

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – November 15 - 19, 2010
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Please see important announcement/request at the bottom of this DCQW.

How is the sign HOW in this question different from the sign HOW in the question “How are you?”

- a. The sign HOW is HOW is HOW. There is no difference. Is this a trick question?
- b. The first word “How” in the question is not signed. The signer raises his/her eyebrows for “How” and then signs the rest of the question.
- c. The first word “How” in the question is fingerspelled. It is a fingerspelled loan sign also called lexicalized fingerspelling.
- d. The “how” in the question is asking how something is done. It is produced with a wiggly motion of the dominant signing hand.

Answers: “d” - In both English and ASL the interrogative “how” functions in two ways. In the question “How are you?” it asks for a “state of being”. The answer will be something like “Fine,” “I’m good,” “So-So” etc.

See video here: <http://www.signingsavvy.com/sign/how>

In a question like “How did you get here so fast?” the answer will include an adverb of manner; for example, “I drove quickly.” When asking “how something is done” HOW-wg is signed with a wiggly motion of the dominant hand.

See video here: <http://www.handspeak.com/word/index.php?dict=hi&signID=1068>

Which “how” would you use to express these ideas?

Ask someone (you don’t know well) how he/she is.

Ask someone how he/she makes a taco.

Ask someone how he/she wakes up in the morning.

Important request below:

DCQW has been published weekly during the school year since January 2008. We want to collect information about who reads DCQW, how you use it (which how is it?), which kinds of questions you like best, etc. We created a short survey to collect information. It is completely anonymous. Please take a few moments to complete our survey. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L7RQNVX>

Note: All previous issues of DCQW are archived at the Washington School for the Deaf website: www.wsd.wa.gov