



Education Bureau

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

AS-05E

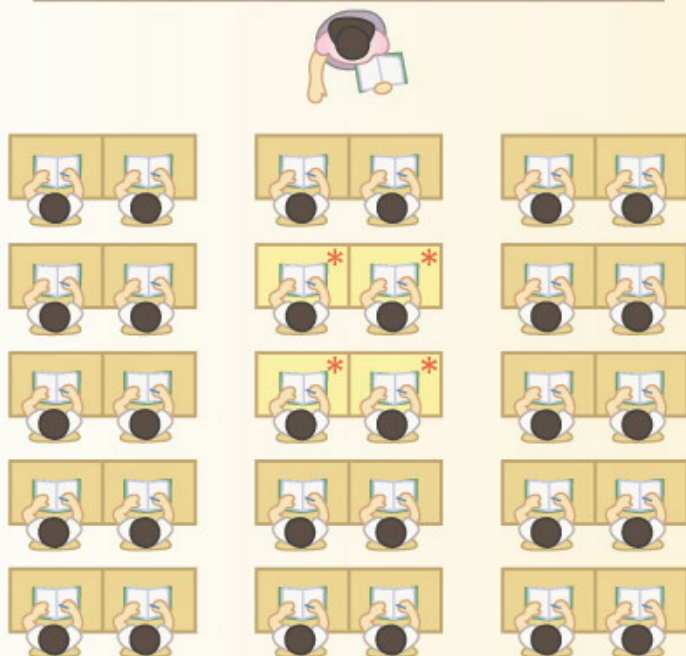
How to Help Hearing Impaired Students?



Positions of Teacher and Students

Q What should be noted in the seating arrangement?

A Hearing impaired students should be seated as near to the teacher as possible, preferably within a distance of two metres. Seats marked with * in the following seating plan are suitable locations.



Q Will the standing position of the teacher affect the hearing impaired students?

A The teacher should try to stand in front of the hearing impaired students while lecturing in order to facilitate lip-reading.

Q Should the teacher move around as usual while lecturing?

A The teacher should try to avoid moving around, especially during dictation. Unnecessary movements will make it difficult for the hearing impaired students to take care of listening and writing at the same time.

Q Will the lighting of the classroom affect the hearing impaired students?

A The teacher should try to keep away from the windows while lecturing, as standing in the shadow will hinder the hearing impaired students from lip-reading.

Communication Skills

Q Does the teacher need to adjust his / her tone and speed while lecturing?

A The teacher in fact does not need to adjust his / her way of speaking deliberately, because speaking very slowly or exaggerating lip movements will hinder the hearing impaired students from lip-reading and understanding the message.

Q Will using a loudspeaker affect the receptivity of a hearing aid in classroom lectures?

A Normally, it will not. But the teacher must not let the microphone of the loudspeaker block the view of his / her mouth movements. Otherwise, the hearing impaired students will not be able to rely on lip-reading to facilitate listening.



Teaching Strategies

Q What should the teacher do if the hearing impaired students do not understand his / her words?

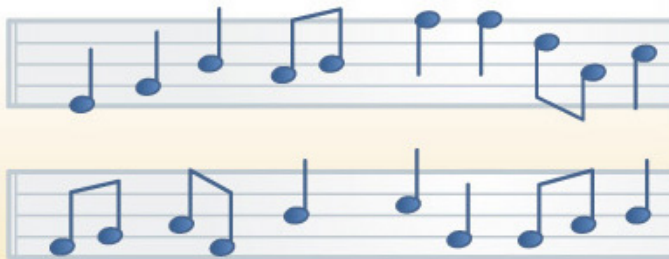
A For students with severe or profound hearing impairment, they may not be able to understand their teacher's words even when engaged in face-to-face conversation. In such circumstances, the teacher can rephrase his/her words or explain by writing or using visual organization frameworks.

Q Why should cues be given to the hearing impaired students when the teacher moves on to another topic?

A If the hearing impaired students know and follow the topic the teacher is teaching, they will find it easier to understand the content. Therefore, the teacher should give sufficient cues before moving on to another subject / topic so that the students can adjust themselves and follow the lesson more easily.

Q What subjects are particularly difficult to the hearing impaired students?

A Subjects which involve a lot of listening, such as **Chinese and English dictation, listening and oral lessons, Music and Putonghua**, are most difficult to the hearing impaired students. Where necessary, the teacher should make appropriate arrangements, taking into account the needs of individual students. Such arrangements include setting different behavioural standards and requirements for the students and allowing adjustments in the rating of certain subjects. In fact there is already a special rating arrangement for students with special education needs in the Secondary School Places Allocation System to better reflect their actual ability. The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority also adopts similar measures in public examinations for candidates with disabilities.



Peer Support

Q Is it feasible to assign some classmates to help the hearing impaired students in class?

A This is an appropriate arrangement, and is particularly useful when the hearing impaired students have to listen to announcements made through the public address system. In the absence of lip-reading, the hearing impaired students may need help from their classmates to repeat to them what the announcement is about. The teacher should assign some helpful and responsible classmates to sit next to these students to provide support, and may also allow these students to make photocopies of their classmates' notes.

Q Should the teacher tell other students about the conditions of the hearing impaired students?

A So long as the hearing impaired students and their parents agree, the teacher can explain to other students the problems the hearing impaired students face as well as the encouragement and support they need at some appropriate time. According to experience, most of the classmates will not reject or bully these students after learning about their circumstances. Instead they will do their best to help them, and this is particularly so for the younger students.



Use of Hearing Aids

Q What can the teacher do to help students with hearing aids?

A The teacher should encourage the hearing impaired students to keep wearing their hearing aids for more effective communication. The teacher may also remind them to bring along spare batteries and check their earmoulds from time to time to make sure that they are clean. These simple steps can, directly or indirectly, encourage the students to use their hearing aids.

Q Can students regain full hearing after using hearing aids?

A Hearing aids are just amplifiers which serve only to intensify sound energy. In other words, they can only magnify faint sounds but cannot make the hearing impaired students hear all that is not audible to them before. Thus, for those students who are severely impaired in hearing, hearing aids can only restore their hearing ability to a limited extent, subject to individual variations.



Q Why are some hearing impaired students reluctant to wear hearing aids?

A The following three reasons largely explain why some hearing impaired students are reluctant to wear hearing aids:

- Some students may feel embarrassed, and fear that other people may look at them with curious eyes or question about their hearing aids.
- Hearing aids may cause a certain degree of discomfort to the users. Some students may even develop skin allergy or inflammation after wearing earmoulds.
- When putting on a hearing aid, the sound filtering function of the ear will vanish, as its sound reception function has been replaced by the hearing aid. Background noises in the surrounding area will then become intrusive to the user. To a certain extent, the hearing aids bring the hearing impaired from a quiet world to a noisy one.

Hearing impaired students have to make a great deal of efforts to overcome many difficulties people with normal hearing may never have thought of when they first wear a hearing aid. Sometimes, an unintended remark or some improper gestures may cause them to give up. Teachers and other classmates should therefore give them continued support and encouragement to let them realize that wearing hearing aids is just as common as wearing spectacles. With the help of the hearing aid, hearing impaired students can match their classmates with normal hearing in hearing performance.



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