



Tips for People Who Are Hearing When Communicating with People Who Have a 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.*

Hearing Loss Association of America®
7910 Woodmont Avenue - Suite 1200
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301.657.2248 • 301.913.9413 (Fax)
hearingloss.org



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

Rule

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

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.*
- *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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