

The many meanings of *for*

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

Every sentence below uses the word *for* , printed in bold. Read each group and notice how the meaning shifts, and how the sign changes along with it. Then write your own sentences on the blank lines.

1 FOR

meant to go to a certain person

- ◆ There was a letter **for** you today.
- ◆ This gift is **for** you from Santa.

2 WHY

because; the reason behind it

- ◆ The new Miss America cried **for** joy.
- ◆ I must go, **for** I have been called.

3 GO

headed toward a place

- ◆ We are leaving **for** Tucson on the 15th.
 - ◆ When do you leave **for** Montana?
 - ◆ They left **for** Ireland this morning.
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4 DURING

across a stretch of time or distance

- ◆ The road is paved **for** one mile.
 - ◆ The plane flew at 5,000 feet **for** half of the trip.
 - ◆ Michael pouted **for** the first 100 miles, then was happy.
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5 SEARCH

looking in order to find something

- ◆ People go to garage sales looking **for** a bargain.
 - ◆ Some people turn to the bottle **for** help.
 - ◆ I looked high and low **for** a policeman.
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6 WORK

trained or licensed to do that job

- ◆ Fewer young men are training **for** the ministry.
 - ◆ Do you have training **for** waitressing?
 - ◆ In Michigan, one needs a license **for** mechanic work.
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7 COST

the price something takes

- ◆ The bill was **for** three dollars.
 - ◆ I can buy a dog at the Humane Society **for** \$30.00.
 - ◆ **For** the price of only \$39.95, you can receive...
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8 EQUAL

one thing answered by the very same thing

- ◆ The Old Testament requires an “eye **for** an eye.”
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9 SEEM / COMPARE

measured against what you would expect

- ◆ It is very warm **for** May.
 - ◆ You look good **for** not having slept all night.
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10 TIME

set at a certain hour or day

- ◆ She has an appointment **for** three o'clock.
 - ◆ There is a meeting scheduled **for** tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.
 - ◆ The next eruption is scheduled **for** 7:53 p.m.
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11 ANYWAY / REGARDLESS

in spite of all that

- ◆ **For** all her experience, she is inefficient.
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12 FOR-FOR

what a thing is used for; its purpose

- ◆ Books are **for** reading.
 - ◆ Lands' End makes a special bag **for** carrying books.
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13 WANT

asking or longing for something

- ◆ The puppy whimpered **for** his supper.
 - ◆ After 40 hours awake, the man's mind was crying **for** sleep.
 - ◆ The plants were crying **for** water.
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14 COLLECT

paid in return for what you do

- ◆ Unfortunately, I must work **for** my salary.
 - ◆ Working **for** a living can be fun if you enjoy yourself.
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15 HONOR

done to show respect for someone

- ◆ We had dinner **for** the ambassador.
 - ◆ The applause was strictly **for** her.
 - ◆ “Hail to the Chief” is played **for** the President.
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16 EXCHANGE

one thing used in place of another

- ◆ They use artificial flowers **for** real ones.
 - ◆ We used Heartline soy meat **for** beef.
 - ◆ In Europe, most people use bottled water **for** tap water in restaurants.
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17 SUPPORT

on that side; behind that person

- ◆ Vote **for** the candidate of one’s choice.
 - ◆ I spoke **for** the affirmative team.
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18 COMPARED

one unit measured against the same unit

- ◆ Pound **for** pound, this brand is the better deal.
 - ◆ Penny **for** penny, our soap makes more suds.
 - ◆ Ounce **for** ounce, beef has more protein than beans.
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19 SAVE

to protect someone or do them good

- ◆ Run **for** your life!
 - ◆ Eat bran **for** your health.
 - ◆ I studied 5 hours a day **for** my 4.0 GPA.
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CHALLENGE

Three pairs of groups on this sheet use *for* in ways that look close in English and are nothing alike in ASL. FOR (group 1) and FOR-FOR (group 12). EQUAL (group 8) and EXCHANGE (group 16). SEEM / COMPARE (group 9) and COMPARED (group 18). Write one sentence for each of the six. Then explain how a signer keeps each pair apart when the English word is identical.

THINK ABOUT IT

Nineteen groups, one English word — and in ASL, nineteen different signs. Almost none of them share a sign with any other. Choose five of your own sentences from anywhere on this sheet and be ready to sign them for the class.