



HOW TO **COMMUNICATE** WITH HEARING AID USERS

Good communications always require some effort from everyone involved in the conversation. When it comes to hearing aid users, it's no different. In fact it requires a bit more.

Maybe you have a friend, relative or co-worker who wears a hearing aid? Maybe you're not really sure how to communicate effectively with them to avoid frustration and embarrassment.

Don't worry, we'll take you through a few simple tips that'll make it all much easier.



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HEARING AIDS **DON'T RESTORE** YOUR HEARING TO NORMAL

Before we go into the tips, we want to share one important message with you: Hearing aids don't restore hearing to normal.



Hearing aids are an invaluable help to hearing-impaired people, but it will never be like hearing normally. First-time users in particular usually need some time to adjust to the hearing aid and forgotten sounds.

Just the sound of one's own voice is different. And sounds that haven't been heard in years – like the rustling of a newspaper or birds chirping in the distance – all come flying back. Becoming accustomed to all this takes time. And concentrating on listening in a conversation takes a lot of energy.

The good news is that you can make it a lot easier for yourself and for the hearing aid user.



TIP #2: KEEP YOUR WHOLE FACE IN **CLEAR VIEW**

People with hearing loss rely very much on their other senses. Many lip-read while talking to you – even if this is sometimes done subconsciously.



TIP #1: **DON'T** SHOUT

The hearing aid user's main problem is not usually the volume of your voice, but the articulation. It's far more helpful to simply speak clearly and more slowly – without exaggerating. Shouting can actually be uncomfortable for a hearing aid user.



TIP #3: **MAKE EYE CONTACT** AND SAY THE PERSON'S NAME

When you want to address someone, go for eye contact. If you know each other well, you can touch the person to get their attention.

TIP #4: STAY CLOSE TO THE PERSON YOU'RE SPEAKING TO

The level of your voice is connected to the distance you're speaking from. Even a few steps further away from the person can make the conversation tricky.



TIP #6: REPHRASE YOUR SENTENCES, WHEN NECESSARY

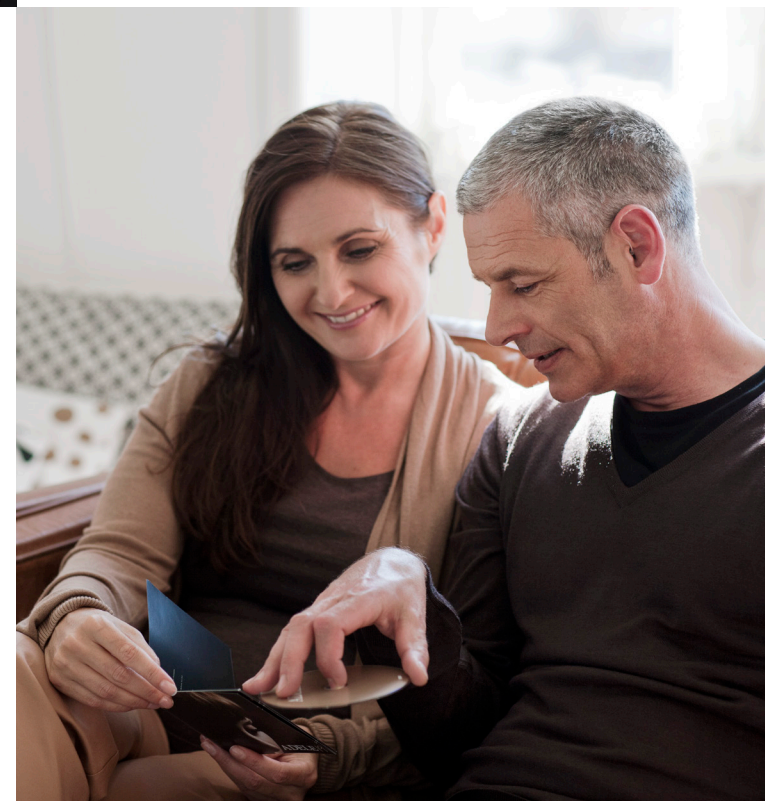
Hearing problems are often about the inability to hear certain sounds, or about confusing certain sounds with others.

People with a hearing loss may hear some of the words of a sentence, but fail to understand the spoken message. Rephrasing might just help.



TIP #5: AVOID LOUD SOUNDS FROM THE SURROUNDINGS

Any kind of background noise makes it much more difficult for a hearing aid user to communicate. And people generally don't want their hearing loss to be a nuisance to others. Turn off the TV or the radio, or move the conversation to somewhere quieter.



YOU'RE ALL **SET**

Let's wrap this up, so you can go join the conversation.
Remember:

- Don't shout
- Keep your whole face in clear view
- Make eye contact and say the person's name
- Stay close to the person you're speaking to
- Avoid loud sounds from the surroundings
- Rephrase your sentences, when necessary



Do you know someone who has a hearing loss but hasn't done anything about it yet?

It's quick and easy to take an online hearing test from the comforts of your home.

[ONLINE HEARING TEST](#)

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At Widex we know that hearing loss is complicated. Every case is individual, every solution unique. That's why we continuously search for the most natural and personalized solution for each individual hearing loss.