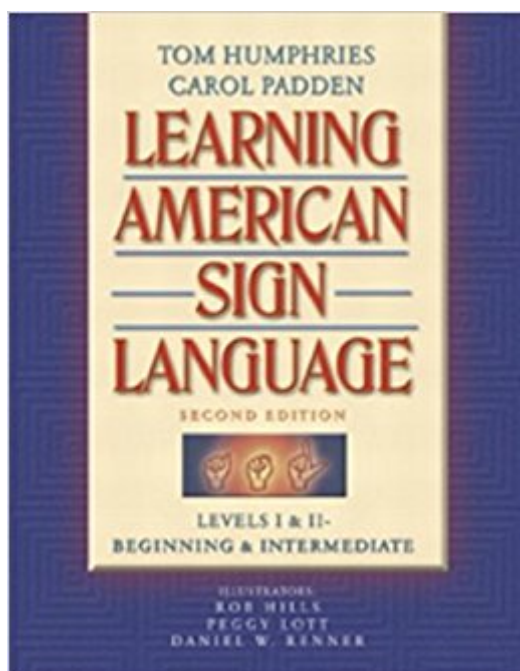


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# Learning American Sign Language: Levels I & II--Beginning & Intermediate (2nd Edition)



## Synopsis

American Sign Language is a rich and complex language. Recently declared as an official language and recognized by 48 states as a foreign language, more and more high school teachers across the country are teaching American Sign Language as an elective. *Learning American Sign Language: Levels I & II – Beginning & Intermediate* is designed to prepare teachers to successfully interact with American Sign Language (ASL) users. Lessons are structured around language needed for common-life situations, and examples are presented in the form of dialogues coupled with grammar and vocabulary instruction. Information is also included about the culture of deaf people in the United States. Learners will discover that the book: Contains lessons designed around the conversational language needed for common life situations. Illustrates hundreds of sentences and vocabulary with over 2,000 high quality colorized drawings that aid in study and memory. Contains over 100 grammar and cultural notes, 72 exercises, and charts of the American Manual Alphabet (Finger spelling) and ASL number system. Teaches the rules of ASL in a natural order that is predictable and compatible with everyday language of native users of American Sign Language. Incorporates information about the cultural lives of Deaf people in the United States. Is supported by a video demonstrating all the conversations and important structures in the text. **Order the Video!** Video to Accompany American Sign Language, 2/e Order No. 0-205-27554-0 American Sign Language students will find themselves captivated and entertained by this state-of-the-art Video that presents all 72 dialogues and each key structure from the text in a clear and natural way. Four internationally known Deaf actors animate the dialogues bringing life to the illustrations in the text allowing students to preview and review instructional materials at home to enhance their classroom learning. **About the authors:** Tom Humphries is Associate Director of the Teacher Education Program and also teaches in the Department of Communication at the University of California, San Diego. He is currently coordinating a program to train teachers of deaf children using a bilingual approach. Prior to this he taught at Gallaudet University in the Department of English for several years and later served as an Associate Dean for the San Diego Community College District where he coordinated the development of an ASL program and an interpreter-training program. He holds a Ph.D. in Cross Cultural Communication and Language Learning. Dr. Humphries is co-author with Carol Padden of *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture* and several other books and articles related to ASL and the culture of Deaf people. Carol Padden is a Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of California, San Diego where she teaches courses on language, culture and media. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and received a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, San Diego. Her recent research

includes studies of reading development in young deaf children and she has written extensively about the cultural lives of Deaf people in the United States. She received a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, in addition to numerous other awards and grants for her work. In addition to the books she has co-authored with Tom Humphries, she has published several other books and articles on American Sign Language structure. Humphries & Padden (Learning American Sign Language, 2e).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is designed to help learners successfully interact with American Sign Language (ASL) users. Written by two leading authorities in the field, the 24 lessons in this book cover Beginning and Intermediate or Level I and II courses of study. Lessons are structured around language needed for common life situations, and examples are presented in the form of dialogues coupled with grammar and vocabulary instruction. Information is also included about the culture of Deaf people in the United States. The book is supported by a videotape and an instructor's manual. Learners will discover that the text: Contains lessons designed around the conversational language needed for common life situations. Illustrates hundreds of sentences and vocabulary with over 2,000 high quality colorized drawings that aid in study and memory. Contains over 100 grammar and cultural notes, 72 exercises, and charts of the American Manual Alphabet (Finger spelling) and ASL number system. Teaches the rules of ASL in a natural order that is predictable and compatible with everyday language of native users of American Sign Language. Incorporates information about the

cultural lives of Deaf people in the United States. Is supported by a video demonstrating all the conversations and important structures in the text. Order the NEW Video! Video to Accompany American Sign Language, 2/e Order No. 0-205-27554-0 American Sign Language students will find themselves captivated and entertained by this state-of-the-art Video that presents all 72 dialogues and each key structure from the text in a clear and natural way. Four internationally known Deaf actors animate the dialogues bringing life to the illustrations in the text allowing students to preview and review instructional materials at home to enhance their classroom learning.

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Purchased for my granddaughter. She just enrolled in ASL continuing education class. She learned some signing while in high school and then they discontinued the class due to budget cuts and she wants to complete both levels. She loves signing.

I received my book yesterday. After looking through it for an hour and studying the first pages, I learned how the book was written. Several learning aids are included in the pictures and once you study what the aids do, you realize how much thought went into this book. I intend on taking a formal class using this book. But until that time I am going to begin on my own so I have a head

start. I have read reviews from people who say that the pictures are too hard to understand. They did not take the time to read the explanation for the pictures. This is a fine book and I cannot wait to get into it. It is my intention to become certified as an Interpreter and this book will give me a great start. This is a book for people who are serious about study, not those who want learning and understanding handed to them on a platter.

As an ASL instructor, I found myself not really liking this ASL book. I'm constantly comparing it to Vista/Signing Naturally, not that it's a perfect book either. First of all, it is difficult to learn 3-D signs from a book. However, you can get an accompanying DVD/VHS. However, it is not much help. The signs/models in the video are too fast for beginners to learn and pick up. This is the biggest complaint from my students. Another thing, there isn't much cultural tidbits for beginning students. There are more grammar tidbits. Therefore, you'll get the feeling that the linguistic aspect of this book is more important than anything else. Sure, we all want you to sign correctly. However, I want my students to have equal knowledge of the Deaf culture/community. There are about 3 exercises in each unit. There's barely any activities included to make learning fun. This book focuses on rote learning rather than meaningful learning. For me, rote learning isn't quite effective for students to learn signs. If your teacher/class require this book, I suggest you bombard your teacher with questions about signs, grammar and culture.

Speak Mandarin Chinese For Beginners The Michel Thomas Method (8-CD Beginner's Program) (Michel Thomas Series) Michel Thomas Method Speak Mandarin Chinese Advanced (Michel Thomas Series) Michel Thomas Method: Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary Course (Michel Thomas Series) I am the author of the Michel Thomas series of CDs to learn spoken Mandarin Chinese. This is a very helpful DVD if you know how to use it. I learned by trial and error so I will share what I learned and hopefully you will benefit from my experience. This DVD does not include everything in the accompanying book. The only things you will find on it are those parts of the text with the closed caption sign next to them. The actors are professional, the signing at the speed of deaf signers, the camera work is excellent and very clear. My suggestion is to go through all the related material on your own and, hopefully, with a study partner (not essential but helpful) and only then look at the DVD. Stop the player whenever necessary (I watch on my Mac) and review any part where you really don't follow what the actors are communicating. This is a wonderful DVD if you understand its strengths and weaknesses. It will not teach you ASL. It will give you practice in seeing the signs in action and at the speed deaf signers use. At first this may appear overwhelming. Welcome to the

club. It is overwhelming if you don't follow it. So work with the text, review the exercises in the text on your own, and then, finally, use the DVD as a nice dessert to give you feedback on what you have learned and need to review. Be very eager to make mistakes!! This will give you feedback and help you to become even more comfortable with communicating in ASL. See my other review of the text if you want more information on this title.

Once again I received my purchase from in a timely fashion, and for this will always be my number one place to shop. In terms of giving a review about the book, I always read the reviews before I purchase an item, and although I didn't get a lot of people to say this book is a very good book, I had to purchase it for a class. This book is best suited when you are working with an instructor. I wouldn't say it's self directed unless you have some experience learning ASL. And that's all I would say about this text book. Good luck to all who are embarking on learning ASL.

### College Textbook

This book is easy to follow. My daughter & I took a basic signing class at our local college as she wanted to teach her baby how to sign so we could understand what she wanted before she had learned to speak. Not only did we learn sign language, but my granddaughter picked up on it very quickly and was signing by the time she was 5 months old. It's nice to be able to communicate --- even if it is just a word or phrase at that age! She was & continues to be a very easy going child. My grandson was taught to sign at 2 after an illness thwarted his speech. He picked up on it quickly (thank God) as it would get very frustrated when we didn't know what he wanted. Now he can sign and the frustration, tears, etc. have all but ceased.

was the exact book i needed for my classes.

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