

The many meanings of *as*

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

Every sentence below uses the word *as*, 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 SAME

the two are alike; just like that

- ♦ He looks **as** if he had seen a ghost.
- ♦ She is **as** deaf **as** a post.

2 WHILE

at the same time as something else

- ♦ She spilled the milk **as** she got up.
- ♦ The wind increased **as** the storm got nearer.

3 BECAUSE / WHY

the reason it happened

- ◆ I watered the flowers **as** it had not rained in days.
 - ◆ She stayed home **as** she had no car.
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-
-

4 EXAMPLE / SHOW

here is a sample of what I mean

- ◆ Various woods, such **as** oak and pine, are used to produce furniture.
 - ◆ Aircraft such **as** the DC-8 and the 727 should be removed from service.
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5 REGARDLESS

no matter how much; even so

- ◆ **As** improbable **as** it seems, it is true.
 - ◆ **As** well **as** you speak, one can still detect your accent.
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-

6 THAT / SELF

that very thing itself

- ◆ Those are tears such **as** angels weep.
 - ◆ He is a foreigner, **as** is evident from his accent.
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7 CAPACITY / TO NAME

in the role of; working in that job

- ◆ Ed works **as** an editor.
 - ◆ Houdini was billed **as** a master magician!
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CHALLENGE

Two groups on this sheet use the very same three English words. Woods such as *oak and pine* is group 4. Tears such as *angels weep* is group 6. Write one sentence for each, then explain how a signer keeps them apart. Underneath, answer the question from class: where else does English use *as*? Write down every one you can think of.

THINK ABOUT IT

Seven groups, one English word — and in ASL, seven different signs. On its own, *as* carries almost no meaning at all; it borrows whatever the sentence around it needs. Choose five of your own sentences from anywhere on this sheet and be ready to sign them for the class.