

Action Plan – ASL Grammar Nonmanuals

Goal - Skill to improve:

Interpret using effective eyebrow movements and head movements to signal question types and sentence types

Examples:

- eyebrows up for yes/no questions
- eyebrows down for wh questions
- eyebrows up for conditionals and rhetorical questions
- head moves back and forth for negation

Source: English

Target: ASL

Related terms:

markers, signals

Root cause - What is causing the error in your work?

- Did you have problems understanding exactly what the hearing person said in English? (comprehension)
- Was the source information unfamiliar to you? (background knowledge)
- Did you have a clear mental picture of what the hearing person meant? (visualization)
- Did you know how to sign what the hearing person meant, using effective ASL grammar and nonmanuals? (reformulation)
- Did you think you used correct nonmanuals, but you mistakenly did not? (monitoring)

Knowledge Resources:

1) Watch this ASL explanation about nonmanuals for wh questions and yes/no questions:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7XZGO_0kXM.

2) Read this resource: <http://www.ohioschoolforthe deaf.org/MRIDModules.aspx> (click on the "Grammar" link).

3) Read this resource from your center library: Chapter 6 in "American Sign Language - A Teacher's Resource Text on Grammar and Culture" (The Green Book) by Charlotte Baker-Shenk and Dennis Cokely. This chapter covers ASL sentence types.

Activities:

1) Film yourself consecutively interpreting "What We Think We Know" at http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/jonathan_drori_on_what_we_think_we_know.html (or another text from www.ted.com). Analyze the ASL grammar nonmanuals in the interpretation. Watch the video without sound. Did you make effective or ineffective choices? Why did this happen? Reinterpret the same text simultaneously and check for errors again.

2) Film yourself simultaneously interpreting the "Job Interview" interactive scenario on the NIC Interview and Performance Practice DVD. Analyze the ASL grammar nonmanuals in the interpretation. Watch the video without sound. Did you make effective or ineffective choices? Why did this happen? Reinterpret the same text simultaneously and check for errors again.