## Lesson 5:

Lesson Objectives:  
\_\_\_ I understand the concept of "[eye gaze](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/eyegaze.htm)"  
\_\_\_ I understand the concept of "[Noun-Verb Pairs](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/noun_verb_pairs.htm)"  
\_\_\_ I can recognize and sign numbers [31-99](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/n/numbers31-40.htm)  
\_\_\_ I understand the concept of "[Agreement Verbs](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/directionality.htm)" (Directional Signs)  
\_\_\_ I am able to recognize and sign the practice sentences and story for this lesson  
\_\_\_ I have taken the general practice quiz for this lesson.  See: [PRACTICE QUIZZES](http://asl.gs/quizzes-practice/index.htm)

Vocabulary: [CAN](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/c/can.htm)  
[CAR](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/c/cardrive.htm) ( also see DRIVE)  
[CHURCH](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/c/church.htm)  
[COMPUTER](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/c/computer.htm)  
[DOCTOR](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/d/doctor.htm)/(nurse)  
[EMAIL](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/e/email.htm)  
[GIVE](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/g/give.htm)   
[HOME](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/h/home.htm)  
[INTERNET](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/i/internet.htm)   
[IN](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/i/inout.htm) (also see [OUT](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/i/inout.htm))  
[MOVIE](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/m/movie.htm)   
[PLAY](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/p/play.htm)   
[PUT](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/p/put.htm)  (also see [MOVE](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/m/move.htm))  
[SIT](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/s/sit.htm)   
[STAND](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/s/stand.htm)  
[STAY](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/s/stay.htm)   
[STORE](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/s/store.htm)  
[WALK](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/w/walk.htm)  
[WATCH](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/w/watch.htm)   
[WITH](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/w/with.htm)

[VIDEO](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-signs/v/video.htm)

Lesson 5 Readings

American Sign Language: Eye Gaze:

By William Vicars Ed.D.

When ASL students are first starting out I often get the question, should I watch the hands or ***try*** to watch the face.  The word "try" in regards to watching the face indicates that they feel that they miss a lot of information if they aren't watching the signers hands. Beginners who focus on watching the hands sometimes look as if they were trying to keep their eyes on a fly buzzing around in front of them.

In personal one on one conversations you should indeed watch the signer's face and not focus on the hands.  After enough practice you will find yourself "catching" the signs via your peripheral vision.

There *is* a time to watch the hands though.  Suppose you are sitting in an audience watching a skilled ASL user give a speech or lecture.  If you are "hearing" (meaning if you are a person who has the ability to hear) and there is a *sign-to-voice interpreter* who is voicing the lecture, you *may* wish to focus on the lecturer's hands more closely so you can *pick up new signs*.

If you are signing with a Deaf person and one of your hearing friends calls out your name or comes up and starts speaking to you while the Deaf person is signing to you, ***don't*** knee jerk react by looking away in the middle of  your conversation to see who is calling your name or what your friend wants.  Instead, keep your eyes on the signer while simultaneously holding up an index finger in the "wait a minute gesture" toward the interrupting friend.  Then, after the Deaf person has finished his comment go ahead and see what your friend needs.  Also be aware that it is rude to chatter away (voicing) in front of a Deaf person without signing as if the Deaf person isn't even there.  If you need to say more than a few words to your hearing friend-- politely excuse yourself from your ASL conversation so the Deaf person won't be left hanging.

As the receiver in an ASL conversation you keep your eyes on the signer.  But if you are the signer you will be using your eye gaze to add meaning and support to your signing.  For example, if you are going to set up a pronoun or absent referent (see [Indexing](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/indexing.htm)) you will glance to some area in space that you will associate with the referent for the rest of your conversation.

Something that often confuses beginning signers is a Deaf person will start signing to and looking at an imaginary person.  You may be tempted to look over your shoulder to see if that person is really there.  Try to stifle the urge.  In ASL we often turn our bodies and sign to a spot in mid air as if we were having "real-time" conversation, when in fact we are just using an ASL principle of role-taking *instead* of using the English method of saying, "he said" and "she said" before quoting.

Sometimes a Deaf person will look away for a moment while he is thinking of his next sign.  That prevents you from thinking that it is your turn to talk.

As part of a turn taking strategy--when one person is ready at that moment to take his turn and not wait for the other person to finish--he can look away and start signing.

I see  (and *occasionally* use) the look-away technique during heated discussions where both persons are trying to make their points. I don't recommend you try that until you have an extremely good relationship with the other person.

Good ASL storytellers use eye gaze to model the characters in their story as the characters communicate with each other (short person looking up, tall person looking down, etc.)

# American Sign Language: Directionality

# Also called: "verb agreement" or "inflecting verbs." Advanced reading, see:  "[verbs](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/verbs.htm)"

Certain signs can show "who did what to whom" through their movement. The movement of the sign indicates the subject and the object of the verb. For example, if I sign "money" and then I sign "give" starting near my body and moving the sign "give" in your direction, then I'm signing "I will give you some money," or "I gave you money." Suppose I start the sign by holding the sign away from my body (in whatever direction you are) and then move the sign "give" toward me and end near my body...that would mean, "You give me some money."   
If I look at you and move the sign "give" out to my right or left, I am signing "Give it to him."   
  
This "directionality" can be used with many (but not all) signs. How do you know which ones? You associate with skilled users of the language and pick up on it, or you watch many videos of skilled signers, or you attend many classes, pay attention, and ask questions about signs.   
  
You can directionalize many different verbs. Hand-to is the best example, but "MEET" is also useful. [To sign MEET, you hold both index fingers out in front of you about a foot apart, pointed up, palms facing each other. Then you bring them together--it looks like two people meeting. Note: The index fingers do not touch, just the lower parts of the hands.]   
  
For example ME-MEET-YOU can be done in one motion. I don't need to sign "I" "MEET" "YOU" as three separate words. But rather I hold my right Index finger near me, palm facing you, and my left index finger near you, palm facing me. Then I bring my right to my left. One motion is all it took.   
A student asks: How do we know which verbs to use?   
Response: That takes interactive practice and study. Some verbs just aren't directional in nature. For example: "WANT." You sign "WANT" and separately indicate who wants what. For example, to sign "SHE WANT CANDY" you'd point at the little girl, sign "WANT" then sign "CANDY."    
  
(Just a side note: Even though "WANT" is not "directional" it does use a certain other interesting ASL grammar feature. "WANT/DON'T-WANT" is an excellent example of reversal of orientation for negation.)

## ASL Linguistics:  Noun / Verb Pairs

Noun/Verb Pairs:

Noun: person, place, thing, idea

Verb: Action word

In ASL there are unique words knows as noun/verb pairs. These words share the parameters of handshape, palm orientation, location, (and sometimes NMMs).

However, they have different movements to distinguish between the two words.

**Noun**: repeated movement

**Verb**: single movement

Common Noun/Verb Pairs:

CHAIR/SIT

FOOD/EAT

TELEPHONE/CALL

AIRPLANE/FLY

SCISSORS/CUT

STAPLER/STAPLE

BOOK/OPEN-BOOK; CLOSE-BOOK

DOOR/OPEN-DOOR; CLOSE-DOOR

BACKPACK/PUT-ON-BACKPACK

HEADPHONES/PUT-ON-HEADPHONES

RING/PUT-ON-RING

ZIPPER/ZIP-UP; UNZIP

GUN/SHOOT