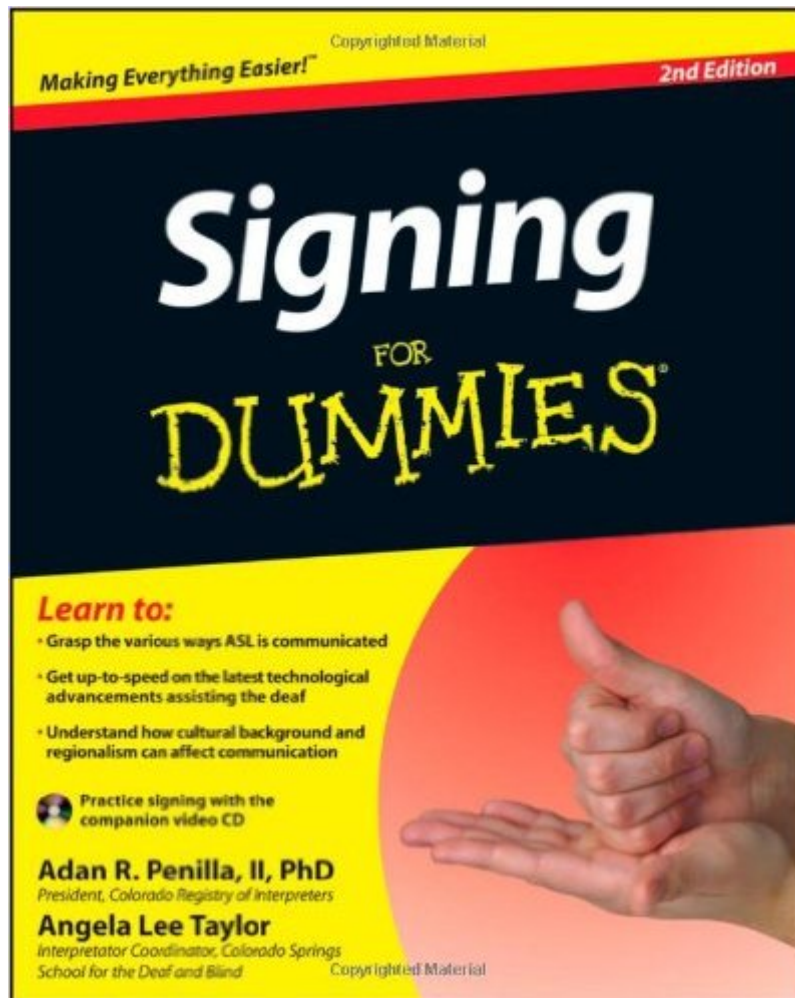


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# Signing For Dummies, With Video CD



## Synopsis

The fast and easy way to grasp this evolving and growing language American Sign Language (ASL) is something we've all seen deaf people use in restaurants, hospitals, airports, and at work. The communication is fascinating to watch; to see people sharing ideas by using handshapes and body language is remarkable in a world so defined by sound. This new edition of *Signing For Dummies* gives you a general understanding of the properties of Sign, as well as an understanding of deaf culture. Designed to act as an introduction or a refresher, the book focuses solely on ASL, which is the most commonly used sign language in the United States. Categorized by subject, this illustrated guide covers grammar and sentence structure, along with the tools to get you going in basic conversation by knowing how to introduce and greet people; ask questions and make small talk; order food and chat with salespeople; handle medical emergencies; talk on the phone; get around town for fun or business; and much more. Plus, it stresses how ASL isn't just about using your fingers, hands, and arms, but also about facial expression and body language. More than 25 percent new and revised content, including the latest technological advances for the deaf; contact signing, code mixing, code switching, interpreting as a profession, and regionalism in signing. Packed with "Fun & Games" sections that invite you to practice specific signs. Hundreds of illustrations throughout, plus a video CD featuring demonstrations by ASL signers showing actual conversations. *Signing For Dummies* is the fast and fun way to get you moving your hands, body, and face to convey meaning that reaches beyond linguistic barriers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For my college degree, I took American Sign Language as my foreign language requirement. I first took a semester of Signed English (SigLish), then 4 semesters of ASL. I've never been strong with learning other spoken languages - I was a late talker as a child - but ASL was completely natural for me. As a child, I had memorized the manual alphabet that was printed on a small business card. When I took the class, I soon learned that while I had memorized the alphabet, I was doing it wrong. Just like using a foreign language dictionary would not be the best way to learn to speak Russian, likewise no book can truly teach you ASL. You absolutely have to have instruction with a real person who knows the language so you can see their facial expressions, body language and the full flow of the words and how they segue from one to the next. No book can prepare you for that. When I took ASL in college, we did have text books - but we were taught the signs by our instructor - then we could look back at the illustrations and know exactly what was meant by them. It is a sad fact that only 10% of the parents of deaf children ever learn ASL and cannot communicate with their own children without an interpreter beyond basic pointing at things or people. Personally, I had a knack for ASL - picked it up very quickly and got proficient to the point our instructor said that if she ever called in sick, she wanted me to teach the class. Not everyone is that adept in it. I thought it was very easy and talked a friend into taking it - she barely passed and tried with all her might to memorize the signs to no avail. She and I were both art majors - and I wrongfully assumed that anyone with a strong visual bent would be a natural at it - I was wrong.

There is a real need in work places for communication tools like "Signing for Dummies" and the bonus video CD included with the book. I know and communicate with 6 employees at my work place that are deaf. Periodically, our employer pays a hefty bill for a contract interpreter to help us communicate, especially during training sessions. Some of the deaf employees are skilled lip readers and have strong reading skills in general. Others are not as proficient. Over time, I have learned that even our most skilled lip readers only pick up about 50 percent of what is being said. Like the deaf employees, some of our hearing employees are skilled signers, others novices, while most of us communicate with our deaf coworkers through gestures or pen and paper. Through experience, I have learned and it is reinforced by this product that those who sign use both a different sentence structure and signing short cuts. Because we all have assignments to accomplish, there is little time to learn and practice signing in the work place. Accordingly, communications can be frustrating for all concerned. I believe that Signing for Dummies will help me and hearing employees' in work places like mine. The book has five parts, an Index and a Table of Context in addition to the accompanying CD. Interestingly, this product points out that many of the hand

gestures used in American Sign Language are identical to those most hearing people already use while communicating with their hearing co-workers, friends and family.

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