015 I have learned that there are many signs in this version (this is the only version of this book) that are no longer used and have been changed. As with all things languages change and I am disappointed that Gabriel Grayson, or whomever, have not come out with an updated version. All-in-all this is still a good reference book to have around, but I would suggest a newer version of

an ASL book.

This is one of the best ASL books I have found. It has so many different words to learn and the pictures with directions made it easy for my children to learn from as well. This book makes it easy to learn towards making ASL your second language and I would highly recommend it to anyone that is interested in learning ASL.

If you need a template for learning ASL, this book is extremely helpful. The book lays a very solid groundwork for a beginner. The rest is up to you to actually practice "Talking With Your Hands". "Listening With Your Eyes" is a bit more challenging, but if you have someone to "Talk With

Talking with your hands and listening with your eyes is one of the best, if not the best book to begin learning how to sign. This book features pictures with actual human beings, instead of drawings, that show the exact hand movements and hand placements that are so vital to communicating in sign. This book also features a reference guide in the back so that you can quickly look up a sign that you have in question. This book also has pictures of actual human hands signing the alphabet which is the first thing anyone who is interested in signing should learn. Again, I have been searching around for books on signing and out of all of them, this is the best. I borrowed several books from the library and after looking at all of them, this one stood out by far! I liked it so much I bought two of them. One for my girlfriend and I had to buy one for me too! You won't be disappointed in this book.

I loved the way that the author presented the signs with an explanation as to why or how to make them relevant and memorable. As a novice that is trying to teach others basic signs, this has proven invaluable. Excellent reference to the core signs as well (e.g. alphabet, etc.) I actually got both the printed book as well as the Kindle version for portability... the book is understandably large! The Kindle version is exactly the same, of course. I wish that its index allowed me to jump immediately to the word with a link, but instead I have to do a search. The search brings up all instances of the word which can be difficult to sort through when looking for the core sign. Further, the picture of the person doing the sign is often on the page following the word itself, so you have to remember the order that it presents the info. Otherwise, it is easy to be looking at the wrong sign! All in all, an excellent reference book for any sign that I would logically need... and many more!

VERY HELPFUL TO ME IN COMMUNICATING WITH MY NEPHEW. WELL NEEDED

This book is an excellent introduction to ASL and Deaf culture issues. There is a manageable number of basic signs and insets providing details about being deaf in a hearing world, information on famous deaf people, and technological advances useful for the deaf. The introduction also contains a concise history of deaf education. The author is extremely credible, which is something important to me when learning a new language! From the instruction of a single deaf individual, I have developed a rudimentary knowledge of sign language: the alphabet, numbers, various greetings, some nouns and adjectives. This book has helped me to reinforce what I know, clean up the sloppy signing I had been doing, and learn new things. I have had trouble learning signs from books in the past because I would often miss something important. With this book, I've felt very comfortable with the new signs because of the format. The combination of specific written descriptions with pictures gives a very understandable way to learn new signs. The added bonus of mnemonic devices to remember which sign is which is very helpful. It's embarrassing to admit, but I kept confusing the signs for "yes" and "no" until I read the helpful hints in this book - not a good thing to get wrong! There may be books with more words in them, but I would recommend this book for all beginners, and advanced beginners like myself. Once the signs here are learned (and as in my case cleaned up considerably), then start looking for more comprehensive works. I've been practicing about 30-100 words a night depending on how many I already knew and feel very confident that I'm finally doing them correctly.

I am so glad that I found this eBook, as not only is it a practical tool for learning sign-language, but it is a well-assembled and practical book. This instructions and pictures that are presented will help any new signer get a great head-start on learning signs, as they are pretty straight-forward. I was skeptical about getting such a book delivered in a Kindle format, but I am glad that I did because I am able to put my Kindle down and practice the signs as I read the directions and look at the pictures without having to struggle to keep a traditional book from closing.

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