

Strategies toolbox for students

As a student with hearing difficulties, learning strategies and tools will support your access to hearing and learning.

Just like having tools for specific construction jobs, you might find that you want a specific strategy/ accommodation for a specific class. Below is a list of strategies and accommodations that you may find helpful. Some you may be ready to use today, others you might need to think about. Use these strategies to build your strategy toolbox.

Building your strategy toolbox and keeping it somewhere easy to find (e.g. inside your locker door, on your fridge at home) is a great way to remember what accommodations are available to you. You can make easy changes to your toolbox anytime. Filling out the teacher checklist will help your teachers support you in each class. **You will find a list of 12 strategies to help with learning on the next page.**

Advocating for hearing and learning needs

Self-advocacy means standing up for yourself and telling others what you need or want, what's important to you, and asking for help when you need it.

As you grow, the ability to advocate for your own hearing needs becomes important. You can use this tool to find out what support you need to be the best learner you can be and make sure your teachers know you want to be supported. Make sure to let your teachers know how comfortable you are with advocating for your hearing and learning needs.

Very: I am very comfortable with self-advocacy

Somewhat: I am somewhat comfortable but could do more

Still Practicing: I am still practicing to be a self-advocate and need extra support

Learning: I am learning self-advocacy and need extra support

Not Comfortable: I am not comfortable with self-advocacy yet and require extra support

Very	Somewhat	Still Practicing	Learning	Not Comfortable
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**Use of your EduMic (remote microphone)**

An EduMic is great to use anytime, especially if you are seated far away from the teacher, if you can't see their mouth/face, if the classroom is very noisy or if your teacher is hard to understand (e.g. has an accent).

**Previewing vocabulary**

Asking your teachers for vocabulary lists in advance or looking ahead in your course materials will prepare your brain for what it is going to hear. This will mean less guessing and more understanding.

**Where you sit**

Asking your teacher to save a specific desk for you is a great way to make sure you are seated in an area of the classroom that best supports your hearing. Think about where this might be in different classes.

**Elbow partner**

Having an elbow partner can be extremely helpful to confirm information that you may have misheard, such as announcements, page numbers, dates, etc. (e.g. "Did he say page 16 or page 60?")

**Notetaking**

If notetaking is challenging, you can ask teachers for an advance copy of their notes/slides, request a notetaker, or get a copy of a peer's notes.

**Group work**

Group work can be very challenging for students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Requesting a smaller sized group and working in a quiet space will make group work and following conversations easier.

**Closed captions**

Asking that your teacher turn on the closed captions for videos shown during class will make them easier to follow. You can use them on your own device when watching at home.

**Live captions**

Some teachers are now using captions on their slide presentations during their lessons/lectures. You can also use a web-based captioning program on your own device.

**Portable electronic device (PED)**

You can use a device like a Chromebook™ in all your classes to look up unfamiliar things, follow your own set of slides, add captions to your screen, and type rather than write notes.

**Exam accommodations**

You can often request to write tests and/or exams in a quiet room, as well as asking for more time.

**Hearing my classmates**

You may mishear your classmates questions and comments. Ask your teacher to repeat and summarize what they say.

**Asking questions**

You can ask your teachers or your friends questions if you don't understand them. Ask for repetition, clarification, and additional information can be very helpful.

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