

Deaf Culture

Deaf culture describes the social beliefs, behaviors, art, literary traditions, history, values and shared institutions of communities that have deafness and uses sign language as the main means of communication.

The unique features of Deaf culture:

- ❖ Reliance on eyesight, including the use of a visual language, which then influences the configuration of an environment. This includes having good lighting, love of open floor plans and positioning furniture to enhance visual sight lines.
- ❖ Value sign language and its use in educational settings.
- ❖ High degree of networking and deep connections within the Deaf community.
- ❖ Use of technology to overcome traditional communication barriers
- ❖ Maintaining cultural traditions through social activities including athletic events, deaf clubs, organizational involvement, and school reunions
- ❖ Promoting Deaf culture through art forms such as painting, drawing, film, folklore, literature, storytelling and poetry.
- ❖ Specific communication norms and behaviors such as consistent eye contact and visual attention during conversations.

Visual strategies to gain a person's attention

- ❖ gently tapping a person on the shoulder
- ❖ waving at the person within his or her line of sight
- ❖ flicking a light switch
- ❖ stomping on wooden floors.



The new terminology for hearing impaired or hearing loss is **hearing differences.**

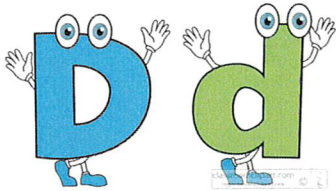
THE FAME OF THE SILENT APPLAUSE

The applause shaking hands in the air is one of the best known gestures of Deaf culture. Its origin is uncertain, but it is believed that it could have arisen after a concert of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in 1824. The audience, knowing about Beethoven's deafness, and unable to hear the applause, began to wave their hands in the air.



Deaf Culture - continued

What is capital “D” Deaf?



Medical or Hospital Term: lowercase d “deaf”

❖ Needs to be fixed

Deaf Culture Term: capital D “Deaf”

❖ Shares a language, values and beliefs.

❖ Does not need to be fixed

Medical perspective “small d” deaf

- Believe deaf people can’t....
- Describe sign language as inferior to spoken language
- Regard the “normal hearing person” as the best role model
- Neither accept nor support a separate “Deaf culture”

Cultural perspective “Capital D” Deaf

- Believe Deaf people can...
- View sign language as equal to spoken language
- Regard successful Deaf adults as positive role models for Deaf children
- Respect, value and support language and culture of deaf people

Hearing Culture

- Pointing is rude
- Eye contact is not necessary
- “Can’t talk” with mouth full of food; considered rude.
- Short goodbye
- Short introduction
- Introductions = what you do
- Money is a private subject
- Bodily functions = taboo topic
- Gossip is rude
- Personal questions = nosy
- If late, don’t attract attention
- If you don’t have something nice to say....

Deaf Culture

- Pointing is allowed
- Eye contact is important
- Can “talk” with mouth full of food
- Overstaying/long good-bye
- Long introduction
- Introductions = who you know
- Can discuss money
- Can discuss bodily functions
- Information is shared
- Personal questions—okay
- If late, explain the reason
- Be clear if you have criticism
- Personal remarks shows a caring attitude.

Deaf Culture Trivia

Pick the best answer(s) to the following questions .

1. **What is American Sign Language (ASL)?** (pick two)

- A. A visual form of English
- B. A language that relies on mime
- C. A language capable of expressing abstract ideas
- D. A language using picture-like gestures to express ideas and concepts
- E. A language utilizing space and movement to convey meaning

6. **This Scottish percussionist has been profoundly deaf since she was 12 years old but is world renowned. She can often be seen performing barefoot as she “hears” through sound vibration.**

- A. Mandy Harvey
- B. Evelyn Glennie
- C. Linda Bove
- D. Gertrude Ederle



British Deaf Association

2. **Used her lipreading skills to become an undercover Deaf specialist for the FBI. She was the inspiration for the TV series from 2022-2005 called F.B. Eye.**

- A. Shelley Beattle
- B. Ashley Fiolek
- C. Sue Thomas
- D. Tamika Catchings



Fandom.com

7. **He is known as “Father of Deaf Education” in Africa as he built 32 churches and schools for the Deaf.**

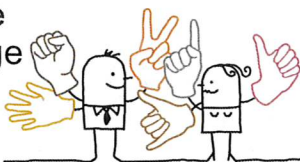


- A. Warren “WaWa” Snipes
- B. Andrew Foster
- C. Dr. Glenn B. Anderson
- D. C.J. Jones

University of Texas in Austin

3. **Historically, American Sign Language is related to:**

- A. British Sign Language
- B. Swedish Sign Language
- C. French Sign Language
- D. German Sign Language



Dreamstime.com

8. **In 1817, the first school for the Deaf in the United States was co-founded by him at Hartford, CT.**

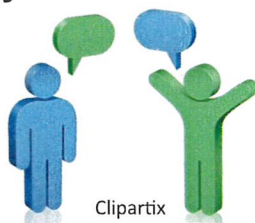
- A. Erastus "Deaf" Smith
- B. Thomas Gallaudet
- C. Vinton Cerf
- D. Laurent Clerc



wikipedia

4. **In general, the least effective communication strategy between Deaf and hearing people is:**

- A. speech and lipreading
- B. using Sign Language
- C. writing back and forth
- D. using interpreters



Clipartix

9. **He was the first Deaf Major League Baseball player and is credited with inventing the hand signals used in baseball today.**

- A. Dummy Hoy
- B. Matt Hamill
- C. Curtis Pride
- D. Derrick Coleman



StartASL

5. **To get the attention of a Deaf person who is looking the other way, you should:**

- A. yell as loud as you can
- B. tap him/her on the shoulder
- C. wave in his/her face
- D. go around and stand in front of the person



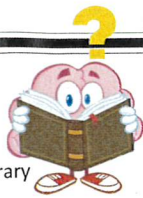
Freepix

10. **He was the first Deaf man to win an Academy Award for his supporting role in the film CODA (2021).**

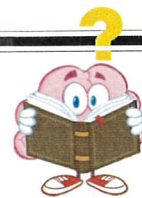
- A. Robert Panara
- B. Glenn Anderson
- C. Sean Berdy
- D. Troy Kotsur



Wikipedia

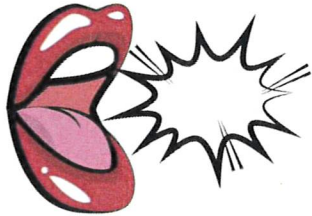


Deaf Trivia



1. What percentage of English speech sounds is actually visible on the lips?

- A. 30%
- B. 50%
- C. 75%
- D. 90%



123RF.com

2. When utilizing a sign language interpreter, how should you behave?

- A. When you talk, look at the interpreter
- B. When you talk, look at the deaf individual
- C. Proudly tell the interpreter you can communicate without him/her
- D. Tell the deaf person to speak

3. Historically, American Sign Language is related to:

- A. British Sign Language
- B. German Sign Language
- C. French Sign Language
- D. Swedish Sign Language

4. American Sign Language is used by most Deaf people in which of the following countries? (2 answers)

- A. Canada
- B. United States
- C. Mexico
- D. Brazil



Augusta County Library

5. What percent of Deaf people have Deaf parents?

- A. 10 percent
- B. 25 percent
- C. 50 percent
- D. 75 percent



Clipart Panda

6. To get a Deaf person's attention who is looking the other way, you should:

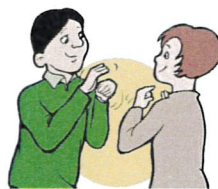
- A. Yell as loud as you can
- B. Tap him/her on the shoulder
- C. Wave in his/her face
- D. go around and stand in front



WebStock Review

7. While watching another person sign, it is appropriate to focus on the signer's:

- A. Hands
- B. Chest area
- C. Face



Charleston Gazette

ANSWER KEY:

1. A. English is not a particularly easy language to speechread.
2. B. Always look at the Deaf individuals and do not refer to that person in third person, such as, "Tell him/her...."
3. C. American Sign Language came from a sign system designed in France. A French Deaf man, Laurent Clerc, was brought over to teach deaf students in United States.
4. A and B. Other countries have their own sign language such as Japanese Sign Language and British Sign Language.
5. A. Majority of babies with hearing loss are born to hearing parents with no family history of hearing loss.
6. B. Be sure to tap gently.
7. C. A lot of the meanings and grammar of American Sign Language comes from facial expressions.