

Deaf Awareness Week

Interesting Facts

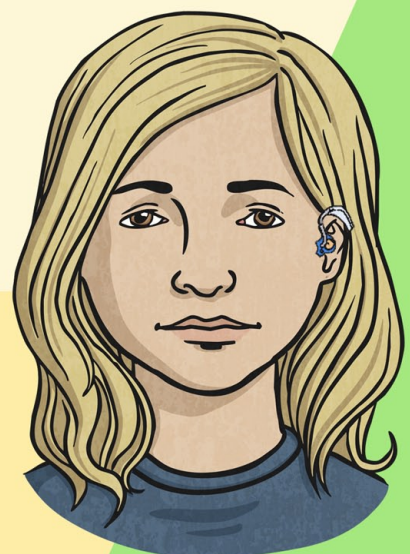
(From the UK Council on Deafness, 2016)

1 in 6 people in the UK are affected by hearing loss.

Around 2 million people in the UK have hearing aids- about 800,000 are severely or profoundly deaf.

Adults and children who are deaf or hearing impaired can face communication barriers which can make people:

- feel isolated
- feel excluded from society
- feel low or experience depression
- have a lack of confidence
- find it difficult to secure a job



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Improving Communication

If you meet a person who is deaf, remember to:



- get the person's attention you are speaking with
- speak clearly
- face the person you are speaking to
(do not put your hands over or near your mouth)
- repeat yourself, if appropriate
- don't say – 'It doesn't matter' or 'Did you understand?'

If at first a person doesn't understand you could try to:

- use a 'sign' or a non-verbal gesture
- write it down
- type a sentence or message
- draw a picture



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Top Tips on Being Deaf Aware

- Make sure you have the person's attention before you start speaking.



- Stand or sit in a place with good lighting, so that you can be lip-read.

- Try to find a quiet place to communicate with little background noise as this can be distracting.



- Use your usual voice level. If a deaf person uses an hearing aid it can be very uncomfortable for them and can seem as though you are shouting.

- You could learn fingerspelling or British Sign Language (BSL) which can help you communicate with people who are deaf. This is a great skill too!

- Check if the person you are communicating with understands, if not, try using gestures or try saying it in a different way. You could write it down or draw a picture, which may help.

