

Interesting Facts about Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals

There are over 22 million Deaf people in the United States!

Deaf people have safer driving records than hearing people



Former President Bill Clinton has a hearing loss and wears hearing aids



The huddle formation used by football teams originated at Gallaudet University, a liberal arts college for Deaf/Hard of Hearing people in Washington, DC, to prevent other schools from reading their sign language.



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A Deaf Center-Fielder for the Cincinnati Reds, William “Dummy” Hoy, invented the hand signals for strikes and balls for umpires to use in baseball.



Phyllis Frelich won the Tony Award for Best Actress of 1980 in the Broadway play *Children of a Lesser God*. Marlee Matlin won an Oscar nominee for the same film. Both Frelich and Matlin are Deaf.



When Beethoven composed his ninth symphony, he was profoundly deaf.

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Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was originally an instructor for Deaf children. He invented the telephone to help his Deaf wife and mother hear better.

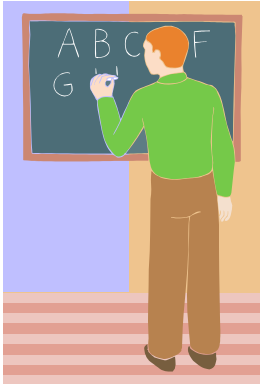


Scuba divers often use sign language under water. Deaf people can sign (talk) to one another at great distances. Hearing people require amplification to hear someone who is speaking from far away.

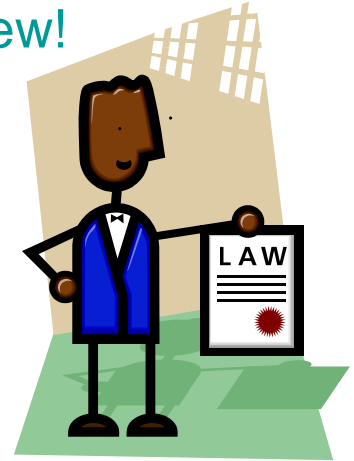
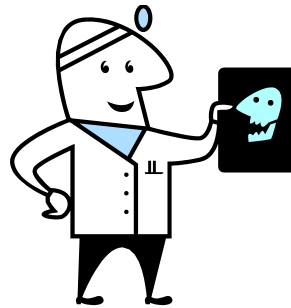
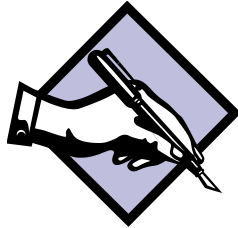


Many Deaf people communicate with American Sign Language which has been linguistically defined as a separate language, such as English, French, and German. It is also recognized as an acceptable foreign language course to take in high school or college.

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There are many Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals who are lawyers, dentists, doctors, chemists, inventors, artists, sculptors, writers, architects, poets, newspaper editors, clergy, actors, and teachers – just to name a few!



Statistics prove that Deaf individuals live longer than hearing individuals.



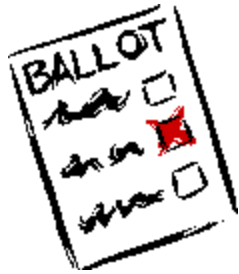
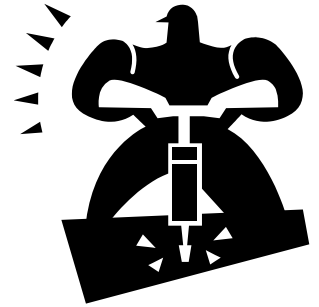
Deaf people develop a keener sense of observation, feeling, taste, and smell to compensate for their hearing loss.

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Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals appreciate advice or warnings regarding any noises that bother hearing people.

Deaf individuals vote, pay taxes, drive cars, attend sports events, work – pretty much anything a hearing person can do!



Individuals with hearing loss may use assistive technology to help them hear better. These include HEARING AIDS, COCHLEAR IMPLANTS, BAHAs, and/or SOUNDFIELD SYSTEMS. Assistive technology helps, but it does not “fix” the hearing loss.



Closed-captioning on televisions help people with hearing loss, but it has been proven that both hearing and Deaf/Hard of Hearing people retain more information when closed-captioning is used!