

DESCRIBING HOMES

Unit Overview

In this unit, we will discuss Deaf history, fingerspelling, vocabulary, grammar and Deaf culture.

History



Irving King Jordan (I. King Jordan)

Irving King Jordan (I. King Jordan) was born June 16, 1943. He grew up in the small rural town of Glen Riddle, Pennsylvania. He was a self-described average student and had a typical upbringing. After high school, King joined the Navy and worked on the air craft carrier Enterprise. He was promoted to Legal Assistant. When he was twenty-one, he was involved in a motorcycle accident. He suffered injuries which caused him to become profoundly deaf. In 1967, he married Linda Kephart, and together they had two children. He then enrolled at Gallaudet University, not knowing any sign language.

King graduated with a B.A. in psychology. He went on to do his post graduate at the University of Tennessee without the help of an interpreter. He continued on with school until he graduated with honors and his PhD. After graduating, he returned to Gallaudet where he became a professor and eventually the dean of the psychology department.

When Mr. Jordan realized the current president was about to retire, he decided to seek the position out himself. He was one of three candidates for the position. One candidate was hearing, the other two were Deaf. In March of 1988, the Board of Directors appointed the only hearing candidate. The student body wanted to know why the only hearing candidate was chosen over the two Deaf candidates. When the Board could not provide an answer, the student body banded together and shut down the school for a week. This protest became known as "Deaf President Now." When the Board finally agreed to all the demands of the protest, I. King Jordan was appointed as the eighth president of the University and the first Deaf president. Many people were skeptical of the job he would be able to do, considering he was Deaf. Funding for the university would depend on him being able to communicate with Congress. The skepticism was quickly put to rest when he was able to get a funding increase and improve classrooms and services. King retired as president of the university in 2006. In 2010, President Barak Obama appointed I. King Jordan to the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Fingerspelling



Go to the website asl.ms, and practice fingerspelling for 20 minutes. When you are finished type your score in the answer box for question 2.



Go to the website asl.bz, and practice numbers for 20 minutes. When you are finished, type your score in the answer box for question 3.

Vocabulary



[Describing Home Vocabulary](#)

Grammar

Describing homes



When describing something in ASL, it is important to start with the larger object retail and work your way down to the smaller detail. When describing a home, start with the front outside of the home. How big is the house? What color is the home? Is there a front porch? Next, describe when you walk through the front door. You can indicate how many levels the home has. After you walk in the front door, start describing the scene from the left side and move your way to the right side. What rooms are around you? Is there a hallway? Is there stairs? What color are the walls? If there is a hallway to walk down, continue describing as you move your way towards the back of the house to finish describing the first level. If there are multiple levels, you can then say up the stairs. indicate by pointing up and signing second level. You can also indicate whether a home has a basement or not. As you were describing the home and you begin to start describing the smaller details, begin with the larger things in the room. Describe the color of the walls. Then describe what is hanging on the walls or what furniture is

around the room. After that, you can describe the smaller things that are maybe on the tables or sitting around the room.



Now go to question 4.

Culture

Read the following article by Carla A. Halpern: [Listening in on Deaf Culture PDF File](#)



Now answer question 5 through 14.