



Directional Signs & ASL Storytelling

This week, we'll be talking about directional signs and how they can be used to tell stories.

The vocabulary is taken from *Learn How To Sign (YouTube Channel)*:

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hc-jhMDkovs>

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS VOCABULARY

We've combined the vocabulary from both videos into the following list to make it a bit easier to review.

ASK (You, All of You, Them, Ask Me)

MOVE (Here, there, or here to there)

HELP (Help You, Help Them, Help Me)

GIVE (to you, to them, to me)

WALK (I walk, someone walking)

RUN (Up and down, side to side, around)

FLY (Direction of plane)

DRIVE (Moving forward, left, right, back)

CHASE (left, right, up, down, fast, slow)

TO RIDE ON (A bike or Motorcycle)

TO RIDE IN (A car or ride)

THROW (Towards someone)

BRING (To you, to them, to me)

CALL (Call you, Call them, call me)

GO (Go there, go different places, come)

TEASE (You, Them, Me)

EXPLAIN (To you, To them, to everyone)

SHOW (Show you, Show around, show me)

LOOK/SEE/WATCH (Eyes looking around)

PAY (you, them, pay me)

(ADDITIONAL NOT IN VIDEO)

NO (Say No to)

HIT (me, you, He/She)

TEACH (you, you all, he/she, them)

INTERRUPT (me, you, us, them)

MOCK (me, you, them, all of you)

BLAME (me, you, them)

DEMAND (like show but with emphasis)

SHOW COMPASSION (to me, to you, to them)

PRACTICE SENTENCES:

I tried to call my mom, but she didn't answer, but later she called me back.

After school (work, church, store, etc.)
I drive home.

That run this morning was hilly.

ME CALL MOM (pause) NOT ANSWER

LATER SHE CALL ME BACK

SCHOOL (WORK, CHURCH, SHOPPING) FINISH

DRIVE HOME ME

MORNING RUN (Show running up and down hills)

ASL PREPOSITIONS

ABOVE/OVER

AROUND

BESIDE

IN

TOWARD

ACROSS

AT

BETWEEN

INTO

UNDER

AGAINST

BEFORE

BY/NEAR

OF

UPON

ALONG

BEHIND

DOWN

OFF/ON

WITH

AMONG

BELOW/BENEATH

FROM

TO

WITHIN

ASL STORYTELLING

Everyone loves a good story, especially by a skilled story-teller. We hang on every word as they paint visual pictures in our mind using their words. The deaf love great story-tellers too, but rather than words, an ASL storyteller will visually set the stage in the spaces around them using a combination of directional signs, shoulder shifting, changing the sign size, speed and visual other markers. They can paint the same kinds of pictures that leave us anticipating every sign.

If you have practiced any of the ASL worship songs, you'll know that some of these techniques were used to convey the meaning of the song clearly while choosing signs that tell a story and are visually appealing.