



**Royal Association for Deaf people**

# **Deaf Awareness Training**

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# Course outline

Relaxed, fun and interactive

- Terminology
- Types of deafness
- Communication tactics
- Effective communication with deaf people



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# Terminology

Which terms are appropriate?

~~Deaf and Dumb~~

Deafened

Deaf

~~'The Deaf'~~

~~Deaf Mute~~

~~Deaf as a Post~~

Hard of Hearing

DeafBlind

~~Cloth eared~~

~~Hearing Impaired~~



# Definitions of deafness

- **D/deaf** Used to describe people with all degrees of deafness.
- **Hard of Hearing** Mild to severe hearing loss. Usually used to describe people who've lost hearing gradually.
- **Deafened** Used to describe people who become severely or profoundly deaf after learning to speak.
- **Deafblind** Used to describe people who have limited vision and hearing or who are totally deaf and blind.

# Communication tactics

## 1) British Sign Language (BSL)



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# British Sign Language (BSL)

*A man is standing on the bridge*



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# British Sign Language (BSL)

*The ladder is leaning against  
the tree*



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# British Sign Language

- Rich and complex visual spatial language
- BSL has its own grammatical structure and syntax
- It is not a word for word translation of English
- BSL uses facial expressions to convey intonation and tone of voice
- UK Government recognised BSL as a language in 2003
- Sign language is different in every country



# Use of English

- Depending on their background, a lot of Deaf people are not proficient when reading and writing English
- Why.....?

# Iconic signs

- BABY
- CAR
- BOOK
- DRINK
- SMOKE
- LORRY
- AEROPLANE



# Cultural Interpretation

Languages reflect the culture they are being used in.

This means that sign languages have evolved differently across the world.

| British | American | French |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Man     | Man      | Homme  |

| British | American | Indian |
|---------|----------|--------|
| Baby    | Baby     | Baby   |

| British | Japanese | American |
|---------|----------|----------|
| Dog     | Dog      | Dog      |



# Communication tactics

## 2) Lip-reading



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# Lip-reading exercise!

- Let's have some FUN and LEARN!
  - Break into pairs
- Assign one person as 'person A' and other as 'person B'
- Please remember not to use your voice or even whisper!



# Lip-reading

- Most words beginning with V/F, P/M/B normally look similar. Try and say **Pan, Man, Ban**
- Lip-reading is 30% accurate and 70% guesswork!
- Some people are easier to lip-read – clear speech is important
- Lip-reading requires a good understanding of English



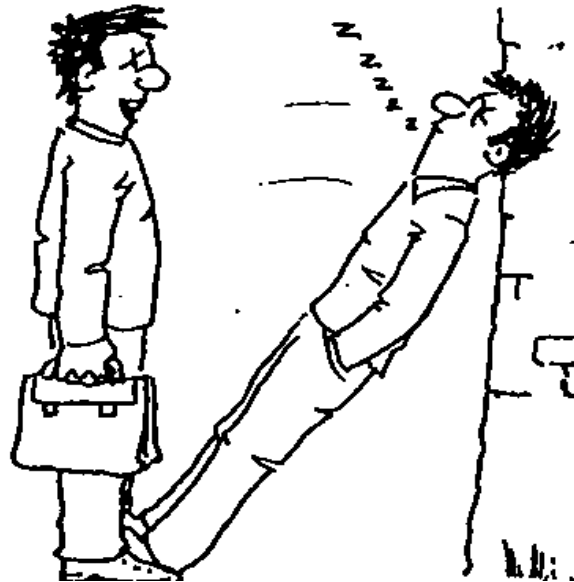


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# Tips on how to communicate with a deaf person

- Make eye contact and speak slowly
- Slow down – just a little slower than normal as if you speak too slowly, it will distort your lip pattern and make the conversation boring



# Tips on how to communicate with a deaf person

- Speak up – but don't shout! It can hurt when you hear it through a hearing aid and makes you look aggressive



# Tips to remember

- Repeat – but no more than once or twice. If the person still doesn't understand, try rephrasing what you are saying
- Use clear speech, mime and gesture
- Write it down, the best and quickest method for names especially
- Minimise background noise if possible



# More tips..

- Position yourself in good lighting
- Ensure your face/mouth is clearly visible
- Clarify the subject and let the deaf person know when you change it – it is easier to lip-read when they know what the subject is about
- Use plain, everyday English and keep things to the point – long winded conversations are tiring and frustrating
- Speak one at a time and never say ‘never mind’ or ‘it doesn’t matter’



# Further information..

- If you are interested in learning BSL further, the best thing to do is to go to [www.signature.org.uk](http://www.signature.org.uk), type in your postcode and find the nearest centre to you that provides BSL Level 1.
- Another option is BSL Flashsticks – go to [www.flashsticks.com](http://www.flashsticks.com) and enter the code 'RAD10' to get 10% off any orders.



# Now, over to you!

## ANY QUESTIONS?



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# And finally....

For more information please go to:

[www.royaldeaf.org.uk](http://www.royaldeaf.org.uk)

or email Radha Starr on:

[radha.starr@royaldeaf.org.uk](mailto:radha.starr@royaldeaf.org.uk)

Thank you for taking part! 😊



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