

The many meanings of *use*

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

Read the sample sentences in each group and notice how the meaning of *use* shifts from one group to the next — and how the sign changes along with it. Then write your own sentences on the blank lines.

1 USE AN OBJECT

to make use of something; to operate or borrow a thing

- ◆ She is using my sign language book.
- ◆ Do you want to use my car?
- ◆ I don't want to use your pencil.
- ◆ She cannot use her left hand.

2 BE USED TO

habit, custom; to become accustomed to something

- ◆ We have to get used to the hard work of farming.
- ◆ She is used to the noise of the machines.
- ◆ You must get used to the way different people sign.

3 USE UP

consume, run out of, deplete

- ◆ I used up all of the gas in my car to see how long I could drive on empty.
- ◆ Sally used up all of the typing paper and glue.
- ◆ We used up all of the cups.

4 USE SOMEONE *(negative)**to take advantage of a person for your own benefit*

- ♦ He gave nothing to his friends; he merely used them.
- ♦ I thought she was my friend, but she just used me so she could get special privileges.

5 USE AN OPPORTUNITY *(positive)**to take advantage of a chance; to make good use of time*

- ♦ I used the time during the strike to read ahead in my book.
- ♦ She used the commercial as a chance to run to the refrigerator to get a snack.

6 USED TO*formerly; something that was true in the past but is not true now*

- ♦ She used to go to Southwestern, but now she goes to MSD.
- ♦ He used to go with her, but they broke up.
- ♦ Didn't you use to have a blue sweater?

CHALLENGE

Write a short paragraph that uses *use* in three different ways. Underline each one and write its group number above it.

THINK ABOUT IT

All six groups use the same English word, but they do not share the same meaning – and in ASL they do not share the same sign. Choose one of your own sentences from each group and be ready to sign it for the class.