

# Hi there...

I'm Albert. Kenyatta University's Disability Mascot.

Today we shall look at [Etiquette for people with hearing disability](#).

Kenyatta University is an inclusive teaching, learning and research environment and is home to persons with hearing disability. The terms ‘Hearing disability’, ‘hard of hearing’, and ‘deaf’ are not the same.

Hearing disability refers to both persons who are hard of hearing and those who are deaf. There is a wide range of hearing loss and communication methods. Hard of hearing means one with partial hearing loss. The term deaf is used to refer to someone with complete hearing loss.

If you do not know the preferred communication method of a person who has a hearing disability, **ASK them**. Below are some courtesies to use when dealing with the Deaf and people who are hard of hearing.

#### Things to do:

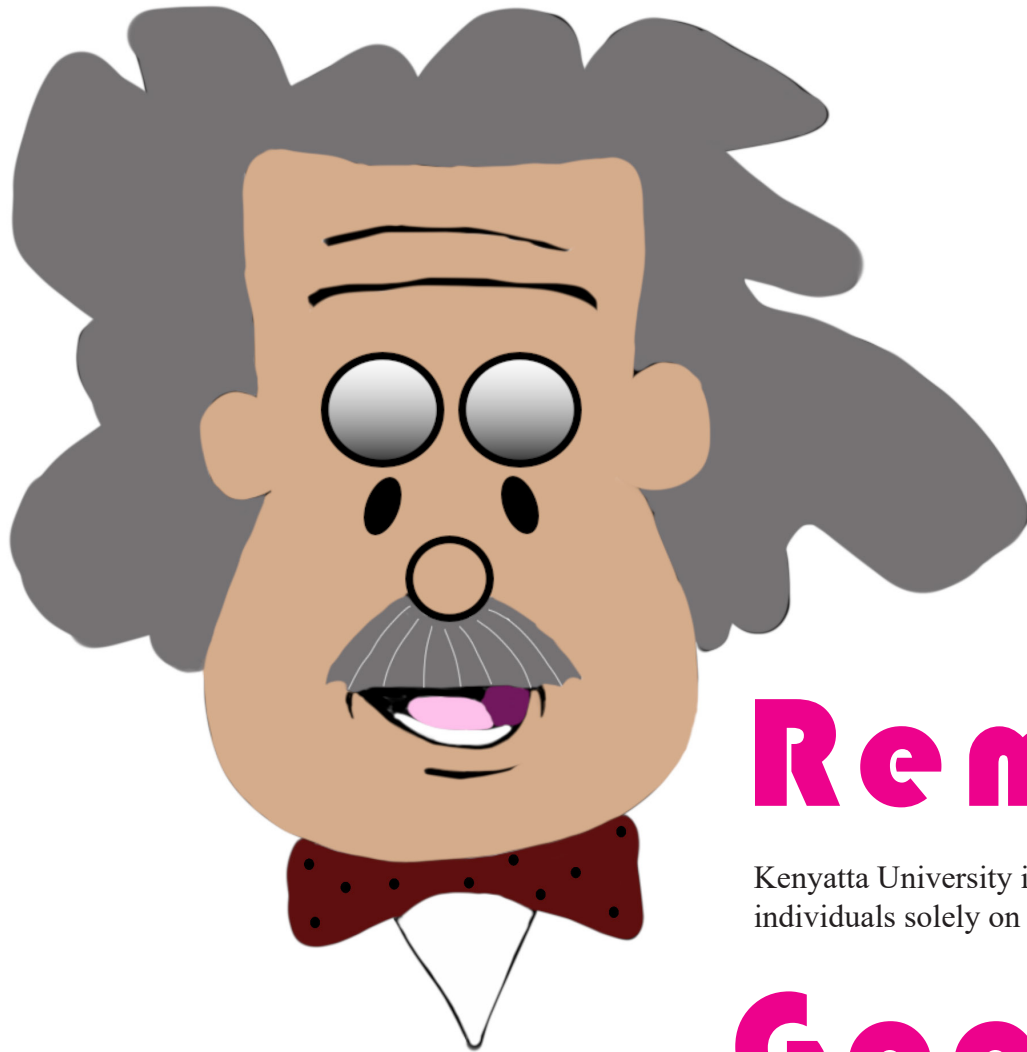
- Find out how the person best communicates.
- If an interpreter is used, address the person not the interpreter.
- If the person reads lips, speak in a the usual , non-exaggerated way. Short simple sentences are best.
- Always announce when you leave the room or when you would like to exit a conversation.
- Always make eye contact when talking to a deaf person.
- To get the attention of a person who has hearing loss, call his/her name. If there is no response, you can lightly touch him/her on the arm or shoulder, or wave your hand.

#### Things to avoid:

- Do not become impatient if it takes longer to communicate.
- Make sure there are no physical barriers between you and the person while in conversation.
- Do not walk between two people who are having a signed conversation.

#### Take aways

- ✔ Sign language is not another form of English; it is an official language with its own grammar, context and norms/rules of usage.
- ✔ Not all persons who are deaf use sign language.
- ✔ Not all persons who are deaf read and write.
- ✔ Deaf people appreciate the efforts of hearing people to learn the use of sign language.



# Remember...

Kenyatta University is an inclusive learning environment and does not tolerate negative treatment of individuals solely on account of their disabilities.

# Goodbye...

**Talk to Us Today:**

**Kenyatta University  
Directorate of Disability Services (DODS)  
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