

The many meanings of *finish*

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

In ASL, one sign — *finish* — does every job below. Notice that most of these English sentences never use the word *finish* at all: the words in bold are what the sign is carrying. Read each group, then write your own sentences on the blank lines.

1 ALREADY

it happened before now

- ♦ I **already** ate.
- ♦ She has **already** left for work.
- ♦ You are **already** done? That was fast.

2 PAST TENSE

the verb happened and is over

- ♦ I **saw** that movie last night.
- ♦ They **drove** to Chicago on Saturday.
- ♦ He **told** me about it yesterday.

3 HAVE (AUXILIARY)

have or has in front of a past participle

- ♦ I **have** eaten.
 - ♦ **Have** you seen my keys?
 - ♦ She **has** gone home for the day.
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4 FINISH / COMPLETE

the task is done; through; all done; over

- ♦ I **finished** my homework.
 - ♦ Are you **done** with the dishes?
 - ♦ The game is **over**.
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5 UP (AT THE CLOSE)

at the end of it; at the close

- ♦ Time is **up**.
 - ♦ Drink **up** — the bus leaves in five minutes.
 - ♦ The school year is nearly **up**.
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6 NO MORE

there is none left; that is all there is

- ◆ **No more** cookies.
 - ◆ **That's all** I have to say.
 - ◆ The milk is **gone**.
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7 TO THE END

all the way through to the completion

- ◆ Read the book **to the end**.
 - ◆ She ran the race **to the finish**.
 - ◆ We stayed **to the very end** of the concert.
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8 AFTER THAT / THEN

next in time or in order

- ◆ We ate dinner, and **then** we went to the movie.
 - ◆ **After that**, I walked home.
 - ◆ First wash the car, **then** vacuum it.
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9 END OF THE ROAD

hopeless; oh no; that is it

- ♦ The car died on the highway – **that's it**.
 - ♦ When the money ran out, that was the **end of the road**.
 - ♦ We are at the **end of our rope**.
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10 HAVE HAD IT

fed up; through with

- ♦ I **have had it** with this printer.
 - ♦ She is **fed up** with the noise.
 - ♦ I am **through with** making excuses.
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11 QUIT / STOP

an order to stop what you are doing

- ♦ **Stop** it!
 - ♦ **Quit** teasing your brother.
 - ♦ **Enough** – put it away.
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12 HAVE BEEN / HAVE TRIED

you have done it at some point in your life

- ◆ **Have** you **been** to Washington?
- ◆ I **have been on** every ride in the park.
- ◆ **Have** you ever **tried** sushi?
- ◆ She **has experienced** an earthquake.
- ◆ I **had** chicken pox **before**.

ROUTINE

Sign this morning routine straight through. Between every two steps, sign **finish** — that is the sign that carries you from one step to the next. Then write your own routine on the lines below and sign it the same way.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Wake up | 6 Shower |
| 2 Turn off the alarm | 7 Get dressed |
| 3 Floss teeth | 8 Eat breakfast |
| 4 Brush teeth | 9 Leave for school |
| 5 Gargle with mouthwash | |

CHALLENGE

Three pairs of groups on this sheet say almost the same thing in English and do different work in ASL. NO MORE (group 6) and QUIT / STOP (group 11). HAVE (group 3) and HAVE BEEN (group 12). END OF THE ROAD (group 9) and HAVE HAD IT (group 10). Write one sentence for each of the six. Then explain what changes in the sign – the speed, the face, the number of movements – when the meaning changes.

THINK ABOUT IT

Twelve groups, one sign. In English these sentences reach for *already*, *have*, *then*, *stop*, *over*, and a past-tense ending – six different words for one idea. That is what makes *finish* a concept word: you sign the idea, not the English. Choose five of your own sentences from anywhere on this sheet and be ready to sign them for the class.