

TE_xES American Sign Language (ASL) (184) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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.

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!

Questions

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- 1. What is the purpose of eye leveling in ASL communication?**
 - A. Signing at a child's eye level to align with English**
 - B. Rotating eye contact between print and fingerspelling**
 - C. Moving the head to follow signs**
 - D. Signing with the hands at chest level**

- 2. Which term describes a sign with no obvious basis?**
 - A. Iconic**
 - B. Arbitrary**
 - C. Indexical**
 - D. Morphology**

- 3. Which category of ASL pronouns shows ownership and can refer to both the owner and what is owned?**
 - A. Possessive**
 - B. Reflexive**
 - C. Demonstrative**
 - D. Honorific**

- 4. Which aspect of Depicting Verbs conveys the shape or extent of a surface or the arrangement of entities using two hands of the same handshape?**
 - A. Signify shape and extent of a surface, or linear arrangement of entities**
 - B. BE-AT**
 - C. Head conducting**
 - D. Indicating Verbs**

- 5. Which item is listed as an ASL pragmatics activity involving rhythm and beat?**
 - A. Percussion signing**
 - B. Storytelling**
 - C. Deaf humor**
 - D. Poetry**

- 6. Which term refers to the study of sentence structure or word order in ASL?**
- A. Syntax**
 - B. Phonology**
 - C. Semantics**
 - D. Pragmatics**
- 7. Which items are determiners in the material?**
- A. a or the**
 - B. the**
 - C. from**
 - D. and**
- 8. Metacognition is defined as what?**
- A. What you know about what you know, and what and how you think about what you know and think**
 - B. The study of language structure**
 - C. The speed of signing**
 - D. The ability to imitate signs**
- 9. What is defined as 'a' or 'the'?**
- A. Determiners**
 - B. Auxiliary Verbs**
 - C. Prepositions**
 - D. Conjunctions**
- 10. In the mnemonic, what does handshape A stand for?**
- A. Busy**
 - B. Punish**
 - C. Work**
 - D. Communist**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the purpose of eye leveling in ASL communication?

- A. Signing at a child's eye level to align with English**
- B. Rotating eye contact between print and fingerspelling**
- C. Moving the head to follow signs**
- D. Signing with the hands at chest level**

Eye leveling means keeping signs and facial cues within the listener's visual field, at or near their eye level. This makes it easiest for the receiver to see hand shapes, movements, and facial expressions that carry meaning in ASL, which supports understanding and smooth interaction. Signing at a child's eye level is a practical way to ensure visibility for young learners or listeners, helping them connect what they see with what they're learning, which is why this option is chosen. The other choices describe different behaviors that don't directly address making signs easy to see and read.

2. Which term describes a sign with no obvious basis?

- A. Iconic**
- B. Arbitrary**
- C. Indexical**
- D. Morphology**

Arbitrary signs are those whose form has no obvious visual link to what they mean. In ASL, some signs clearly resemble their meaning (iconic), while others are conventionalized without any natural resemblance, so learners must memorize them as customary symbols. The term that describes a sign with no obvious basis is arbitrary because it emphasizes the lack of a recognizable or iconic connection between sign form and meaning. Morphology refers to the internal structure and how signs combine, and indexical signs involve pointing or indicating referents, which still relies on a visible relation to something in context.

3. Which category of ASL pronouns shows ownership and can refer to both the owner and what is owned?

- A. Possessive**
- B. Reflexive**
- C. Demonstrative**
- D. Honorific**

Ownership is shown with possessive pronouns in ASL. These signs indicate that something belongs to someone, and they can refer to either the owner or the item owned depending on context. For example, signing my before a noun marks who owns the item, while using a standalone form like mine can refer to the owned object when the owner is clear from context. This ability to point to both sides of the relationship—the person who owns and the thing that is owned—is what makes this category the one that conveys ownership. Other pronouns don't carry that same dual role: reflexive figures reference back to the subject performing an action, demonstratives indicate which referent is near or far, and honorifics convey respect rather than ownership.

4. Which aspect of Depicting Verbs conveys the shape or extent of a surface or the arrangement of entities using two hands of the same handshape?

A. Signify shape and extent of a surface, or linear arrangement of entities

B. BE-AT

C. Head conducting

D. Indicating Verbs

Depicting Verbs in ASL use the hands and space to create a mental picture of what is being described. When you want to convey the shape or extent of a surface or how items are arranged in space, you show it with two hands that share the same handshape, tracing or outlining the surface or line. This broadens communication beyond just naming something by allowing the signer to visually depict its layout, size, and arrangement for the listener. So, describing the shape and extent of a surface, or a linear arrangement of entities, with two hands of the same handshape, directly captures how depictive verbs convey these spatial attributes, which is why that option is the best fit. The other options don't fit this specific use. BE-AT signals location or position rather than a physical shape or arrangement. Head conducting isn't a standard way depictive verbs convey space. Indicating Verbs focus on pointing to referents and showing location, not on sketching the shape or arrangement of surfaces with two hands.

5. Which item is listed as an ASL pragmatics activity involving rhythm and beat?

A. Percussion signing

B. Storytelling

C. Deaf humor

D. Poetry

In ASL pragmatics, how something is delivered—the timing, pacing, and emphasis of signs—matters for how meaning comes across in conversation or performance. Percussion signing directly uses rhythm and beat by pairing signing with body percussion or tapping to create a steady tempo. This helps with pacing, emphasis, and audience engagement, making the communicative moment clearer and more expressive. Storytelling focuses on narrative structure, which is important but not centered on rhythm and beat. Deaf humor centers on social interaction and shared cultural humor. Poetry involves expressive language and cadence, but percussion signing is the clearest example of an activity that explicitly intertwines rhythm, beat, and signing to support pragmatics.

6. Which term refers to the study of sentence structure or word order in ASL?

- A. Syntax**
- B. Phonology**
- C. Semantics**
- D. Pragmatics**

Syntax is the study of sentence structure or word order in ASL. It governs how signs are arranged to convey relationships like who did what to whom, when, and under what conditions, and it includes how topic-comment patterns and nonmanual signals contribute to grammatical sentences. Phonology focuses on the physical form of signs (handshape, movement, location, orientation), semantics on meaning, and pragmatics on language use in context, so syntax is the term that specifically refers to sentence structure and order.

7. Which items are determiners in the material?

- A. a or the**
- B. the**
- C. from**
- D. and**

In English, determiners are words that come before a noun to mark reference or quantity. The words that function as determiners here are the articles. "A" and "the" both modify a noun to indicate indefiniteness or definiteness, as in "a book" (one any book) versus "the book" (a specific book known to both speaker and listener). The other options aren't determiners: "from" is a preposition showing origin or direction, and "and" is a conjunction used to join items. So, the items that are determiners are "a" and "the."

8. Metacognition is defined as what?

- A. What you know about what you know, and what and how you think about what you know and think**
- B. The study of language structure**
- C. The speed of signing**
- D. The ability to imitate signs**

Metacognition is thinking about your own thinking: being aware of what you know, and how you think about that knowledge and how you use it. It involves planning how to approach a task, monitoring your understanding as you work, and evaluating what you've learned after you're done. In ASL learning or practice, this means you notice when a sign or grammar concept makes sense, recognize when you need to slow down, re-check your signs, or choose a different strategy, and then adjust your approach accordingly. It's about self-awareness and regulation of your thinking processes. The other options point to things that aren't metacognition: studying the structure of language is linguistics, not about thinking about thinking; the speed of signing is a performance metric; and the ability to imitate signs is a skill, not a reflective awareness about one's own thinking.

9. What is defined as 'a' or 'the'?

- A. Determiners**
- B. Auxiliary Verbs**
- C. Prepositions**
- D. Conjunctions**

These words are determiners. Determiners are the words that come before a noun to show reference, amount, or definiteness. The articles 'a' and 'the' are a classic pair of determiners: 'a' is an indefinite article used when the noun is non-specific (as in "a cat"), while 'the' is a definite article used when referring to a specific noun that both speaker and listener know (as in "the cat"). This function—modifying a noun to indicate whether the reference is definite or indefinite—defines their role in the sentence. Auxiliary verbs, prepositions, and conjunctions serve different functions. Auxiliary verbs help mark tense, aspect, or mood (for example, 'is' or 'have'), prepositions show relationships between a noun and other words (like 'in', 'on', 'at'), and conjunctions link words or clauses (such as 'and', 'but').

10. In the mnemonic, what does handshape A stand for?

- A. Busy**
- B. Punish**
- C. Work**
- D. Communist**

In this mnemonic system, each handshape is tied to a simple concept to help you recall the sign. Handshape with the A form is paired with Punish. The idea is that the A handshape—a often-used, closed-fist cue—serves as a memory anchor for actions tied to punishment, so you can quickly recall the sign when you think of that shape. The other options don't align with this specific pairing in the mnemonic, since they would be linked to different handshape cues within the same teaching framework.

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:

<https://texasasl184.examzify.com>

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

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