



## Tips for Communicating with a Person Who Has Hearing Loss



### Overview

Hearing loss makes communication difficult. But often, there are simple things we can do to improve it. Here's a few tips to make it easier to talk with people who have some hearing loss.

### Lip reading

First, know that many people with hearing loss rely on lip reading to make sense of what you're saying. So keep this in mind when you speak to them. Don't try to talk to them from another room. Come and face them directly so they can see your mouth clearly. If they hear better from one ear, it may help to position yourself so you can speak more to that ear. And try to minimize background noise.

### Speak clearly

Now, before you begin a conversation, say their name. This gives them a moment to focus their attention on your voice. As you talk to them, speak slowly and clearly. Don't yell, because this can distort your voice. Watch their expression as you speak. Do they look puzzled? If so, you may need to repeat what you said. If they still don't understand you, don't just repeat the same words over and over. Consider phrasing what you're saying in a different way that will be more clear.

### Take turns

If more than one person is talking, take turns. Don't interrupt each other. And don't jump from topic to topic. Always make sure you're clear about the topic you're talking about, and let the person with hearing loss know when the topic changes.

### Write down important info

And finally, if you need to give important information like an address or date, consider writing it down so there's no miscommunication. For more tips, talk to a doctor or hearing specialist.