

Rightward Wh-Movement in American Sign Language

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In D. Beerman (sic), D. LeBlanc, and H. van Riemsdijk (eds.),
Rightward Movement. Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 247-278.

This document provides an interface by which you can access digitized QuickTime movies exemplifying the grammatical ASL constructions cited in NKBAM 1997, as signed by native signers. On the pages that follow, the examples are presented in gloss form. Next to the examples are one or more movie icons (multiple icons indicate that multiple sample movies are available; in some cases, the example is signed by more than one native signer). Click on a movie icon to view the associated sample movie. Note that in order for the links to the movies to work correctly, the movie files must be located in a subfolder/directory named “movies”; the “movies” directory and this document should be located in the same folder/directory.

In some cases, the sample movie may contain vocabulary that is different from the cited example (i.e., a different name, a different noun, etc.); however, the movie still serves to illustrate the relevant construction.

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<http://www.bu.edu/ASLLRP>.



(1) JOHN BUY HOUSE
'John bought a house.'



_____ y/n
(2) JOHN BUY HOUSE
'Did John buy a house?'



_____ wh
(3) JOHN BUY "WHAT"
'What did John buy?'



_____ neg
(4) JOHN NOT BUY HOUSE
'John did not buy a house.'



_____ neg
(5) a. JOHN NOT [BUY HOUSE]_{VP}
'John did not buy a house.'



b. (=4)

(6) a. [JOHN BUY t_i YESTERDAY]_{IP} ^{wh} “WHAT”



b. ^{wh}
[JOHN BUY t_i YESTERDAY]_{IP} “WHAT”
‘What did John buy yesterday?’



(7) a. JOHN LOVE MARY QM_{wg} ^{y/n}



b. ^{y/n}
JOHN LOVE MARY QM_{wg}
‘Does John love Mary?’



(8) b. ^{neg}
JOHN []_{Neg} BUY HOUSE
‘John did not buy a house.’



(9) c. ^{wh}
[[JOHN BUY “WHAT” YESTERDAY]_{IP} []_{C[+wh]}]
‘What did John buy yesterday?’



(10) b. ^{y/n}
[[JOHN LOVE MARY]_{IP} []_{C[+y/n]}]
‘Does John love Mary?’

(same construction as example 2)



(17) JOHN LIPREAD MARY YESTERDAY
'John lipread Mary yesterday.'



(19) _____ wh
JOHN LIPREAD WHO YESTERDAY
'Who did John lipread yesterday?'



(20) _____ wh
[JOHN LIPREAD t YESTERDAY]_{IP} WHO
'Who did John lipread yesterday?'



(20') [JOHN LIPREAD t YESTERDAY]_{IP} _____ wh WHO
'Who did John lipread yesterday?'



(21) a. _____ wh
JOHN SEE YESTERDAY WHICH TEACHER TWO-OF-THEM



b. _____ wh
JOHN SEE YESTERDAY WHICH TEACHER TWO-OF-THEM
'Which of those two teachers did John see yesterday?'



(31) JOHN_i WILL EAT CORN, WILL (IX_i)^{hn}
'John will eat corn, he will.'



(32) JOHN_i WILL EAT CORN, IX_i^{hn}
'John will eat corn, he will.'



(33) JOHN_i, IX_i LIKE MARY^{topic2}
'As for John, he likes Mary.'



(34) “WHAT”, JOHN BUY YESTERDAY “WHAT”^{wh}
'What, what did John buy yesterday?'



(35) (=6)

(36) WHO, JOHN SEE WHO YESTERDAY^{wh}
'Who, who did John see yesterday?'



(38) JOHN_i, IX_i EAT CORN^{topic2}
'As for John, he eats corn.'

(same construction as example 33)

(40) a. $\frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO, LOVE JOHN}} \frac{\text{wh}}{\text{"WHAT"}}$
'Who, who loves John?'



(41) a. $\frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO, JOHN SEE}} \frac{\text{wh}}{\text{"WHAT" YESTERDAY}}$



b. $\frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO, JOHN SEE YESTERDAY}} \frac{\text{wh}}{\text{"WHAT"}}$
'Who, who did John see yesterday?'



(42) a. $\frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO, VEGETABLE, PREFER CORN}} \frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO}}$
'Who is it that, as for vegetables, prefers corn?'





b. $\frac{\text{topic2}}{\text{VEGETABLE, WHO, PREFER CORN}} \frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO}}$
'As for vegetables, who is it that prefers corn?'



(43) $\frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO, BUY BOOK YESTERDAY}} \frac{\text{wh}}{\text{WHO}}$
'Who, who bought a book yesterday?'





(51) topic1 _____ wh
JOHN_i , YOU SEE t_j WHERE 
'John where did you see?'



(52) _____ wh
YOU SEE JOHN WHERE 
'Where did you see John?'

(53) _____ neg _____ wh
JOHN NOT SEE t YESTERDAY WHO 
'Who did John not see yesterday?'

Note 12:

(i) _____ wh
JOHN EAT WILL WHAT 
'What will John eat?'

(ii) _____ neg
JOHN GO WILL ^NOT 
'John will not go.'

(iii) _____ neg
JOHN GO WILL NOT  
'John will not go.'



Note 20:

topic1

- (i) JOHN, MARY LOVE
'John Mary loves.'



topic2

- (ii) VEGETABLE, JOHN LIKE CORN
'As for vegetables, John likes corn.'



topic3

- (iii) JOHN_i, IX_i LIKE MARY
'You know John? He likes Mary.'

