



American Sign Language



What is ASL?

1 American Sign Language is a visual language used as the predominant sign language for Deaf communities in the United States and Canada.

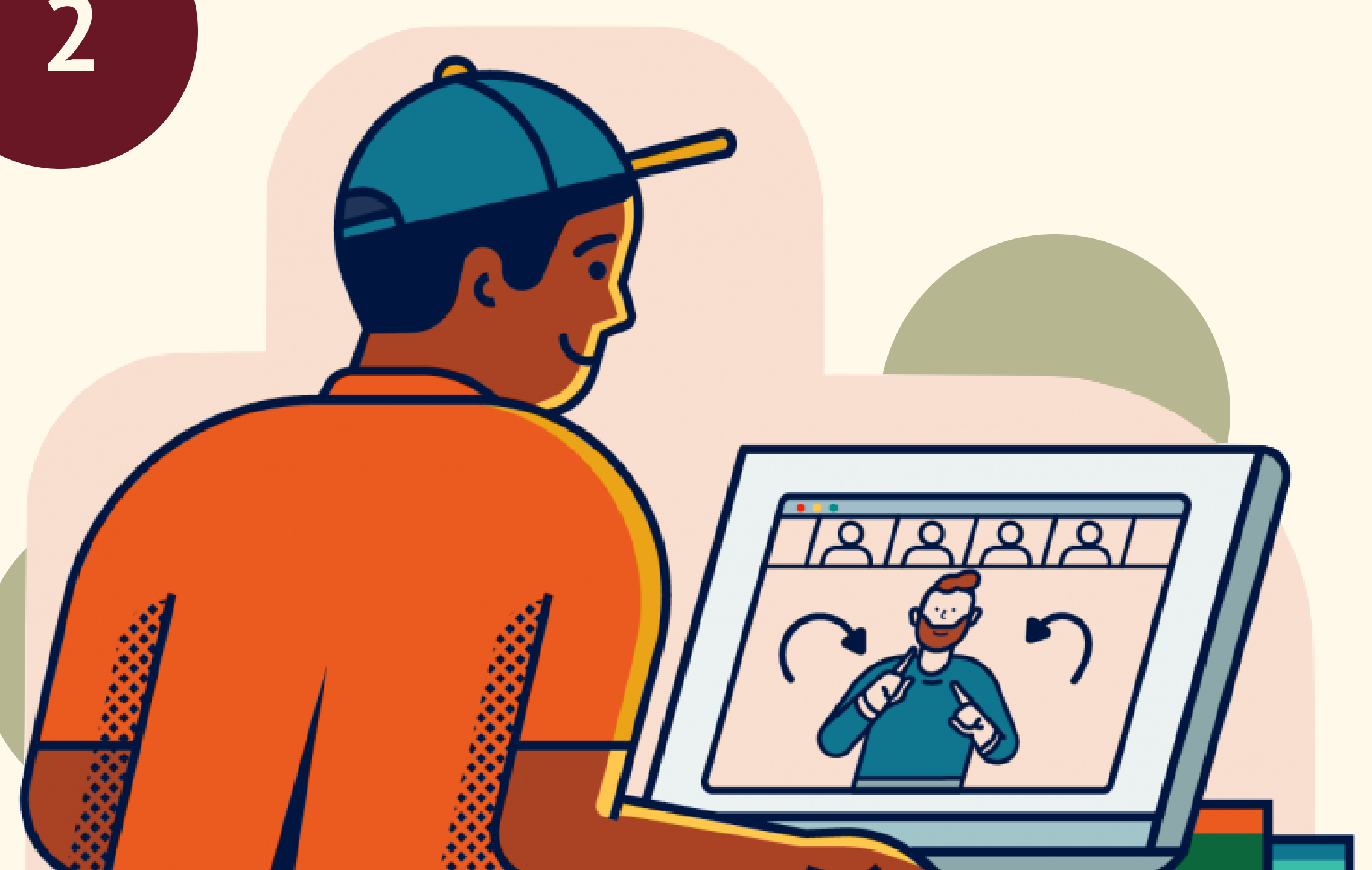
To communicate information, ASL uses hand shape, movement, and placement in the place of spoken



Why learn ASL?

Because of the significant Deaf population that exists all around us, with roughly 11 million Deaf Americans, learning ASL is one key way to bridge the gap between hearing, Deaf, and hard of hearing members of our community.

When it comes to ASL, its not just about the language itself, but also the rich Deaf history and culture that go with it.



A Future for ASL

3 In recent years, ASL use has spread outside of the Deaf community alone, and has made its way into many schools. However, DA has yet to follow this trend.

In the future, with the help of the few but strong Deaf members of our community, ASL can and should become a staple of DA's world language curriculum.



How to get involved with ASL now!



Consult YouTube Channels

- Dr. Bill Vicars (above)
- ASL Meredith
- Chris Gorges



Join our ASL Club

- No experience needed
- Keep an eye out for the **sign-up survey** in next week's Yo La Tengo.



Take a community course

- Durham County Library
- Signs of Learning NC
- Durham College.



Reach out to Deaf friends and family

- Helps with learning ASL and its culture
- Allows for personal insight into being Deaf



Talk to Ms. Bessias about an Independent Study

- E-mail tina.bessias@da.org for more information and ways to start now!



Learn ASL online

- Gallaudet University
- American Sign Language University.

If you're interested in learning more, check this out:

