

## Communicating with Individuals with Hearing Impairment

Successful communication requires the efforts of ALL people involved in a conversation.

<b>Communication Strategy</b>	<b>When would I do this?</b>	<b>Why would I do this?</b>	<b>Questions I have about how to do this</b>
Face the hearing impaired person <i>directly</i> .	Whenever possible; in good light.	So that the person with hearing impairment can use <i>visual cues</i> , such as lip reading and facial expressions, in order to help with speech understanding.	
Do NOT talk to hearing impaired person from another room.	Always.	Not being able to see each other when talking is a common reason people have difficulty understanding what is said.	
Speak <i>clearly</i> and <i>slowly</i> , but <i>naturally</i> , without shouting or exaggerating mouth movements.	If the hearing impaired person still cannot understand what you said, even after using other communication strategies.	Shouting distorts the sound of speech and may make lip reading more difficult.	
Keep your hands <i>away</i> from your face while talking.	If you are eating, chewing, or smoking while talking.	May interfere with hearing impaired person's ability to lip read.	
<i>Familiarize</i> the listener with the general topic of the conversation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storytelling</li> <li>• Explaining instructions</li> <li>• Discussing new information</li> <li>• Reviewing old information</li> </ul>	If the listener knows what the conversation will be about, they may have less difficulty understanding. With that being said, avoid changes in topic. If the subject changes, tell them.	
Enroll in <i>aural rehabilitation classes</i> with your hearing impaired spouse, family member or friend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you notice someone in your life is having difficulty hearing.</li> <li>• If someone has been diagnosed with hearing impairment and is deciding on or has recently decided on hearing technology.</li> <li>• If someone has been diagnosed with hearing impairment and has been using hearing technology, but is still not receiving maximum benefit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To learn more about the nature of the hearing impaired person's hearing loss.</li> <li>• To understand what difficulties the hearing impaired person may be facing and how you can help.</li> <li>• To help the hearing impaired person to manage communication and any hearing technology they may use.</li> </ul>	

[http://www.ucsfhealth.org/education/communicating\\_with\\_people\\_with\\_hearing\\_loss/](http://www.ucsfhealth.org/education/communicating_with_people_with_hearing_loss/)

<http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Audiologic-Rehabilitation/>