

## **Keep with your own signing!**

Always be on your guard and stay with your own signing that you have learnt.

See it this way – as a hearing person, if you meet someone with a different accent or dialect you would not adopt their accent for the sake of it would you? Unless you lived in the area for sometime then you might adopt the dialect over time. Should you adopt the accent right away then they would probably think you were teasing them!

If you meet any young hearing people who use their own words and expressions would you adopt them when speaking? No, you wouldn't!

You do need to be aware and knowledgeable about sign variants but always use your own. If you are not familiar with a sign variant then always ask. In the same way a deaf person who does not understand your sign would ask you for clarification.

## **Do not ever change your signs to match theirs!**

Your aim is to work with BSL therefore be firm and confident that the signs you are using are linguistically and grammatically correct.

Just as we cannot hear a word and think, 'I like that word I will change my word to theirs'. This does not work. So it is the same with the use of alternative signs, keep your own signs!