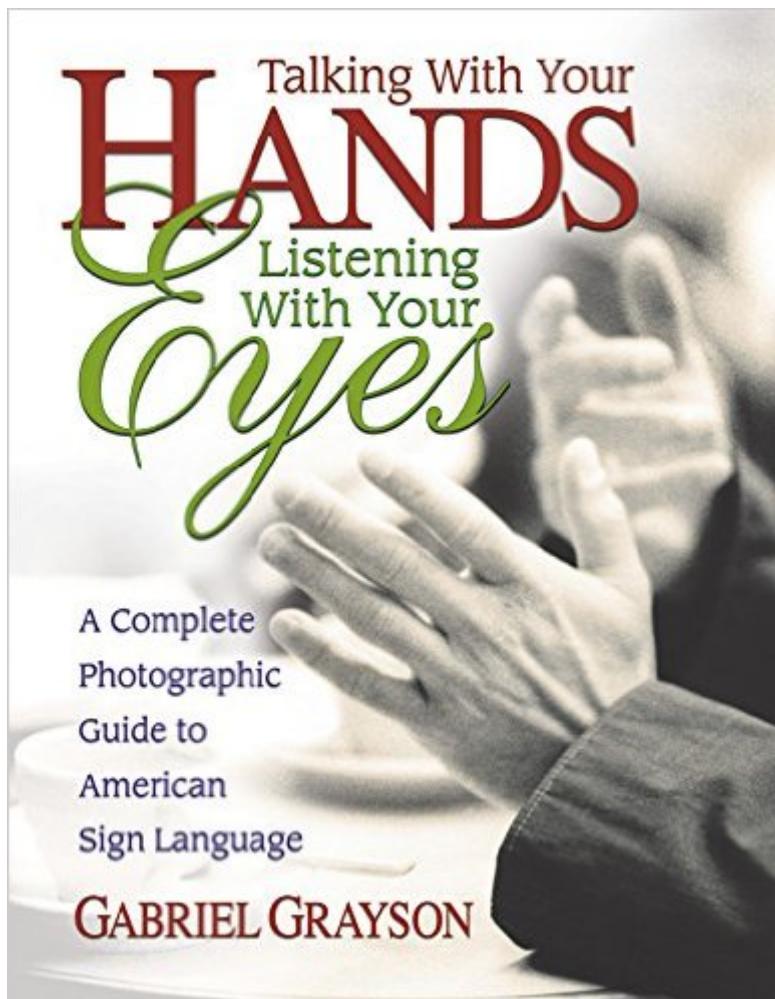


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# Talking With Your Hands, Listening With Your Eyes: A Complete Photographic Guide To American Sign Language



## Synopsis

After English and Spanish, it is the third most common language in North America. Over 22 million people use it to communicate. It has its own beauty, its own unmistakable form, and its own inherent culture. It is American Sign Language (ASL), the language of the deaf. Gabriel Grayson has put together a book that makes signing accessible, easy, and fun. Using almost 1,400 photographs, he has created a comprehensive primer to the techniques, words, and phrases of signing. Each word or phrase is accompanied by a photo or series of photos that show hand and body motions and facial expressions. Along with the images are step-by-step instructions for forming the sign, as well as a helpful "Visualize" tip that connects the sign with its meaning for easier recall. After examining the fascinating history and nature of both sign language and the deaf community, *Talking With Your Hands* explains signing basics, covering such topics as handshapes, fingerspelling, signing etiquette, and more. The remaining chapters provide over 1,700 words and phrases. Throughout the book, informative insets focus on fascinating aspects of deaf history, deaf culture, and significant deaf personalities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Looks like I get to be the first negative review for this book. I'm guessing the author has lots of colleagues/friends/family/students. I got this book so I could learn ASL to talk with a deaf friend. The good: It contains a fairly comprehensive set of signs. There were only a couple signs I tried to find and couldn't. The bad: For starters, while there are photos for the facial expressions, the other head and face movement components of the signs are not indicated. Nor is there any text to describe the

shown facial expressions, so one has to guess as to whether or not any facial expression is actually necessary and what its intention is. These are vital parts of ASL signs that are mostly left out of this book. When I started going through this I found that some of the signs conflict with 3 other ASL books I had been using. When I showed this book to my deaf friend she said the book was wrong. We both went through Chapter 2 together, counted, and 25% of the signs were signs that she said were wrong, and my other 3 ASL books, for the most part, agreed with my friend. I had at first attributed this discrepancy to regional variation, but the problem is too pronounced. Either regional variations in ASL are mutually unintelligible (in which case they wouldn't be regional variations of the same language) or this book is using the wrong signs a quarter of the time. It should also be noted that many of the signs in the book that we classified as correct are actually only just "close to correct". Many of them are simplified versions of the real ASL signs. Important hand (and head) movements are quite often omitted in both the photographs and the text. Even more disappointing is that this book contains absolutely nothing about ASL grammar.

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