



Tips for People with Hearing Loss When Communicating with People Who Are Fully Hearing

Rule

- Communication is a two-way street.
- People with hearing loss must make as much effort as people who hear well.

Set Your Stage

- Tell others how best to talk to you.
- Pick your best spot (light, quiet, proximity).
- Anticipate difficult situations; plan how to minimize them.

Project Your Communication

- Pay attention.
- Concentrate on speaker.
- Look for visual clues.
- Ask for written clues if needed.
- Don't interrupt speaker.
- Ask speaker to rephrase.
- Let conversation flow a little to gain more meaning.

Establish Empathy with Audience

- React.
- Let speakers know how well they are doing.
- Don't bluff.
- Admit it when you don't understand.
- If unable to concentrate, ask to discuss later.



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Hearing Loss Association of America

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Tips for People Who Are Hearing When Communicating with People Who Have Hearing Loss

Rule

- When audio is poor, emphasize the visual.
- Practice special speaking skills.

Set Your Stage

- Get listener's attention first.
- Face audience directly.
- Spotlight your face (no backlighting).
- Avoid noisy backgrounds.
- Ask how to best facilitate communication.

Project Your Communication

- Do not shout.
- Speak clearly, at a moderate pace.
- Do not cover your mouth, chew food, gum, or smoke while talking.
- Rephrase if you are not understood.
- Use facial expressions, gestures.
- Give clues when changing subject.

Establish Empathy with Audience

- Be patient if response seems slow.
- Stay positive and relaxed.
- Talk to the person, not about him or her.
- Show respect to help build confidence.

HLAA is a national organization for people with hearing loss. HLAA holds annual conventions and Walk4Hearing events across the country, has local chapters for support and information, and advocates for 48 million people in the U.S. with hearing loss.



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