

RSVP for ASL Teachers!

Fingerspelling is a fundamental part of ASL. ASL students often have difficulty learning to read fingerspelled words in context. If they cannot understand fingerspelling, ASL students cannot fully comprehend ASL.

Fingerspelled Word Recognition through Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP) is a complete instructional package that ASL teachers can use with advancing ASL students. *RSVP* includes 3 parts:

A CD that builds up a cognitive processing strategy students need; being able to process a word very quickly.

The book provides access to 20 years of fingerspelling research.

The DVD provides a way for students to study fingerspelling word-by-word, and then finally to recognize the words in context.

By design, *RSVP* allows students to study on their own time, especially the CD component that provides practice in RSVP. This leaves class time free for work on other aspects of ASL. There is plenty of flexibility with *RSVP*. Aspects of the book and DVD can also be used for class discussion and analysis.

FAQs for ASL Teachers

1. Can I use *RSVP* in ASL classes?

Yes!

Fingerspelled Word Recognition through Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP) can be successfully used in a variety of ASL classes. You can even spread out *RSVP* lessons over several courses.

2. How can I use *RSVP* with ASL I students?

Students in ASL I will benefit from using the CD, which provides intensive practice in rapidly processing serial information. The RSVP process (understanding a word one letter at a time) underlies the process of fingerspelled word comprehension and provides a strong foundation for new ASL students. There are 43 lessons on the CD for ASL I students to complete during an entire semester.

3. Why does the CD have letters from the Roman alphabet instead of fingerspelled handshapes?

RSVP is designed to help people who are already fluent in English make the important transition to comprehending a sequentially presented language, ASL. Research shows that many hearing people have great anxiety about seeing fingerspelled words, but they do not experience anxiety about seeing printed letters. *RSVP* trains second language learners to process sequentially presented information without anxiety.

4. How can I use *RSVP* in ASL II?

Have your students read the book during this course and continue to review the CD and practice *RSVP*. Reading the 11 chapters in the book will give students greater insight into the nature of fingerspelled words and the importance of appropriate, developmental practice.

5. Can *RSVP* be used in ASL III and IV?

Yes.

Ideally your students have practiced all lessons on the CD and read the book before entering ASL III. If this is the case then ASL III students can study the word lists on the DVD to begin building their templates for fingerspelled words. On the DVD there are a total of 361 fingerspelled words from eight ASL monologues. Later in ASL III or in ASL IV students can learn to recognize the fingerspelled words in context.

6. I teach ASL III and IV and my students were not exposed to *RSVP* training in earlier ASL classes. Can I use *RSVP* in ASL III and IV?

Yes.

The entire *RSVP* can be used as a text for students in ASL IV. Students should begin with the *RSVP* CD and the book. Then they should go on to viewing and studying the word lists on the DVD, followed by studying the eight ASL monologues, which contain the fingerspelled words from the word lists. *RSVP* is designed for individual practice and students can work through these materials for homework. In class, discussions can center on the information in the book and student experiences building fingerspelled word recognition skills.