

Welcome to American Sign Language (ASL)!!



Introduction

This ASL telecourse is the result of collaboration between the Center for Accelerated Language Acquisition (CALA) and the Center for Educational Media at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), where the course was filmed. The course distills all of the ASL content from our in-person offerings into a single asynchronous online course (7 hours, 45 minutes). You'll find all of the video content here on this page, and you'll have one month (30 days) of access to it.

Watch, participate, and study at your leisure!

It's helpful to understand our methods.

The basic principle is this: Brain research shows us it is best to make the second language learning experience as much like the first as possible. As a child, you didn't realize you were learning a language, yet you are now fluent. Why is that? Here are some ingredients of early learning that you may recall: physical, fun, relevant, repetitious, and social. Activities like games, songs, sports, and storytelling are especially effective because they put things in long term memory—the same memory pathway used for riding a bike.

Because the brain is a pattern seeker, it will pick up the language patterns embedded in the various activities we have in the class. So, enjoy the fun!

Getting the most from the telecourse...

(1) Get started right away.

You have a month of access, but don't put it off! We recommend watching no more than two episodes in a day. Feel free to watch each episode as many times as you like, but don't "overload" your brain with too much novel material.

(2) Actually participate!

The more you can simulate being in the class, the better. You'll have all the materials you need, so DO the exercises and USE YOUR HANDS as much as possible. Like any psychomotor skill, your brain and body have to connect and work together to make it work.

(3) Continually review "old" material.

Research shows that if you review new material consistently for ten (10) minutes the first seven (7) days after it is taught, you have a higher chance of it going into long-term memory. Why? Because you're "tricking" your brain into thinking it needs the information. The "fight or flight" tendency causes our brain to drop what we don't need for survival, so reviewing causes it to evaluate the new information as important. Review it daily so it goes into long-term memory. You'll end up getting the most for your money!

Get the app!

Our instructor, Haley, developed an app to supplement and continue your learning after you take the course. It's not required for the course, but if you're interested, you can download it for a small fee here:

- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.voiceoff.voiceoffapp>
- Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/voice-off-asl-learning/id1549605353>