

People with Speech Disabilities

If you have trouble understanding a person with a speech impairment, ask them calmly to repeat themselves.

A PERSON WHO HAS HAD A STROKE, may be severely hard of hearing or have a stammer/stutter or other type of speech disability and may be difficult to understand.

Give the person your full attention.

Do not interrupt or finish the person's sentences.

If you have trouble understanding, do not nod.

Just ask them to repeat.

In most cases the person will not mind and will appreciate your effort to hear what they have to say.

If, after trying, you still cannot understand the person, ask them to write it down or to suggest another way of facilitating communication.

A quiet environment makes communication easier.

Do not tease or laugh at a person with a speech disability.

The ability to communicate effectively and to be taken seriously is important to all of us.