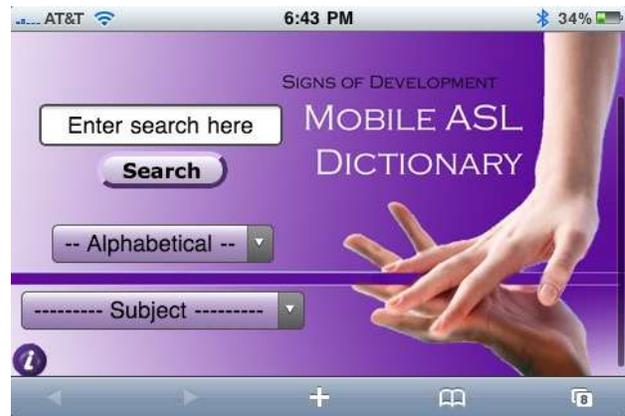# Frequently Asked Questions for the Mobile ASL Dictionary <mark>v2</mark>

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**The Mobile ASL Dictionary** is an American Sign Language resource that has been optimized to work in a mobile environment.  It includes over 15,500 signed terms accessible alphabetically or by subject.  The Dictionary is web-based, meaning that the user has access to the dictionary anywhere they have access to the Internet.   No large downloads are required, and no video files are stored on the mobile device.  Mobile ASL Dictionary requires a 3G or WIFI connection when used on the iPhone and iTouch or Blackberry. *Videos will not play on an Edge (2G) cellular connection.*

Please note:  the Mobile ASL Dictionary transfers data from our server to your mobile device.  Please verify with your cellular service provider what kind of data usage cost are included in your plan.  Signs of Development cannot be held responsible for additional data charges that could be incurred on your cellular account.

**What is new in this version of the dictionary?**  We have added many new "Sensitive and Expletive Language" terms.  Many of these are signs you will not find in any other ASL dictionary.  We have improved the menus and improved the access to and loading times of the videos.  We have also included an information page, video tutorials and a link to email us with your questions or suggestions.

**How can I browse the Dictionary?**  You can browse in various ways (Alphabetical, Subject or Specific term).  Use the drop-down menus to make a selection.  At the bottom of your screen you will be presented with a selection list of signed terms.  For example, if you select "Alphabetical – B" you will be able to scroll through a list of all the terms in the dictionary that begin with the letter B.

**Can I search for a specific term?**  Yes, click on "Search for a Specific Term."  Enter a few letters for the word. Press "Search for it."  You will be presented with a list of words that were found in the dictionary, For example, if your search for the term: *comp*, you will be presented with 98 choices. You can then scroll through the list and find a specific term and then "play" it.

**How many signed terms are in this dictionary?**  Presently, the Dictionary includes over 15, 500 terms.

**What categories of signs are available in this dictionary?**  Accounting, Algebra, Architecture/ Construction,  Art/Photography, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Computer/Technology, Countries, Data Analysis/Probability, Drivers Education, Economics, Electronics, English/Language Arts, Everyday Signs, **Expletives**, Family/Consumer, General Math, General Science, Geography, Geometry, Global Sciences, Government/US, Health, History, Life Science, Measurement, Mechanics, Media/Communications, Music, Numbers and Operations, Physics, Pre-calculus and Calculus, Probability/Statistics, Psychology, **Sensitive Vocabulary**, Social Studies.

**How do I play the video once I select the word I want?** Select one term by one of the three search options (Alphabetical, Subject or Specific term) and press "play." After the term plays, you will be returned to the menu. If you want to view the same video again, simply press "play."



**Can I use my Mobile ASL Dictionary on my desktop PC and laptop?** Yes! The Mobile ASL dictionary is optimized for use in a mobile web browser. However, you can access it on any desktop computer or laptop that has access to the Internet. Just log into the dictionary as you would on your mobile device. Once you display a video, you may press the back button on your browser to return to the menus.

**Is the Mobile ASL Dictionary MAC compatible?** Yes, because the Mobile ASL dictionary is designed for use in a web browser, you can access it on any desktop computer or laptop or MAC that has access to the Internet. Just remember that the Mobile ASL Dictionary is optimized for mobile use. We offer an expanded-screen desktop version for more practical desktop use.

**I noticed that my dictionary includes some city signs specific to South Carolina but not other states. Why is that?** This dictionary project was originally designed for use by the South Carolina School System. They wanted a standardized dictionary that every school interpreter could access. The Mobile ASL Dictionary is built on this database of over 15,000 signs.

**Will you be adding other state-specific signs in the future?** This option is under consideration by the Signs of Development staff.

**Will you be adding other signs to the Dictionary in the future?** This is under consideration by the Signs of Development staff.

**I have seen a few "initialized" signs. Why are these signs in your dictionary?** The Mobile ASL dictionary was developed using a large database of signs originally created for a state school system to use as a "standardized vocabulary." The developers agreed on specific signs for many educational signs so that everyone in the state would use the same signs for consistency.

**I can't find some basic words like "CAT." Why are these signs not included in your dictionary?** This dictionary is specifically designed for the signing professional. It is assumed that most interpreters will have a mastery of the basic sign vocabulary. The terms you will see in this dictionary are, perhaps, some that you have never seen before. (If you look, you will find the sign for "kitten" ☺) The Dictionary does include an "Everyday Sign" category, which gives you access to over 1600 commonly-used signs.

**Is the Mobile ASL dictionary available for the Blackberry or other mobile device?** Yes, we are pleased to announce that this Version2 has been tested on the Blackberry. We are also currently testing on other mobile devices.

**Is there a desktop version of the Dictionary?** Yes.  We have developed an expanded screen version of this dictionary that has the same terms, but displays them in a full screen format.  Please check our website for more details.  Remember that the Mobile ASL Dictionary will work on your desktop computer's browser.  The menus are formatted for the smaller mobile screen.

**Can I use the Dictionary if I do not have access to the Internet?**  This version of the Mobile ASL Dictionary is designed for portability and simplicity. No files are stored or downloaded onto your mobile device. For this reason, you must have access to the Internet in order to access the Dictionary.

**I don't have a cellular connection to the web, but I do have access to a WIFI network. Can I use the Dictionary?**  Yes, as long as you have a connection to the Internet you can use this resource.

**I have a WIFI connection, but I cannot view the videos. What's wrong?** In some cases, your Internet connection via WIFI may be blocked by a firewall.  The Mobile ASL Dictionary requires an open Internet connection.  Sometimes a simple device reset can resolve this temporary issue.

**Will my iPhone play the videos on a regular cellular connection?**  Some cellular connections to the Internet stream the signed terms with no trouble. Other low speed low signal networks may have trouble negotiating the video stream consistently. The Mobile ASL Dictionary was rigorously tested on 3G and open WIFI connections.  If you see an error when attempting to view a term, please turn on your WIFI connection or move to an area with a 3G signal.

**Will I be charged by my cellular provider for data usage if I access the Mobile ASL Dictionary?** Please check with your cellular provider.  The Dictionary requires access to the Internet.  It streams videos from our server.  This connection requires a transfer of data.  Signs of Development cannot be held responsible for any cellular or WIFI data charges that are incurred while using this resource. *PLEASE verify your service plan with your cellular provider before using the Dictionary on your iPhone.*

MobileASL Dictionary v2 is a resource of

Signs of Development, LLC

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