

## 1. ASL to English Exhaustion Exercise

### RECEIVE

accumulate  
acquire  
attain  
earn  
come into possession  
collect on  
garner  
get / get hold of  
get one's hands on  
obtain  
reap  
retrieve  
secure

### ARRIVE

'bout time!  
enter  
gain  
get to  
made it  
reach  
show up / show

### RECENTLY

a bit ago  
a minute ago  
a second ago  
barely  
just / just now  
lately  
of late

### INFORM

acquaint  
advise  
alert  
announce  
apprise  
brief  
clue in  
enlighten  
familiarize  
give notice  
illuminate  
impart  
let know / let in on  
notify  
post  
tell  
by way of...

### IMPROVE

advance  
ameliorate  
better  
develop  
elevate  
enhance  
enrich  
find remedies  
further  
inflate  
make strides / better  
make enhancements  
move toward solution  
perfect  
rectify the situation  
refine  
reform  
upgrade

### WORSEN

decay  
decompensate  
decline  
deflate  
degenerate  
deteriorate  
diminish  
exacerbate  
get worse  
regress  
retrogress  
sink  
lose ground

### BORED

uh-UH  
Putting me out  
I'm not having it  
You've got to be kidding  
There is no way  
Don't put me through all that  
I'm over it

### WHOA (SILLY)

Man!  
Dude!  
Sheesh!  
Ay ay ay!  
Pshhht!  
Aaaggh!  
Whoa!  
Ee-errr!

**2. Just as sometimes English words have gestural equivalents in ASL, some ASL signs can be translated as vocal gestures. Of course, manual/vocal gestures are swappable.**

UMMMMM “fs-twitch” = Ummm, Ahhhh, I want to say it’s...  
Courtroom or deposition story: NOD-HEAD = mmhmm  
SHAKE-HEAD or SHRUG-SHOULDERS = mmMMmm (“I dunno”)  
RAISED-HAND “If I may...”

“Loved the dress at Macy’s, looked at price, Whoa!” Uh-uh-uhh (neg voice)

**GALLY NOSE TWITCH**

I’m with you / I feel you / Exactly / Tell me about it / Dude.

**3. Idioms do not necessarily indicate a drop in register.**

That’s all she wrote	See this thing through
Bit the dust	In no uncertain terms
Nailed it	Took own sweet time
...as all get out.	Were it not for...
Pitch a fit	Of one’s own accord
One foot out the door	

**4. Do not attempt to wield vocabulary you are not comfortable with... yet.**

This means above or below your register, and out of your dialect. I’ve seen interpreters crash and burn. It’s not pretty. Pick your proving grounds wisely.

One idea is to choose a word or words before your assignment, and try to assimilate them into your work. If it is a new word, you must have heard it used by a reliable informant, understand word’s grammatical function, connotation, and insert it into the appropriate context. This strategy is best used with words you already know and use, but cannot retrieve while voicing.

Good s-t-v is not about big words. Work that draws attention to the interpretation or worse yet to the interpreter at the expense of equivalency is not transparent, and **not good**. Non-signers should not say, “Did she really say that? What’s the sign for that?”

**5. Use natural language, tone, and phrasing. Sound like a real person.**

*Whose parents corrected their English? You need to thank them.* Finish your words. Differentiate the vowels. Speak naturally, varying the pitch and speed of your voice. Talk good English.

## Grammar Pitfalls

- mass vs. count nouns: fewer vs. less
- this data vs. these data
- repeated or emphatic words (mod-u-late your voice)
- double negatives okay
- Reported speech: conversations (labeling the speaker vs. commenting “she said that...”)
- good (adjective) “It was good.” vs. well (adverb) “It went well.”
- farther (distance) vs. further (more)
- I vs. me vs. myself (“myself” is used with “I”, not as a substitute for “me”)
- I (subject) vs. me (object) with compounds:
  - “Rachel and I are hungry.” vs. “The food is for Rachel and me.”
  - Take out the compounds and restate: “I am hungry.” vs. “The food is for me.”
- who (subject) vs. whom (object and always after a preposition)
  - “Who told the story?” vs. “Whom is the story about?”, with/for/by/to whom

\*\*Subject: What/whom the sentence is about. \*\*Object: Something/one involved in the predicate.

### **6. SELF is a be-verb.**