



UNIVERSIDAD
ANA G. MÉNDEZ
UAGM



UPR
UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

Accessibility focused on Sign Language

Juan A. López Arbelo, MIS
Liaison with the faculty
jualopez@uagm.edu
787-766-1717 ext. 6979

Objectives

- ▶ Recognize what is deafness.
- ▶ Understand what is a deaf person and their situation in the community.
- ▶ List methods and strategies for communicating with deaf people.

Person with disability

according to ADA, it means that is an individual with a physical, mental or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Major life activities

- ▶ Taking care of yourself
- ▶ Seeing
- ▶ Breathing
- ▶ Learning
- ▶ Running manual tasks
- ▶ Walking
- ▶ Listening
- ▶ Talking or working

- **Law number 63, 2011: “System of Inclusive Library Services for Technological Assistance”**

It allows people with disabilities accessibility to the information resources necessary for the success of their academic and professional goals. Based on this Law, a guide of minimum parameters of Technological Assistance should be created and be present in the libraries to guarantee equality in the access of information resources.

What is it to be deaf?

deaf

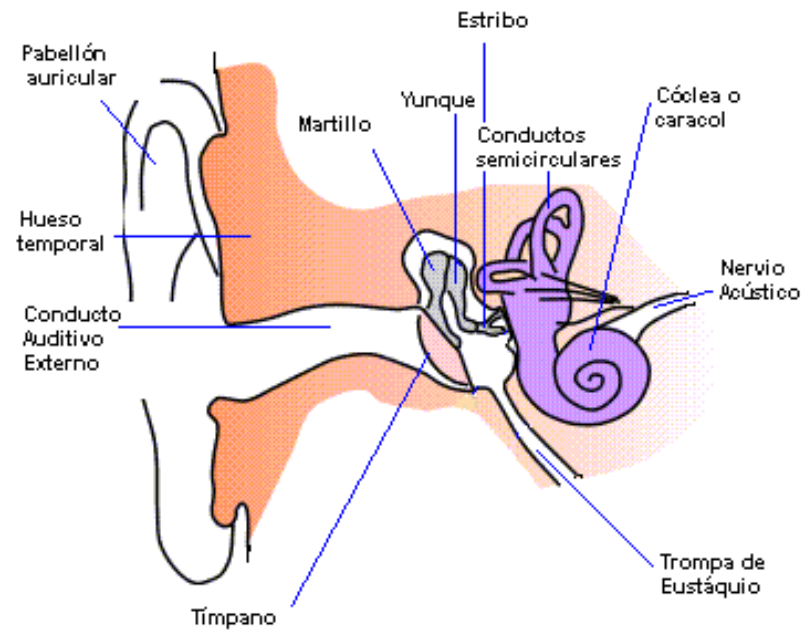
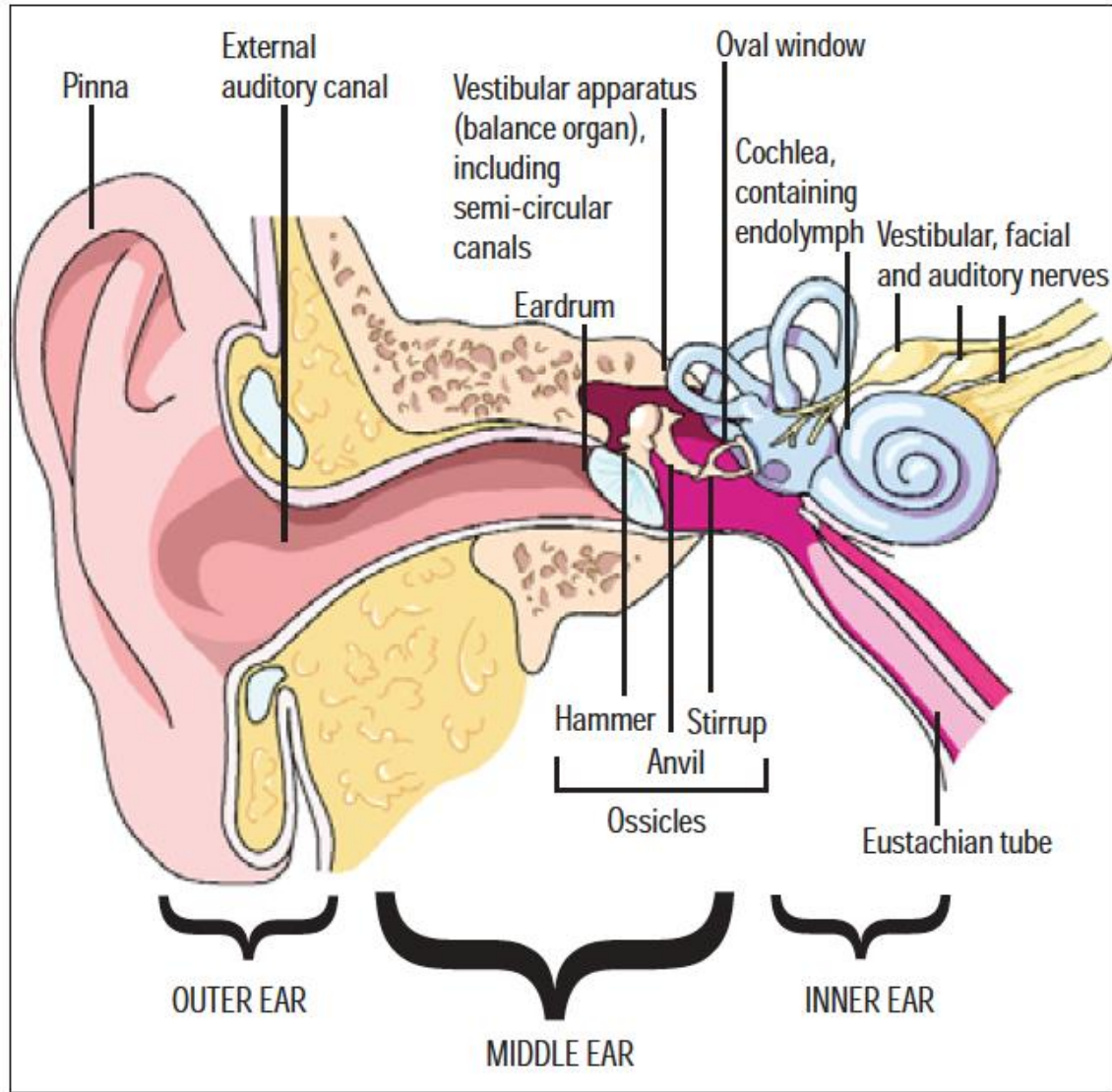
1. adj. That does not hear or does not hear well.
2. adj. Quiet, silent and without noise.
3. adj. That sounds little. Thud. Deaf bell.
4. adj. Insensitive to the pleas or the pain of others.
5. adj. Unruly to persuasions, advice or warnings.

(RAE, 2015)

What is deafness?

- ▶ Deafness is defined as a hearing loss severe enough to be unable to understand a spoken conversation, with or without the use of hearing aids (Matos, 1990).
- ▶ Hearing impairments are caused by defective, limiting conditions, or by diseases that affect the anatomical and functional components of the outer, middle, inner, and central ear or a combination of two or more of its parts (Parodi, 2002).

The ear



Factors causing hearing loss

Factors causing hearing loss

- External Ear - cerumen, a foreign body, infection, atresia (malformation of the ear), inflammation, cancer, among others.
- Middle Ear - otitis, mastoiditis, perforation, inflammation, tympanic scars, otosclerosis, tubal obstructions, allergic contamination, disorders, mastoiditis, among others.
- Inner Ear - More serious, genetic factors, infections (childbirth), malformations, suppurations, toxic substances, trauma due to exposure to loud noises, (Ménière's disease), among others.
- Neurosensory and central - causes of degenerative, viral, vascular, presbycusis (advanced age), among others.

Origin of hearing loss, according to Parodi:

Origin of hearing loss according to Parodi:

- Congenital, if the person is born deaf due to genetic-organic pathology.
- Acquired, if it is produced by illness or accident, after birth.
- Prelingual, if present before speech and language development.
- Postlingual, it occurs after having developed verbal communication. These two are also called pre-lingual and post-lingual.

Levels or degrees of hearing loss

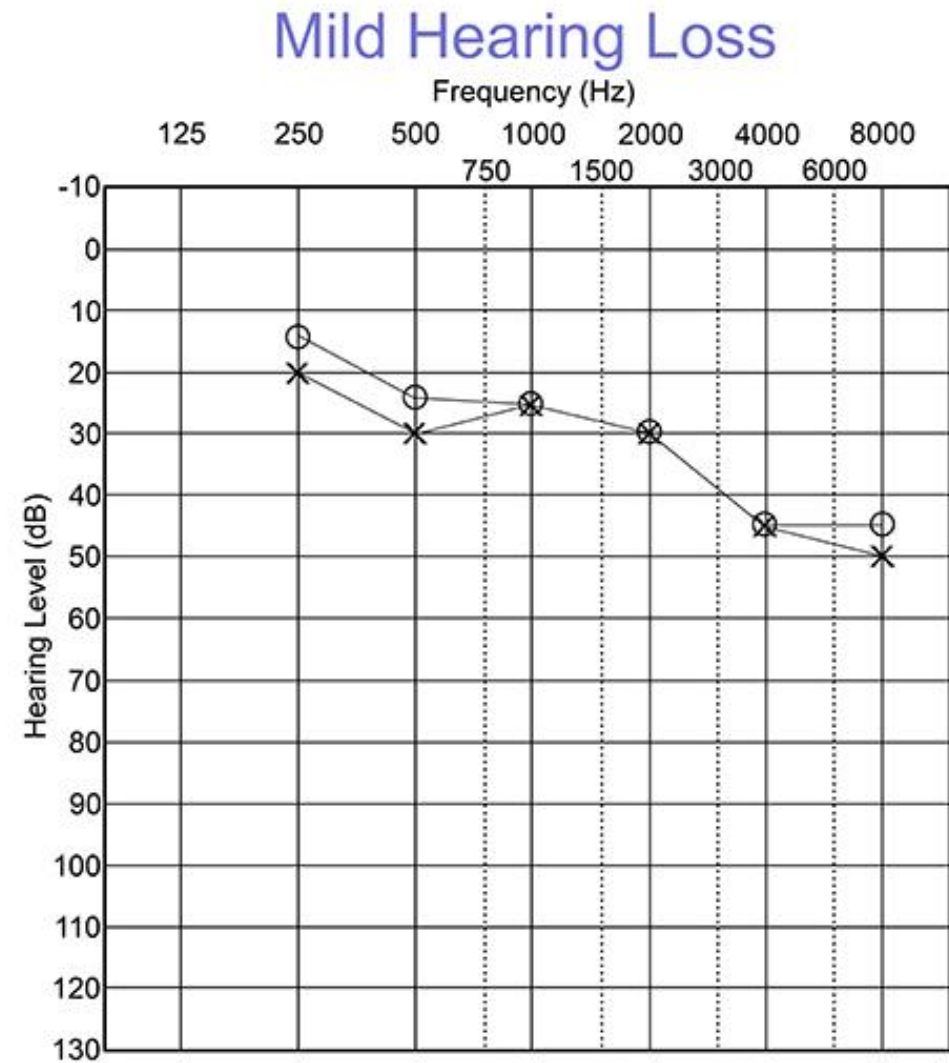
Diagnosis of hearing loss

Decibels	Sound
0 dB	Pure tones
20 dB	Very low voice conversation
40-70 dB	Normal conversation
80 dB	High volume, road noises
100 dB	Drill noises
130 dB	Jet plane noises
140 dB	Deafening noise

Hearing levels

Level	Hearing in decibels (dB)
Normal	<27 dB
Mild deficiency	De 27 dB a 40 dB (ISO)
Moderate deficiency	De 41 dB a 55 dB (ISO)
Moderately severe deficiency	De 56 dB a 70 dB (ISO)
Severe deficiency	De 71 dB a 90 dB (ISO)
Profound deficiency	De 91 dB y mas (ISO)

Audiogram



Communication Methods:

A. Oralists

B. Manualists or gestural communicative model

C. Total communication

Communication Methods:

- ▶ Non-verbal communication
- ▶ American Sign Language (ASL)
- ▶ Fingerspelling
- ▶ Pidgin Sign English (PSE)
- ▶ Puerto Rico Sign Language (PRSL)
- ▶ Group or family signs
- ▶ English Coded Manual
- ▶ Total Communication

Sign language

- ▶ Sign language is a system of visual gestures, created by deaf people, to express concepts. They are created by natural gestures, some characteristics or invented without any relationship.
- ▶ The term sign language refers to the different forms of manual communication that exist. It refers for years to the American Sign Language (ASL). It is not a universal language.

Study Centers

- ▶ American School for the Deaf (1817, Hartford, Connecticut)
- ▶ University of Gallaudet (Washington D.C.)
- ▶ San Gabriel School (1902, Aguadilla, 1913, Santurce, 1956, Puerto Nuevo)
- ▶ Evangelical School for the Deaf (Luquillo)
- ▶ Padre Ponce de León (Ponce)

Important Factors About Signs

Hand position

Orientation (hand and body)

Movements

Location (where movements occur)

Light, Color

Deaf culture

- Characteristics
- Identity
- Deaf Realities
- Deaf situations: implanted vs non-implanted example
- Deaf Community Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVIbts3BtM4>

Guidelines for Communication

- ▶ Most people feel uncomfortable when meeting a deaf person for the first time. It is very normal.
- ▶ It is okay to write to a deaf person. The deaf person appreciates your effort even more if you use a combination of gestures, facial expressions, body language, and written communication.
- ▶ Take the time to communicate and connect.

Guidelines for Communication

- ▶ Some deaf people can read lips very well. If one method doesn't work, try another. If the deaf person uses his voice and you do not understand him, it is okay to indicate to the person that he should write.
- ▶ Many deaf people use sign language interpreters.
- ▶ Deaf people listen with their eyes.
- ▶ A deaf person cannot look at an object and listen while you describe how to use it.
- ▶ Only speak when you have eye contact with the deaf person.

Sign language

- ▶ A. Hand spelling
 - ▶ B. Numerals
 - ▶ C. Sentences and Questions in Sign Language
 - ▶ expressly
 - ▶ receptively
- ▶ *Sign language will be used in the workshop.*

References

ASL. (2021). *ASL Dictionary*. <https://www.handspeak.com/>

ASLPRO. (2021). *Main Dictionary*. <http://www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/aslpro.cgi>

Benítez, H.M. (2013, Jul 1). *Comunidad Sorda Puerto Rico*. [video].
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVIbts3BtM4>

Matos, A. L. (1990). *Aprende señas conmigo*. Editorial Raíces.

Parodi, L. M. (2002). *Educación especial y sus servicios*. Publicaciones Puertorriqueñas.

Sign ASL. (2021). *American Sign Language Dictionary*. <https://www.signasl.org/>