

## Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Apr 15-19

ASL uses various facial expressions, technically called, non-manual signals for grammatical purposes. For example, a slight head nod while making a declarative sentence indicates that something is being asserted; that something is the case, is true. Which of the below described non-manual signals means that something is done “carelessly or without attention?”

- a. *oo* – The lips form a tight circular formation
- b. *ee* – The teeth are clenched as if saying “ee”
- c. *mm* – The lips are together and protruding as if saying “mm”
- d. *th* – The tongue protrudes as if saying “th”

Go to the bottom

Answer: “d” – The non-manual signal written as “*th*” co-occurs with verbs and acts as an adverbial modifier. For example:

*th*  
*write* = write carelessly

*th*  
*drive* = drive carelessly

The opposite meaning would be expressed like this:

*ee*  
*write* = write carefully

*ee*  
*drive* = drive carefully

The non-manual signal that occurs simultaneously with the verb as it is produced modifies the meaning of the verb adding the additional meaning. No separate adverbial sign is necessary.