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in collaboration with **deafscotland**

Deaf Awareness & Communication Tactics
With Deaf and Deafblind People &
Introduction to British Sign Language (BSL)

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Terminology ...


Appropriate

- » Deaf
- » Deafened
- » Partially Deaf
- » Partially Hearing
- » Hard of Hearing
- » Hearing Impaired / hearing loss
- » Deafblind (4)



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Terminology ...


Inappropriate

- » Deaf and Dumb
- » Deaf Mute
- » The Deaf
- » The Disabled
- » Handicapped
- » Deaf without speech
- » Blind as a bat /Deaf as a post ...




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Terminology ...

- **Hard of Hearing People**
- **Deafened / Profoundly Deaf People**
- **Sign Language Users**
- **Deafblind people**



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Terminology ...

Terms used to show how deaf the person is:

- mild, moderate, severe, profound

When a person became deaf:

- born deaf, acquired deafness

Temporary or permanent

- conductive – perceptive/sensori-neural/nerve

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Recognising ...

How would you recognise someone who is:

- Deaf
- Deafblind




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Statistics - Scotland...

- **985,000**
– 1 – in – 6 of the adult population
- **865,00** hard of hearing
– 680,000 over 60yrs / 1/3 61-70yrs / ¼ 70yrs +
- **12,000** deafened
– 2,000 under 60yrs
- **5,500 – 6,500** BSL users



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Deafness & Communication...

- The process of what we hear is complex
- Factors that influence what we hear include:
 - Degree of deafness
 - Type of deafness
 - Frequency where deafness occurs



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Deafness & Communication...

Factors such as those above and the onset of deafness all have an effect on speech, language and communication.

High & Low Frequency:

- Many consonants have a high frequency sound (s, t, k, f, etc.)
- Whilst vowels use low frequency sounds (a, e, i, o, u).


It's not all about volume!

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Now try this one ...

ai-
--e---u-- -oa-
-i--i--i--



ai-
1 -e---u-- -oa-
-i--i--i--
KA13 6SA

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Now try this one ...

A-B
1 P-nnyb-rn R--d
K-lw-nn-ng

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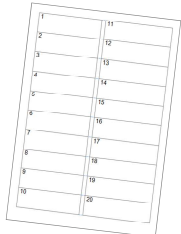
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What we may hear ...

- Pen & paper

2 columns

1 11
to to
10 20



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What may be heard ...



- 1 Kitchen
- 2 Door
- 3 Floor
- 4 Fork
- 5 Dishwasher
- 6 Knife
- 7 Back door
- 8 Saucer
- 9 Oven
- 10 Window
- 11 Hob
- 12 Hall
- 13 Front door
- 14 Jug
- 15 Fridge
- 16 Stairs
- 17 Microwave
- 18 Chairs
- 19 Bedroom
- 20 Plate

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What may be heard ...



Short team meeting as heard by a deaf person through hearing aids ...



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Types of Hearing Aids ...




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Hearing Aids ...




- Hearing aids have benefits and limitations
- Hearing aids in general amplify all sounds
- Most have a "T" switch for use with a Loop System
- Just because a person is wearing a hearing aid doesn't mean they are able to hear clearly
- Some people choose not to wear an aid, and some people do not get any benefit from one

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Lipreading ...




- **Sounds that look the same on lips:**
pat – bat - mat
tie – die - nigh
fan- van
fine- vine
coat- goat
back- bag
- **The sounds of letters** such as **k - g - j** are made at the back of the mouth and throat which are virtually invisible on lips

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Rule of thumb ...



- Repeat
- Rephrase
- Write things down
- Gesture
- *Make sure you also know what is being said – communication is a two-way process!*

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Creating the best environment

- Lighting
- Backgrounds, including flooring
- Visual distractions
- Acoustics – background noise; echo
- Seating / positioning
- In meetings – one speaker at a time

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So far ...

- **Not** all deaf people are the same
- Not all deaf people **communicate** the same
- Communication needs may **differ** depending on the environment/setting
- Hearing aids are **not** a 'cure'
- Technology **may** assist

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Communication Support ...

Communication support / Language Service Professionals:

- Sign Language Interpreter
- Notetaker
- Lipspeaker
- Communicator Guides

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Communication Support ...

Using a Sign Language Interpreter

- One speaker at a time
- Seating – able to hear/see all
- Will interpret background/environmental sounds

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British Sign Language - BSL



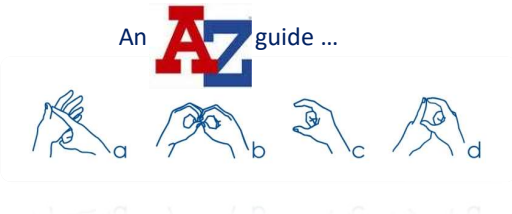
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Fingerspelling ...

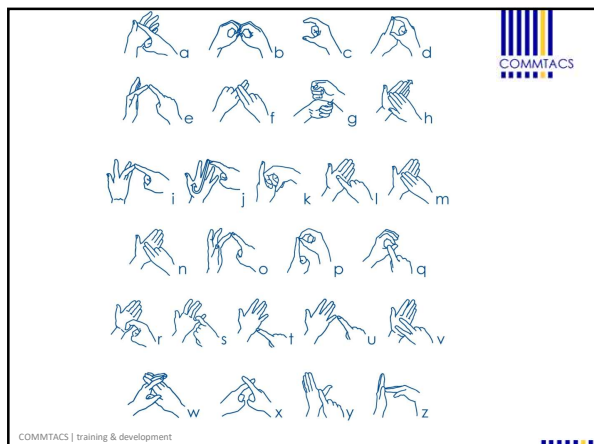
Manual Alphabet

An **AZ** guide ...



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Fingerspelling ...

- Your name
- Place of birth
- If time – your favourite TV programme/film



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British Sign Language (BSL) ...

- BSL is a language in its own right
- Sign Language is not international
- Sign Supported English (SSE) borrows signs from BSL – follows English word order
- Sign Language is not mime
- Fingerspelling forms part of a signed language

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British Sign Language (BSL) ...

- BSL is a natural developing language
- Different from spoken languages – productive & receptive
- BSL user may have English as a second language.

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Visual communication

Meaning is important!

What's the sign for 'run'

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Visual communication

Meaning is important!

What's the sign for 'run'


- **Run** down the road
- **Run** a meeting
- **Run** a bath
- **Run** for election
- **Run** out of ideas for the word 'RUN'!

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Visual communication

Some things to remember:

- Facial expression
- Hand shape
- Placement
- Direction



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Video ..

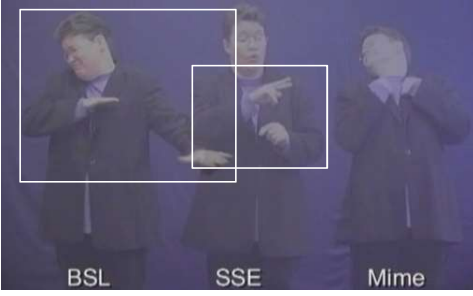
BSL v SSE v Mime




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Spot the difference ...



BSL SSE Mime



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Questions



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Thank you ...



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