

WH-Questions and Yes/No Questions in ASL

Understanding WH-Questions in ASL

WH-questions in ASL include who, what, when, where, why, and how. These questions are typically placed at the END of the sentence in ASL grammar. Non-manual markers are very important-eyebrows are usually furrowed and the head tilts slightly forward.

Examples:

- YOUR NAME WHAT? (*What is your name?*)
- SHE GO WHERE? (*Where is she going?*)
- YOUR TEACHER WHO? (*Who is your teacher?*)

Understanding Yes/No Questions in ASL

Yes/No questions in ASL require different non-manual markers-eyebrows are raised, eyes are widened slightly, and the head leans forward. The question is usually formed using the same sentence structure, but with these facial expressions.

Examples:

- YOU STUDENT YOU? (*Are you a student?*)
- SHE TEACHER SHE? (*Is she a teacher?*)
- YOU LIVE DETROIT YOU? (*Do you live in Detroit?*)

Activities to Reinforce WH and Yes/No Questions

- Partner Practice: Students take turns asking each other WH and Yes/No questions and responding in ASL.
- Question Dice: Create a dice with WH words (who, what, where, etc.). Students roll and ask a question using that word.
- Flashcard Match: Match a WH or Yes/No question with the appropriate response.

- Record and Reflect: Have students record themselves signing 5 WH and 5 Yes/No questions using proper facial expressions.
- Charades: One student acts out an answer, others ask questions to guess what it is using WH or Yes/No format.
- Sentence Fix: Give English sentences and have students correct them into proper ASL WH or Yes/No format.
- Brainstorm Board: On a whiteboard, list as many WH and Yes/No questions as possible related to a topic (e.g., school, food).