

Your path is blocked by two signers conversing with each other. What should you do?

You should:

- a) Wait until they stop signing before you pass through
- b) Bend down very low in order to avoid passing through their signing space
- c) Go ahead and walk through
- d) Find another path

ANSWER:

- Walking
- Bending down very low in order to avoid passing through their signing space
- Finding another path to avoid the signers
- Bending down very low to avoid the signers will stop and watch to see if the signers are still signing

Humor

Deaf humor is unique and different than the humor of hearing people. Often, jokes between two languages are not translatable and only make sense in their original language.

Deaf jokes will often include a component where the deaf character triumphs over hearing people or creatively showcases aspects of deaf culture in ways that hearing individuals might not imagine.

An example (that doesn't...)

On a hot summer day, many people were relaxing on the beach. King Kong appeared on the scene. People began screaming and hustling off the beach, except for one lovely lady, Ulia. She was sitting on the beach and soaking up the sun. King Kong approached her and she began to scream. King Kong tried to tell her how beautiful she was. She indicated that she was deaf. King Kong learned that she was Deaf, since he knew some sign language. King Kong began to sign. Ulia was so beautiful. We should marry. King Kong realized that he had smashed the girl to death on his marriage.

DEAF 101

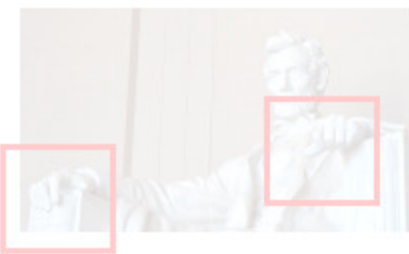
The 2011 Collection

A collection of weekly information flyers related to Deaf people and differences between Deaf and Hearing peoples, history, social connections and much more.

Deafness impacting American History

Abraham Lincoln signed the charter for what is now known as Gallaudet University.

Gallaudet campus.



Deaf Individuals in Entertainment

"Darla" in the "Little Rascals"



Did you know that former actress Mollie Mae Gotts Barron as "Darla" (Alfalfa's girlfriend) from "The Little Rascals" was deaf?

After her stint on the show, she returned to Mobile, Alabama. She attended the Alabama School for the Deaf in Talladega. Mollie was very active in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

Deafness and Substance Abuse

Research Study

Research indicates that Deaf and hard of hearing individuals who are not receiving the help they need, often experience the result of a lack of knowledge and access to treating Deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

Programs designed for hearing people that attempt to serve those with a hearing loss often do more harm than good.

Even the identification of substance abuse problems for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals is important.

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DEAF ~~101~~ 2-5-8

Preface

This volume grew out of an idea from the staff of the Office of Deaf Services (ODS). Faced with a growing need for short informational pieces to educate a largely hearing system where there was an office focusing on the needs of deaf people with mental illness, these weekly one-page flyers were developed and posted around the hospital that housed the Bailey Deaf Unit and the Department of Mental Health's Central Offices in Montgomery.

Demand soon grew for wider distribution in the mental health system. Before long, ODS was getting requests for other state agencies to share these posters. Ultimately, requests started coming from around the country, until today, more than 1,730 separate places are receiving these from ODS directly and countless more are receiving them "secondhand" from forwards and listservs.

This is the first volume of Deaf 258 posters, all from 2011. We hope to publish volumes from 2012 and 2013 later.

A brief explanation for the title is probably warranted. Ken Glickman, a comedian who is deaf, took a well-received lecture, "Deafology 101" on national tour in the 1990's. The success of his tour led to the publication of a couple of books on the same theme. ODS found his material to be good teaching tools. Indeed, early versions of this series were titled "Deafology 2-5-8" partly as a hat tip to Glickman, whose teaching style has been so well received by hearing audiences as well as deaf audiences.

The "2-5-8" is a play on signs, a sign language pun, if you will, representing the signs for "very interesting." It's a deaf thing! You have to know American Sign Language and Deaf Culture to appreciate the humor the pun. Deaf 2-5-8, on the other hand, is designed to be readily understood by SHPs.

It is our hope that readers will find these pages enlightening, educational, thought-provoking and occasionally fun. You are free to use these pages for educational or informational purposes as long as you keep the copyright information at the bottom of each page and you do not sell these pages for any reason whatsoever. Please contact our office info@mhitt.org for uses beyond those described in this paragraph.

Enjoy!

DEAF 101



2-5-8

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conversing with each other.
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ANSWER: C

- ***Walking straight through and not stopping is the option that provides the least amount of interruption to the conversation.***
- *Waiting until signers stop signing, creates an assumption that you want to join the conversation, and if you don't, is distracting.*
- *Finding another path is an option, but unnecessary.*
- *Bending down very low to avoid the signing space is not only disruptive, because the signers will stop and watch, but it's also just plain funny. 😊*

DEAF 101

2-5-8

Deaf Statistics

- 1. Deaf people have safer driving records than hearing people.**
- 2. Statistics show that deaf people live longer than hearing people.**
- 3. The divorce rate is lower among deaf couples. Approximately 90% of deaf individuals marry other deaf.**

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American Sign Language is different and unique from English.

ASL

Spoken
English

**Visual comparison of ASL and English
DISCOURSE STYLES**

English – Broad concept, details, points
ASL – Topic, details, extensive expansion, summary, topic

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Lipreading

Only 30% of English phonemes are visible on the lips.

The **average deaf person only understands 5-10%** through lipreading. Anything else is guesswork.

Most deaf people **can understand the phrase** “Can you read my lips?” (Because they have seen it a million times) and will answer “yes” to that question (because they understand **that** question).

Most deaf people will not understand the next question you ask them.

Try mouthing (without making any sounds) “**island view**” and see what people think you said.

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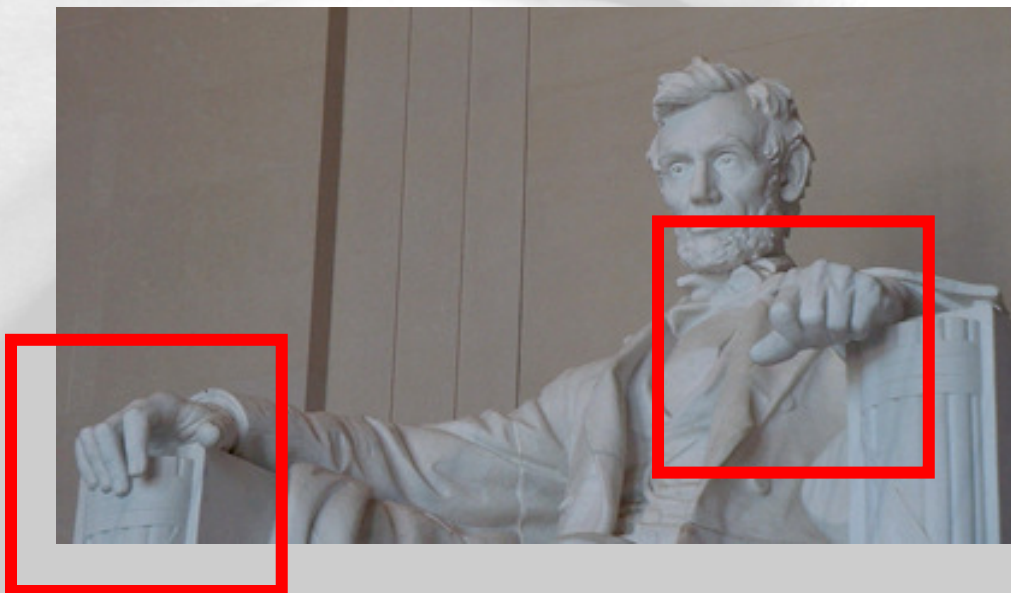
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Deafness impacting American History

At the **Lincoln Memorial**, **Lincoln's left hand** is loosely in the shape of an "A" and **his right** an "L" in sign language.

Abraham Lincoln *signed the charter* for what is now known as *Gallaudet University*.

The **sculptor Daniel Chester French** also sculpted the Gallaudet/Cogswell statue on the Gallaudet campus.



DEAF

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2-5-8

Deafness and Substance Abuse According to a Research Study

Current research indicates that D/deaf and hard of hearing clients seeking treatment for substance abuse often encounter obstacles in receiving the help they need.

Many of these obstacles are the result of a lack of knowledge and experience with regard to treating D/deaf and hard of hearing people.

Programs designed for hearing people that attempt to serve those with a hearing loss often do more harm than good.

Even the identification of substance abuse problems for D/deaf or hard of hearing individuals is ineffective.

Substance Abuse: A Hidden Problem within the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities. Authors: Guthmann, Debra; Graham, Vicki
Source: Journal of Teaching in the Addictions <<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/haworth/jta;jsessionid=cq0od5a17jd03.victoria>>
Volume 3, Number 1, 24 March 2005 , pp. 49-64(16)

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~~1012-5-8~~

American Sign Language is different and unique from English.

(brief explanations)

English is a West Germanic language that arose in the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of England.

“I ate chocolate ice cream yesterday.”

American Sign Language (ASL) derives from Old French Sign Language which was derived from Latin and Spanish Sign Language with spoken French Language (a Romance Language) influences AND from Martha’s Vineyard, a community with Celtic origins.

*YESTERDAY (NMS-y/n), ICE-CREAM (NMS-topic), CHOCOLATE.
FINISH ME-(affirmative).*

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2-5-8

Deaf individuals have had a significant impact on sports.



A deaf centerfielder for the Cincinnati Reds, William Hoy, invented the signals for strikes and balls in baseball.

- First deaf player in the major leagues
- First person to hit a grand slam in the American League.
- See <http://www.dummyhoy.com/> or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dummy_Hoy for more information.

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2-5-8

Deafness and Resources

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- Deaf Off Drugs and Alcohol (DODA)
<http://www.med.wright.edu/citar/sardi/doda>
Includes online meetings
- Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals
<http://www.mncddeaf.org/>
- Health Bridges
<http://www.healthbridges.info/>
- South Carolina of Mental Health
<http://www.deafmh.org/>
- Alabama Department of Mental Health
<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/mids/>
- Deaf Wellness Center
<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/deaf-wellness-center/>

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2-5-8

Social Interactions - Introductions

Deaf meeting another Deaf person will ask...

- Full name
- What school for the deaf did you attend?
- Where do you live?
- What kind of work do you do/where?

Deaf meeting a Hearing person will ask...

- Full name
- Identity? Hearing or Deaf?
Are you parents deaf?
- Why are you learning/know sign language?
- What is your connection (validation) by the Deaf community?

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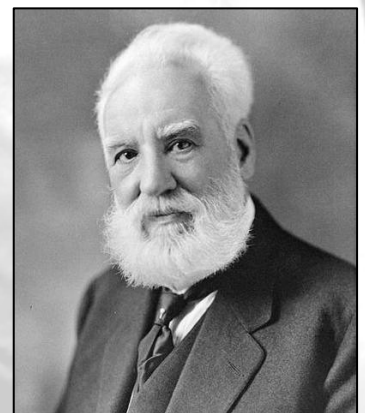
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Deafness impacting American History

Alexander Graham Bell

- Hard of hearing wife and mother
- Credited for invention of the telephone (disputed)
- Promoted the oral method of communication
- Eugenicist - Believed (and promoted) that deaf should be sterilized and not allowed to marry other deaf
- Sought to remove sign language, deaf teachers, and residential (deaf) schools.



Read more at http://www.pbs.org/weta/throughdeafeyes/deaflife/bell_nad.html

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2-5-8

Talking with your mouth full...

- During meals, individuals who are deaf sign when their **mouths are full**.
- Signing does not occur when using eating utensils or drinking, because those activities occupy the hands and limit communication.
- This is opposite of the way that people who are hearing communicate during meals.



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~~1012-5-8~~

Birth of a Deaf Child...

Approximately 93.7% of all Deaf children are born to hearing parents.

- For many parents who are hearing, the birth of a deaf child is traumatic is seen as a **grievous** event. They are not familiar with the challenges of raising a deaf child and are often concerned that their child will not be “normal” (hearing).

Less than 10% of Deaf children are born to Deaf parents.

- Deaf parents will **celebrate** the birth of a deaf child, who will grow up to share and preserve their language and culture. Deaf children with Deaf parents are highly prized and can even hold higher status within the community.

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Deaf Individuals in Entertainment

“Darla” in the “Little Rascals”



Did you know that former child actress Mollie Mae Gottschalck Barron as “Darla” (Alfalfa’s girlfriend) from “The Little Rascals” was Deaf?

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2-5-8

Approaches to Communication

Hearing individuals often employ an **indirect approach to communication**, especially when providing **negative** commentary or feedback.

American **Deaf people** tend to employ a **direct mode of expression**.

Hinting and vague talk, in an effort to be polite, are perceived as **inappropriate**, misleading and even offensive by people who are Deaf.

Direct communication and honesty are **valued** within the Deaf community.

“Reading Between the Signs: Intercultural Communication for Sign Language Interpreters”
Anna Mindess

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2-5-8

Humor

Deaf humor is unique and different than the humor of hearing people. Often, jokes between two languages are not translatable and only make sense in their original language.

Deaf jokes will often include a component where the deaf character triumphs over hearing people or creatively showcases aspects of deaf culture in ways that hearing individuals might not imagine.

An example (that doesn't translate well)

On a hot summer day, many people were frolicking at a local beach until King Kong appeared on the scene. People began to scream and hustle off the beach, except for one lovely young lady. Unaware of all the commotion, the woman continued to sunbathe peacefully. Having scared everyone else away, King Kong approached the only remaining person on the beach and scooped her up in his hand. She was frightened and began to scream. King Kong tried to tell her how beautiful she was. She indicated that she was Deaf by pointing to her ears and shaking her head. King Kong was surprised to learn that she was Deaf, since he knew some sign language. He began to sign, "You are so beautiful. We should marry." Immediately, King Kong realized he had smashed the girl to death with his marriage proposal!!

(Can you figure out why this is so funny to Deaf people?)

****Additional material on the 2nd page*****

An example (that is translatable):

A deaf couple checks into a motel and they go to bed. The wife wakes her husband in the middle of the night complaining of a headache. She asks him to go to the car to get some aspirin from the glove compartment. Groggy with sleep, he struggles to get up, puts on his robe, and leaves the room to go to the car. He finds the aspirin, and with the bottle in hand he turns toward the motel. But he cannot remember which room is his. After thinking a moment, he returns to the car, places his hand on the horn, holds it down for a long time, and waits. Eventually, the motel rooms light up... all but one. It's his wife's room, of course. He locks up his car and heads toward the only room without a light on.

A variation of this joke (Bob's House) was featured in a 2008 Super Bowl ad and can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffrq6cUoE5A>.

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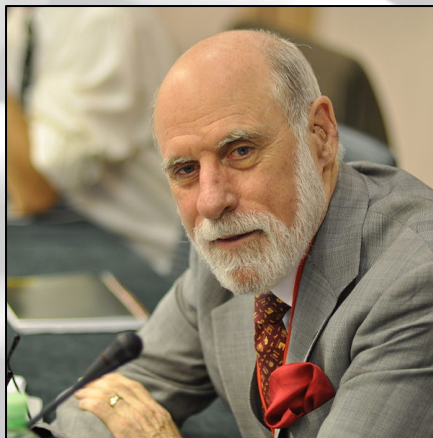
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Deafness impacting American History

Vint Cerf

An American computer scientist, who is recognized as one of **"the fathers of the Internet."**

Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom



Read more at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vint_Cerf

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~~101~~ 2-5-8

Social Interactions – Holidays

Deaf Thanksgiving: A New Tradition

What the heck is **Deaf Thanksgiving**, you want to know?

First, on the **regularly scheduled Thanksgiving**, be with your family. Come on, they're your *family*. They love you and you love them (at least I hope so). The holidays can be stressful, folks.

And then there's another aspect of the holidays that causes even more stress for deaf and hard of hearing people everywhere: **The Dinner Table Syndrome**. Yes, we've all been there. The hapless deaf guy sits at a table surrounded by hearing relatives who don't sign. The clock goes *tick... tock... tick... tock...* at mind-numbing slow speed.

Now, are we ready to party? It's time for Deaf Thanksgiving. The most important step: on the first Saturday after Thanksgiving, have a gathering with as many of your closest deaf friends as possible. Hearing folks who sign and are thus "Honorary Deaf" are of course welcome, too.

Let's go ahead and make it an **official holiday**. From hereon, I declare the first Saturday after Thanksgiving to be DEAF THANKSGIVING! And here's **what I'm thankful for** on Deaf Thanksgiving:

- Deaf friends I can relate to.
- A sense of belonging.
- Effortless, accessible, and enjoyable conversation.
- My kids, and my friends' kids, get to see that ASL is indeed a beautiful language.
- If anyone does break out into an argument a la Uncle Walter and Aunt Helen, I can understand every word and enjoy the show (popcorn, anyone?).
- Real-time laughter. No "I'll tell you later" -- or even worse, "never mind."
- The unmistakable feeling that deafness is not a disability. In other words...Yes, Virginia, there is a Deaf culture.

Now go out there and enjoy your Thanksgiving. Both of them.

Summarized from Mark Drolsbaugh

(to read the full version, see <http://www.deaf-culture-online.com/deaf-thanksgiving.html>)

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2-5-8

Social Interactions - Hugs

Many cultures have greeting rituals. Bows, kisses on the cheeks, handshakes, etc. For Deaf people, a common greeting is the hug. Like other rituals, they follow an internal system of rules.

- Deaf people typically hug more often, hug a wider range of people and the hug usually has more body contact.
- The greeting and the parting hugs are important.
- Hugging shows respect and connectivity and is noticed by others of the community.
- There is a “right moment” element.
- The more foreign the environment, the more one hugs someone that is not that close of a friend.
- There are rules about how many times hugs occur with a certain time period or event.
- Consumers will be apt to hug interpreters or other signing professionals at the end of an assignment.

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2-5-8

Communication within the Family

The vast majority of hearing parents of deaf children never learn to sign.

While approximately **35% parents** report being able to “sign” only **10% actually achieve more than a command-response mastery.**

When asked if family members sign, a common response is “**the deaf nod**” which may be interpreted as “yes” when it is **actually a polite negative response.**

This level of **family communication can have an impact** on language and social development of deaf children.

Compared to their peers, **Deaf children with sign fluent parents usually have superior language skills** in both sign language and English.

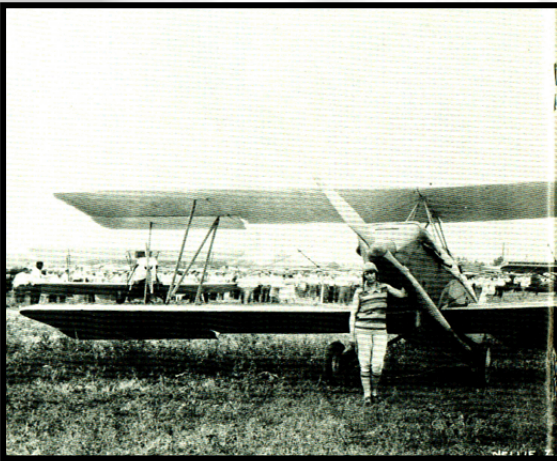
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2-5-8

Deaf People in American History

The airplane “Pard” owned by America's first Deaf pilot, Nellie Willhite, is on permanent display at the Southern Museum of Flight in



Birmingham, Alabama. She worked as a commercial pilot (the first and last known deaf person to do so), carrying airmail.

Calbraith Perry Rodgers (who received flying lessons from Orville Wright) made the first transcontinental airplane flight across the U.S and carried the first transcontinental U.S. mail pouch.



Additional information about Deaf Pilots can be found at http://www.faa.gov/pilots/become/deaf_pilot/

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Social Interactions – Decision Making

In many individualist cultures (like the United States) people pride themselves in making their own decisions.

In collectivist cultures, such as the Deaf community, the welfare of the group takes precedence over the individual's decisions.

Some traits of decision making/group discussions in the Deaf community are as follows;

- Consensus, not majority rule is the managing principle.
- There are often lengthy discussions and sometimes heated disagreements within the group.
- The vote is not taken until everyone feels comfortable or at least resigned to the pending decision.
- Most decisions are passed unanimously.
- Members support the decision of the group and do not attempt to undermine it at a later date.
- Members expect to be consulted and participate in decisions, even on relatively minor matters.