Pidgin VS. American Sign Language

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| Pidgin:   * Common form of sign language * Used by Deaf community * Mix between ASL and English * Signs with a more English word pattern * Can be called “signed English” * Easier to learn * Mostly used by individuals whose first language is spoken English – may also be used to communicate with hearing people to make it easier for them to follow and understand signs * Some similar signs but usually simpler * Most “filler words” are removed * Subject doesn’t always come first * Not an official language * No set rules | American Sign Language:   * Most common form of sign language used in America * Used by Deaf community * Has its own syntax, vocabulary, and grammar * Not linguistically tied to English at all – is an official language * Subject always comes first * “filler words” are taken out * Set language rules | English:   * Spoken language * Used mostly with hearing people * Written and spoken - no hand signs * Has its own syntax, grammar, and vocabulary |