AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) 1B PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

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How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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1. When a sign has multiple possible meanings, what should a signer rely on to disambiguate?

A. Context and nonmanual cues, along with choosing a precise sign.

B. Rely solely on the most common sign regardless of context.

C. Wait for a second signer to clarify.

D. Use fingerspelling to convey meaning.

2. What is the purpose of time markers in ASL narratives?

A. They replace nouns in sentences.

B. They are optional in most narratives.

C. They should be signed only at the end of the narrative.

D. They help indicate when actions occur and should be maintained across the narrative.

3. What is an effective approach to acquiring new ASL 1B terms in context?

A. Memorize isolated signs without context.

B. Watch video clips without any practice.

C. Learn terms through meaningful contexts and practice with examples in sentences.

D. Study only by reading glosses.

4. What is the general approach to showing plural referents in ASL without adding a separate plural suffix?

A. Use spatial distribution and repetition to indicate multiple referents.

B. Add a plural suffix to the verb.

C. Spell each item in sequence.

D. Sign each referent separately without space.

5. In Deaf culture, what does the term hearie typically refer to?

A. A hearing friend

B. A hearing aid device

C. Hearing impairment

D. A hearing class

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6. Which statement best describes Deaf representation in careers?

A. Deaf people are represented in most major career paths such as doctors, teachers, chefs, and entrepreneurs.

B. Deaf people are not represented in any major career path.

C. Deaf people are limited to service industries.

D. Deaf people cannot become doctors.

7. Which statement about eye gaze in ASL conversations is most accurate?

A. Eye gaze is optional and rarely affects meaning.

B. Eye gaze should always be kept on the floor.

C. Eye gaze directs attention, indicates who you're addressing, and conveys engagement.

D. Eye gaze should be avoided when using an interpreter.

8. Which sequence best describes forming a sentence in ASL using a time-topic-comment structure?

A. Time indicator at the start, then topic (ASL), followed by comment.

B. Time indicator at the end, then topic, then comment.

C. Topic first, then time indicator, then comment.

D. Comment first, then time and topic.

9. Which practice supports Deaf culture etiquette regarding speaking turns?

A. Take turns, maintain eye contact, avoid interrupting, and be mindful of interpreter usage.

B. Wait for others to finish before you start speaking.

C. Speak loudly to ensure you are heard.

D. Use only sign language without any turn-taking.

10. Which statement about Deaf audiences' reaction to NTD is true?

A. They felt productions were too heavily geared toward hearing audiences.

B. They loved that it was not geared toward hearing audiences.

C. They were uninterested.

D. They criticized for being too Deaf-centric.

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Answers

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1. A
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. A

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Explanations

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1. When a sign has multiple possible meanings, what should a signer rely on to disambiguate?

A. Context and nonmanual cues, along with choosing a precise sign.

B. Rely solely on the most common sign regardless of context.

C. Wait for a second signer to clarify.

D. Use fingerspelling to convey meaning.

Disambiguating signs relies on a combination of clues you can only get from how you use the sign in a real moment. Context tells your listener what topic or situation you're in, so the same movement can mean different things in different sentences. Nonmanual cues—your facial expressions, eyebrow position, head tilt, and mouth shapes—carry grammatical and tonal information that helps distinguish meanings that look similar on the hands. And you choose the precise sign that matches the intended meaning, which often means picking between visually similar signs based on where you sign, how your hands move, and the overall message. Relying only on the most common sign ignores context and body language, which can lead to misinterpretation. Waiting for someone else to clarify isn't usually practical in real-time conversation, and fingerspelling is typically reserved for names or terms that aren't signed, not for disambiguating everyday meanings.

2. What is the purpose of time markers in ASL narratives?

A. They replace nouns in sentences.

B. They are optional in most narratives.

C. They should be signed only at the end of the narrative.

D. They help indicate when actions occur and should be maintained across the narrative.

Time markers in ASL narratives establish and maintain the timeline of events, so the audience knows when things happen and how they relate to each other. You set a time frame at the start (like yesterday or today) and place subsequent actions along that timeline in the signing space, which helps readers follow the sequence smoothly. The important part is keeping that same time reference consistent across the whole narrative so actions don't drift into different times without signaling. These markers aren't optional, and they don't replace nouns; they work with the signs to show when events occur. For example, you might establish "yesterday" and then sign a series of actions in order, using the same time frame throughout to keep the story coherent.

3. What is an effective approach to acquiring new ASL 1B terms in context?

A. Memorize isolated signs without context.

B. Watch video clips without any practice.

C. Learn terms through meaningful contexts and practice with examples in sentences.

D. Study only by reading glosses.

Contextual, active usage is the most effective way to acquire new ASL terms. When you learn terms within meaningful contexts and practice with examples in sentences, you see how the sign fits with grammar, facial expressions, and the flow of real communication. This approach helps you remember the sign more reliably because you're tying form to function and you get to practice producing it in authentic sequences. You also learn how a term is used in different situations and with different topics, which builds flexibility and fluency. In contrast, memorizing isolated signs doesn't show how they're used in conversation, watching video clips without practice provides only passive exposure, and studying glosses misses the visual-spatial nature of ASL and the nonmanual signals that convey meaning. So using terms in context and practicing with sentences gives you the strongest foundation for lifelong recall and ability to sign naturally.

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4. What is the general approach to showing plural referents in ASL without adding a separate plural suffix?

A. Use spatial distribution and repetition to indicate multiple referents.

B. Add a plural suffix to the verb.

C. Spell each item in sequence.

D. Sign each referent separately without space.

In ASL, plurality is shown through how you use space and movement, not by adding a plural marker to a verb. You place the referent in different spots within the signing space and often repeat the sign in those locations to indicate more than one item. This spatial distribution communicates that there are multiple referents without a separate plural suffix. For example, when talking about several apples, you sign "apple" in one location, then move and sign again in another location, and you can repeat as needed. This approach takes advantage of space and repetition to depict quantity, which is more natural than spelling each item, signing each referent separately without using space, or attempting to add a plural suffix to the verb.

5. In Deaf culture, what does the term hearie typically refer to?

A. A hearing friend

B. A hearing aid device

C. Hearing impairment

D. A hearing class

In Deaf culture, hearie typically refers to a person who is hearing, usually a friend or someone who interacts with Deaf people. It's a casual label used to identify someone who isn't Deaf, acknowledging the contrast between Deaf and hearing communities in everyday communication. It isn't about a device, a condition, or a class, so the other options don't fit. The term can be used warmly or neutrally, depending on tone and context, but its common meaning is simply a hearing friend.

6. Which statement best describes Deaf representation in careers?

A. Deaf people are represented in most major career paths such as doctors, teachers, chefs, and entrepreneurs.

B. Deaf people are not represented in any major career path.

C. Deaf people are limited to service industries.

D. Deaf people cannot become doctors.

The key idea here is that Deaf people contribute across a wide range of careers, not limited to a single field. Deaf professionals can and do thrive in many major paths—medicine, education, entrepreneurship, cooking, and more—so describing Deaf representation as spanning most major career paths reflects reality. With the right supports—education, interpreters, captioning, assistive technology, and inclusive workplaces— Deaf individuals pursue and succeed in diverse roles, just like hearing peers. The other statements imply tight or impossible limits that don't fit real-world experience; Deaf people aren't confined to service jobs, and there are Deaf doctors and many other professionals who build successful careers.

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7. Which statement about eye gaze in ASL conversations is most accurate?

A. Eye gaze is optional and rarely affects meaning.

B. Eye gaze should always be kept on the floor.

C. Eye gaze directs attention, indicates who you're addressing, and conveys engagement.

D. Eye gaze should be avoided when using an interpreter.

Eye gaze in ASL conversations guides how the message is understood by directing attention, showing who you are addressing, and signaling your engagement. When you look toward a referent while signing about it, you help viewers know what you're talking about. When you want to address someone directly, your gaze toward that person signals the addressee and keeps the conversation coordinated. Sustained and purposeful eye contact also communicates that you're involved and actively listening. This is why the statement that eye gaze directs attention, indicates who you're addressing, and conveys engagement is the most accurate description. It's not optional and it does affect meaning; looking at the floor breaks the flow of joint attention and can confuse who or what is being discussed. Even with an interpreter, you still use eye gaze to establish who you're addressing and to show engagement, adjusting as needed for the interaction.

8. Which sequence best describes forming a sentence in ASL using a time-topic-comment structure?

A. Time indicator at the start, then topic (ASL), followed by comment.

B. Time indicator at the end, then topic, then comment.

C. Topic first, then time indicator, then comment.

D. Comment first, then time and topic.

In ASL, time-topic-comment is the natural flow: you first set when something happens with a time sign, then introduce what you're talking about (the topic), and finally say what you're saying about that topic (the comment). Placing the time indicator at the start anchors the sentence in time, so the listener immediately understands when the action takes place. Then presenting the topic brings the main subject into focus, and the comment delivers the predicate or description about that subject. This order keeps the temporal context clear and the topic forward, which matches typical signing rhythm and meaning-making. For example: yesterday, homework, I finish it. The time sets when, the topic identifies what you're talking about, and the comment states the action about that topic. Other sequences disrupt that natural flow: putting the time at the end makes the time reference less immediate, and starting with the topic or the comment shifts emphasis or makes the intended time marker harder to place.

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9. Which practice supports Deaf culture etiquette regarding speaking turns?

A. Take turns, maintain eye contact, avoid interrupting, and be mindful of interpreter usage.

B. Wait for others to finish before you start speaking.

C. Speak loudly to ensure you are heard.

D. Use only sign language without any turn-taking.

Turn-taking is essential in Deaf communication, ensuring conversations stay clear and respectful. Waiting for others to finish before you begin speaking directly supports orderly speaking turns, prevents talking over someone, and allows messages to be conveyed smoothly—especially when interpreters are present or sign conversations require careful timing. While eye contact and being mindful of interpreters are important aspects of respectful interaction, the specific action that best supports proper speaking turns is pausing until others are done. Speaking loudly isn't appropriate in Deaf contexts, since communication relies on visual signs rather than vocal volume. Using only sign language without any turn-taking ignores the need for everyone to have a chance to contribute and to signal when a turn is over.

10. Which statement about Deaf audiences' reaction to NTD is true?

A. They felt productions were too heavily geared toward hearing audiences.

B. They loved that it was not geared toward hearing audiences.

C. They were uninterested.

D. They criticized for being too Deaf-centric.

Deaf audiences judge a production by how accessible and inclusive it feels for them. When a show relies mostly on spoken dialogue with little or no ASL interpretation, captions, or Deaf-centered visual storytelling, it suggests the production is catering to hearing audiences first. That sense of prioritizing hearing viewers is what many Deaf attendees react to, often with frustration that the experience isn't designed with their access needs in mind. So the statement that Deaf audiences felt productions were too heavily geared toward hearing audiences best captures that reaction. It reflects a preference for adaptations and interpretation that center Deaf viewers, rather than a belief that the show is not interesting or that it's overly Deaf-centric.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

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We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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