

## Fingerspelling Practice Puzzles

### The Importance of the ASL Alphabet

The ASL alphabet is the starting point for sign language communication, especially for a new learner. As one accumulates and assimilates signed concepts, his or her personal "library" of signs grows - in other words, signers begin to develop a set of signs with which they become familiar. But as a part of that process, there are words/concepts that are unfamiliar. Spelling these to a knowledgeable signer, whether hearing or hearing impaired, is a way to communicate as well as request help with learning the sign for the spelled word.

Additionally, some signs incorporate alphabet signs. While this occurs most often in Signed English where some words are initialized (see <http://www.lesstutor.com/eesASLIntro.html>) it does occur in straight ASL as well. For instance, the signer may find a description in an ASL dictionary in which the hand shape is explained as an alphabet letter. Expertise in signing the alphabet is a boon to the signer and in some instances, can even be critical.

This package includes:

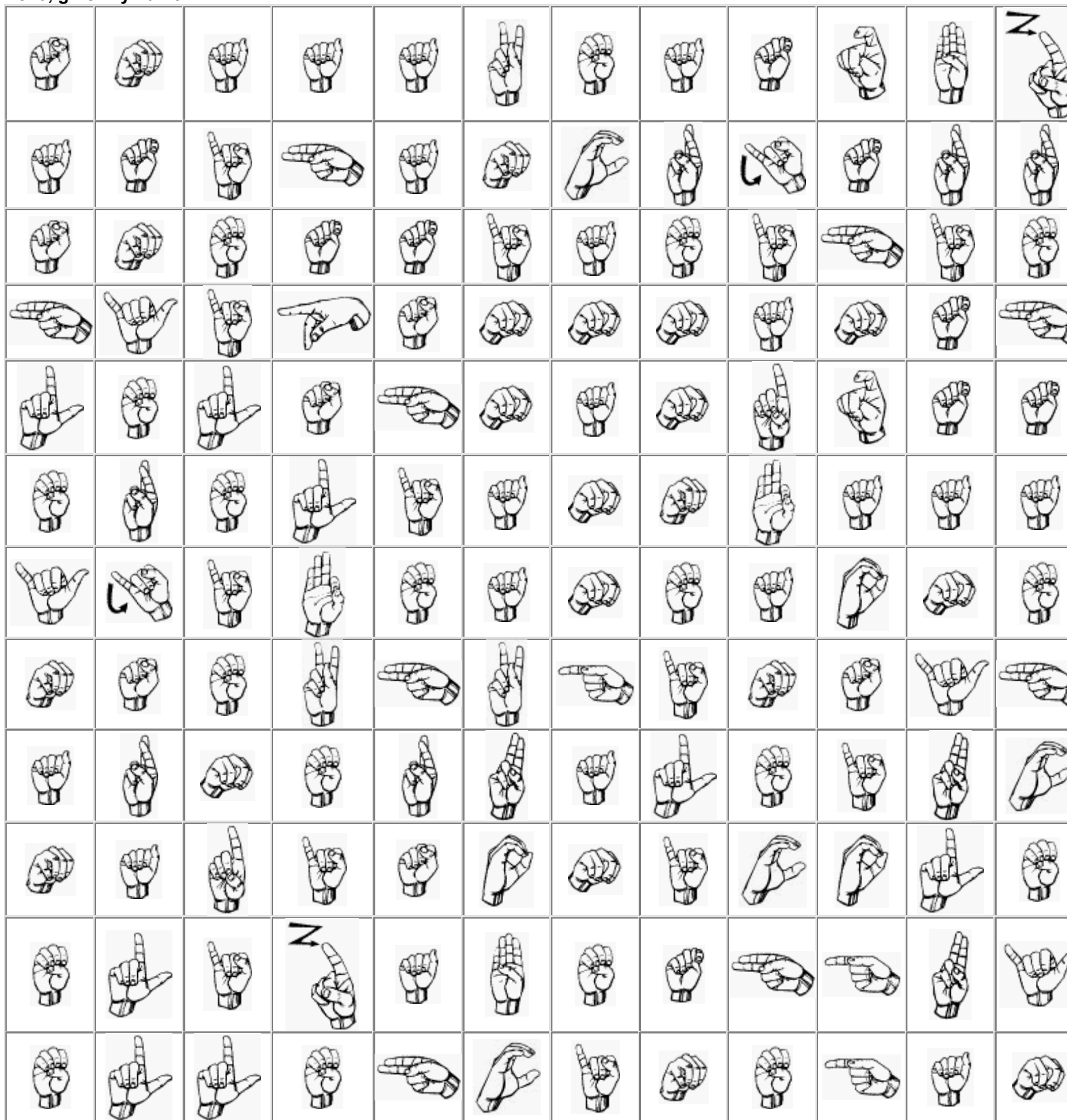
- an activity worksheet for spelling your own name using the ASL alphabet,
- 4 wordsearch puzzles,
- 2 math mazes to introduce numbers 1 - 10,
- 2 math puzzles, and
- 1 connect-the-dots picture.

#### About the Authors

**Elaine Ernst Schneider** entered the classroom as a special education teacher in the 1970's. Since then, she has taught mainstream English Grammar, Literature, music K-12, deaf education, psychology, Algebra, creative writing, social studies, psychology, law, and science in both public and private schools. Today, she writes curriculum for several companies, as well as freelance articles on education and is the co-founder and Managing Editor for the educational website [www.lesstutor.com](http://www.lesstutor.com).

**Joanne Mikola** is the co-founder and Managing Editor for the educational website [www.lesstutor.com](http://www.lesstutor.com). Joanne's life-long passions include creative problem solving, puzzles and mysteries. These were constantly fueled with her past career choices of Operating Room nursing and post-graduate teaching, and are currently maintained by motherhood.

Hello, girls. My name ...



Hello, girls. My name ...

Amanda  
Amy  
Ashley  
Brittany  
Elizabeth

Emily  
Erin  
Hannah  
Heather

Jennifer  
Jessica  
Katie  
Kelly

Lauren  
Lisa  
Madison  
Megan

Michelle  
Nicole  
Samantha  
Stephanie

# What a Wonderful Way to Count

Start at Number 1 on the outside of our square and make your way to the center . You can repeat or increase any number but you can't count backwards. You can travel up, down, across or diagonally.

