

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

ACOUSTICS: Pertaining to sound, the sense of hearing, or the science of sound. As used in this guide the term refers to the qualities of an auditorium, classroom, or other space that determine how well sounds can be heard. (American Heritage Dictionary)

ACOUSTIC ROOM TREATMENT:

The use of sound-absorbing materials (such as carpets and acoustical tile) to reduce room noise and increase the signal-to-noise ratio, thus enhancing the usefulness of hearing aids and other listening devices.

ACQUIRED HEARING LOSS:

Hearing loss which is not present at birth. Sometimes referred to as adventitious loss. DA: Americans with Disabilities Act. Federal legislation which impacts accessibility for disabled persons in education, the workplace, and public places.

AIR CONDUCTION: Sound from the air is delivered through the ear canal, the eardrum, and middle ear to the inner ear.

AMBIENT NOISE: Background noise .

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

(ASL): A visual/gestural language used by deaf people in the United States and Canada, with semantic, syntactic, morphological, and phonological rules which are distinct from English.

AMPLIFICATION: The use of hearing aids and other electronic devices to increase the loudness of sound so that it may be more easily received and understood.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING

DEVICES: Any and all types of electronic hearing aids including personal aids, FM systems, Infrared, special inputs for telephone or television, and amplified alarms and signals.

AUDIOGRAM: A graph on which a person's ability to hear different pitches (frequencies) at different volumes (intensities) of sound is recorded.

AUDIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT:

A hearing test, comprised of identifying pure-tone thresholds, impedance testing, speech recognition, and speech discrimination measurements, which shows the type and degree of hearing loss.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AUDIOLOGIST: A person who holds a degree in audiology and is a specialist in testing hearing and providing rehabilitation services to persons with hearing loss. The American Speech-Language-Hearing association is the only organization which certifies audiologist.

AUDITORY/ORAL

EDUCATION: The habilitation of listening skills, spoken language, and speech reading skills through early and consistent training, with emphasis on the use of high-quality amplification.

AUDITORY TRAINING: The process of training a person's residual hearing in the recognition, identification, and interpretation of sound.

AUDIOTORY/VERBAL

EDUCATION: The development of speech and language through the maximized use of residual hearing.

AURAL HABILITATION:

Training designed to help a person with hearing loss to make productive use of residual

hearing. Sometimes includes training in speech reading.

BICULTURAL: Membership in two cultures, such as deaf culture and hearing culture.

BILATERAL: Affecting two sides, such as a mild to profound loss of hearing in both ears.

BILINGUAL: Being fluent in two languages. For some deaf children this will include the use of ASL and English.

BILINGUAL-BICULTURAL: Being fluent in two languages (ASL and English) and having membership in both deaf and hearing cultures.

BINAURAL HEARING AIDS: Hearing aids worn in both ears.

BONE CONDUCTION: Sound received through the bones of the skull.

COCHLEAR IMPLANT: An electronic device surgically implanted to stimulate nerve endings in the inner ear (cochlea) in order to receive and process sound and speech.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CONDUCTIVE HEARING LOSS:

Hearing loss present at birth or associated with the birth process, or which develops in the first few days of life.

CUED SPEECH:

A visual representation of the phonemes of spoken language, which uses eight hand shapes in four different locations in combination with the natural mouth movements of speech to make all the sounds of sign language look different.

DEAF-BLIND: Educationally significant loss of vision and hearing.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing: A student who has a hearing loss aided or unaided that impacts the processing of linguistic information which adversely affects performance in the educational environment. The degree of hearing loss may range from mild to profound.

DECIBEL (Db): The unit of measurement for the loudness of sound. The higher dB, the louder the sound.

DECODER: An electronic device or computer chip that can display closed captions enclosed in television programs, cable television programs and video-cassettes. Also called a telecaption adapter.

EAR MOLD: A custom made plastic or vinyl piece which fits into the outer ear to interface with a hearing aid.

EDUCATIONAL TRANSCRIPTION SYSTEMS: Sign systems designed for educational purposes, which use manual signs in English word order; sometimes with added affixes which are not present in American Sign Language. Some of the signs are borrowed from American Sign Language and others have been invented to represent elements of English Visually. Signing Exact English and Seeing Essential English are two examples of invented systems.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

FINGER SPELLING: An assistive listening device that transmits the speaker's voice to an electronic receiver in which the sound is amplified and transmitted to the student's ears via small earphones or the student's personal hearing aids. The device reduces the problem of distance from the speaker.

FREQUENCY: The number of vibrations per second of a sound. Frequency, expressed in Hertz (Hz), determines the pitch of sound.

HEARING AID: An electronic device that conducts and amplifies sound to the ear.

HL: Hearing Level

HEARING LOSS: Hearing loss was originally defined in medical terms before the development of modern audiology.

HEARING SCREENING: Audiometric testing of the ability to hear selected frequencies at intensities above the threshold of normal hearing. The purpose is to identify individuals with hearing loss, with minimal time expendi-

ture, and to refer them for further testing.

HERTZ: This is the generally used term for measuring pitch, expressing the vibrations or cycles per second. Most speech sounds fall within the so-called "speech range" of about 300 to 3000 Hz.

INFLECTION: A change in the pitch of the speaking voice to add meaning or emphasis to a word or phrase.

INTENSITY: The loudness of a sound, measured in decibels (dB).

INTERPRETER OR TRANSLITERATOR FOR THE DEAF:

A person who facilitates communication. Between hearing and deaf or hard-of-hearing persons through interpretation into a signed language or American Sign Language, or transliteration of a language into visual/phonemic code by an oral interpreter or Cued Speech Interpreter. The educational interpreter specializes in classroom interpreting.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

INTONATION: The aspect of speech made up of changes in pitch and stress in voice. The voice may go higher or lower during speech to emphasize certain words or parts of words than others.

INVENTED ENGLISH SIGN SYSTEMS: Sign systems developed for educational purposes, which use manual signs in English word order with added prefixes and suffixes not present in traditional sign language. Some of the signs are borrowed from American Sign Language and others have been invented to represent elements of English visually. Signed English and Signing Exact English (SEE) are two examples of invented systems.

ITINERANT: deaf and hard-of-hearing teacher who travels to the attending school or home of the D/HH student who is not enrolled in a special day class. Provides a wide-range of services from consultation to direct instruction.

LEAST RESTRICTED ENVIRONMENT: A basic principle of IDEA which requires public agencies to establish procedures to ensure that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institution or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

MAINSTREAM: The concept that students with disabilities should be integrated with their non disabled peers to the maximum extent possible, when appropriate to the needs of the student with a disability. Mainstreaming is one point on the continuum of educational options.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MANUALLY CODED ENGLISH:

A term applied to a variety of systems that use signs, finger spelling, or gestures separately or in combination to represent English manually.

MIXED HEARING LOSS: A hearing loss with combined sensorineural and conductive elements.

MONAURAL: Involving only one ear (e.g. monaural amplification is the use of one hearing aid).

MORPHEME: A linguistic unit of relatively stable meaning that cannot be divided into smaller meaningful parts (American Heritage Dictionary 1976).

NATIVE/NATURAL LANGUAGE: Language acquired primarily through the least impaired sensory channel.

ORAL EDUCATION: A philosophy of teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals to make efficient use of residual hearing through early use of amplification, to develop speech, and to use speechreading skills.

ORAL INTERPRETER: Communicates the words of a speaker or group of speakers to an individual who is deaf by inaudibly mouthing what is said so that it can be read on the lips.

OTOLOGIST: A physician who specializes in medical problems of the ear.

PIDGIN SIGN ENGLISH (PSE): A variety of sign language which combines some features of American Sign Language and English. It is sometimes called Contact Signing.

PRAGMATICS: The appropriateness of language use to the situation, the speaker, and the audience in regard to logic and validity.

PRELINGUAL DEAFNESS: Refers to hearing loss which is present at birth or shortly thereafter and occurs prior to the acquisition of language.

REAL-TIME CAPTIONING: Online captioning for television screens and monitors displaying the printed speech of live speakers.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

RESIDUAL HEARING: The amount of usable hearing which a deaf or hard of hearing person has.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST

(RSP): A teacher who works with small groups of children at a school site who have learning deficits.

REVERERATION: Prolongation of a sound after the sound-source has ceased. The amount of reverberant energy in a room depends on the absorption coefficient of the surface of the walls, floor and ceiling.

SECTION 504: The Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 guarantees that students with disabilities cannot be discriminated against because of their disability.

SEE-1: Seeing Essential English was designed to use ASL signs plus signs invented to represent both root words and the inflectional system of English.

SEMANTICS: The use in language of meaningful referents in

both word and sentence structures.

SENSORINEURAL HEARING

LOSS: A permanent hearing loss caused by failure or damage of auditory fibers in the inner ear (cochlea) and/or damage to the neural system.

SIGNAL-TO-NOISE-RATIO:

The difference in the intensities of the speech signal (such as the teacher's voice) and the ambient (background) noise. being added to represent a portion of the inflectional system of English. See Invented English Sign Systems.

SIGNED ENGLISH: The Signed English system was devised as a semantic representation of English for children between the ages of 1 and 6 years. ASL signs are used in English word order, with 14 sign markers being added to represent a portion of the inflectional system of English. See Invented English Sign Systems.

SPEECHREADING: The interpretation of lip and mouth movements, facial expressions, gestures, prosodic and melodic

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

aspects of speech, structural characteristics of language, and topical and contextual clues. Sometimes referred to as lipreading.

SPEECH PRECEPTION: The ability to recognize speech stimuli presented at suprathreshold levels (levels loud enough to be heard).

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT: One or more of the following communication impairments which adversely affects educational performance:

articulation impairment, including omissions, substitutions or distortions of sound, persisting beyond the age at which maturation alone might be expected to correct the deviation; **voice impairment**, including abnormal rate of speaking, speech interruptions, and repetition of sound, words phrases, or sentences, which interferes with effective communication; one or more **language impairments** (phonological, morphological syntactic, semantic or pragmatic use of aural/oral language as

evidenced by both a spontaneous language sample demonstrating inadequate language functioning, and test results, on not less than two standardized assessment instruments or two subtest designed to determine language functioning, which indicate Inappropriate language functioning for the child's age).

SPEECH LANGUAGE SPECIALIST: A professional who works with individuals who have specific needs in the area of speech and language. Sometimes referred to as a speech and language pathologist.

SYNTAX: Defines the word classes of language (nouns, verbs, etc.) and the rules for their combination (which words can be combined, and in what order to convey meaning).

TELECOMMUNICAITON DEVICES FOR DEAF PEOPLE (TDDs): Originally and often still called TTY's. These electronic devices allow deaf and hard-of-hearing people to communicate by telephone.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Also referred to as TT's, text telephones; this term appears in ADA legislation and regulations.

TOTAL COMMUNICATION:

A philosophy of communication that employs a combination of components of oral and manual teaching modes using sign, lipreading, finger spelling, use of residual hearing, speech, and sometimes Cued Speech.

TRANSLITERATING: The process of facilitating communication between persons who are hearing and persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. In this form of interpretation, the language base remains the same; e.g. the transliteration of spoken English to a signed English system or to a form which can be read on the lips.

TRANSCRIPTIONISH: A person trained in computer assisted notetaking.

UNILATERAL HEARING LOSS:

A mild to profound loss of hearing in one ear. Unilateral loss is now thought to adversely affect the educational process in a

significant percentage of students who have it.

Definitions are from the Oral Deaf Education Website (Oberkotter Foundation) and California Department of Education's Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, Guidelines for Quality Standards, 2000.