

## Time Marker + Possessive Pronoun + Topic + Personal Pronoun + Comment/Action + Question

(Can add personal pronoun/referent again at the end...usually if the English sentence has 'are you?' in it or if it is a complex sentence with more than one comment).

### Example 1:

English: I went to the beach yesterday.

**Time marker** – yesterday

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – beach

**Personal pronoun** – I/me

**Comment/Action** – went

**Question** - none

**Auslan: Yesterday beach me go finish.**

NB. 'Went' is the past tense of 'go', and in Auslan one of the way we show past tense is by adding 'finish' after the verb. Therefore, 'went' can be signed 'go finish'.

### Example 2:

English: What do you want for dinner?

**Time marker** – none

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – dinner

**Personal pronoun** – you

**Comment/action** – want

**Question** – what?

**Auslan: Dinner you want what?**

NB. In Auslan, the topic is generally signed with a slight lean of the body, a slight change in facial expression and eyebrow raise, followed by a brief pause and nod. The signer then returns to a more relaxed neutral position for the comment.

### Your turn to try:

1. I don't really like fish.
2. Are you going to the library tomorrow?
3. My dog is small, brown, and silly.
4. I want a drink.
5. My father is very tall.

6. Please pass me the salt.
7. What did you have for dinner last night?
8. Where are you going tomorrow?
9. Where's the toilet?

1. I don't really like fish.

**Time marker** – none

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – fish

**Personal pronoun** – I

**Comment/Action** – don't like

**Question** - none

**Auslan: Fish I don't-like**

The 'really' in the English sentence is shown through expression and verb inflection/sign modification **not** by signing 'really'.

3. My dog is small, brown, and silly.

**Time marker** – none

**Possessive pronoun** - my

**Topic** – dog

**Personal pronoun** – it

**Comment/Action** – small, brown, silly

**Question** - none

**Auslan: My dog, it small brown silly it**

Can add 'it' again at the end for clarification as it is a complex sentence with more than one comment.

5. My father is very tall.

**Time marker** – none

**Possessive pronoun** - my

**Topic** – father

**Personal pronoun** – he

**Comment/Action** – tall

**Question** – none

**Auslan: My father, he tall**

'Very' is shown in expression and sign modification **not** by signing very.

2. Are you going to the library tomorrow?

**Time marker** – tomorrow

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – library

**Personal pronoun** – you

**Comment/Action** – going

**Question** – are you?

**Auslan: Tomorrow library you go you?**

You don't sign 'to' unless really necessary, relevant and can't be signed another way. You don't sign articles (the), with the exception of signing the proper name/title of something.

4. I want a drink.

**Time marker** – none

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – drink

**Personal pronoun** – I

**Comment/Action** – want

**Question** – none

**Auslan: Drink, I want**

6. Please pass me the salt.

**Time marker** – none

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – salt

**Personal pronoun** – me

**Comment/Action** – pass, please/thanks

**Question** – none

**Auslan: Salt, pass-me thank-you**

The verb 'pass' can be inflected to show direction.

7. What did you have for dinner last night?

**Time marker** – Last night

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – dinner

**Personal pronoun** – you

**Comment/Action** – have/eat

**Question** – what?

**Auslan: Last night, dinner, you eat what?**

Auslan is a visual language, and so rather than relying on the English word, convey the meaning...so you can replace 'have' with 'eat', cause you usually eat your dinner, not hold it in your hand.

8. Where are you going tomorrow?

**Time marker** – Tomorrow

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – depends on intonation

**Personal pronoun** – you

**Comment/Action** – go

**Question** – where?

**Auslan: Drink, I want**

9. Where's the toilet?

**Time marker** – none

**Possessive pronoun** - none

**Topic** – toilet

**Personal pronoun** – none

**Comment/Action** – none

**Question** – where?

**Auslan: Toilet where?**