

Using Classroom Items to Teach ASL

Common Classroom Items (Vocabulary)

- Pencil / Pen
- Paper / Notebook
- Book
- Desk / Chair
- Backpack
- Whiteboard / Chalkboard
- Eraser
- Marker / Crayon
- Ruler
- Computer / Tablet
- Clock
- Door / Window
- Light / Fan / Projector
- Trash Can / Recycling Bin
- Folder / Binder
- Tissue Box
- Stapler / Tape / Scissors
- Calendar
- Flag
- Globe

Ways to Use These Items in ASL Lessons

Label the Room

Attach ASL gloss or fingerspelled labels to classroom items to reinforce vocabulary.

Interactive Scavenger Hunt

Call out or sign an item-students must find, point to, or sign it.

Show & Sign

Pass around items and have students sign their names and describe them (e.g., color, size).

Sentence Practice

Use items in simple ASL sentences, like 'I NEED PENCIL' or 'YOU HAVE PAPER?'.

Classifier Practice

Teach classifiers for various objects (e.g., CL:1 for pencil, CL:3 for backpack, CL:B for paper).

Question Practice

Use WH-questions or Yes/No questions involving the items (e.g., 'BOOK WHERE?', 'YOU HAVE SCISSORS?').

Storytelling

Use multiple items to tell simple ASL stories, like 'I SIT CHAIR. I WRITE WITH PEN.'

Memory Game

Show several items, cover them, and ask students to sign what they remember.

Role-Play

Practice classroom scenarios like borrowing supplies or asking to open a window.

Speed Signing Game

Place items around the room. Students race to sign or grab the correct one.