

100 ASL Dialogue Starters

20 prompts for each level — Beginner through Mastery/Fluency

Use these as jumping-off points for paired or small-group dialogue practice. Encourage students to answer in full ASL structure (not just single signs), then ask a natural follow-up question to keep the conversation going.

LEVEL 1 — BEGINNER

- 1 What's your name sign?
- 2 Where are you from?
- 3 How are you today?
- 4 Do you have any siblings?
- 5 What's your favorite color?
- 6 Do you like pizza?
- 7 What day is it today?
- 8 Is it cold outside?
- 9 What time do you wake up?
- 10 Do you have a pet?
- 11 What's your favorite animal?
- 12 Do you like coffee or tea?
- 13 What's your favorite season?
- 14 Do you have brothers or sisters?

15

Where do you live?

16

What's your favorite food?

17

Do you like to read books?

18

What's your favorite sport?

19

Do you like to watch movies?

20

What's your favorite subject in school?

LEVEL 2 — INTERMEDIATE

- 1 What did you do last weekend?
- 2 What are your plans for this weekend?
- 3 Have you ever traveled outside the country?
- 4 What's your dream job?
- 5 Do you prefer texting or calling?
- 6 What's the best restaurant you've been to?
- 7 How did you learn ASL?
- 8 What's a hobby you want to try?
- 9 Do you prefer mornings or nights?
- 10 What's your favorite holiday, and why?
- 11 Have you ever been lost somewhere?
- 12 What's something that scares you?
- 13 Do you prefer city life or country life?
- 14 What's a skill you're proud of?
- 15 How do you like to relax after a long day?
- 16 What's the last movie you watched?
- 17 Do you like surprises?
- 18 What's your favorite way to exercise?
- 19 Have you ever tried a new food and hated it?
- 20 What's something you're currently learning?

LEVEL 3 — ADVANCED

- 1 What's an important decision you had to make recently?
- 2 Do you think social media helps or hurts relationships?
- 3 What's a family tradition that's meaningful to you?
- 4 If you could change one law, what would it be?
- 5 What's a challenge you've overcome?
- 6 Do you think technology makes life easier or more complicated?
- 7 What's your opinion on remote work versus in-office work?
- 8 Describe a time you had a misunderstanding with someone.
- 9 What's something you believe that most people disagree with?
- 10 How do you handle stress?
- 11 What's a cause you care deeply about?
- 12 Do you think it's better to plan everything or be spontaneous?
- 13 What's a piece of advice that changed how you think?
- 14 How has your perspective on something changed over the years?
- 15 What's a difficult conversation you've had to have?
- 16 Do you think competition is healthy?
- 17 What's a risk you took that paid off?
- 18 How do you define success?
- 19 What's something you wish more people understood about Deaf culture?
- 20 Do you think travel is important for understanding other cultures?

LEVEL 4 — ADVANCED PLUS

- 1 If you could solve one global problem, what would it be and why?
- 2 How do you navigate disagreements with people you respect?
- 3 What responsibility do individuals have toward their communities?
- 4 How should society balance tradition with progress?
- 5 What does equity mean to you, versus equality?
- 6 How do you think AI will change the way we communicate?
- 7 What's a belief you held strongly that you later changed?
- 8 How do you approach giving feedback that might be hard to hear?
- 9 What role should empathy play in leadership?
- 10 How do you decide when to compromise versus stand firm?
- 11 What's the relationship between freedom and responsibility?
- 12 How do you think language shapes the way we think?
- 13 What does it mean to truly listen to someone?
- 14 How should communities support people with different needs?
- 15 What's a systemic issue you think doesn't get enough attention?
- 16 How do you balance ambition with contentment?
- 17 What's the value of struggle in personal growth?
- 18 How do you build trust with someone from a different background?
- 19 What does accessibility mean beyond physical spaces?
- 20 How do you think about legacy — what do you want to leave behind?

LEVEL 5 — MASTERY / FLUENCY

- 1 Is it more ethical to prioritize the needs of the many over the few?
- 2 How do power structures influence who gets to define "normal"?
- 3 What is the cost of assimilation for marginalized communities?
- 4 Can true objectivity exist, or is all knowledge shaped by perspective?
- 5 How do you interpret a message when tone matters more than words?
- 6 What ethical obligations do interpreters have beyond accuracy?
- 7 How does generational trauma shape cultural identity?
- 8 Is neutrality in conflict resolution actually possible?
- 9 What's the tension between individual rights and the collective good?
- 10 How do you navigate code-switching between registers of ASL?
- 11 What does linguistic oppression look like in practice?
- 12 How should institutions be held accountable for systemic bias?
- 13 Does technology bring people together, or drive them apart?
- 14 What's the philosophical difference between justice and fairness?
- 15 How do you facilitate dialogue between people who fundamentally disagree?
- 16 What role does silence play in communication?
- 17 How do you interpret emotionally charged content while staying composed?
- 18 Where's the ethical line between advocacy and objectivity in interpreting?
- 19 How does the concept of "Deaf gain" reframe narratives around disability?
- 20 What does true reciprocity look like between hearing and Deaf communities?