

What Do You Know About Deaf Culture?

A True or False Quiz from Communications Services for the Deaf of Minnesota

Questions

- ___ 1. All people who are Deaf read lips well.
- ___ 2. Because of their limited communication, people who are Deaf are not as intelligent as hearing people.
- ___ 3. One factor in determining the clarity of speech in a person who is deaf is the age the hearing loss occurred.
- ___ 4. Sign language is universal.
- ___ 5. Many people who are Deaf prefer to socialize with other Deaf people.
- ___ 6. It is not unusual for people who are Deaf to have trouble with the English language.
- ___ 7. When an individual who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing does not understand directions, exact repetition is preferable to paraphrasing.
- ___ 8. If in interpreter is not available, writing back and forth is a suitable alternative to communication.
- ___ 9. You can consider any individual who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing an expert on Deaf culture and sign language.
- ___ 10. Most individuals who are Deaf have parents who are Deaf.
- ___ 11. A proper description of an individual who is Deaf and uses sign language to communicate is non-vocal.
- ___ 12. Working with a Deaf person changes how you work with them, as opposed to working with a hearing person.
- ___ 13. When talking to a Deaf person, you should direct your comments to the interpreter to make sure that a proper translation is made.
- ___ 14. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that we practice full inclusion.
- ___ 15. With proper accommodations, we can make any battered women's program appropriate for Deaf women and children.

What Do You Know About Deaf Culture?

A True or False Quiz

Answers

- 1. All people who are Deaf read lips well.**
FALSE. **Speech reading** requires a good understanding of English. It is said that only 30% of words are understood on the mouth and lips. Out of sentence of ten words, a Deaf individual would be able to understand three of the words, perhaps more if the context of the conversation is known.
- 2. Because of their limited communication, people who are Deaf are not as intelligent as hearing people.**
FALSE. **Language** development occurs in the womb. With Deaf babies and children, language does not occur as easily as with hearing children and all aspects such as language, speech, education, and information may be delayed, but this does not mean that the Deaf individual is less intelligent than a hearing person.
- 3. One factor in determining the clarity of speech in a person who is deaf is the age the hearing loss occurred.**
TRUE. **If speech and language are developed** before the person loses her or his hearing, the voice does maintain clarity of speech. A person who is born Deaf cannot speak as clearly.
- 4. Sign language is universal.**
FALSE. **Every country** has its own form of sign language. For example, there is Spanish Sign Language, German Sign Language, Chinese Sign Language, etc. There are also regional signs for many words that vary from state to state and city to city.
- 5. Many people who are Deaf prefer to socialize with other Deaf people.**
TRUE. **In Deaf culture, Deaf people tend to sit in a circle** when they are all together to make sure that **everyone** is included in the conversation. Hearing individuals tend to do a lot of cross-talking and interjecting. Therefore, a Deaf individual may get lost in the conversation with a group of hearing individuals.
- 6. It is not unusual for people who are Deaf to have trouble with the English language.**
TRUE. **American Sign Language (ASL)** is the native language of the Deaf community and is a discrete language of its own. ASL is a visual language where English is a written and auditory spoken language.
- 7. When an individual who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing does not understand directions, exact repetition is preferable to paraphrasing.**
FALSE. **Saying the exact thing over and over does not help** the Deaf individual. If they do not get it the first time, they will not understand the second time and so on. It makes the Deaf individual feel stupid and insulted and leaves you frustrated and upset. Change the order of the words, use gestures or other words to make your point.
- 8. If in interpreter is not available, writing back and forth is a suitable alternative to communication.**
TRUE. **For a simple, brief time** this method is appropriate. It is not appropriate to use writing back and forth in a counseling or advocacy session or for long periods of time. Important pieces of information get left out and/or skipped over. Hiring a qualified interpreter is the best option for communication.
- 9. You can consider any individual who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing an expert on Deaf culture and sign language.**
FALSE. **Individuals who lost their hearing later in life usually do not know American Sign Language.** Also, a Deaf child who is raised by hearing parents is raised differently than a Deaf child with Deaf parents. They have different ways of communicating, different experiences, and different common beliefs.

10. Most individuals who are Deaf have parents who are Deaf.

FALSE. 90% of Deaf children have hearing parents. The other 10% have Deaf parents. This percent does not have a problem communicating with each other. It's the other 90% that have a lack of and sometimes no communication between the Deaf child and the parents.

11. A proper description of an individual who is Deaf and uses sign language to communicate is non-vocal.

FALSE. All Deaf individuals have a voice box but some prefer to sign and not talk. Some Deaf individuals have shared how it confuses hearing people if the Deaf person is talking but then cannot hear the response of the person they are talking to. Also, a hearing person may have trouble understanding a Deaf person's accent. Sometimes a Deaf person is insulted by these reactions so that is why they choose to sign only rather than speak.

12. Working with a Deaf person changes how you work with them, as opposed to working with a hearing person.

FALSE. It does change how you work with the person. This means hiring a qualified interpreter, eye contact, talking directly to the person, and not facing the chalkboard when talking. You may need to move the room around to accommodate the Deaf person, move the chairs into a circle for better communication, use more visual aids for presentations, use videotapes that are closed captioned, etc.

13. When talking to a Deaf person, you should direct your comments to the interpreter to make sure that a proper translation is made.

FALSE. Talk directly to the Deaf person. The interpreter will make sure that the appropriate translation is made. For example, do not use "Tell her...." Or "Ask her..." Use the deaf person's name and talk directly to the Deaf individual, making eye contact.

14. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that we practice full inclusion.

TRUE. It is our job to make sure that everyone is aware of the ADA law. We advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. We make sure they are aware of their rights. One example is letting Deaf individuals know that they have the right to request a qualified interpreter.

15. With proper accommodations, we can make any battered women's program appropriate for Deaf women and children.

TRUE. Any service should be made accessible to people with any disability. This includes adding ramps, water fountains, and bathrooms accessible for wheelchairs, hiring interpreters for Deaf individuals, installing a TTY machine in your office, modifying a manual of information into Braille for someone who cannot see, etc.

For more information about working with Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals, please contact:

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