

## **Definitions**

### **Deaf vs Hearing Impaired**

Deaf people generally preferred to be called simply "deaf." The term "hearing-impaired" is found objectionable by many deaf people because it emphasizes what is wrong and in need of repair. Most deaf people don't consider themselves "impaired." Rather, they consider themselves a part of cultural minority group of which they are proud. If some "miracle cure" for deafness were discovered, most deaf people would not want to become hearing.

### **Deaf**

Deaf can mean a profound hearing loss, but may also be used by someone with a less severe loss.

### **Profoundly deaf**

The term 'profoundly deaf' relates to the degree of hearing loss and may be used to describe born deaf or deafened people.

### **Deafened**

The term 'deafened' may be used to describe a person who became profoundly deaf, after having acquired spoken and written language in the usual way, and who identifies mainly with hearing people.

### **Partially hearing**

The term 'partially hearing' may be used to describe a person who has some degree of hearing loss.

### **Hard of hearing**

The term 'hard of hearing' may be used to describe a person who has some degree of hearing loss – mainly older people. The majority of deaf people are hard of hearing.

### **Hearing loss**

The term 'hearing loss' is used to describe the level of persons' loss of hearing.

### **Hearing impaired**

The term 'hearing impaired' may be used to describe a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

### **Tinnitus**

Tinnitus is the term for noise which is heard 'in the ears' or 'in the head' – buzzing, ringing, whistling, hissing, and other sounds which do not come from external sources. It is a very common symptom effecting up to one in ten of the adult population. A person with tinnitus may also have a hearing loss.

