

Summary

(T02P)

American Sign Language Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide

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This presentation is a description and demonstration of the ASL Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide, an interactive CD that redefines the concept of what a sign language dictionary must be and do.

The various print and video dictionaries available are merely adaptations of the spoken language dictionary model - they provide collections of words (signs), with perhaps some descriptive information on grammar and an example or two. This is just the beginning of what an effective ASL dictionary must do, because ASL uses complex inflectional systems in places where English adds adverbs and adjectives, making the ASL language learning process significantly different.

The ASL Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide has:

1. a searchable 2,700 ASL sign English-ASL dictionary.
2. more than 5,000 English words linked to those signs.
3. 650 sentences, in natural ASL and written English, showing the full range of ASL grammar; individual signs are specifically linked to signs that illustrate their inflections.
4. a "Similar Signs" feature that groups signs that look alike.
5. categories of signs grouped semantically.
6. a Grammar Information section that describes ASL grammar, especially inflectional systems, with links to

video examples.

7. various other features. All video is in clear QuickTime movies with native Deaf signers.