

# Tips for the person with hearing loss

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## When communicating with a hearing person, consider these tips:

1. Pick a good place to communicate; look for good lighting, limited background noise, and few distractions.
2. Plan ahead for difficult situations so you can use an appropriate strategy. This includes trying to anticipate what words might be used, what questions you might be asked, and communications to succeed.
3. Tell the hearing person how to best communicate with you. The person will appreciate knowing what to do.
4. Ask for rephrasing and written key words if you do not understand what is said.
5. If you don't understand something, be as specific as you can when explaining what you missed. Say something like: "I understood everything up to the name of the street."
6. Try to arrange breaks if the conversation or meeting is long.
7. If you discover you've said something that doesn't fit the conversation (and you will), use humor to make everyone (including yourself) feel at ease. This doesn't mean you should make fun of yourself, but that you recognize the situation is amusing.
8. Don't monopolize the conversation; it is boring for everyone.
9. If it's just not working, arrange to try again when the chance of success is better, perhaps in a different environment or when you're less tired.
10. Do not bluff! If the conversation is important enough for you to participate, it's important enough for everyone to know communication.

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