

american sign language dictionary

martin la sternberg

Ebook Description: American Sign Language Dictionary: Martin L. Sternberg

This ebook provides a comprehensive and accessible dictionary of American Sign Language (ASL), meticulously compiled by Martin L. Sternberg. It goes beyond a simple lexicon, offering detailed explanations of signs, including variations in handshape, movement, and location, as well as cultural context and common usage. The significance lies in its potential to bridge communication gaps between Deaf and hearing communities, facilitating greater understanding and inclusion. ASL is a vibrant and complex language, and this dictionary acts as a crucial resource for students, interpreters, educators, and anyone interested in learning or enhancing their ASL skills. Its relevance extends to the broader fields of linguistics, special education, and communication studies, contributing to a richer understanding of sign language and its role in Deaf culture. The dictionary's emphasis on clarity and detailed explanations makes it particularly valuable for beginners and intermediate learners alike.

Ebook Title: Mastering ASL: A Comprehensive Guide with the Sternberg Dictionary

Contents Outline:

Introduction: The Beauty and Importance of ASL; A Note on the Sternberg Methodology.

Chapter 1: Foundations of ASL: Handshapes, Locations, Movements, and Non-manual Markers.

Chapter 2: Core Vocabulary: A selection of frequently used ASL signs, categorized for ease of learning.

Chapter 3: Grammatical Structures in ASL: Word order, sentence structure, and common grammatical elements.

Chapter 4: ASL Dictionary (Sternberg Method): Alphabetical listing of signs with detailed descriptions, illustrations, and example sentences. (This chapter constitutes the bulk of the ebook.)

Chapter 5: Cultural Context of ASL: Understanding Deaf culture, etiquette, and communication norms.

Chapter 6: Advanced ASL Techniques: Fingerspelling, storytelling in ASL, and interpreting common phrases.

Conclusion: Continuing your ASL journey; Resources for further learning.

Article: Mastering ASL: A Comprehensive Guide

with the Sternberg Dictionary

Introduction: The Beauty and Importance of ASL; A Note on the Sternberg Methodology

American Sign Language (ASL) is a rich and complex visual language with a unique grammar and cultural heritage. It's far more than just gestures; it's a fully developed linguistic system used by millions of Deaf individuals across North America. Learning ASL opens doors to a vibrant culture and promotes inclusivity, bridging communication barriers and fostering deeper understanding between Deaf and hearing communities. This guide, incorporating the meticulous approach of Martin L. Sternberg, emphasizes a structured, methodical approach to mastering ASL, focusing on accuracy and a nuanced understanding of its intricacies. Sternberg's methodology, detailed throughout this ebook, prioritizes contextual learning, emphasizing the interconnectedness of handshapes, movements, and facial expressions.

Chapter 1: Foundations of ASL: Handshapes, Locations, Movements, and Non-manual Markers

Understanding the Building Blocks of ASL

ASL, unlike spoken languages, relies heavily on visual cues. Mastering it necessitates a deep understanding of its fundamental components. This chapter delves into the core elements:

Handshapes: The configuration of the fingers and hand during signing. Learning the alphabet of handshapes is paramount, as many signs utilize specific hand configurations. Detailed illustrations are crucial here, to accurately convey each handshape's subtle variations.

Locations: Where on the body or in the signing space the signs are made. The location can significantly alter the meaning of a sign. For instance, signing "I" might involve pointing to oneself, while "you" involves pointing towards the recipient.

Movements: The movement of the hand(s) during the sign. The speed, direction, and trajectory of the movement are all essential aspects to convey meaning accurately. Understanding the nuances of movement is key to differentiating between similar-looking signs.

Non-manual Markers: These include facial expressions, head movements, and body language that accompany signs. They contribute to the grammar and meaning of the signed sentence, often indicating mood, tense, or emphasis. Understanding these non-manual markers is critical for fluent and natural ASL communication.

Chapter 2: Core Vocabulary: A Selection of Frequently Used ASL Signs

Building Your ASL Vocabulary

This chapter focuses on building a solid foundation of frequently used ASL signs. Categorization is crucial for efficient learning. Possible categories include:

Greetings and Introductions: Learning to greet people, introduce yourself, and ask basic questions.

Everyday Objects and Activities: Signs for common household items, food, and daily routines.

Numbers and Time: Mastering the sign language equivalents for numbers and telling time.

Basic Emotions: Expressing happiness, sadness, anger, and other core emotions.

Chapter 3: Grammatical Structures in ASL: Word Order, Sentence Structure, and Common Grammatical Elements

Understanding the Grammar of ASL

ASL has a unique grammatical structure that differs significantly from English. This chapter explores key aspects of ASL grammar:

Word Order: ASL typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure, but the flexibility allows for variations depending on context and emphasis.

Sentence Structure: Understanding how to form questions, statements, and commands in ASL.

Inflection and Aspect: How ASL utilizes handshapes, movement, and non-manual markers to indicate tense, aspect, and mood.

Negation and Emphasis: Different methods of negating a statement or emphasizing a particular word or phrase.

Chapter 4: ASL Dictionary (Sternberg Method): Alphabetical Listing of Signs with Detailed Descriptions, Illustrations, and Example Sentences

The Heart of the Ebook: The Sternberg ASL Dictionary

This chapter is the core of the ebook, presenting an extensive alphabetical dictionary of ASL signs based on Sternberg's detailed methodology. Each entry includes:

Sign Name: The English word represented by the sign.

Handshape Diagram: Clear, high-quality illustrations of the handshape used in the sign.

Movement Description: A detailed explanation of the movement involved in producing the sign.

Location Description: Precise details of where on the body or in space the sign is made.

Non-manual Markers: Information about any accompanying facial expressions or body language.

Example Sentences: Illustrative sentences that show the sign's usage in context.
Variations: Descriptions of any regional or stylistic variations of the sign.

Chapter 5: Cultural Context of ASL: Understanding Deaf Culture, Etiquette, and Communication Norms

Beyond the Signs: Understanding Deaf Culture

This chapter is vital for respectful and effective communication within the Deaf community. It highlights:

Deaf Culture: Exploring the history, values, and traditions of Deaf culture.

Communication Etiquette: Understanding appropriate communication practices within Deaf settings.

Deaf Community Organizations: Information on Deaf organizations and resources.

Interpreting and Communication Strategies: Best practices for interactions with Deaf individuals.

Chapter 6: Advanced ASL Techniques: Fingerspelling, Storytelling in ASL, and Interpreting Common Phrases

Refining your ASL Skills

This chapter pushes learners beyond the basics, focusing on more advanced skills:

Fingerspelling: The art of spelling words using handshapes representing the English alphabet.

Storytelling in ASL: Techniques for conveying narratives effectively in ASL.

Interpreting Common Phrases: Approaches to translating common English phrases into fluent ASL.

Conclusion: Continuing Your ASL Journey; Resources for Further Learning

Continuing the Learning Process

This section provides resources for continued learning and suggests further exploration into the world of ASL. It emphasizes the ongoing journey of learning a language and encourages readers to actively engage in practicing ASL.

FAQs:

1. Is this ebook suitable for beginners? Yes, the ebook is designed to be accessible to beginners with clear explanations and a gradual progression of concepts.
2. How many signs are included in the dictionary? The dictionary contains [Number] commonly used ASL signs.
3. Are there visual aids in the ebook? Yes, the ebook includes numerous illustrations, diagrams, and videos (if applicable) to clarify sign formations.
4. Does the ebook cover Deaf culture? Yes, a dedicated chapter explores Deaf culture, etiquette, and communication norms.
5. What is the Sternberg methodology? The Sternberg methodology emphasizes a detailed and systematic approach to learning ASL, focusing on accuracy and contextual understanding.
6. Is this ebook suitable for intermediate learners? Yes, intermediate learners will find the advanced techniques and cultural insights valuable.
7. Can I use this ebook to learn ASL independently? Yes, the ebook is designed for self-directed learning.
8. What kind of device can I use to access this ebook? This ebook is available on [List compatible devices].
9. What makes this dictionary different from others? This dictionary incorporates the detailed and comprehensive approach of Martin L. Sternberg, emphasizing contextual understanding and accuracy.

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8. Comparing ASL with Other Sign Languages: A comparison of ASL with sign languages from other countries.
9. Resources and Tools for Learning ASL: A curated list of websites, apps, and books for continued learning.

Additional Resources

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