

Deaf Culture Question of the Week - February 23-27, 2009

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An ASL related question...

Which of the sign sequences below correctly express the meaning of this time-related phrase "8:00 a.m. next Tuesday"?

- a. TUESDAY MORNING TIME-8 NEXT-WEEK
- b. TIME-8 MORNING NEXT TUESDAY
- c. NEXT-WEEK TUESDAY MORNING TIME-8
- d. MORNING TIME-8 NEXT-WEEK TUESDAY

Scroll down for the answer

c. NEXT-WEEK TUESDAY MORNING TIME-8 - This phrase is a time adverbial. It is the phrase that communicates when something will occur; for example, "I'll meet you **at 8:00 a.m. next Tuesday.**"

ASL generally organizes time elements from "most general to most specific," "biggest concepts to smallest concepts." For the time adverbial phrase "8:00 a.m. next Tuesday morning" the most general element of time is that it occurs "next week". The next in order from general to specific is that it will occur on "Tuesday". Next it will occur "in the morning" and the most specific element of the time phrase is that it will occur at "8:00 o'clock".

Time adverbials in ASL are generally expressed first in sentences. So the sentence "I'll meet you at 8:00 a.m. next Tuesday." would be signed NEXT-WEEK TUESDAY MORNING TIME-8 ME-MEET-YOU. The ME-MEET-YOU portion of the sentence would be accompanied with a head nod to indicate "intention to meet".