

Don't turn away

Don't
shout

Don't speak too fast

Get Face
my me
attention

Get to the point

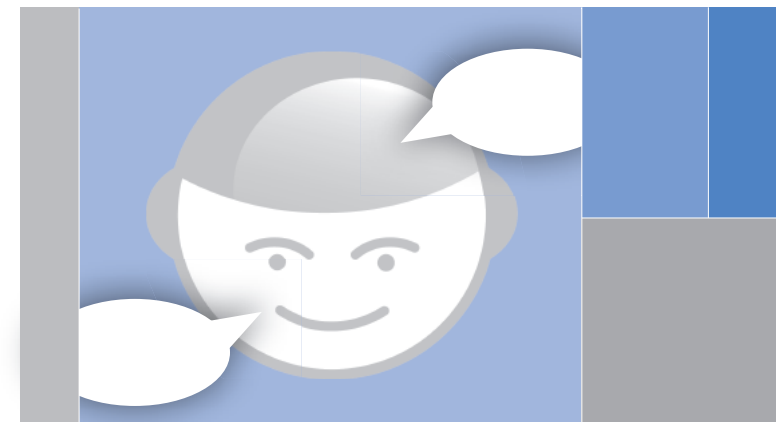
Think Distance

Don't cover your
mouth

Torbay and South Devon **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust



Audiology - Hearing Care Torbay and South Devon



Communication Tactics

New 'How to' videos now
available - please visit

[http://www.sdhct.nhs.uk/services/audiology/
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Contact us

Audiology Department
Torbay Hospital
Lowes Bridge
Torquay

Tel: ☎ (01803) 656325

Email: audiology.sdhct@nhs.net

www.sdhct.nhs.uk/aboutus/services/audiology

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SIEMENS

How to be a human hearing aid

Here are some tactics your family and friends can use to help you hear more easily. It may be helpful to introduce them to your family and friends.

- 1 Make sure you can see people's faces clearly** when they are talking to you. It is harder to lip-read when someone has their hand over their mouth or there is light shining in your face.
- 2 Minimise background noise.** Background noise, such as television or radio, can disrupt clarity of speech. Choosing an appropriate location can be very beneficial.
- 3 Speak one at a time.** This ensures that you can face the speaker at all times. Having several speakers at once will increase background noise and make it more difficult for you to follow the conversation.
- 4 Speak up, but do not shout.** Often hearing aid users lack clarity of speech, but not volume. Shouting will distort speech signals and could be painful.
- 5 Use hand gestures and facial expressions** appropriately. A lot of the emotion of a conversation is gained from body language.
- 6 Slow down speech,** however do not exaggerate words. This can disrupt the natural rhythm of speech, making it more difficult to follow the context of the conversation.
- 7 Tell the speaker you have difficulty hearing them.** The speaker needs to be aware that you have a hearing loss before beginning a conversation so that they can adapt their communication tactics for your needs.
- 8 Repeat, rephrase or write it down.** If you are finding a situation difficult, having a different strategy may make it easier for you to be included.



Please note:

If you are experiencing difficulties communicating with a particular person or in a specific situation, the best thing to do is explain these tactics to them as it's likely they are not aware. Once they understand this they can help make the situation easier for you.

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