

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Feb. 7 - 11, 2011  
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

We still want your input and feedback. If you haven't completed the DCQW survey there is still time to do it. Click on the link to the survey on the bottom of this page. We appreciate your time in completing our short survey. We want to especially hear from our parents.

An ASL question this week...

Which came first... the chicken or the egg?

“What does that have to do with ASL?” you ask. “Nothing actually,” I answer. But this week's question is about what comes first, second, third and so forth in ASL narrative.

Suppose you want to express that you and a friend had a nice walk and chat in the park yesterday afternoon. How would you structure this short narrative? The basic parts of the narrative are listed below. How would these parts be organized to create a short narrative expressing this idea?

1. *enjoy me*
2. *friend (and) me*
3. *nice*
4. *there p-a-r-k*
5. *walk*
6. *afternoon*
7. *chat*
8. *yesterday*

Write out the parts of the sentence above in the order you would express them in ASL.

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Scroll down for the answer.

Here is the order of the parts of this short narrative as they would likely be expressed in ASL. Remember that ASL has a somewhat flexible order. Factors such as focus of the communicator, something said just prior to an expression and other factors can influence the order of expression of ideas. This example provides an example of a general organizational principle of ASL explained below.

*yesterday afternoon there p-a-r-k friend (and) me walk, chat nice enjoy me*

A general principle of ASL organization is

Time, place, actor(s), action(s), comments/reactions

That is, time is generally expressed first, followed by place or location, followed by the who and what the actor did and finally any reaction or comment.

In the expression above

*yesterday afternoon* (time is established)

*there p-a-r-k* (place where the action, event took place)

*friend (and) me* – (actors) (Note: The “and” would not be signed but is included to help make sense of the phrase.)

*walk, chat* – (the actions, verbs)

*nice, enjoy me* - (comment and reaction)

Time, place, actor(s), action(s), comments/reactions

**Please take a few minutes to complete the DCQW Survey:**

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 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](http://www.wsd.wa.gov)