

## American Sign Language



### CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

Celebrate American Sign Language (ASL)! Read about the history of ASL, learn basic words and phrases, and check out book recommendations that celebrate authors with hearing loss and honor the Deaf experience. Complete activities and log your reading to earn badges.

### CHALLENGE STRUCTURE

- 1 Registration Badge
- 1 Completion Badge
- 10 Logging Badges (Minutes)
- 4 Activity Badges

### ACTIVITY BADGES

Activity Badge Title:

What is ASL?

### Badge Description

There are more than 300 different types of sign language! American Sign Language (ASL) is the main sign language used by Deaf communities in the U.S. and parts of Canada. It is a visual language that uses facial expressions along with hand movements and gestures.

### Activities

- Do you or does someone you know use American Sign Language? Why do you think it's important to include facial expressions when signing? **(text box)**

### Activity Badge Title:

ASL Basics

### Badge Description

American Sign Language, like any language, has its own rules for grammar and sentence structure. Learn the ABCs, numbers, and a few basic words and phrases in the links below. Remember, like learning any language, practice is key!

- Learn how to sign the alphabet, numbers 1-10, and basic words and phrases in these videos and resources from ASL Connect, which offers ASL courses online.
  - [ASL Connect: ABC](#)
  - [ASL Connect: Numbers 1-10](#)
  - [ASL Connect: Explore Topics](#)

### Activity Badge Title:

#ASLDay

### Badge Description

National American Sign Language day is celebrated each year on April 15—the same day in 1817 that the American School for the Deaf opened, where ASL was officially born. ASL was created from various other sign languages, but is most closely related to French Sign Language (LSF).

### Activities

- Create artwork celebrating ASL! Draw, photograph, or take a video of your favorite sign. Share it with your library or school or online using the hashtag #ASLDay.

## Activity Badge Title:

Book Recommendations

## Badge Description

Explore these resources for studying American Sign Language, along with books that celebrate authors with hearing loss and honor the Deaf experience.

## Activities

### Kids 0-12

- **“My First Signs: American Sign Language”** by Annie Kubler
- **“The Gallaudet Children’s Dictionary of American Sign Language”** by The Editors of Gallaudet University Press
- **“We Can Sign! An Essential Illustrated Guide to American Sign Language for Kids”** by Tara Adams
- **“Song for a Whale”** by Lynne Kelly
- **“She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer”** by Sally Hobart Alexander
- **“El Deafo”** by Cece Bell
- **“The Deaf Musicians”** by Pete Seeger
- **“The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game”** by Nancy Churnin
- **“The Sound of Silence: Growing Up Hearing with Deaf Parents”** by Myron Uhlberg
- **“Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures”** by Brian Selznick

### Teens 13-17

- **“Random House Webster’s Compact American Sign Language Dictionary”** by Elaine Costello, Ph.D.
- **“Learn American Sign Language: Everything You Need to Start Signing”** by James W. Guido
- **“Don’t Just Sign ... Communicate!: A Student’s Guide to Mastering American Sign Language Grammar”** by Michelle Jay
- **“Show Me a Sign”** by Ann Clare LeZotte
- **“The Silence Between Us”** by Alison Gervais
- **“You’re Welcome, Universe”** by Whitney Gardner

- **“The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin”** by Josh Berk
- **“Hurt Go Happy”** by Ginny Rorby
- **“Singing Hands”** by Delia Ray
- **“The Words in My Hands”** by Asphyxia

#### **Adults 18+**

- **“Random House Webster’s Compact American Sign Language Dictionary”** by Elaine Costello, Ph.D.
- **“Don’t Just Sign ... Communicate!: A Student’s Guide to Mastering American Sign Language Grammar”** by Michelle Jay
- **“Learn American Sign Language: Everything You Need to Start Signing”** by James W. Guido
- **“The Perseverance”** by Raymond Antrobus
- **“Deaf Republic”** by Ilya Kaminsky
- **“Inside Deaf Culture”** by Carol Padden and Tom Humphries
- **“Kicking Up Dirt: A True Story of Determination, Deafness, and Daring”** by Ashley Fiolek
- **“Seeing Voices: A Journey into the World of the Deaf”** by Oliver Sacks
- **“The Language of Light: A History of Silent Voices”** by Gerald Shea
- **“Life After Deaf”** by Noel Holston