

Helping the person with hearing loss

Avoid talking down to the person. Do not shout, the louder you shout the less is understood.

Help them to communicate with you. Face the person, do not cover your mouth.

Avoid angry criticism if they have misunderstood what you are saying. Repeat the sentence calmly, and slowly it helps clarify the situation.

Arguing only makes matters worse, often agitates and heightens the person's inability to assimilate what you have said.

Quiet surroundings enable a hearing loss person to understand far more of the conversation.

Use short and simple sentences, speak slowly and distinctively, use a gentle and relaxed tone.

The hearing loss person needs a little longer to process what they think they heard.

Write things down if it is absolutely necessary for clarity.

A Hearing aid can only amplify sound. It is set to the individual's hearing ability. It cannot be turned up. The louder you shout the more is misunderstood.

Do Not Shout!

Speaking to someone with hearing loss

The hearing loss person will be listening to your voice and lipreading to fill in the bits they miss.

Find a quiet place with good lighting directly on your face to talk.

Don't stand too close – the optimum distance for a hearing aid is three feet.

Get the person's attention before you start speaking.

Speak clearly, naturally and not too fast.
Please don't shout!

Use gestures to help where appropriate.

Keep your hands away from your mouth.

Get to the point – don't waffle.

Check that you are being understood.

Be prepared to rephrase if necessary.

It might be best to write some things down, like dates, times and addresses.

Be patient – it may take a moment to decipher what you have said.

Take off dark glasses.