

# Introduction

**W**hile learning American Sign Language, you will notice a lot of terminology and acronyms that you don't recognize. It is very important to have a glossary of Deaf Studies terms handy because these terms will come up a lot—especially in conversations with Deaf people.

This is a rather long list of the most important ASL and Deaf Studies terminology and acronyms that you need to be aware of.

You don't need to memorize them all because you can use this pocket-sized book to look up unfamiliar terms you may come across at any time.

The most common terms are preceded by an asterisk (\*). Those are the ones you should focus on memorizing.



## A

**AAAD:** American Athletic Association of the Deaf

**AAD:** Australian Association of the Deaf

**\*ADA:** *see* Americans with Disabilities Act

**ADARA:** American Deaf Advocacy and Rehabilitation Association

**ADVBA:** American Deaf Volleyball Association

**\*AGB:** *see* Alexander Graham Bell

**AGBAD:** Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf

**ALDA:** Association of Late Deafened Adults

**\*Alexander Graham Bell (AGB):** In general, Alexander Graham Bell is held in low esteem by the Deaf community. He supported the prohibition of the use of sign language in favor of oralism.

**\*American Manual Alphabet:** The American Manual Alphabet is the twenty-six handshapes that represent the letters of the American alphabet.

**\*American Sign Language (ASL):** American Sign Language is the natural language of around 500,000 deaf people in the U.S. and Canada.

**\*American Sign Language Teachers Association**

**(ASLTA):** The American Sign Language Teachers Association is a national organization dedicated to the expansion and improvement of the teaching of ASL and Deaf Studies.

**\*Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The Americans with Disabilities Act adds more legal protections to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 for deaf and other disabled people in the areas of employment, public accommodations (i.e. restaurants), public services (i.e. city buses), and telecommunications. The ADA requires that reasonable access be provided for individuals who are disabled or are considered to have a disability. It also protects deaf and other disabled people from being discriminated against on the basis of their disability. The ADA was an important milestone in Deaf history and has had a very beneficial impact on the lives of Deaf people.

**\*Ameslan:** *see* American Sign Language

**ASDC:** American Society of Deaf Children

**ASHA:** American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

**\*ASL:** *see* American Sign Language

**\*ASLTA:** *see* American Sign Language Teachers Association

**\*Assistive technology:** Assistive technology is anything that assists deaf people with everyday life. For example, there are lights that deaf people can hook up to their

doorbell, telephone, or alarm clock to know when they go off. TTYs and Video Phones are also used so deaf people can use the telephone. Closed Captioning on movies and television is another assistive technology that is used by deaf people.

**\*Audism:** In Deaf Culture, calling someone an audist is like calling someone a racist. Audism is a negative or oppressive attitude toward deaf people and a failure to accommodate them. It is an attitude that people who hear and speak, or people who have good English skills are superior. For example, not using sign language in the presence of a sign language dependent person is considered audism.

**Auslan:** Australian Sign Language

## B

**\*Bi/Bi:** *see* Bilingual/Bicultural

**\*Bilingual/Bicultural (Bi/Bi):** Bilingual/Bicultural is an educational philosophy of embracing two languages and cultures. This approach gives deaf children the ability to learn in their natural language. ASL is used in the classroom and taught to the children first. Then, English is taught as the second language.

**\*British Sign Language (BSL):** British Sign Language is the sign language used in Britain and other areas of the world. One of the differences between BSL and ASL is

that BSL uses a two-handed manual alphabet.

**BRS:** Bell Relay Service

\***BSL:** *see* British Sign Language

## C

**CAD:** Canadian Association of the Deaf

\***CASE:** *see* Conceptually Accurate Signed English

\***CC:** *see* Closed Captioning

**CCSD:** Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf

**CDSA:** Canadian Deaf Sports Association

**Certificate of Interpretation (CI):** Interpreters who are holders of this certificate are recognized as fully certified in interpretation and have demonstrated the ability to interpret between ASL and spoken English for both sign-to-voice and voice-to-sign tasks ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Certificate of Interpretation and Transliteration (CI/CT):** Interpreters who hold both full certificates have demonstrated competence in both interpretation and transliteration ([www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)).

**Certificate of Transliteration (CT):** Interpreters who are holders of this certificate are recognized as fully certified in transliteration and have demonstrated the ability to transliterate between English-based sign language and