ONE PAGE SUMMARY

Language Learning › Sign Language (ASL) › Grammar

Beginner lessons for Grammar

Master ASL Grammar Basics for Effective Communication

DEFINITION

> ASL grammar is the set of rules that govern how signs are combined to convey meaning. Understanding these rules helps learners communicate clearly in American Sign Language.

KEY CONCEPTS

Word Order

ASL typically follows a Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) structure, similar to English.

Non-Manual Signals

Facial expressions and body language add context and emotion to signs.

Time Indicators

Time signs clarify when an action takes place, such as 'yesterday' or 'tomorrow.'

Classifiers

Classifiers are handshapes that represent categories of objects or people.

Negation

Negation in ASL is often shown through specific signs or facial expressions.

EXAMPLES

→ I (S) eat (V) apple (O).

→ Tomorrow (time) I (S) go (V) store (O).

→ He (S) not (negation) like (V) pizza (O).

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember SVO: Subject-Verb-Object for sentence structure.

★ Use facial expressions as 'punctuation' to enhance meaning.

★ Think of classifiers as 'shapes' that help visualize objects.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Using English word order instead of ASL structure.

✗ Neglecting facial expressions when conveying emotions.

✗ Forgetting to include time indicators in sentences.

QUICK RECAP

ASL grammar involves understanding word order, non-manual signals, and time indicators. Mastering these basics allows for clearer communication in sign language.