

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – October 24 - 28, 2010
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You want to express that there is a cat sitting on a fence. In English the sentence could be expressed like this: A cat is sitting on the fence. Which of the combination of signs glossed below is most correct in ASL?

- a. CAT SIT ON FENCE
- b. A CAT IS SIT+ING ON THE FENCE
- c. SIT ON CAT FENCE
- d. FENCE CAT CL:4 + CL:bent V

Go to the bottom for the answer.

Answer: “d” – ASL often follows an Object Subject Verb (OSV) order in sentences.

d. FENCE CAT CL:4 + CL:bent V
(O) (S) (V)

OSV order is evident in this sentence. The signer first establishes the object of the cat’s action “the fence”. Next the subject is signed “CAT” and finally through use of a complex classifier form the predicate (verb) is communicated “small animal located on top of rails of a fence”.

Try your hands at expressing these additional sentences.

A cup is on the table.

A picture is on the wall to the left side.