

What's the difference between "deaf," "Deaf," and "hard of hearing"?

deaf (d)

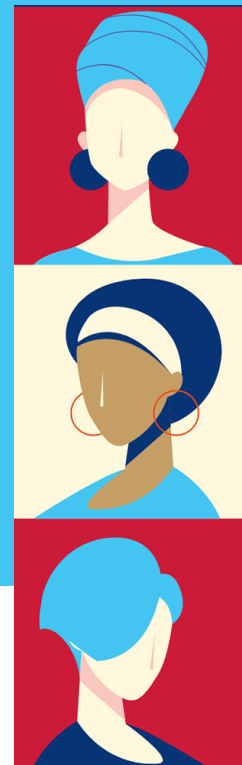
We use the lowercase deaf when referring to the audiological condition of not hearing at a typical level.

Deaf (D)

We use the uppercase Deaf when referring to a particular group of people who are Deaf and who share a language – American Sign Language (ASL) – and a culture.

Hard of hearing (HOH or HH)

Hard-of-hearing can denote a person with a mild-to-moderate hearing loss or it can denote a deaf person who doesn't identify with the Deaf community, or both.



Things to know about people who are D/deaf and Hard of Hearing

- If someone doesn't respond to you, they may be D/deaf or hard of hearing (HOH).
- Using hearing assistive technology is a personal choice.
- Every person who is D/deaf or hard of hearing (HOH) has their own preferred methods of communication and language
- Many people who are D/deaf or HOH don't identify as having a disability.
- Every person who is D/deaf or HOH has a right to choose how they identify.
- **Never** use these terms to describe a person who is D/deaf or HOH: deaf and dumb, deaf-mute, or hearing impaired.