

# *LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE*

## **Irish Sign Language (ISL)**

8 WEEK INTRODUCTORY COURSE

**Why not learn Irish Sign Language (ISL), Ireland's 3rd official language. This course is designed to enable the you to acquire an ability to communicate using Irish Sign Language (ISL) and also to learn about the deaf community and deaf culture.**

After this 8 week course you will be able to:

- have a two-way conversation;
- understand a question and answer type conversation;
- understand a short story/passage;
- recognise variations in the way that deaf people communicate;
- understand aspects of the deaf community and deaf culture.

We will cover topics such as meeting and greeting deaf people; fingerspelling to spell names; discussing your background and family; counting numbers and learning the calendar; discussing weather; time; classroom objects; describing people, clothes and appearance.

These fun classes are taught by a deaf person who will use Irish Sign Language throughout and you will learn and pick up ISL in a natural environment and learn about communicating in ISL from the very start of your first lesson.

**Course Outline**  
**Irish Sign Language (ISL)**  
**Basic Level**

• **Aims:** This course is designed to enable the students to acquire an ability to communicate Irish Sign Language (ISL) and also information on the Deaf community and Deaf culture.

• **Objectives**

1. Be able to have a two-way conversation with someone and share information.
2. Be able to comprehend and understand a question and answer type conversation.
3. Be able to understand a short story/passage.
4. To recognise variations in the way, Deaf People communicate

**Course Content:**

**Meeting Deaf People:**

extending and deepening your cultural awareness of varieties of greetings in ISL, Focus on a variety of greetings of saying hello, start a conversation, interruptions, passing through people in the hallway, getting someone's attention, waving, tapping the shoulder or knee etc, Use the light switch for getting people's attention and others etc

**Fingerspelling:** fluency use of finger spelling for names or person/people, titles of book, TV and other things

**Finger signs:** Develop fluency using finger signs for months, names of places etc....

**Family:** brother, sister, father, mother, son, daughter, baby, Uncle, Aunt, cousins, Husband, Wife and grandfather, grandmother, single, friend, partner, married, separated and divorced.

**Numbers:** counting of people or item etc, Euro/foreign notes and coins, etc.

**Calendar/Weather:** Including days, weeks, months, years, past, present, future etc and type of weather, climate and conditions etc

**Time:** half, quarter, from, to, seconds, minutes, hours, what time? How Long? etc, Morning, afternoon, evening, night etc.

**Objects:** Blackboard/Whiteboard, Table, Chairs, Doors, Windows, Press, Drawer, books, etc.

**Description of People:** face, body, tall, small, strong, weak etc

**Clothes:** type of clothes for men, women boys and girls etc.

- **Grammatical Content**

**Non Manual Features (NMF):**

Emotional expression and grammatical expression, the importance of combination of use of the face and head with the hands to articulate signs, Non-Manual features include eye, brows, cheeks, lips shoulders and the upper torso.

**Negation:**

Manual (use of the hand-manual signs, to make a negative sentence) No, Never, Nothing, Don't know, Don't want, Not mine, can't find, etc, and non-manual (facial expressions, headshakes, head nods)

**Questions:**

'Who? What?, Where?, When?, Why, How? Such questions are all accompanied by one set of non-manual features. Questions expecting a yes/no answer use a different set of non-manual features, for example, Did you?, Have you seen...?, and are you...?

**Basic Location/Placement:**

Setting up of objects or people in a position in the signer's frame, also when objects and people are in a view and the signer can point the location is also shown when people are not present by certain hand shape, e.g., I, you, he, she, etc.

**Classifiers:**

SL uses various of classifiers – certain handshapes which represents sets of class of nouns and verbs- 1/Person to meet Person (1 finger handshape to meet 1 finger handshape, 2/ people – various of certain handshapes fellow crowd in certain places, protesting, or funeral etc, 3/ Eye gaze to objects or people. 4/ vehicle classifiers- all forms of transport.



**ISL Fingerspelling**