

**Fourth International Olympiad in Theoretical, Mathematical and Applied  
Linguistics**

*Tartu (Estonia), 1–6 August 2006*

**Team Contest Problem**

Given are video recordings of utterances in ASL<sup>1</sup> (American Sign Language) and translations of these utterances into English:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1) John shoots Frank.            | 12) John gives Mary a book.               |
| 2) John loves Mary.              | 13) John will not buy a house.            |
| 3) John will finish seeing Mary. | 14) Bill there hits Bob.                  |
| 4) John gives the girl boxes.    | 15) Those girls give John boxes.          |
| 5) Who likes John?               | 16) What, what does John like?            |
| 6) John knows who Mary loves.    | 17) “Who told Bill yesterday?”<br>“Mary”  |
| 7) Who does John love?           | 18) Who did John lipread yesterday?       |
| 8) I saw John yesterday, him.    | 19) A student has the videotape.          |
| 9) John will buy a car, he.      | 20) John carelessly writes his homework.  |
| 10) John buys a house.           | 21) John gives a woman over there a book. |
| 11) John does not buy a house.   |   |

Assignment 1: Translate into English the utterances contained in video recordings 30\_task1.mov–37\_task8.mov. Explain your solution.

Assignment 2: Describe how the meaning of ‘carelessly’ is expressed in phrase 20.

Assignment 3: Compile as complete a description of the grammar and vocabulary of ASL as possible.

Note:

ASL (contrary to popular belief) is not a gestural form of English, but a completely separate language. To solve the problem, knowledge of English more than is necessary to understand the sentences given in the condition is not required.

ASL users often perform gestures not quite distinctly, which is natural in rapid speech. Many gestures have variants: some can be performed with one hand or two, while their meaning does not change.

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***We wish you success!***

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<sup>1</sup>ASL (American Sign Language) is a sign language used by people with hearing and speech impairment in the USA, some regions of Canada and Mexico as well as some other countries. According to different estimates, from 500 thousand to several million people use ASL.