

**Communication Tips with Hearing Loss**Communication is a two-way street. Here are tips for the person who hears well, and for the person with hearing loss:

**Tips for Hearing Person**
Set Your Stage
 \* Face person directly.
 \* Spotlight your face (no backlighting).
 \* Avoid noisy backgrounds.
 \* Get attention first.
 \* Ask how you can facilitate communication.
 \* When audio and acoustics are poor, emphasize the visual.

Get the Point Across
 \* Don't shout.
 \* Speak clearly, at moderate pace, not over-emphasizing
 words.
 \* Don't hide your mouth, chew food, gum, or smoke while
 talking.
 \* Re-phrase if you are not understood.

**Tips for the Person with Hearing Loss**
Set Your Stage
 \* Tell others how best to talk to you.
 \* Pick your best spot (light, quiet area, close to speaker).
 \* Anticipate difficult situations, plan how to minimize them.

Do Your Part
 \* Pay attention.
 \* Concentrate on speaker.
 \* Look for visual clues.
 \* Ask for written cues if needed.

Source: Hearing Loss of America website at www.hearingloss.org. For more information, go to the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries’ website at www.umdeaf.org.



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