



The United Methodist Committee on

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Ministries

Communication Tips with Hearing Loss

Communication is a two-way street. Here are tips for the person who hears well, and for the person with hearing loss:

Tips for Hearing Person

Set Your Stage

- * Face person directly.
- * Spotlight your face (no backlighting).
- * Avoid noisy backgrounds.
- * Get attention first.
- * Ask how you can facilitate communication.
- * When audio and acoustics are poor, emphasize the visual.

Get the Point Across

- * Don't shout.
- * Speak clearly, at moderate pace, not over-emphasizing words.
- * Don't hide your mouth, chew food, gum, or smoke while talking.
- * Re-phrase if you are not understood.

Tips for the Person with Hearing Loss

Set Your Stage

- * Tell others how best to talk to you.
- * Pick your best spot (light, quiet area, close to speaker).
- * Anticipate difficult situations, plan how to minimize them.

Do Your Part

- * Pay attention.
- * Concentrate on speaker.
- * Look for visual clues.
- * Ask for written cues if needed.

Source: Hearing Loss of America website at www.hearingloss.org. For more information, go to the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries' website at www.umdeaf.org.



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