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.