



WEEK 8: 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)

INTERUPT (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)
DRIVE HOME ME

MORNING RUN (Show running up and down hills)

ASL STORYTELLING

As we've discussed in our group, there are a lot of ways to tell stories and explain things in ASL. Directional signs are a fast way to show and describe locations, movement and actions, but there is so much more.

Just like hearing people will change the pitch and volume of their voice for emphasis, ASL signers can change how they sign directionally with shoulder shifting, in speed going faster or slower for drama, and even in size to show intensity.

Often, ASL signers will set the stage visually, then interact with the area that was described as they visually connect with the different elements or people that exist there. With some of the ASL worship songs, we chose to use ASL storytelling techniques to portray the meaning of the song rather than the literal words. For Example, in Make Room, the words say 'I will make room for you.' Rather than signing the words, we chose to show us opening our heart to invite God in. It's not just a powerful way to show it for the deaf, but for any hearing person watching, it will also be clear. The key is to be creative and have fun doing it.