

Placements and locations

In BSL 'placement' is part of the language structure and it is very important to make good use of this. If you feel you are 'piling' items or events one on top of another then you need to separate these to give it a sense of individual identity.

This is used for places, people, and items in the signing space. Firstly sign the object and then place it (you may have to change the sign). Once you have placed all the object within the location then you can simply refer back to it by pointing without having to sign the object again.

It is important to remember where you 'put' the objects!

Reference point:

When something has been established in space it can be referred back to by pointing with the index finger.

It is also possible to refer back to something by looking back to it with the eyes e.g. when describing a situation sorting out the bill with a waiter in a restaurant. (use of 'Role Shift' here)

Practice these sentences putting the objects in separate locations within your signing space.

Monday to Friday morning I work at the Secondary School in North Leeds and then Friday afternoon I work at the Primary unit in South Leeds.

On Tuesday I went to a Chinese restaurant with 2 friends. I had Sweet and Sour: my friends had Chicken Curry. Altogether it cost £20.50. I forgot my purse so my friend had to pay. The service was poor. We left a small tip for the waitress who served us.

The hotel was 3 star. It had its own pool and a fitness centre. The restaurant was small but there were other places to eat nearby.

Placements and locations

Location and Description of Objects

1. The keys are on the table
2. The new bag is under the chair
3. That expensive car is next to the house
4. The DVD recorder is under the T.V.
5. The thick book is under the coffee table
6. Where is the old television now?
7. Is this a cheap bag?
8. Which is the heavy book?
9. It's not a thick book.
10. Why is the small soft bag over the chair?
11. It's not a heavy bag.
12. Is this a hard chair? No, it is quite soft.
13. The table is big but the chairs are small and light.
14. The old keys are in the new bag over the expensive chair next to the cheap DVD recorder.
15. Is this a new textphone? It is very small and light!

Placements and locations

PLACEMENT

1. Open the door, on the right is the T.V., on the left is the table. The book is on the T.V.
2. I left home at 10 o'clock, went to the shops, then to the bank, back to the shops and then came home.
3. You want a cup of tea, she wants coffee, he doesn't want anything. Does she want sugar?
4. I told her to give him the book. When she gave him the book he said "thank you".
5. When I looked out of the window I saw a yellow car on the left and a blue one on the right. Later in the afternoon the yellow one was gone but the blue one was still there.
6. The phone rang when I went upstairs so I came down to answer it. It was a wrong number so I went upstairs again.

Task:

Describe this classroom starting from the doorway looking into the room and working from your left, placing items and/or people around the room, and finally place items in the middle of the room.

Describe a room at home.