



Tips on Hearing Impairment

Facts on Hearing Impairment:

- Both hearing and deaf people can adopt either point of view. The pathologic view tends to look at deafness as a disability that can be corrected via medical treatment, so the deaf person is "normalized." In contrast, the cultural view embraces the identity of being deaf but does not necessarily reject medical aid.
- One in every three people over the age of 65 – approximately 165 million people worldwide – live with hearing loss, according to the World Health Organization. This makes hearing loss the second most prevalent issue globally.

What is the definition of Hearing Impaired?

- Legally, Hearing Impairment is defined as individuals with profound hearing loss are unable to hear loud speech or the everyday sounds around them
- an individual is considered deaf when he or she has no – or little hearing.

Successful communication requires the efforts of all people involved in a conversation: Even when the person with hearing loss utilizes hearing aids and active listening strategies, it is crucial that others involved in the communication process consistently use good communication strategies, including the following:

- Face the hearing-impaired person directly, on the same level and in good light whenever possible. Position yourself so that the light is shining on the speaker's face, not in the eyes of the listener.
- Speak clearly, slowly, distinctly, but naturally, without shouting or exaggerating mouth movements. Shouting distorts the sound of speech and may make speech reading more difficult.
- Say the person's name before beginning a conversation. This gives the listener a chance to focus attention and reduces the chance of missing words at the beginning of the conversation.
- Keep your hands away from your face while talking.
- If the hearing-impaired person has difficulty understanding a particular phrase or word, try to find a different way of saying the same thing, rather than repeating the original words over and over.
- Pay attention to the listener. A puzzled look may indicate misunderstanding. Tactfully ask the hearing-impaired person if they understood you or ask leading questions so you know your message got across.
- Get the persons attention before you speak. A shoulder tap is appropriate if the person is near you, wave your hand if she is at a distance.
- Be patient and be prepared to write things down if you are not being understood or if you do not understand.

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