

ASL Glossing

American Sign Language I & 2

What is “glossing”?

- “Glossing” is a fancy word for written ASL.
- Of course, ASL does not really have a written form - this is just a way to **keep note** of how ASL is signed.

What is “glossing”?

- So, why don't we just call it “writing”?

The difference between "*writing in a language*" and "*glossing of a language*" has to do with the fact that the target language may not have equivalent words to represent the original language.

What is “glossing”?

- For example, in American Sign Language (ASL) we have a NMS known as "PAH!" Loosely translated, it means "At last! Finally! Success! Ta da! Voilà! Presto! etc.) This NMS requires a plosive sound to be made as if saying "pah!" (Which makes the gloss of PAH! a rather obvious choice.) ASL also uses special signs known as ASL classifiers that are somewhat difficult to write in English.

Why is glossing important?

- Glossing allows students to make notes in their own language regarding the second language to help them learn it.
- Glossing allows us to include various notations to account for the facial and body grammar that go with the signs.

What does ASL glossing look like?

poss eyebrows up

ME NAME fs-B-A-R-B-A-R-A

What does ASL glossing look like?

Shows that you are doing
something with your eyebrows



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Shows that something is fingerspelled

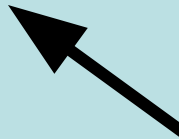
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ASL does not use "is" like English

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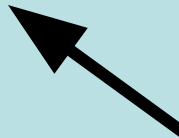
ME NAME fs-B-A-R-B-A-R-A



ASL is glossed in all capital letters



ASL does not use "is" like English



Shows that something is fingerspelled

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Shows that you are doing something with your eyebrows



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ME NAME fs-B-A-R-B-A-R-A

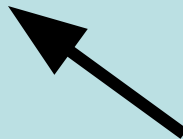
ASL is glossed in all capital letters



ASL does not use "is" like English



Shows that something is fingerspelled



There is no English punctuation



What does ASL glossing look like?

Each sentence is written
on a different line.

Shows that you are doing
something with your eyebrows

poss eyebrows up

ME NAME fs-B-A-R-B-A-R-A

ASL is
glossed in
all capital
letters

ASL does not use
“is” like English

Shows that something is
fingerspelled

There is no
English
punctuation

Common Glossing Symbols

- “++” = repeat the sign
 - “+” = combine 2 signs to make 1 English word
 - “!” = emphasize the sign or NMS
 - “CL:___” = use of a classifier
 - “fs” & “--”s = fingerspelled word (OR “-” = 2 words for 1 sign)
 - “#” = fingerspelled loan sign
 - “PRO-1” “PRO-2” = pronouns (he, she, etc.)
 - “POSS” = possession (his, hers, mine) – write it above the pronoun
 - “qm-wiggle” = sign the question mark wiggle
 - “wh___” = use the NMS wh? Face (or whatever other NMS is written on the above line)
 - “(____)” = sign instructions (usually paired with CLs, listing, and NMS)
 - Listing = write “list” small before the list, then number (1, 2, 3, etc.)
 - “+AM” = add the Agent Marker (ex: TEACH+AM)
 - “IX” = deixis/pointing/indexing a certain person/object/location (*this is optional in this class*)
- **ALL CAPS (except for instructions)**
 - **DOUBLE-SPACED**
 - **WRITE ASL SIGNS, NOT ENGLISH**
 - **T-T-C order, NOT English order**
 - **DON'T FORGET YOUR NMS!**

Your turn!

Write the following sentences on your paper in English and then gloss them in ASL:

1. I live in San Bernadino.
2. Where do you live?
3. Are you attending CSUSM?
4. What is your name?
5. What is your favorite thing to do?
6. I finally found my keys!

Answers:

1. ME LIVE fs-S-A-N (pause) B-E-R-N-A-D-I-N-O

2. YOU LIVE ^{wh}WHERE

3. fs-C-S-U-S-M YOU ^{wh}GO-TO

4. ^{poss}YOU NAME ^{wh}WHAT

5. DO++ ^{poss}YOU FAVORITE ^{wh}WHAT

6. ^{poss}ME-KEY ME FOUND ^{eyebrows up}PAH!

Glossing Practice

- Write the following ASL Gloss into English:
- YEAR-PAST POSS HOUSE ROOMS WHAT WH eyebrows up! PL
- NOW-YEAR COLOR eyebrows up!
- ME POSS BED+ROOM WHAT BLUE
- ME POSS SISTER BED+ROOM WHAT YELLOW
- ME POSS MOM-DAD POSS WHAT BED+ROOM WHAT BROWN
- BATH+ROOM WHAT YELLOW
- fsA-L-L COLOR ME LOVE eyebrows up!

Answers:

- In English:
- Last year, the rooms in my house were white.
- This year, they are many colors.
- My bedroom is blue.
- My sister's bedroom is yellow.
- My parents' bedroom is brown.
- The bathroom is yellow.
- I love all of the colors!

Glossing Practice (ASL 2 only)

- Gloss the following short story into ASL:

This morning was a normal morning. I woke up, got dressed, and went to school. However, when I got to school, I noticed that the parking lot looked empty. No one was there! I thought about it. It's Tuesday, not the weekend. I'm on time, not early. I thought to myself, "What's going on?!" Then, my phone buzzed – I had a text message. It was my friend asking me if I am coming to the parade today. Parade? What parade? So, I texted back, "What parade? Why are you not at school?" It took her a minute to reply, but when she finally did, all it said was "VETERAN'S DAY. DUH." Of course. It's a holiday! That means no school! Duh.

GLOSS ANSWER

~~eyebrows up~~
TODAY-MORNING SAME-OLD++

~~eyebrows up~~
ME ~~eyebrows up~~ GET-DRESSED SCHOOL GO-TO

~~eyebrows down~~ SCHOOL ME ARRIVE NOTICE whAT

PARKING-LOT ~~eyebrows up~~ PEOPLE NONE

eyebrows down-IT

TODAY TUESDAY ~~eyebrows down~~ WEEKEND++

ME ON-TIME ~~eyebrows down~~

(Ponder, look up) THINK-ABOUT-IT

WAPPEN++

THEN HAPPEN whAT

TELEPHONE “BUZZ” (CL: 5 open/close like flashing light)

MESSAGE (CL: closed 5, Non-Dominant hand, act like looking at text on phone)

MESSAGE FROM FRIEND SAY whAT

GLOSS ANSWER

(role play) “PARADE TODAY COME YOU qm-wiggle”

eyebrows down

PARADE WHAT

MESSAGE BACK (mime texting back with both hands)

(role play – switch to other role)

“PARADE WHAT

SCHOOL YOU HERE NOT WHY”

RESPOND SHE POSTPONE (role play – waiting for response)

RESPONSE UP PAH! HAPPEN WHAT

MESSAGE SAY QUOTE “V-E-T-E-R-A-N-S D-A-Y D-U-H”

(look annoyed) OF COURSE TODAY HOLIDAY

MEANS WHAT

SCHOOL NONE

D-U-H (or role play with eye-roll or sign DUMB ME / PEABRAIN ME etc.)