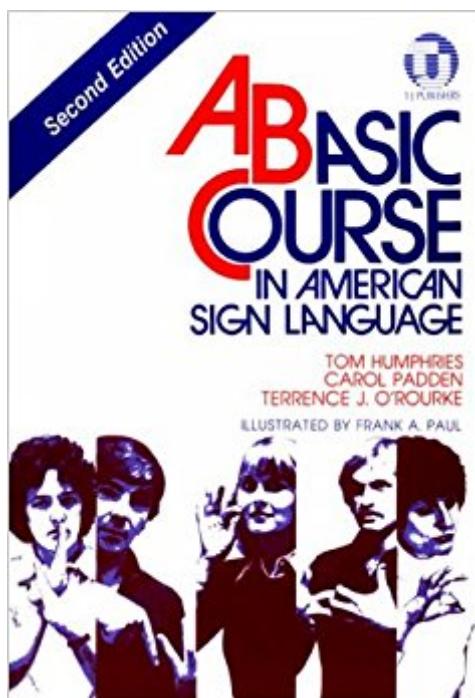


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# A Basic Course In American Sign Language



## **Synopsis**

There are obvious problems with writing a text for a visual gestural language. This text attempts to alleviate some of these problems by using illustrations and scripts for signed sequences. The text is composed of 22 lessons each of which contains two to four basic explanations of the language structures to be learned. As a resource for the student, a drill or exercises follows. Spaced at intervals throughout the text are several short dialogues which review the language structures discussed in the preceding lessons.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 8 and up

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## **Customer Reviews**

There are obvious problems with writing a text for a visual gestural language. This text attempts to alleviate some of these problems by using illustrations and scripts for signed sequences. The text is composed of 22 lessons each of which contains two to four basic explanations of the language structures to be learned. As a resource for the student, a drill or exercises follows. Spaced at intervals throughout the text are several short dialogues which review the language structures discussed in the preceding lessons.

I used this book in a college class, but it could be used by anyone wanting to learn ASL or someone just wanting to touch up their skills! I did not give it 5 stars because some of the signs in the vocabulary sections are hard to understand or are no longer accurate. At several times, I have been told I'm signing something wrong by my professor and that the book is wrong. But overall, it is a nice

book!

My dad's recently retired and has been learning sign language. All the people in his class highly recommended this book but he couldn't find it at Barnes and Noble, so I ordered it on .He really likes it and takes it with him to class each week. He said it's easy to understand and he was glad I ordered it.

This book acts as a dictionary and a grammar book. This book is old. Many deaf instructors will tell you that. However, it is a great buy. If you are going to start studying ASL this is a good book to have. Nice build up with grammar in each lesson. Look at the lesson's words first and then read the grammar exercises. I really like this book and I find it a lot better than some more used classroom books such as "signing naturally". Also, I have to say that as a starting out student in ASL, some books are not ASL and the beginning students will make some mistakes. This is a great ASL book. One draw back is that the pictures are a little hard to interpret sometimes. As such, this is a book you would want to look up signs that you forgot. And a book that you would want to have to supplement a classroom experience so that you could check to see if you have the signs correctly down.

I started taking an ASL class a year ago. I love the fact that the book is spiral bound. It lays flat while I am practicing and my daughter likes to fold it back on its self and hold it up like a clipboard when she quizzes me on vocabulary. The class I take is in the Deaf community taught by the Deaf. There are a few words they disagree with but always explain they are regional differences or old ways of saying things that some people still use so they are good to know even if you don't use them. I've been caring the book around for the past year and it has held up very well. The illustrations are clear easy to understand.

Great book for basics. A little hard to understand the signs but helpful with the internet as a guide. Recommended for a ASL introduction class so this book will be handy beyond the basics and into the intermediate classes.

This is not a great text book. It is OK as an adjunct to a class. You really can't learn sign language from a book, especially when all the diagrams are black and white sketches. ASL is by definition a language of movement. A DVD containing an illustration of the signs in video would be a

tremendous improvement, if they'd thought to include one. The book structure is also a little confusing; the examples are not terribly helpful, particularly in early chapters. Overall, it is OK, but probably overpriced.

Its old. Some of the signs are outdated. Still 95% applicable I would say.

This guide on ASL is designed as a course text book. It does a decent job of setting up opportunities to practice the signs, but it could use a little restructuring. A lot of the examples set up a sentence to sign before the vocabulary segments that define them. The definitions themselves could also be improved with a short textual description to help the more linguistic learners understand how the signs should be made. The current arrangement is designed for more visual learners than readers, which is practical given its design for course work with a live instructor. This volume does have an accompanying practice bookÂ Student Study Guide to a Basic Course in American Sign Language. It is available as a separate purchase, which may be a trifle problematic. The two books should be paired since they reinforce the learning of the signs through the additional sign practice and the study guide is only useful with the references in the core book. I invested in this text based on some of the other reviews posted about it and recommend reading them for more experienced viewpoints. Mine come from only preliminary, cursory uses of the book, but they are my first impressions. Take them as you will.

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