CLASSIFIERS IN ASL
WHAT ARE CLASSIFIERS?

• **Classifiers** are designated handshapes and/or rule-grounded body pantomime used to nouns and verbs.

• The purpose of **Classifiers** is to provide additional information about nouns and verbs such as:
  • Location
  • Kind of action
  • Size
  • Shape
  • Manner
CLASSIFIER 1 (CL:1)

- The 1 handshape classifier can be used for various things.
- **Example:** It could be used to show a person walking or, it could be used to describe a an object: knife, pencil, stick.
- This classifier can also be to explain the width/how skinny an object is
CLASSIFIER 3 (CL:3)

- The 3 handshape classifier is extremely common. This is typically used for vehicles.
- **Example**, if signing CAR one could also add the CL:3 to explain the movement of the vehicle
- CL:3 can be used for cars, trucks, and motorcycles
CLASSIFIER 4 (CL:4)

• The 4 handshape expands on the amount of something in formation or the description of a characteristic/object.

• **Example**: Many people standing in a line may be used by two CL:4 handshapes. Your dominant hand moving in a forward direction in front of the passive hand. The passive hand continues but in the opposite direction.

  The CL:4 can also describe the shape/pattern of objects.

  For example, the CL:4 can be used to:

  • Curtains - starting front of body, a downward motion with both hands
CLASSIFIER 5 (CL:5)

• The **5 hands** shape classifier represents the large amount of people/things.
• **Example:** both hands making CL:5 can be used to show a crowd of many people.
• Depending on the directional movement you could be describing traffic or an audience at a theater.
CLASSIFIER 8 (CL:8)

This 8 handshape classifier typically is used for showing the action of kicking.

This could be kicking of a soccer ball.

The 8 handshape can also expand on the concept of showing explosions!
CLASSIFIER A (CL:A)

- The **A handshape** represents object placements. It could represent a building, or a house.
- **Example:** Signing HOUSE, then use the CL:A to setup visually where the house was located
CLASSIFIER B (CL:B)

• The B handshape can be used in a “flat” way. This means that CL:B focuses on describing things that typically are flat.
• **Example**: tables, shelves, and paper.
• CL:B can also explain something flat moving forward
• The CL:B also can be used to expand on the dimensions of a wall.
CLASSIFIER C (CL:C)/ CLASSIFIER C MODIFIED

- The C handshape helps describe the round shape of an object, or the thickness of an object.
- **Example:** a thick stack of paper.
- Classifier C modified is a similar shape to CL:C. It is used to indicate how round, flat, or thick something can be.
CLASSIFIER F (CL:F)

• The *F handshape* shows objects that are small and round in size. It also shows specific eye movements.

• **Example**: coins, buttons, and, eye rolling
CLASSIFIER G (CL:G)

• The G handshape can be used to show how thin something is or to describe small objects.

• Example: how a book is thin, or a picture frame design that is thin
CLASSIFIER I (CL:I)

• The I handshape helps describe objects that are thin and long
• The CL:I can describe outlines, borders, even the use of small intricate paint brushes
CLASSIFIER L (CL:L)

- The **L handshape** describes flat objects or can be used to show square shaped objects.
- **Example:** an envelope or letter could use the L handshape.
CLASSIFIER V (CL:V)

- The V handshape typically is used to represent legs.
- The CL:V can show movement as in walking, or being in a standing position.
CLASSIFIER R (CL:R)

- The **R handshape** represents things that are twisted or rope like.
- **Example:** hair braids, and ropes would be described with an R handshape.
CLASSIFIER S (CL:S)

• The S handshape can represent round objects, or the act of pulling something.
• **Example**: a person’s head can be used with CL:S
• **Example**: an individual pulling on a rope, or opening drawers
CLASSIFIER X (CL:X)

• The X handshape shows objects that are curved/bent.
• **Example:** showing the biopsy process
• The modified version of CL:X is a closed x handshape. This is typically used to show an individual holding onto small objects.
• **Example:** writing with a pencil, and flossing
CLASSIFIER Y (CL:Y)

- The Y handshape represents things that are commonly wide, as well as things/objects that can be poured.
- **Example:** a fat person walking or syrup being poured uses the CL:Y.