



Top 10 Myths about Hearing Loss

Hearing loss is still misunderstood. Here are 10 common myths often encountered. Help dispel these myths by sharing the facts with family members and friends, colleagues, patients, and clients.



Myth 1: All people with hearing loss can lip read.

Fact: Most people who are hard of hearing do not lip read, and if they do, only 1/3 of the conversation taking place is understood on average.



Myth 2: People with hearing loss cannot enjoy music.

Fact: People with hearing loss can feel the vibrations, rhythm and interpret lyrics that evoke different types of feelings. The combination of these are how deaf people enjoy music.



Myth 3: Hearing loss only occurs in older people.

Fact: People can be born deaf or acquire hearing loss afterwards, at any age or stage in life. Common causes of sensorineural hearing loss include illnesses, head injuries and long-term exposure to loud sounds.



Myth 4: Sign language is universal.

Fact: There are so many different signed languages that exist in the world at this time, and they are all distinct. Just like there are a variety of spoken languages around the world, there are many forms of sign languages.



Myth 5: Hearing loss is genetic

Fact: Although there are some forms of hearing loss that are inheritable, 90% of all Deaf children were born to hearing parents and will also have hearing children. There are many different causes of hearing loss that can happen at birth, up to older age.



Myth 6: People with hearing loss can read braille.

Fact: Braille is a writing system where each letter of the alphabet is represented by a series of raised dots. This makes it so that blind people can read, even if they can't see.



Myth 7: Hearing aids can completely restore hearing loss.

Fact: Hearing aids can help some people with hearing loss, but not all. They are not a cure for hearing loss for many people.



Myth 8: Overusing sign language can make the hard of hearing unable to communicate with hearing people.

Fact: Excessive reliance on sign language can hinder individuals with hearing difficulties from effectively communicating with those who can hear. Deaf adults who have never learned to speak have developed incredible skills for making themselves understood.



Myth 9: People who are hard of hearing cannot drive a car.

Fact: This is a common misconception. People with severe hearing loss are perfectly capable of driving cars. Some people with severe hearing loss may have car adaptations to alert them to sounds coming from outside their vehicle.



Myth 10: People who are hard of hearing are not as intellectual as people who can hear.

Fact: This is a profoundly harmful myth. Intelligence is in no way related to one's hearing abilities. Such misconceptions have unfortunately led to fewer educational and career prospects for people with hearing loss due to the prevailing stereotype in the hearing community that perceives individuals with hearing loss as less intelligent.