



Tips for Talking to the Hard of Hearing

- Face the person who is hard of hearing directly, on the same level as them, whenever possible.
- Be sure that the light is shining on the speaker's face rather than in the eyes of the person who is hard of hearing.
- Be aware of the possible distortion of sound for the person who is hard of hearing. They may hear you, but still have difficulty understanding some words.
- Do not talk from another room. If you must, make sure the person has heard you call and tell them what room you are in.
- Recognize that everyone, especially those who are hard of hearing, does not hear and understand as well when they are tired or ill.
- Speak in a normal fashion without shouting or elaborately mouthing words. Words spoken a bit more slowly, not rapidly run together, are clearer than those that are shouted and exaggerated.
- If a person has difficulty understanding a particular word or phrase, try to find a different way of saying the same thing rather than repeating the original words over and over.
- Avoid talking too rapidly or using sentences that are too complex and go on too long. Slow down, pause between sentences and wait to make sure you have been understood before continuing.
- If you are giving specific information, such as a time and place, be sure the person who is hard of hearing repeats it back to you. Many words and numbers sound alike.