ASL deafined
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
Education...One Sign at a Time

ASL CLASSROOM REFERENCE

The 5 Types of Classifiers

American Sign Language

The five types

SCL TYPE 1

Semantic Classifiers

Represent whole categories of objects or people rather than one specific thing.

EXAMPLE **CL:3** for vehicles — a car, a truck, or a bus.

DCL TYPE 2

Descriptive Classifiers

Show the size, shape, or appearance of something.

EXAMPLE Showing how long and how wide a fish is.

ICL TYPE 3

Instrument Classifiers

Show how an object is handled or used — the hand takes the shape of the grip.

EXAMPLE Holding a cup and lifting it to drink.

BCL TYPE 4

Body Classifiers

Represent body parts or the movement of the body itself.

EXAMPLE Someone sitting down or walking across the room.

LCL TYPE 5

Locative Classifiers

Show where objects are located, and how they relate to each other in space.

EXAMPLE A book placed on a table, then a second book beside it.

Remember

Every classifier is doing these three jobs at the same time.

HANDSHAPE	MOVEMENT	LOCATION
=	=	=
the object	the action	the space