Tips for People Who Are Hearing When Communicating with People Who Have a Hearing Loss

Rule
• When audio is poor, emphasize the visual.
• Practice special speaking skills.

Set Your Stage
• Get listener’s attention first.
• Face audience directly.
• Spotlight your face (no backlighting).
• Avoid noisy backgrounds.
• Ask how to best facilitate communication.

Project Your Communication
• Do not shout.
• Speak clearly, at a moderate pace.
• Do not cover your mouth, chew food, gum, or smoke while talking.
• Rephrase if you are not understood.
• Use facial expressions, gestures.
• Give clues when changing subject.

Establish Empathy with Audience
• Be patient if response seems slow.
• Stay positive and relaxed.
• Talk to the person, not about him or her.
• Show respect to help build confidence.

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| - Communication is a two-way street.  
  - People with hearing loss must make as much effort as hearing people. | - Communication is a two-way street.  
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| - Tell others how best to talk to you.  
  - Pick your best spot (light, quiet, proximity).  
  - Anticipate difficult situations; plan how to minimize them. | - Tell others how best to talk to you.  
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| - Pay attention.  
  - Concentrate on speaker.  
  - Look for visual clues.  
  - Ask for written clues if needed.  
  - Don’t interrupt speaker.  
  - Let conversation flow a little to gain more meaning. | - Pay attention.  
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| - React.  
  - Let speakers know how well they are doing.  
  - Don’t bluff.  
  - Admit it when you don’t understand.  
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