

COMMUNICATION TIPS FOR PERSONS WITH HEARING IMPAIREMENT



Responsibilities of the LISTENER:

- **IF YOU NEED AMPLIFICATION, USE IT** (hearing aids and other devices)
- Watch the speaker and *really* pay attention
- Tell others you have a hearing impairment and how to help you
- Position yourself close to the speaker and face him/her
- It is OK to ask the speaker to repeat—or better yet, to RE-PHRASE
- Pay attention to facial expressions, gestures and body language
- Concentrate on the thought or meaning rather than each word
- Provide feedback that you understand and DON'T BLUFF!



**Call today for a
free consultation
(509) 994-4395**

Responsibilities of the SPEAKER:

- Get the person's attention and make eye contact FIRST
- Try to be within 3-6 feet from the listener
- Check to see that the person is really understanding
- Be patient, positive and relaxed
- When asked to repeat, rephrase using different words
- Speak clearly, at a moderate pace and use adequate volume – do not yell or over exaggerate, natural is best
- Facial expressions and gestures help get the point across
- Don't cover your mouth – keep objects out of your mouth while speaking
- Face the listener – your voice will project and the listener can see your face and expressions
- Let the listener know if the topic changes



Responsibilities of BOTH parties:

- Make sure the hearing-impaired person is *part* of the conversation
- Move away from or reduce background noise
- Have conversation in places that are well lit and quiet

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