

Communication Strategies When Talking to Someone with a Hearing Loss

- Get the attention of the person with hearing loss before you begin speaking (say name, tap shoulder, etc.)
- Try to talk face to face whenever possible.
- Do not try to communicate from another room.
- Do not try to talk when your back is toward the person with hearing loss.
- Do not start talking and then turn away from the person with hearing loss.
- Do not talk in competition with anything else:
 - Turn down/off/mute TV
 - Turn down/off radio
 - Turn off water, etc.
- Try to remove obstructions from in front of your mouth while talking to the person with hearing loss so they can get all the visual cues possible:
 - Gum/food chewing
 - Hands
 - Cigarettes
- Talk clearly and distinctly but do not shout. Louder is not necessarily better.
- Always exercise empathy and patience when communicating with a person with hearing loss.
- Be compliant and helpful and encourage the listener to give you feedback to make it as easy as possible for the person with hearing loss.
- Be supportive and encouraging to the new hearing aid user!