

Equalities Tutor Time: Auditory Impairments

Produced at Fullbrook School

With extra resources from:


Deaf Health Charity SignHealth

SciShow

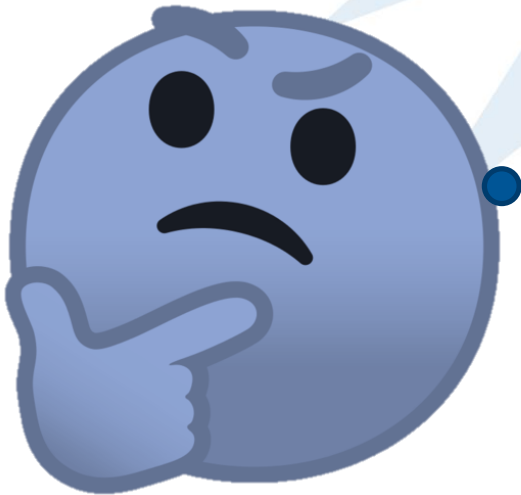
BBC Three

AJ+

Big think

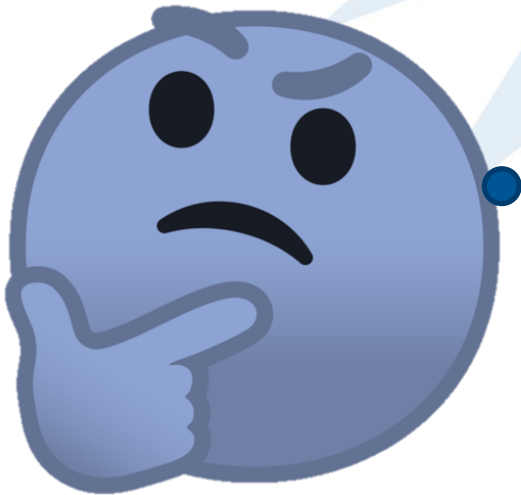


What are the official languages of the UK?



Big think

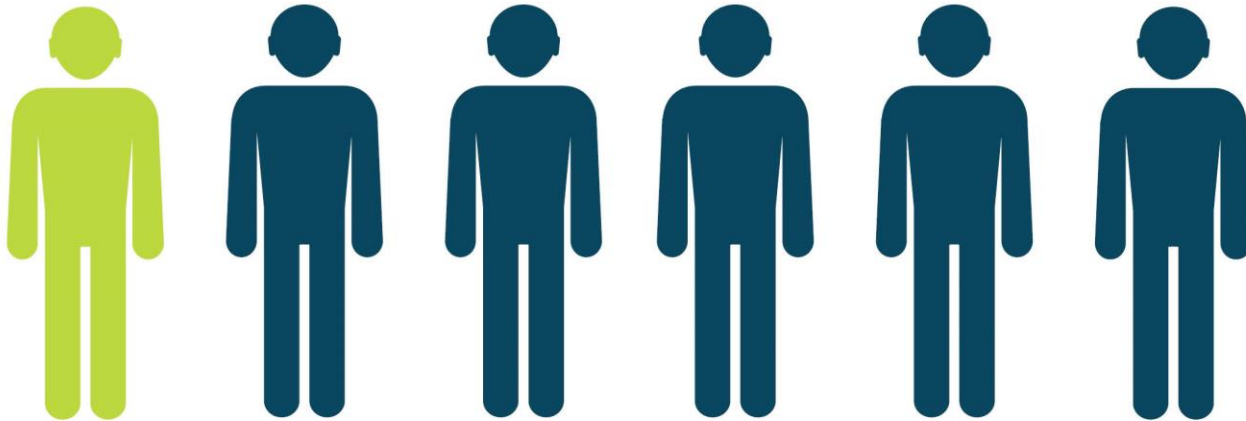
Well of course English, but did you know that Welsh, Gaelic, Scots, Cornish and British Sign Language are also languages with official status in the UK?



This cycle we are continuing to look at sensory impairments, but this time we are looking at hearing, rather than sight.

1 in 6

people in the UK are affected by some level of hearing loss.



www.hearinglink.org

Many people who are hard of hearing are not completely deaf.

- Auditory impairment can take many forms! Often you may hear people refer to themselves as ‘hard of hearing’ – this can include a lot of different levels of hearing.
- Some deaf people have no hearing at all (Profoundly Deaf), but many have some level of hearing.
- Over 11 million people in the UK are deaf or hard of hearing!

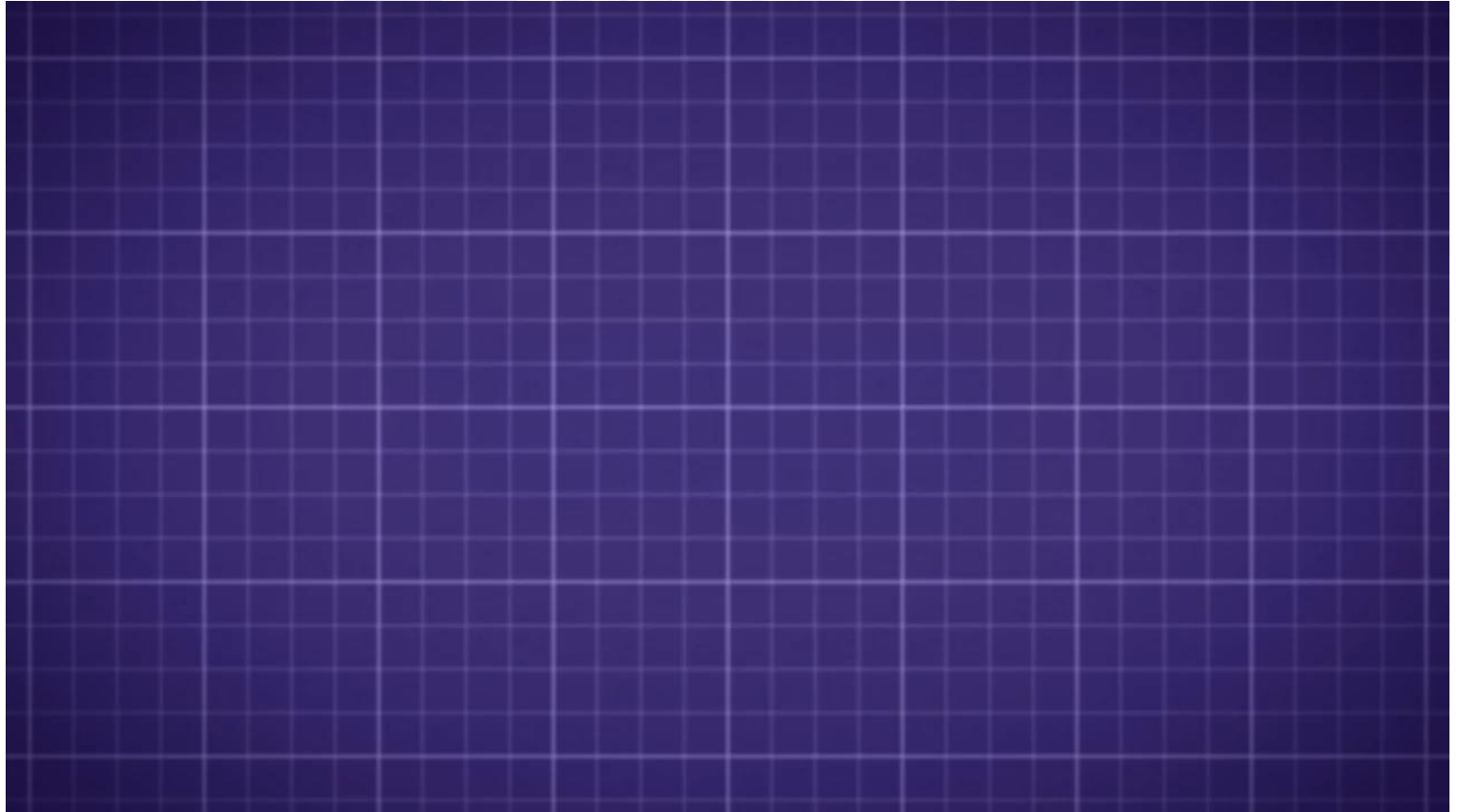
Hearing impairment can affect one or both ears, happen from birth, or develop later in life from an injury or from an illness or condition!

People may use different aids or strategies to help them function with their hearing impairment.

- Where you sit/stand – many people who are hard or hearing may make sure they sit with their better ear to conversation, or request that people talking to them face them, as lip-reading can help.
- Using a sign language (there are lots around the world!)
- Using subtitles or an interpreter who can use Sign Language
- Using hearing aids to help amplify and clarify sound so that the ear can hear it (about 2 million people in the UK)
- Using a cochlear implant to send electric signals to the brain (about 12,000 people in the UK).



Watch this video to learn a little bit about how hearing aids and cochlear implants work!



<https://youtu.be/lzgQrHFDNLE>

Having learned a little about the technology out there to 'reduce' deafness, it is worth acknowledging that not all deaf people want this for themselves.

Within the deaf community, sign language means that deaf people have their own version of all the things the hearing world does TV, films, poetry, schools, celebrities, politics, etc.

This community celebrates that deafness is just another way to be a person, and it is only when the hearing world doesn't want to communicate on deaf terms that deaf people struggle.

As a result, many deaf people reject hearing aids to embrace deaf culture, a bit like other countries making films in their own language, even though English is used more, globally. If you can be proud of your language and culture, then you can be proud of your deafness!



Imagine you are in your favourite lesson at school

What elements of that lesson might be easy with a hearing impairment?

Which parts of the lesson might be harder?

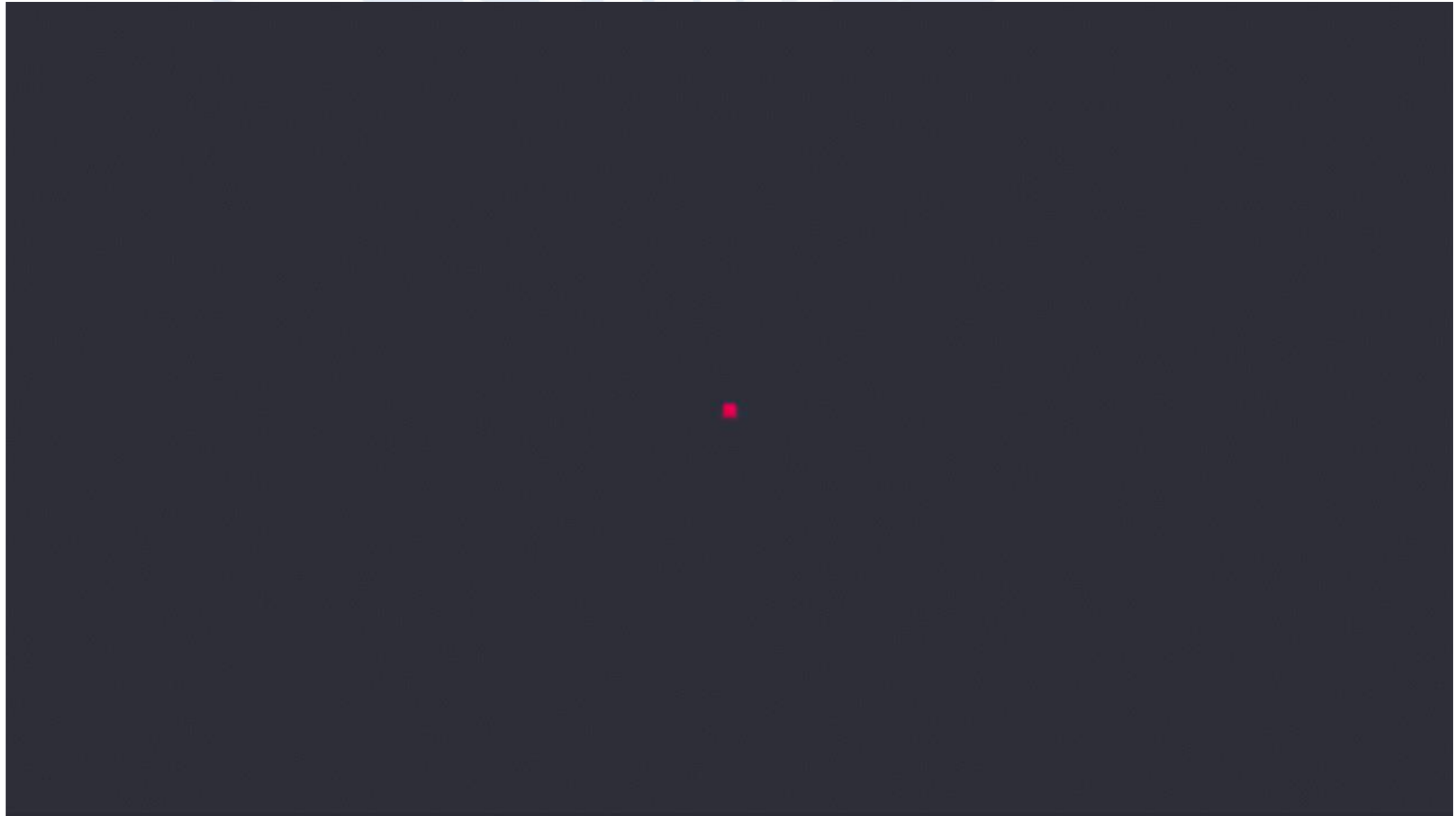
Challenge me: What important part of Covid measures causes problems for deaf people?

How might a teacher support someone with a hearing impairment?

How might you be a good classmate to someone with a hearing impairment?



What not to ask people who are deaf or hard of hearing.



https://youtu.be/SarMSwv_aHI

Warning: YouTube version does include bad language.

How can you be more Deaf aware?



Make sure you have the **person's attention** before you start speaking



Maintain **eye contact**



Don't shout.

It's uncomfortable for hearing aid users and appears aggressive

Avoid environments with excess noise / Choose somewhere with **good lighting**



Speak clearly, not too slow or too fast. Don't cover your mouth



There are some very simple ways to be more Deaf/Hard of Hearing aware!



Don't keep repeating the same word, explain what your trying to say differently

What questions do you still have about hearing impairments?



Share them with your tutor group – someone around you may already know the answer, or you can always ask your tutor to do some internet research or send an email to Ms Sauer for the answer!

Extra video just for joy – deaf music interpretation



<https://youtu.be/dwqSuvFzDdl>