

## Deaf Culture Question of the Day - Day 2

Sign language is universal. Deaf people all over the world use the same sign language. True or False?

Do you know the answer? Scroll down to the bottom to find out more....

Answer - "False" --- The sign languages used by groups of Deaf people in countries throughout the world differ with one another in the same ways that spoken languages are different from each other. And the sign languages used by groups of Deaf people throughout the world are not directly related to the spoken languages used in these countries. ASL is not a manually expressed version of English. Japanese Sign Language is not a manually expressed version of Japanese and so forth. American Sign Language for example is used by Deaf people and their hearing allies in the United States, most of Canada and Puerto Rico. Although the predominant spoken language in Puerto Rico is Spanish the sign language used among deaf people is a regional variation of ASL.

However there is an international signing system (not really a language) called Gestuno. This is a collection of approximately 1500 signs developed by the World Federation of the Deaf to facilitate communication among deaf people who attend international meetings. Gestuno is not a true language because it does not really have a "community of users" bound together by this language and sharing common values, beliefs and social relationships. Gestuno is a collection of signs with no consistent grammar. It does assist in communication among deaf people when they gather for international events. Read more about Gestuno here:

<http://www.deaflinx.com/ASL/gestuno.html>