



Language Foundations: Asking Questions in ASL

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QUESTIONS ASKED IN ASL

- **Information derived from my work in the field as a Deaf Interpreter**



Who are the Consumers?

1. **Children**
 2. **Youth**
 3. **Teenagers**
 4. **Adults**
 5. **Senior Citizens**
 6. **Grassroots**
 7. **Non-immigrants**
 8. **Immigrants**
- Deaf**
- deaf**
- Hard-of-Hearing**
- Deaf-Blind**



Background of Deaf Consumers

- 1. Some ASL acquisition**
- 2. Some social experience**
- 3. Some language exposure (home and school)**
- 4. Use home signs and some ASL signs**
- 5. Cognitive-challenged**
- 6. Physically-challenged**



Need to be familiar with:

- 1. Signing styles (age, local, regional, national and international)**
- 2. Discourse styles**
- 3. Context/topical knowledge**



Let Us Focus on Questions

WH and YES-NO QUESTIONS

How to recognize hearing people's question format and how to change to deaf consumer's question format



What is ...

- **Clarifying**
- **Expanding**
- **Framing and reframing**



When to Clarify?

Topic is:

- **Vague**
- **Abstract**
- **Complicated**
- **Too general**

Note: Need to double check



When to Expand?

- **Use classification of terms (e.g., fruit, transportation)**
- **Give examples**
- **Give different meanings of the word**



When to Frame and Reframe?

- **When the consumer is going off the point**



Can Apply These Tools in Interpreting

- **Break down the question**
- **Ask Hearing Consumer for more information or examples**
- **Bringing Deaf Consumer back to the point**
- **Double check for right information**



A Sample Topic: Medical

How questions are being asked in a medical setting


In the following dialogue samples, abbreviations will be used:

HC = Hearing Consumer

HI = Hearing Interpreter

DI = Deaf Interpreter

DC = Deaf Consumer



Medical Questions for Sore Knee (Clarifying)

HC: Describe pain in your knee

HI: KNEE PAIN EXPLAIN

DI: KNEE THROB (1X or 2X)?

DC: YES

DI: WHAT? THROB (1X OR 2X)?

DC: NO, THROB (3x)

DI: THROB (3X)? (*Double check*)

DC: YES



Medical Questions for Diabetics (Expanding)

HC: Do you have any health problems?

HI: ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS HAVE?

DI: ASTHMA? HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE? DIABETES? SEIZURES?

DC: YES, DIABETES



Medical Questions about Birth Control (Framing and Reframing)

HC: Have you taken any birth control pills?

HI: BIRTH CONTROL PILL BEFORE?

DI: PILL BC BEFORE?

DC: PREGNANT DO-NOT-WANT

DI: (wave hands “no”) PILL CL:F TAKE?

DC: YES



Concluding (Work in Progress!)

- **The use of questioning can be applied to different settings, except in legal setting.**
- **Suggest research of this topic related to Deaf Interpreters**