

# Sign With Robert

## Teacher Study Guide



## Educational Sign Language and Deaf Culture Series

Featuring Robert DeMayo

Directed by Hilari Scarl

[www.worldplayinc.com](http://www.worldplayinc.com)

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# Teacher Study Guide



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to SIGN WITH ROBERT, a comprehensive educational sign language and Deaf culture series for students of all ages and levels.

10 DVDs – Each 90 minute\* DVD contains 3 Episodes

30 Episodes – Each 30 minute\* Episode is grouped by topic and contains 4-6 Chapters

150 Chapters – Each Chapter is about 5 minutes.\*

You may purchase individual episodes or the whole series! DVDs may also be purchased individually or as a complete 10 disc series.

The series is for:

- Students/Individuals
- Freelance Instructors
- K-12
- Public Libraries
- Community Colleges
- Universities
- Communities, Businesses, Organizations and Centers

\* Running times vary slightly.

## WHO IS THIS SERIES FOR?

There are episodes and chapters for everyone! Search our interactive website to choose episodes and chapters for Newcomers, Basic, Intermediate, Advanced and Professional levels.

### Some examples include:

- Young Children 6 Months – 5 Years of Age
  - o Chapters on How and Why to Teach Babies Sign Language
  - o Baby Signs Vocabulary
  - o Animals, Colors, Shapes
  - o Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales in ASL
  
- High School Students
  - o Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Vocabulary Lessons
  - o Deaf Culture
  - o Receptive Practice, Interactive Games
  - o The Pledge of Allegiance, *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful* in ASL as well as explanations of the translation process.
  
- College Students
  - o Academic signs for science, geography, history, government
  - o ASL idioms and English idioms translated into ASL
  - o Deaf history
  - o Fun signs and social media
  
- Adults and Families
  - o Myths, Do's and Don'ts
  - o Food and Cooking
  - o Transportation and Travel
  - o Family, Life Stages, Entertainment
  
- Medical and Health Professionals
  - o Emergency Signs
  - o Survival and Disaster Signs
  - o Health and Disability
  - o How to Communicate with Deaf People
  
- Businesses and HR Departments
  - o Challenges for Deaf People
  - o How to Make Your Event Deaf-Friendly
  - o Business Signs and Hiring
  - o How Deaf People Get Work

## WHAT IS SIGN LANGUAGE?

Sign language is a beautiful, rich and complex language that is the first language of millions of Deaf people around the world. Sign language uses manual communication and body language, rather than acoustically conveyed sound patterns, to convey meaning. This can involve simultaneously combining hand shapes, orientation and movement of the hands, arms and/or body and facial expressions to fluidly express a speaker's thoughts. They share many similarities with spoken languages (sometimes called "oral languages" which depend primarily on sound), which is why linguists consider both to be natural languages.

Sign languages are not mime, just as most of spoken language is not onomatopoeic. Sign languages have complex grammars of their own, and can be used to discuss any topic, from the simple and concrete to the lofty and abstract.

Wherever communities of deaf people exist, sign languages have been developed. Signing is not only used by Deaf people, but also by people who can hear but cannot physically speak as well as by people who wish to communicate with people who use sign language.

A common misconception is that all sign languages are the same worldwide or that sign language is international. Sign language changes from country to country just like spoken language. Each country generally has its own native sign language, and some have more than one. You will learn more in our international chapter in Episode 4.



## DEAF CULTURE

Learning sign language means learning about Deaf culture, which is equally as important. SIGN WITH ROBERT provides several in-depth narrative episodes on Deaf culture covering everything from a basic explanation of Deaf culture (Episode 4), benefits of being deaf (Episode 5), Deaf History, and famous Deaf entertainers, athletes, educators and inventors (Episode 6.) Understanding Deaf culture will help students gain a critical perspective when learning sign language.

## HOW TO USE THIS SERIES

The series is designed to be viewed in chronological order, but we also encourage viewers to skip around to watch chapters and episodes of interest. Teachers can assign lessons suggested in our Teacher Tips section. This curriculum can be used for a 30-week lesson plan depending on the pace of the class. We recommend that you take an entire week to view each episode so you can study at least one chapter per day. There are guessing game quizzes at the end of most episodes to test your knowledge and memory. Don't worry if you can't remember the vocabulary signs in the game. You can review any lesson at any time, and the answers are given after each question.

There are chapters aimed at beginners (basic), intermediate, advanced and professional students. A quick search on the website will highlight which chapters are designated for each level. Some chapters are good for all students and are labeled as such. There are also chapters for parents with babies and small children, episodes for businesses that work with deaf people and chapters geared towards medical professionals. Feel free to explore the many topics and lessons in the series.

## LEARNING AND PRACTICING

Learning a new language takes time and patience. Find opportunities to practice your sign language with friends, other sign language students or preferably Deaf people in your area. Many colleges and towns have social gatherings for sign language practice such as Deaf Coffee Night, ASL practice meet up or silent weekends.

You may find different signing variations depending on the signer, region, experience, context, background and age of the person signing. Language of every kind is fluid and evolving. Robert explains more about this in Episode 4.

Whether you are in a sign language class or pursuing SIGN WITH ROBERT on your own, we highly recommend that you augment your studies by seeking out native Deaf signers to learn from and practice with. We encourage you to learn to sign by immersive experiences in the Deaf community. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer at Deaf centers, organizations and sign language clubs which provide more opportunities to put your study into practice. Research "Sign language immersion" to find events near you, or participate in an immersion weekend offered by many sign language programs.

## INTERACTION

We encourage students and viewers to participate in our online community of signers on our YouTube channel, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SignWithRobert> or other links listed on [SignWithRobert.com](http://SignWithRobert.com) and [Worldplayinc.com](http://Worldplayinc.com) pages. Feel free to ask questions, post comments, videos and photos. Please visit our Sign With Robert Facebook page and other social media and post your experience with the series, ask questions about any of the material and offer feedback to others. We hope to offer some live events with the series in the future, so make sure that you follow us and are signed up for our newsletter at [SignwithRobert.com](http://SignwithRobert.com).

## CATEGORIES

The series is divided into the following categories. A complete list of chapters and episodes are listed on pages 11-15.

**Animals**

**ASL Advanced**

**ASL Basic**

**ASL Intermediate**

**ASL Receptive**

**Babies**

**Business**

**Children**

**Classifiers**

**Deaf Culture**

**Deaf History**

**Emergency**

**Fingerspelling**

**Food**

**Holiday**

**Humor**

**Idioms**

**International**

**Lifestyle**

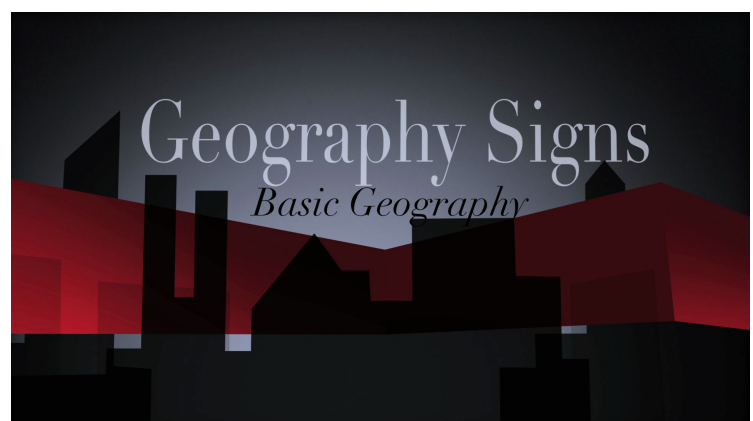
**Newcomers**

**Numbers**

**Professional**

**School**

**Stories**



## CAPTIONS

This series is unique, as it was created in ASL first and translated to English second, so the signing you see is natively organic. You can learn more about how ASL is translated in Episode 30 when Robert breaks down his translation process for The Pledge of Allegiance, *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful*.

You may notice some words in the captions that are in all caps. This is to signify when a sign is glossed. Glossing is when you write one language in another and it is being transcribed rather than being translated. Examples: MOTHER+FATHER is the gloss for the sign for parents; “YOUR NAME WHAT?” is the gloss (written ASL) for the English sentence “What is your name?” and MY NAME fs-R-O-B-E-R-T notates that Robert’s name is fingerspelled.

Throughout the series you will notice that sometimes Deaf is capitalized and other times it is written with a lowercase “d.” This is a cultural referral that is known as Big “D” Deaf and little “d” deaf. Big “D” Deaf refers to people who self-identify as being culturally Deaf, use sign language and interact in the Deaf community. Little “d” deaf refers to people who have a hearing loss, do not associate with other members of the deaf community, strive to identify themselves with hearing people and regard their hearing loss solely in medical terms. We have tried to use the appropriate capitalization where prudent throughout the series. Robert explains more about this in Episode 4 on Deaf Culture.

## AUDIO OPTIONS

Most of the chapters don’t have any audio. This is so you can focus on the signing and the vocabulary. The narrative chapters such as the episodes on Business, Communication and Deaf History have audio voice over. We recommend that you turn off the audio or mute the sound so you can focus on the signing, but the voice over is there as an option. There are several chapters that have stories for receptive practice. Some of these stories don’t have captions but repeat a second time with captions. Others only have an audio voice over option that is provided as a backup if you need help translating the ASL. We recommend that it is only used after the viewer has watched the story several times and tried to translate the chapter before turning to the audio option.





## TEACHER TIPS

The chapters that contain vocabulary signs are perfect for creating short stories, practice conversations, skits and more. Have the students watch each chapter several times, select vocabulary to build a story or to carry on a conversation either in small groups or in front of the class. See if you can add vocabulary signs from previous chapters to keep building upon what you have learned. Learning should be fun so have a good time with this exercise. Here are some examples:

Episode 12 - Transportation and Travel is filled with vocabulary signs, phrases and even a chapter with a vacation checklist in sign language. Students can make up short stories in sign language about packing for a trip or traveling in a new country. Pair up students or have them act out their stories solo. Have fun with this!



Episode 27 teaches about ABC Stories, Number Stories, Fingermime and

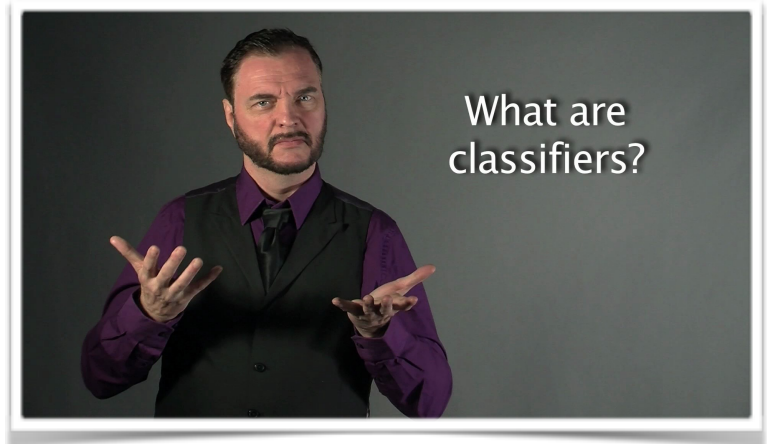
Handshape stories. Watch the entire episode and have students come up with their own stories. Add an extra challenge by requiring that the stories be built around a theme such as Halloween or love.

Episode 30 teaches the Pledge of Alliance, *The Star Spangled Banner*, *America the Beautiful*, *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* and more in ASL. Have students memorize the translations and sign along to music for these songs – or in complete silence - for your school's next assembly or presentation.

The Guessing Game episodes are at the end of most vocabulary episodes. Robert signs each vocabulary sign twice before giving the captioned answer. Pause the video or DVD before each answer to give students a chance to either guess or write down their answers. They will be able to immediately check themselves to see if they guessed correctly.



Some of the advanced lessons include Episode 8 on Classifiers/Depicting Verbs and Episode 28 on Idioms. These are great episodes for practice using classifiers and translating English to ASL and ASL to English. Pause the video or DVD after each example and have students try to translate the phrases. Robert gives the answers after each phrase.



There are many episodes to practice receptive skills including Fingerspelling in Episode 7, Stories in Episode 25, Jokes in Episode 26 and More Receptive Practice in Episode 29. Have fun with these, and be prepared to watch them several times to really absorb the information. Practice voicing skills by interpreting the stories out loud or prepare questions based on the stories to test comprehension.



We welcome any additional comments or feedback on the series. We strive to provide the highest level of professional instruction and quality to make learning easy and fun.

Enjoy the series and have fun!



## **DVD 1: BABIES AND CHILDREN**

### Episode 1: Teaching Babies and Baby Signs

- Why Teach Babies Sign Language?
- How to Teach Babies Sign Language
- Basic Baby Signs
- Animals and Food Signs
- Signs For Young Children

### Episode 2: Animals

- Farm Animals
- Safari and Zoo Animals
- Sea Animals
- Wild Animals
- Guessing Game - Animals

### Episode 3: Colors, Shapes and Sizes

- Basic Colors
- More Colors
- Shapes
- Sizes
- Guessing Game - Colors, Shapes, Sizes

## **DVD 2: DEAF CULTURE**

### Episode 4: Deaf Culture

- Deaf Culture Defined
- International Signs
- Name Signs
- Acronyms

### Episode 5: Myths, Do's and Don'ts

- Don'ts
- Do's
- Myths
- Benefits of Being Deaf
- Attention Getters

### Episode 6: Deaf History

- Deaf History
- Events in Deaf History Part 1
- Events in Deaf History Part 2
- Deaf Educators and Inventors
- Famous Deaf Entertainers and Athletes

### **DVD 3: SIGN LANGUAGE PRACTICE**

#### Episode 7: ABC's and Fingerspelling

- ABC's
- Fingerspelling Theory
- Fingerspelling Easy
- Fingerspelling Moderate
- Fingerspelling Advanced
- Fingerspelling Expert

#### Episode 8: Classifiers and Depicting Verbs

- Classifiers Introduction
- Classifier Examples
- Depicting Verbs
- Guessing Game - Classifiers and DPV

#### Episode 9: Emotions and Facial Expressions

- Facial Expressions
- Emotions 1
- Emotions 2
- Emotions 3
- Emotions 4
- Guessing Game - Emotions

### **DVD 4: HOME AND TRAVEL**

#### Episode 10: Holidays

- Family Events
- American Holidays
- Cultural Holidays
- Celebration Signs
- Guessing Game - Holidays

#### Episode 11: Food and Cooking

- Fruits and Vegetables
- Meals and Food
- Gourmet Signs
- Signs For Eating
- Signs For Cooking
- Guessing Game - Food and Cooking

#### Episode 12: Transportation and Travel

- Modes of Transportation
- Travel Signs
- Vacation Checklist
- Travel Expressions
- Car Parts
- Guessing Game - Transportation and Travel

## **DVD 5: FAMILY, SCHOOL, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS**

### Episode 13: Family, Professions, School, Pronouns

- Family
- Life Stages
- Professions
- School Signs
- Pronouns

### Episode 14: Entertainment

- Types of Entertainment
- Entertainment Vocabulary
- Party Signs
- Guessing Game - Entertainment

### Episode 15: Sports

- Sports Signs
- Sports Terms
- Fitness Signs
- Guessing Game - Sports

## **DVD 6: ACADEMIC SIGNS**

### Episode 16: History, Government, Religion

- History Signs
- Government Signs
- Religion Signs
- Ethnicities
- Guessing Game - History, Government, Religion

### Episode 17: Science

- Science Signs
- Astronomy Signs
- Nature Signs
- Computer Signs
- Guessing Game - Science

### Episode 18: Geography

- Geography Vocabulary
- Cities
- States
- Countries and Continents
- Guessing Game - Geography

## **DVD 7: SURVIVAL SIGNS AND SKILLS**

Episode 19: Emergency, Disaster and Medical  
Emergency Signs  
Survival Signs  
Disaster Signs  
Health and Disability  
Audiologists and Hearing Loss  
Guessing Game - Emergency and Medical

Episode 20: Phrases, Common Signs and Clothes  
Everyday Signs and Phrases  
Greetings and Manners Part 1  
Greetings and Manners Part 2  
Phrases for School  
Signs for Clothes  
Guessing Game - Phrases and Common Signs

Episode 21: Communication  
How to Communicate with Deaf People  
Challenges for Deaf People  
How to Make Your Event Deaf Friendly  
Lipreading

## **DVD 8: BUSINESS, NUMBERS AND TIME**

Episode 22: Business Signs and Hiring  
Business Signs  
Robert's Rules of Order  
Guessing Game – Business Vocabulary  
How Deaf People Get Work  
VRS – Video Relay Service  
Guessing Game – Business Principles

Episode 23: Numbers  
Number Signs 1-30  
Number Signs 30-up  
Number Variations  
Math Signs  
Guessing Game - Numbers

Episode 24: Calendar, Time, Weather  
Calendar Signs  
Time Signs  
Time Passage  
Weather Signs  
Guessing Game - Calendar, Time, Weather

## **DVD 9: RECEPTIVE SKILLS AND FUN WITH SIGN**

### Episode 25: ASL Stories – Receptive Practice

How to Improve Receptive Skills

Goldilocks

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

The Three Little Pigs

Spooky Mask

### Episode 26: Fun Signs, Deaf Jokes and Receptive Practice

Fun Signs and Social Media

Funny Words

Deaf Jokes Intro

Speeding Ticket

Timber

Deaf Honeymoon

Concerned Husband

New Car

### Episode 27: A to Z Stories, Number Stories and Fingermime

ABC Stories Explained

Number Stories

Fingermime Stories

Handshape Stories

## **DVD 10: GRAB BAG – IDIOMS, SONGS AND STORIES**

### Episode 28: Idioms

ASL Idioms

English Idioms to ASL

ASL Phrases

### Episode 29: More Receptive Practice

How to Improve Receptive Skills

Haunted House

How Do I Look?

### Episode 30: Songs, Nursery Rhymes and More

Deaf People and Music

Patriotic Material

Translations of Patriotic Material Explained

Nursery Rhymes

Rudolph

## BIOGRAPHIES AND CREDITS

### **Robert DeMayo – Actor/Co-Creator**

Robert is a professional actor, entertainer, educator and ASL consultant. He is a graduate of the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, where he first began performing as a clown in The Silent Alley. He attended the National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, NY and toured professionally with Sunshine Too, Cleveland Sign Stage Theatre and the Tony Award winning National Theatre of the Deaf. He starred in many noteworthy NTD productions including *One More Spring*, *Treasure Island*, *Ophelia*, *In A Grove*, *Under Milkwood*, *Spinning Man: Life of Dylan Thomas*, *An Italian Straw Hat*, *Profile of a Deaf Peddler* and *Shakespeare Unmasked*. Robert became the Artistic Director for the New York Deaf Theatre and starred as Hamlet in *What If Hamlet Was Deaf?* He worked with a team of ASL translators to transliterate Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* which led to further collaboration with the Amaryllis Theatre Company. Robert was the ASL consultant and actor in the feature film *Universal Signs* and appeared in *No Ordinary Hero*. Robert was one of the lead subjects in Hilari Scarl's multi-award-winning documentary *See What I'm Saying*. He performed live for the closing ceremonies at the Perspektiva Film Festival in Moscow and appeared in dozens of Q&A's with the film around the world.

### **Hilari Scarl – Director/Producer/Co-Creator**

Hilari is an award-winning director/producer who was chosen by Steven Spielberg out of 12,000 filmmakers to appear his television show *On The Lot*. Her multi-award winning feature *See What I'm Saying: The Deaf Entertainers Documentary* received Critics' Pick in the New York Times, distribution with Cinedigm and was broadcast on the Documentary Channel. The film screened in 179 cities in 21 countries, and was shown to employees at DreamWorks, Universal Studios and a special weekend event with Disney. Hilari produced the award-winning dramatic feature *No Ordinary Hero* with Academy Award winner Marlee Matlin. Before her feature films, Hilari directed/produced 18 short films that have received multiple festival awards and online distribution and wrote/directed several short educational films for GLAD. Hilari has produced shows on CBS, TLC, Court TV and the History Channel and won a Telly Award for her PSA *Because* on preventing HIV among Deaf women for the Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness (GLAD.) Hilari has a theater background that includes touring with the National Theater of the Deaf where she met Robert DeMayo. They toured together in *An Italian Straw Hat*. Her year touring on a bus with 17 Deaf actors inspired her to create work with Deaf actors, and ignited her passion to break down stereotypes in theater, film and television for all minority actors. She hosted a panel discussing accessibility at the 2015 Sundance Art House Convergence and was awarded the We Do Good Award from Sherry Shepherd. Hilari is a board member of the Alliance of Women Directors and a member of Film Fatales.



## **Carrie Martin – Consultant**

Carrie works full-time as a staff interpreter at Indiana School for the Deaf, as well as doing freelance interpreting and video relay work. She graduated from Ball State University with a degree in Deaf Educational and has taught for over 10 years in various settings, including Phoenix Day School for the Deaf and Indiana School for the Deaf, before becoming an interpreter. She has been nationally certified through RID since 2007. She currently lives in the Indianapolis area with her husband Rick and three wonderful boys, Nico, Noah and Chase.

## **Christine Multra Kraft – Consultant**

Christine is a Certified Deaf Interpreter and has obtained her Professional certificate with the American Sign Language Teacher's Association. She works as a trainer in the fields of ASL linguistics, ASL teaching and interpreting. Christine is now pursuing her doctorate in Applied Linguistics at Ball State University. She lives near Indianapolis and has a continuing series of family adventures with her husband Roger and their four KODA children.

## **Additional Credits**

Lighting/Director of Photography – Jeff Gatesman

Voice Over – Greg Chun

Voice Recording – Joe Milner/Puget Sound

Editing/Captions – Hilari Scarl

Graphics for DVD Design – Christina Romani

Distribution/Marketing – Meredith Miller, Brian Parsons, Pablo Gonzalez for Tugg, Inc.

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