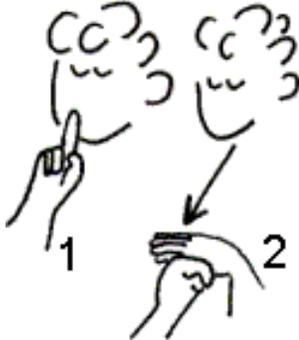
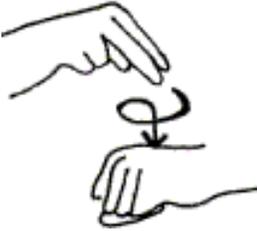


The Pledge of Allegiance for the United States of America

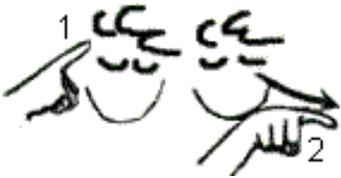
Adapted for ASL Signs

by Elaine Ernst Schneider

		
I	pledge (promise)	allegiance/support
		
to (the)	flag	(of the) United States/US
		
(of) America	and	to (the)
		
republic/country	(for) which/that	(it) stands/represents
		
one	nation	under

		
God	indivisible/can't divide	with

		
liberty	and	justice

	
for	all.

Cheat Sheet for **The Pledge of Allegiance** Adapted for ASL Signs

Word or Concept	Description of Action
1, one	Exhibit 1 finger, palm forward, to represent the number one.
all	Hold left hand open with palm facing chest and fingers pointing to the right. Use right open hand to move from left flat hand over, down, and back in again, making a circle that draws an imaginary "everything" into the left hand.
allegiance, support	Use the right "a" hand to undergird and support the left "a" hand, letting the two hands rise just slightly when they make contact.
America	Lace fingers of both hands and then move hands in a semi-circle, to the left, inward toward the body, right, and then outward, ending where you began.
and	Hold right hand in front of the chest with palm facing in and fingers pointing left. Move right hand to the right of the body, closing the fingertips and thumb together during the gesture.

Word or Concept	Description of Action
country	Bend the left arm slightly, holding the arm (hand pointed up and to the right) in front of the chest. Rub the palm side of the right "y" hand in a counterclockwise motion over the left elbow to suggest a soldier's uniform where the elbow has been worn out.
flag	Wave open right hand (fingers held together, not spread) left and then right, as if a flag is waving in the breeze.
for	Using the right hand, touch the right side of the forehead with the index finger. Then move the index finger out and up. The index finger should end in a position that is pointing outward and slightly up.
God	With a "d" hand, point to heaven. Then draw the "d" hand down and outward, opening the fingers into an opened palm "b" hand just as the hand reaches the nose. The "b" hand then passes outward just over the nose and into the space in front of the face.
I	Point to self with index finger.
indivisible (can't divide)	cannot: Make "d" hands. Then use the right index finger to strike the left index finger in a downward motion, glazing the end of the stationary left index finger. divide: Press "a" hands together, touching knuckles and thumb sides. Then somewhat forcibly move the hands to the sides, as if prying them apart.
justice	Hold "f" hands in front of body with right hand slightly higher than left. Then move hands so that the left hand ends up higher than the right hand, and then back to the starting position. Note: The sign represents the scales of justice.
liberty	Cross "L" hands, palms facing the body. Then move hands to the sides, slightly twisting wrists so that the hands are free of one another and palms end facing outward. Note: the sign is representative of breaking bonds.
nation	Hold left hand in an "s" position, palm down. Use a right "n" hand to circle over the left hand, coming to rest on the back of the left hand, as if "establishing" a nation.
pledge, promise	Using right index finger, touch mouth and then move hand downward, resting it on top of the left "s" hand. This sign indicates that the words have been hidden in the left hand, to be kept and honored at a later time.
stands, represents	Place a right "d" hand in the palm of the left hand (fingers closed, not spread) which is turned sideways, palm facing right. Then move both hands slightly forward, as if showing someone a definition or example.
to	Move the right index finger to touch the left index finger.
under	Hold left hand slightly in front of body, palm facing downward, finger held together, not spread. Circle a right "a" hand under the left hand in a counter-clockwise motion.
United States	Sign the alphabet signs for "u" and "s" with the right hand.
which (that)	Hold left palm out, palm turned upward, fingers together. Place the right "y" hand in the palm of the left hand.
with	Bring both hands together as "a" hands, touching palms at the end of the motion.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Adapted for ASL by Elaine Ernst Schneider

Author: Irving Berlin, 1918; revised 1938, Kate Smith

Spoken Introduction:

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,
 Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
 Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
 As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

Words

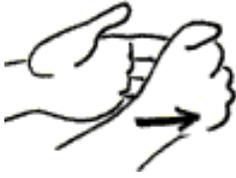
God bless America,
 Land that I love.
 Stand beside her and guide her,
 Through the night,
 With the light from above,
 From the mountains,
 To the prairies,
 To the ocean white with foam.
 God bless America,
 My home sweet home.

Signs

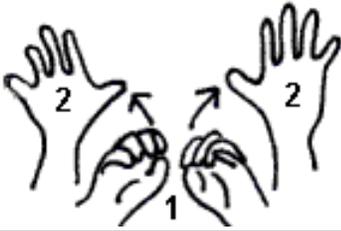
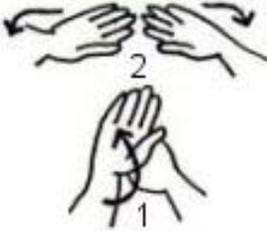
God bless America
 Me love my country.
 Support American, lead America,
 All night,
 With light from heaven,
 From mountains,
 To grass (hay) lands,
 To white seas.
 God bless America,
 My home, sweet home.

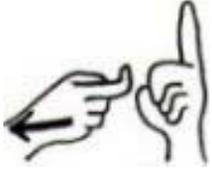
		
God	bless	America

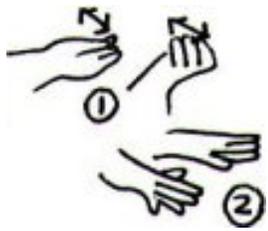
			
I	love	my	country

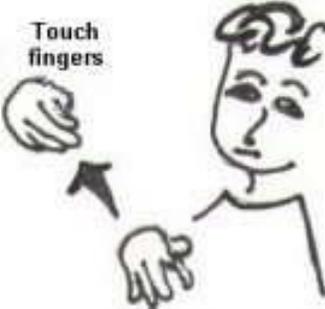
			
Support	America	lead	America


All night

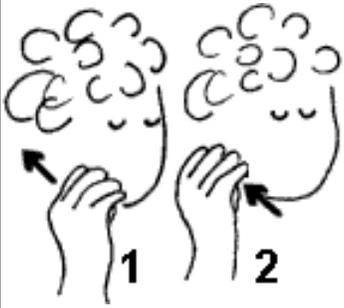
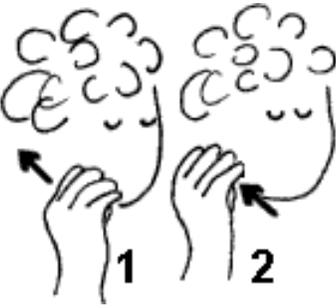
			
with	light	from	heaven

	
From	mountains

		
to	grass	lands

	 Touch fingers	
to	white	seas

		
God	bless	America

			
My	home,	sweet	home.

Cheat Sheet for **God Bless America**

Sign or Concept	Description of Action
all night	Begin with the right arm (palm open, fingers closed) resting on the left arm which is held parallel in front of the body (palm open, fingers closed) to indicate the sun has set at the horizon. Move the right arm to the left in an arc-like motion that swings under the left arm (below the horizon), never letting the right elbow leave the left fingertips.
America	Lace fingers of both hands and then move hands in a semi-circle, to the left, inward toward the body, right, and then outward, ending where you began.
bless	Touch closed hands, palms upward and fingers touching, to the lips. Then move hands simultaneously downward, twisting the wrists so that palms face down, and opening fingers as the hands move.
country	Bend the left arm slightly, holding the arm (hand pointed up and to the right) in front of the chest. Rub the palm side of the right "y" hand in a counter-clockwise motion over the left elbow to suggest a soldier's uniform where the elbow has been worn out.

Sign or Concept	Description of Action
from	Using "x" hands, palms facing, touch knuckles; then move the right hand back and to the right.
God	With a "d" hand, point to heaven. Then draw the "d" hand down and outward, opening the fingers into an opened palm "b" hand just as the hand reaches the nose. The "b" hand then passes outward just over the nose and into the space in front of the face.
grass	The fingers are wiggling, like grass or stalks blowing in the wind.
heaven	Hold left hand horizontally in front of face, palm downward. Pass right hand, finger together and palm facing downward, under left hand as if to "enter" into heaven. Then use both hands to span the sky from the middle of the space in front of the body to the outside perimeters.
home	Use a closed right hand, all four fingers touching the thumb, to touch the right side of the face, first at the chin and a second time on the right cheek bone near the ear.
I, me	Point to self, mid-chest.
lands	Hold closed hands, palms upward and fingers touching thumbs, in front of the body, leaving about six inches between hands. Move fingers against thumbs slightly, as if filtering soil through the fingers. Then spread fingers to indicate soil that covers a certain plot. Note: In a song, it is sometimes "poetic" to move the hands outward and to the sides once the fingers have been spread, indicating a large expanse of land.
lead	Use the right hand to grasp the fingers of the left flat hand and "pull" the left hand forward.
light	Both hands, palms out, fingertips touching thumbs then springing open. Surprise!
love	Cross "s" hands over chest to symbolize embracement of something/someone dear.
mountains	Touch the thumb of the closed right "s" hand to the back of the closed left "s" hand (this is the sign for "rock"). Then move both open hands, palms facing outward, upward in front of the body, as if outlining the side of an imaginary mountain.
my, mine	Place the right palm (fingers pressed together) against the chest, as if holding something you own close to you.
seas	Wiggle fingers of both hands, palms downward, to indicate the flow of the water
support	Use the right "a" hand to undergird and support the left "a" hand, letting the two hands rise just slightly when they make contact.
sweet	Brush fingertips in a downward motion over lips, then close hand into "s" hand/fist.
to	Move the right index finger to touch the left index finger.
white	Touch all fingertips and thumb of an open and slightly curved right hand to the chest. Move the hand forward, while closing it so that the fingertips touch about eight inches in front of the chest.
with	Bring both hands together as "a" hands, touching palms at the end of the motion.

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- **I'll Fly Away** Adapted for ASL
- **It Is Well With my Soul** Adapted for ASL

About the Author

Elaine Ernst Schneider entered the classroom as a special education teacher in the 1970's. Since then, she has taught mainstream English Grammar, Literature, music K-12, deaf education, Algebra, creative writing, social studies, psychology, law, and science in both public and private schools. Today, she writes curriculum for several companies, as well as freelance articles on education and is the co-founder and Managing Editor for the educational website www.lesstutor.com.

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