

The many meanings of *keep*

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

The word *keep* is printed in bold in every sentence below. Read each group and notice how its meaning shifts — and how the sign changes along with it. Then write your own sentences on the blank lines.

1 RETAIN (HOLD ON TO)

to have something and not give it up

- ♦ I am going to **keep** this book.
- ♦ I always **keep** my work schedule in my planner.

2 MANAGE (CARE FOR)

to look after something for a while

- ♦ Will you **keep** my dog until I get home?
- ♦ Please **keep** these plants while I'm on vacation.

3 CONTINUE

to go on doing something, to not stop

- ♦ **Keep** trying... You can do it!
 - ♦ I want to **keep** working for 5 more years.
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4 HOLD (SAVE)

to set something aside so it is there later

- ♦ Will you **keep** this seat for me?
 - ♦ I will **keep** that book to give to my children.
 - ♦ Please **keep** my place in line while I go get a drink.
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5 ADHERE OR FOLLOW

to stick to a rule, a plan, or a routine

- ♦ I **keep** a strict schedule.
 - ♦ If you do not **keep** to this diet, your health will suffer.
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6 CELEBRATE (OBSERVE)

to honor a holiday, custom, or tradition

- ♦ Orthodox Jews **keep** all the old festivals.
 - ♦ Does your family **keep** any old traditions?
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7 MAKE AN ENTRY (RECORD)

to write things down and hold on to the record

- ♦ The IRS **keeps** a daily record of their contacts.
 - ♦ I need to **keep** a journal of my activities.
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8 DETAIN OR PREVENT

to hold someone back from doing something

- ♦ Please **keep** me from spending money; I am saving up.
 - ♦ I can't **keep** her from playing in the mud.
 - ♦ Jailers carry guns to **keep** convicts from escaping.
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CHALLENGE

In seven of these groups, *keep* means holding on to something. In one group it means almost the opposite — holding someone *back*. Find that group. Then write one sentence where *keep* holds on and one where *keep* holds back. Watch what your hands do differently in each.

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THINK ABOUT IT

All eight 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.