



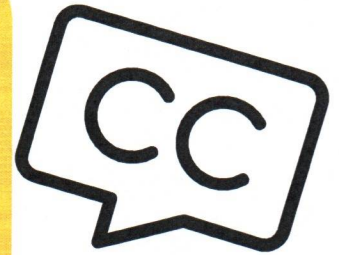
Many Ways to **LISTEN**

WHAT DOES “DEAF” OR “HARD OF HEARING” MEAN?

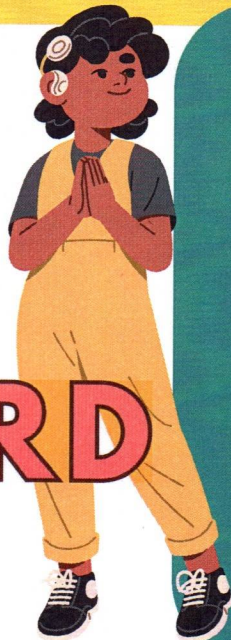
- Being Deaf or hard of hearing means someone has trouble hearing sounds fully or clearly.
- It can range from mild hearing loss to complete Deafness.
- Some people are born with hearing loss, others develop it.
- Hearing loss can affect one or both ears, and they can be temporary or permanent.

COMMUNICATION TIPS

- Face the person when you're talking so they can see your lips and facial expressions.
- Speak clearly, not loudly.
Shouting can actually make it harder to understand.
- Don't cover your mouth while speaking.
- Be patient and repeat or rephrase if needed - don't say "never mind."
- Use gestures, text, or visuals when helpful.



Many Ways to be **HEARD**



END THE STIGMA

- Not everyone who is Deaf or hard of hearing uses the same tools or communication styles.
- Some use hearing aids or cochlear implants.
- Others may use speechreading, use sign language, or write things down to communicate.
- Speaking differently or not at all doesn't mean someone isn't listening or understanding.

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