

ASL interview exam questions

Teacher _____

Class / period _____

THE SHORT VERSION

One hundred interview prompts, twenty at each of five levels. Each one opens with a broad question and then adds follow-ups, so a single prompt can carry a whole conversation rather than a one-sentence answer.

USING THE BANK

The prompts are written to be signed to a student, not read from a page.

HOW THE PROMPTS ARE BUILT

- ◆ Every prompt has a **topic** and a **question**. The topic is there so you can find something quickly; the question is what you actually sign.
- ◆ The follow-ups are optional. Use as many as the student needs to keep going, and stop once they are signing freely on their own.
- ◆ Several prompts name a specific skill to watch for — listing on the non-dominant hand at Level 1 and Level 2, and describing a process at Level 3.

CHOOSING A LEVEL

- ◆ Levels are cumulative. A student working at Level 3 should still handle Level 1 topics comfortably, with more detail than they would have managed a year earlier.
- ◆ Some topics repeat across levels — food, vacations, culture — deliberately, so you can hear the same subject handled with more range.

WHAT IS IN THE BANK

LEVEL 1 BEGINNER	LEVEL 2 INTERMEDIATE	LEVEL 3 ADVANCED	LEVEL 4 ADVANCED PLUS	LEVEL 5 HIGHEST	TOTAL
20	20	20	20	20	100

LEVEL 1 – BEGINNER

Familiar, concrete topics: family, home, food, clothing, and routine.

	TOPIC	QUESTION
01	Family	Tell me about your family. How many brothers and sisters do you have? Parents? Pets?
02	Home	Describe your house, and tell me what your favorite room is and why.
03	Clothing	What types of clothing do you have in your closet? Which are your favorite pieces, and why? Do you have a specific memory attached to something you refuse to get rid of?
04	Food	Tell me about your favorite foods. Can you list them properly using your non-dominant hand? Explain your top five and why they are the best.
05	Feelings	What situations make you feel disappointed? What are you passionate about? How do you share your feelings?
06	Places you go	Where is your favorite place to go? What places in your local community do you travel to often, and why?
07	Dream kitchen	If you could design your dream kitchen, what would it include? Would you have a massive fridge? A big baker's mixer?
08	Being sick	The last time you were sick, what symptoms did you have? Did you have a fever? A sore throat? How did you get better? Explain your experience.
09	Extended family	Who is your favorite extended family member? Why is that person so important to you? Share a favorite memory you have with them.
10	Grocery shopping	Grocery shopping can be a pain. What would your grocery list include? What items would you buy? What items would you “accidentally” forget, and why?
11	Living room	Describe the layout of your living room. What activities do you do there? What kinds of furniture do you have?
12	Church	Have you ever been to a church service? What was that experience like for you? Did you pray? Discuss the Bible?

	TOPIC	QUESTION
13	Sports	If you could play any sport, what would you want to play, and why? Do you have a favorite team in that same sport?
14	Celebrations	What celebrations do you take part in with your family? Do you look forward to a particular holiday? What activities do you do during the celebration?
15	Pets	Imagine you had unlimited money and could buy any pets you wanted. What pets would you have, and why? Would you want more than one? Different animals?
16	Accessories	Accessories complete an outfit. Which are a must in your closet? What could you live without? Do you wear specific accessories every day?
17	Winter	Winter is a fun time of year. Do you enjoy snow and cold weather? Do you have family Christmas celebrations?
18	Careers	Growing up, did you have a dream career? Has your choice changed now that you are older? Have you made plans to reach that profession?
19	Transportation	Transportation gets us everywhere we need to go. If you could choose one form for everyday use, what would it be? Would it be expensive? How many people could you travel with?
20	Weather	Do you watch the weather channel? What types of weather have you experienced? Do you enjoy watching storms? What would your safety plan be if a tornado came?

LEVEL 2 – INTERMEDIATE

Everyday planning and description, with more sequencing and detail.

	TOPIC	QUESTION
01	Outdoor activities	What outdoor activities do you enjoy? How long have you been doing this activity? Is it solo, with a partner, or with a group? What season does it happen in?
02	Hobbies	Tell me about your favorite hobby. If you don't have one, what hobby would you like to take up, and why?
03	An ideal day outdoors	Describe your ideal day doing outdoor activities. Would you be lazy and lie in a hammock all day? Would you be active and canoe? Who would you want with you?
04	Illness and support	Many people deal with illnesses — cancer, a stroke, or diabetes, for example. Do you have family members who deal with illness? How do you support them? If you experience illness, how do family and friends help you?
05	Counting back change	Can you count back change? Have you ever done this working in a restaurant or in retail? Explain the process of counting back change.
06	Personal hygiene	Describe your everyday personal hygiene routine. Do you use particular products? Why is personal hygiene important to you?
07	Christmas traditions	Many people enjoy the Christmas holiday. What family traditions do you look forward to? Do you decorate a tree? Do you love certain foods at this time of year?
08	A day at the beach	Plan a day at the beach. Who would you bring with you? Would you swim, build sandcastles, or lie out? Explain what you would do throughout the day.
09	Learning a hobby	If you could learn a new hobby, what would it be, and why? If you already have a favorite, what is it? Why do you enjoy it over others?
10	Dining room	Does your home have a fancy formal dining room, or a small eat-in kitchen? Describe the layout of the space where you eat.
11	Downtown	Going downtown can be fun. What downtown places do you like? Do you have a favorite restaurant? Are there shops in a strip mall you go to regularly?

	TOPIC	QUESTION
12	The mall	When you go to the mall, what stores do you always visit? Which do you skip, and why? Do you enjoy shopping?
13	College schedule	Describe your college schedule. If you are not in college, what classes do you plan to take? Which classes do you like? Which do you detest?
14	Weddings	Marriage is a life event many people experience. Have you ever attended a wedding? Did you have a good time? Share your experience as a guest.
15	The library	Do you have a library card? Where is your local library? If you had access to a library, how often would you go?
16	A job interview	Prepare yourself for a job interview. What clothes would you wear? Would you prepare for questions you might be asked? Would you print your resume?
17	Dream vacation	Describe a dream vacation to another country. Which country, and why? Who would you take? What would you bring? Would you buy souvenirs for family and friends?
18	Travel in the U.S.	What states have you visited? If you planned a trip across the United States, where would you stop? Would you drive or fly between destinations? What tourist attractions would you want to see?
19	Chores	Chores are not fun. What are your weekly chores? Do you mind doing them? Use your non-dominant hand to list them. Do you get an allowance, or more privileges?
20	Computers	Design your own computer. What software would you use? What search engine do you prefer? Would you download photos and music to your new machine?

LEVEL 3 — ADVANCED

Explanation and opinion, including civics, science, and process description.

TOPIC	QUESTION
01 The ocean	The ocean is huge. Have you ever swum in the ocean? Did you see any aquatic animals? Did you go surfing, or relax on a boat? Share a time you experienced the ocean.
02 Science	Do you enjoy science? Which area are you interested in learning more about? Have you ever used the scientific method in an experiment for a science course?
03 Online orders	Waiting for packages is exciting. Do you order online often? Have you ever paid overnight delivery fees to get something sooner?
04 The zoo	You are planning a trip to the zoo. What animals do you plan to see? Will you do extra excursions, like hopping with kangaroos? Are there any animals at the zoo you are scared of?
05 Places you go often	Some businesses people visit often. What places do you or your family travel to regularly? For example, I go to Walmart weekly for groceries. Is there a chain restaurant that is your go-to?
06 Making a sandwich	Make a sandwich. What would the best sandwich you could make include? A pile of vegetables? Multiple meats and cheeses? Describe and show how to make the best sandwich.
07 Ordering at a restaurant	How long does it take you to order at a restaurant? Some people know what they want before they walk in — are you one of them? What are your favorite appetizers when you eat out?
08 State government	It is important to know about your state government. Who is the governor of your state? Do you know who your local mayor is? What does the capitol building serve as?
09 Standardized tests	Standardized tests are part of K–12 education. Which have you taken? Did you find them beneficial? Why or why not?
10 Your parents' careers	What careers did your parents choose? Having seen them work in those positions, is it something you would want to pursue yourself?

	TOPIC	QUESTION
11	Medical experiences	Have you ever been in a medical situation where you were given an IV? What happened? Have you donated blood? Have you been in hospital for surgery? Share your experience.
12	Cars and repairs	Are you knowledgeable about your vehicle, or completely clueless beyond where the steering wheel is? Have you ever had to take your car into the shop? What for?
13	Injuries	Have you ever broken a bone or sprained something? Were you given a cast? What situation ended in the injury?
14	Astronomy	Are you interested in learning about the galaxy? Do you know facts about the sun and moon? Astronomy answers questions like these. If you could take an astronomy course, would you?
15	Emotions	Do you do a good job of expressing your emotions? On a daily basis, do you find yourself experiencing many emotions, or a few consistent ones?
16	Economics	Do you enjoy learning about economics in the United States? Have you ever taken an economics course? Describe what inflation means. Is inflation positive or negative for the overall economy?
17	Seven Wonders	Imagine traveling to the Seven Wonders of the World. Which would you be most excited to explore? Have you already seen any of them? Who and what would you bring along?
18	St. Patrick's Day	I always get pinched on St. Patrick's Day – do you? Do you celebrate by eating corned beef, or by learning about Irish traditions and customs? Why do people celebrate this particular holiday?
19	Wedding vows	Write your own wedding vows. What would they say? Why would you include those feelings or emotions? Explain your reasoning.
20	Cultures	Cultures share many traditions and customs. Which cultures would you be interested in learning more about? Are you knowledgeable about a specific one, and why? What are some interesting facts about it?

LEVEL 4 – ADVANCED PLUS

Reflection and abstraction: goals, history, culture, and values.

TOPIC	QUESTION
01 Life goals	What are some things you want to achieve in your lifetime? Do you want to get married and have a family? Buy a car? What about short-term achievements – passing a class, learning to cook? Tell me what you want to pursue.
02 Easter	Do you enjoy Easter? What is your favorite part of it? Do you have a special dinner with your family? Is there a tradition you keep every year? Do you have a favorite Easter memory?
03 Frustrations	Tell me about things that frustrate you. We all get frustrated at times – we lose things, we run out of gas, spills happen when we are running late. What frustrates you?
04 Favorite foods	What are your favorite foods? Do you have a favorite meal? Is there something one of your parents cooks that no one else has heard of, unique to your family? Tell me about it.
05 Restaurants	What restaurants do you like to go to? Do you have a favorite? What is your favorite thing on the menu?
06 Nature	Are you a nature person? If so, what do you enjoy about it? If you are not a nature lover, what do you dislike about it?
07 Space	Have you ever wanted to go to space? Would you be scared? Did you want to be an astronaut when you were little? What do you think being in space would be like?
08 A perfect vacation	Tell me about your perfect vacation. It can be one you have already taken or a dream vacation – it is up to you.
09 Animals and veterinary work	Do you like animals? If so, have you ever thought about becoming a veterinarian? If you have, tell me about it. If not, tell me why you would not want to.

	TOPIC	QUESTION
10	World history	What do you know about tragic events in world history, such as the Holocaust or Pearl Harbor? Can you imagine living through something like that? How do you think it would change the way you see people? Many survivors are remarkably kind – does that surprise you?
11	Other cultures	What do you know about other cultures? Do they interest you at all? What would you like to learn about them?
12	Special occasions	What is your favorite special occasion? How do you like to celebrate it? With friends or with family? Do you go somewhere special, or celebrate at home? Tell me about it.
13	Dream profession	If you could do anything as a profession, and money for education were not an issue, what would it be? Why would you choose it? What would your dream job be?
14	Politics	What do you know about politics? Do you enjoy the subject? Do you stay up to date? Why or why not?
15	The military	Have you ever thought of joining the military? Why or why not? If you have, which branch would you join? If it does not interest you, do you have family in the military? Have they told you about their experience?
16	Life milestones	What big things have happened to you in your lifetime? Have you gotten your first car? Been in a wedding, or planned one? Been in a car accident, or broken a bone? What has happened to you?
17	Fourth of July	How do you like to spend the Fourth of July? A big party, or staying home with family? Do you hang out with friends? Do you watch fireworks? How do you spend the day?
18	Registering for classes	Tell me about registering for classes in high school or college. What is the process? How do you decide which classes you want?
19	Art	Are you artsy? Do you wish you were? Do you like to draw, paint, or sculpt? Do you like to doodle? What kind of art do you like to make?
20	Work	Do you have a job? If so, where do you work? If not, do you want one? Do you think it is important for a high school student to have an income? Why or why not?

LEVEL 5 – HIGHEST

Extended personal and professional discourse, including interpreting itself.

	TOPIC	QUESTION
01	Becoming an interpreter	Why do you want to become an interpreter? What field of interpreting interests you?
02	Healthcare professions	Have you ever thought about going into a healthcare profession? Which one? Do you have family who work in this field? What kind of medical equipment is used in it?
03	Childhood memories	What memories do you have of growing up? What are your very best ones? Do you have a favorite vacation or camping trip? What did you play with as a child? Tell me about these things.
04	Major U.S. cities	Have you ever been to a major U.S. city? Which one? Why were you there – was it a vacation? What sites did you visit? Tell me about your visit and what you did.
05	Food cravings	What food cravings do you have? What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten? When you get together with friends, what foods do you enjoy together?
06	Natural disasters	Have you ever been in a natural disaster, or do you know someone who has – a tornado, an earthquake, a blackout, a hurricane? Tell me about it. Would you want to be a storm chaser? What do you think those experiences would be like?
07	Teachers	What do you like about your teachers? What are the most important characteristics for a teacher to have?
08	Focus and distraction	Do you get distracted easily? What distracts you? When you do homework, do you need quiet or some background noise? How do you focus best?
09	Fears and challenges	People have different fears and challenges. What are yours? We all face different things in life – tell me about what challenges you.
10	Best friends	Do you have a best friend? Several? What makes them your best friend? What qualities do you value in them?

	TOPIC	QUESTION
11	The fair	Have you ever gone to the fair? What did you enjoy about it? What was your best memory of it – the cotton candy, the corn dogs, the rides? If you have never gone, did you want to? Why or why not?
12	Jealousy	What makes you jealous? Some people have great hair, others have a car you might want, others get really good grades. What are you jealous of?
13	Losing things	Have you ever lost something that meant a lot to you? Did you find it? Are there things you lose all the time? What are they? How could you keep better track of them?
14	Your neighborhood	Tell me about your neighborhood. Is it big or small? Do you live in an area with a lot of houses, or somewhere rural? Do you live close to a city where stores are easy to reach?
15	Comfort zone	What kinds of things are outside your comfort zone? What would you never imagine yourself doing?
16	Shopping	Do you like to shop? Do you go Black Friday shopping? Do you shop at the mall? Where is your favorite place to shop? What do you like to shop for most?
17	Snacks	Do you like to eat snacks? What is your favorite? Would you rather snack alone or with someone? Do you prefer salty, sweet, or a mixture of both?
18	What moves you	What makes you sad and want to cry? Do you cry at a sad movie? What about reading a book? Do happy moments bring tears too? What things are emotional for you?
19	Summer	What do you like to do in the summer? Do you like being on the water in a boat, or water skiing? Do you enjoy the beach? If you do not like summer, what do you do during those months?
20	Wishes	What are some things you wish you could do? Maybe you would like to have superpowers, or solve a Rubik's cube. Maybe it is something simple, like waking up on time every morning. What do you wish for?