

International Day of Sign Languages

What do you know about sign languages? The International Day of Sign Languages, on 23 September, is a special day to celebrate sign languages.

Instructions

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the article and do the other exercises.

Preparation

Match the definitions (a-h) with the vocabulary (1-8).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. ...g... deaf	a. to share information with other people
2. hearing	b. to feel part of something
3. to communicate	c. a line of short hairs above your eye
4. a facial expression	d. a language that you speak (where you don't write or use signs)
5. an eyebrow	e. able to hear
6. an identity	f. a look on someone's face that shows what they feel or think
7. to feel included	g. not able to hear, either completely or partly
8. a spoken language	h. the type of person that you are, that makes you different from other people

International Day of Sign Languages

Many deaf people use sign language to communicate with others. Lots of hearing people use sign language too. The International Day of Sign Languages is a special day to celebrate all the different sign languages around the world and the people that use them.

What is sign language?

When people use sign language, they communicate with body movements. They move their hands and fingers, and make shapes with them to make words and phrases. The face is also very important in sign languages. Facial expressions can show how the person feels, like happy, scared or surprised. They show other things too. For example, in American Sign Language (ASL), you raise your eyebrow to ask a question or use your mouth to show if something is big or small.

4. There are more than _____ deaf people in the world.
 - a. 7 million
 - b. 70 million
 - c. 700 million
5. There are _____ different sign languages in the world.
 - a. just two
 - b. about 30
 - c. about 300
6. The International Day of Sign Languages began in _____.
 - a. 1800
 - b. 1981
 - c. 2018

Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

International Day of Sign Languages	hearing	communicate
sign language	deaf	identity

1. Many deaf people use sign language to communicate with others.
2. Lots of people use sign language too.
3. When people use sign language, they with body movements.
4. Different countries have their own
5. Sign language is an important part of many deaf people's
6. For the, you could learn some basic signs.

Write and draw

What words or phrases do you want to learn in sign language?

Answers

Preparation task

1. g
2. e
3. a
4. f
5. c
6. h
7. b
8. d

Task 1

1. c
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. c
6. c

Task 2

1. deaf
2. hearing
3. communicate
4. sign language
5. identify
6. International Day of Sign Language