

**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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