

Acquired hearing loss and communication

This brief factsheet highlights some of the main impacts of acquired hearing loss on communication.

It identifies practical action you can take to remove barriers to participation that people with acquired hearing loss may face. Remember every person is different.

People with acquired hearing loss may lack confidence when they take part in discussions. This will be particularly true if they are unfamiliar with the meeting place.

A venue with poor acoustics or background noise will make it hard work to follow a conversation. This is particularly the case if the conversation involves more than one other person and if people speak quickly.

Key actions

You can help a person with an **acquired hearing loss** to participate more fully by making sure:

- the venue is quiet, with good acoustics
- speakers' faces can be clearly seen, including their mouths (this will help those who lip read)
- speakers use gestures and visual aids to emphasise what they are saying
- a pen and some paper are kept handy to write down key points
- specialist services are available, if required.

Further information:

RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf People) (www.rnid.org.uk)
Scottish Council on Deafness (www.scod.org.uk)