



# Learn Sign Language *the Easy Way*

## Introduction to British Sign Language – Script

**Introduction to British Sign Language is the first DVD resource in the LSL range.** It can be used as a stand alone learning tool for students wishing to learn sign language at home or as a compliment to the traditional classroom learning. It comprises a systematic programme to develop your receptive, production and conversational skills.

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### Introduction

**(Interpreted and voice over with subtitles)**

Hello my name is Sonia Hollis and I am a qualified sign language interpreter.

I would like to welcome you to this Introduction to British Sign Language DVD and hope you enjoy it

Throughout the DVD you will find demonstrations of how to formulate the signs and there will be sections with and without text. This is going to be useful for you so that you can see how you are progressing and as you go further and further through the DVD you will find that you are able to understand the signs that are without text.

But first let me explain what British Sign Language is. British Sign Language or BSL for short is the name of the sign language which is used in England and the United Kingdom. It is the first language of approximately 150,000 deaf people in the British Isles. There are also many thousands of people who are not deaf who use BSL such as employers of Deaf people, relatives/friends and interpreters.

British Sign Language is a visual-gestural language which has its own grammar utilising facial expressions (non manual features), hand shapes and upper body movements to convey meaning. BSL is a spatial and visual language and a lot of beginners think it is similar to mime (which it is not). The important thing to remember is that the grammar used in BSL is completely different to that used in everyday English.

Even though Britain and the USA speak English as the first language of their respective countries, British Sign Language is different to American Sign Language, also known as ASL. Again it is also the same difference with BSL and Irish Sign Language (ISL) and Northern Ireland Sign Language (NISL). This fact demonstrates that even though these countries have English as the first language the sign language used varies from country to country.

Just as in the English language, British Sign Language also has regional dialects. As an example, some signs used in the Northern parts of England may be different in the South of the country. Within some regions you will also find 'local signs' that can be classed as slang.

British Sign Language was officially recognised as a language in its own right by the Government in March 2003.

Now let's get started and teach you some basic signs. The DVD is going to be separated into different chapters and will cover the alphabet, numbers, basic greetings and colours.

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## **The alphabet**

With this section you will learn how to sign the alphabet, how to fingerspell your own name and how to understand other names signed to you.

Let's start with the alphabet:

A – Z (slowly with text then without text)

Now see if you can remember the letters. Please write down what you see:

C, G, Z, F, S, O, P, M, T, L, B, D, N, V

Here they are again were you right?

C, G, Z, F, S, O, P, M, T, L, B, D, N, V

Now have a go at signing your own name. Here is mine.... Sonia. Notice I don't say each letter S. O. N. I. A but say my name at the end....Sonia....you try

Ok let's now have a go at understanding these names. I will sign these without voice and text and see how you go:

Bob, Sally, Pam, John, Sue, Derek, Mark, Matthew, Thomas, James, Sophie

How did you do? Here they are again but now with text.

Bob, Sally, Pam, John, Sue, Derek, Mark, Matthew, Thomas, James, Sophie

Now let's take a look at some numbers

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## **Numbers**

When numbers are signed in BSL the placement of the signs are positioned in different locations on the body depending on whether the numbers are relating to general numbering, ages in years, currency or time.

If the numbers are used for general meaning for example 'there are 5 children' then the number is positioned just in front of the body at chest level where the sign and the face can be seen together in the natural signing space.

However, if you are discussing ages of children for example or general ages then the number is signed from the nose for example 5

If you are signing numbers that are relevant to money then the numbers are generally signed from the chin. For example £5.

If you are signing anything to do with time then the number signs are held at chest level within the natural signing space but the numbers are twisted round to indicate 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock etc,

Ok, let's get started with the basic number system in BSL. Please note that when signing numbers in BSL you may come across regional variations.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 (with text)

Let's take a look at these without text.

Now let's see what you remember. Please write these down:

5, 13, 15, 7, 9, 10, 14, 18, 3, 8, 6, 4,

Were you right?

5, 13, 15, 7, 9, 10, 14, 18, 3, 8, 6, 4, (with text)

Now let's sign numbers from 10 - 100

10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100 (with text)

Take a look again without text

10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100

Please take a look at these and write down what you see

15, 20, 60, 17, 20, 7, 6, 10, 30, 90, 18, 9, 12, 19, 70, (without text)

Were you right?

15, 20, 60, 17, 20, 7, 6, 10, 30, 90, 18, 9, 12, 19, 70, (with text)

Ok so now you have learn the basic alphabet and some numbers; let's now take a look at some basic greetings when you first meet a Deaf person

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### **Greetings**

Let's now learn some basic greetings when you first meeting a deaf person

Hello, How are you?, I'm fine/OK/all right thank you,

Pleased to meet you, What? Your, Name

What's your name? My

My name is...(fingerspell your own name)

Please, Thank you, See you again

Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening, Good night

Deaf, hearing (all with text)

Let's try some phrases:

1. Hello, Good morning how are you?
2. I'm fine thank you. How are you?
3. Great! Are you Deaf of Hearing?
4. No I'm hearing. You?
5. What is your name?
6. My name is.....(spell your name)
7. Good night.

(all with text)

Let's have a little test please write down what you see:

What is your name?, Deaf, How are you?

My name is, Good afternoon, see you again, I'm fine thank you (all with no text)

How did you do? Here they are again but with text. Were you right?

What is your name?, Deaf, How are you?

My name is, Good afternoon, see you again, I'm fine thank you (with text)

Now let's take a look at some basic colours for the last chapter

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## **Colours**

colours- red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, black, white, grey, pink, light, dark, brown, gold, silver (with text)

Here they are again but without text....see if you can remember the signs

colours- red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, black, white, grey, pink, light, dark, brown, gold, silver (without text)

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Well that's the end of this DVD I do hope that you have enjoyed learning the basics of British Sign Language

To learn more and really get started in BSL please go to [www.learnsignlanguage.co.uk](http://www.learnsignlanguage.co.uk) and try our next level DVD of British Sign Language Level 1

Good luck!

Bye.