

# DEAF MYTHS

Myth #1:  
All people with a hearing loss are profoundly deaf.

People with hearing loss can range from being slightly hard of hearing to completely deaf.

Myth #2:  
All d/Deaf people can read lips.

Many cannot. Even the best "speech-readers" miss and/or misunderstand spoken words.

Myth #3:  
All d/Deaf people are "deaf and dumb" and cannot speak.

"Deaf and dumb" is an offensive term and inaccurate. Some d/Deaf do use their voice but may prefer to communicate using sign language.

Myth #4:  
Anyone who signs can interpret.

Becoming a skilled interpreter requires years of practice. Formal study and seeking certification are required, as is abiding by code of ethics.

Myth #5:  
Shouting helps d/Deaf people understand speech.

Shouting rarely benefits a person, especially if profoundly deaf. Ask the person what works.

Myth #6:  
Deaf people don't like music or dance.

Some do while others don't. Deaf musicians exist, and a Deaf man, Nyle DiMarco, won Dancing with the Stars.

Myth #7:  
Learning ASL will delay or inhibit English language acquisition.

ASL can be learned at an early age. ASL is a visually accessible language and actually improves English language acquisition. Being bilingual in ASL and English benefits d/Deaf individuals.

Myth #8:  
Deaf people are not as intelligent as hearing people.

Intelligence has nothing to do with one's ability to hear or speak. Education, when made accessible, benefits all people.

Myth #9:  
"Hearing impaired" is a term accepted by the Deaf Community.

Culturally Deaf people usually prefer to be called "Deaf." Others are Hard of Hearing, DeafBlind, or Late Deafened. The term "hearing-impaired" is offensive to many.

Myth #10:  
Deaf people can't drive.

One's ability to hear has nothing to do with the ability to drive. Deaf people often see the lights from ambulances, fire engines, and police vehicles before hearing people even hear the sirens!

Myth #11:  
All d/Deaf people use the same communication mode.

Some sign, some lipread, some use paper and pen, some use apps on mobile devices, and some use hearing aids or cochlear implants or a combination of any of these.

Myth #12:  
All d/Deaf people want to become hearing.

Many prefer to remain Deaf because that is who they are. Sometimes being Deaf is something they celebrate. They are a member of a cultural and linguistic minority.

Myth #13:  
Deaf people can't be independent.

Deaf people can be very independent and often are. So many barriers are imposed that are unnecessary.

Myth #14:  
Deaf people are very limited in what they can do for a job.

Deaf people can be successful in any field. With the right reasonable accommodation, if needed, they can succeed and even thrive in their job.