Communication Tips on Hearing Loss
Communication is a two-way street so we need our hearing partners do their part!

If both people take responsibility, communication frustrations would be less frequent.

For Hearing People
Rule: Emphasize the visual.

**Set Your Stage**
- Get their attention first.
- Face the person directly.
- Spotlight your face (no backlighting).
- Ask what works best for them.

**Project Your Communication**
- Don’t shout.
- Speak clearly at a moderate pace.
- Don’t hide your mouth, chew anything or smoke while talking.
- Rephrase (rather than repeat) if you aren’t understood.
- Use facial expressions and gestures.
- Give clues when changing the subject.

**Establish Empathy**
- Be patient if response seem slow.
- Stay positive and relaxed.
- Talk to a hard of hearing person, not around him/her.
- Offer respect to help build confidence.

For Hard of Hearing People
Rule: Pay attention, do not bluff.

**Set Your Stage**
- Tell others how best to talk to you.
- Pick your best spot (light, quiet, proximity to the speaker).
- Anticipate difficult situations and plan how best to minimize them.

**Project Your Communication**
- Pay attention.
- Concentrate on the speaker.
- Look for visual cues.
- Ask for written cues if needed.
- Don’t interrupt, let the conversation flow awhile to gain more understanding.

**Establish Empathy**
- React, let the speaker know how well he is doing.
- Don’t bluff, admit it when you don’t understand (prevents trouble later).
- If too tired to concentrate, ask to have the discussion at another time.