

# Language Structure and Vocabulary Building (from Handbook and Qual. Spec.)

Handbook – useful information and examples of vocabulary suggestions.

Refer to the qualification specification for a variety of examples shown within.

## **Expressions:**

By using expressions you can give extra meanings to the sign. Note that you would still mouth the key word only and use facial expressions to show intended meanings, never ever mouth the adjectives/adverbs as this would be too much 'English'. Sometimes the key word may be dropped all together where the greatest emphasis is required.

It is useful to watch deaf BSL users and see when and how they may or may not mouth key words. Use the watch and copy tactics (without them seeing you doing it off course!).

Variations of expressions:-

Must Really must Absolutely must	Would Definitely would Certainly will
Should Really should	Will not / wont Certainly wont
Refuse Absolutely refuse	Object to Totally object to
Expensive Quite expensive Very expensive	

You would need to know how to use facial expressions and body language well as these can often replace the use of the hands, or use in conjunction with the hands to give additional meanings. Variations in emphasis and speed also provide additional meanings to the sign(s).

Try these:

1. I was driving along when another car overtook me. I could see the car in the rear-view mirror and noted that it was gradually gaining speed as it approached behind me until it eventually overtook me.
2. I was driving along when suddenly a motorbike shot pass me as it overtook. I had not noticed it earlier. It was quite a shock to me.

Make use of speed and expressions within these sentences.

**Formal / informal signing:** - You need to show differences in the two.

Formal signing tends to be more retained meaning the signs are purposely paced out for clarity and usually somewhat smaller as if it is kept within the signing space. The signs are more accurately formed and carefully paced out too.

Informal signing is almost opposite to formal signing. The signing space is larger and more 'wild'. Sometimes the sign forms are not accurate and the speed is greater.

Situational examples of Formal signing would be used in presentation, meetings, lecturing, matters of a sensitive nature, professional question/answer session, etc.

Situational examples of informal signing would be used in conversations, discussions, debates, discussions not of a sensitive nature, question / answer sessions, etc.

Note that in some situations both formal and informal signing may be used alternatively, or may start formally and then become informal e.g. meetings where formal signing would be used to introduce the meeting and giving the minutes of previous meetings etc. Then where discussions commence this can become informal, especially if there are debates of various issues.

## **Use of emotions / thoughts to express your opinions or responses:**

**Feeling:** - these may be useful when expressing your opinions

Feel / view

Opinions: (wonder / concept)

Idea / invent / brainwave / aware / understand / realise

Upset / moan / complain / annoyed

Angry / furious / infuriating

Sorry / apology / mistake / forgive

## **Expressing opinions (linking responses):**

Interestingly ....

To sum up ...

In my opinion ...

Overall ...

In conclusion ...

I believe that....,

I think...

I have discovered that....

## **Signing conversations in BSL**

Some useful notes with regards to signing conversations within BSL:

Try to be like a deaf person and utilise deaf culture within conversations

Conversations can be either formal or informal or a mix of both

It may be just general conversation, discussions, debate, or a mix of these

Always take turns but be forward when you need to make your statement or question, don't wait for your turn

Be interactive using interactive clues rather than merely listening and head nodding. Use signs to show that you understand and respond to others. There are plenty of ways to do this.