

# FAQ's

## **What is sign language?**

Sign language is the naturally acquired language that deaf people use to communicate. Sign language was born naturally from the human being's need for communication, such as any other oral language. However, sign language uses a visual-gestural modality whereas oral language uses the oral-auditory canal.

## **What is a sign language interpreter?**

A sign language interpreter (SLI) is a professional who intermediates between people who do not communicate in the same language. In this communication, at least one person uses sign language. The SLI must know the languages they use to practice their profession. Also, they must know the culture of origin and the target culture in order to transmit the message with accuracy.

## **What is a deaf person? Why do not we refer to them as deaf and dumb?**

A deaf person is a person who cannot hear for some reason. Deaf people have vocal folds, and they can speak. That is why we do not refer to them as deaf-mutes. They are people who decide whether they want to use their voice or not. There are deaf signers (using sign language to communicate) and oralists (speaking and reading lips). Deaf people decide which modality they prefer to communicate.

## **Why is sign language not universal?**

Sign language is not a code created *ad hoc* like Esperanto, for example. It is a language that arises naturally; therefore, it is different in each region. For that reason, it is not linked to the oral language spoken in each territory. American Sign Language (ASL) and British Sign Language (BSL) share the same oral language in their territories, but they are completely unintelligible between them since they have different origins. There are international signs (IS), created by signs borrowed from different sign languages. It is a system halfway between mime and signs, and it is constantly changing because of the large number of people from different parts of the world who use it.

## **How many sign languages are there in the world?**

There are more than 300 sign languages in the world.

## **What are the sign languages that exist in Spain?**

In Spain, we can find Spanish sign language (LSE) and Catalan sign language (LSC). In addition, there are small variations among regions, caused by the distance between them, like the different accents of oral languages (Andalusian, Galician, Catalan, etc. in spoken Spanish, or Gironian, Leridan, Balearic, etc. that we find in spoken Catalan).

## How do you interact with a deaf person?

# How to communicate with a DEAF PERSON?



Don't cover your mouth or turn your back on them.



If they don't understand you, write simple sentences and if possible use drawings and synonyms.

Ways to get their attention:

- Tap the shoulder
- Turn on the light
- Use gestures



Always face the person to speak, use some gestures and signals.



Never talk in the dark.



Don't shout, don't speak quickly or slowly. Speak normally and articulate well.



Never speak at the same time.



Respect the speaking turns.



 [interprets@acils.cat](mailto:interprets@acils.cat)   [acilsinfo](#)  [acils2016](#)

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