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Understanding and implementing the following strategies will definitely improve communication and satisfaction for all.

**Communicating with the Hearing-Impaired Individual**

* Firstly, get his/ her attention - use his name and wait for a second to allow him/her to orient his attention
* Face him/her when talking
* Slow speech rate - breaking up the words allows for clearer perception. Slowing down does not mean speaking like you've got something wrong with you!
* Ask clarification questions such as "so you know we are talking about going out for dinner.... ok?"
* If he/she did not understand what was said, try a different grammatical sentence rather than repeating the same sentence
* Use gesture at times to augment the communication
* If you understand the extent of the hearing loss and areas of challenge you can prepare to adjust your natural communication style.

**Strategies for Hearing Impaired to use**

* When you are using the hearing aids - it's most important that you put your back to as much of the noise as possible.  This will help significantly.
* The greater degrees of hearing loss often are reflected in the ability to hear clearly. Hearing losses greater than 60dB often result in people only hearing approximately 70% of what’s said without context and visual help.
* If you are having difficulty speaking with people, instead of saying "What, Pardon, Say again... " etc  - it's a lot more functional for you to say " can you please speak up, please face me and talk, ask questions - are you talking about xyz....
* If you have an external microphone, use the it to close the distance between yourself and the speaker - this is more representative of someone speaking into his ears directly.
* In challenging situations, **EVERYONE** has difficulty.  Sometimes you may ask the person next to you how hard they find it to hear the others at the table - this may help validate the challenging situation.

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