

Communication Tips

Focus on your partner

make eye contact
set down phones
turn off the TV

Create a good environment

arrange seats to face one another
remove distractions
reduce background noise

Speaker Tips

Let your listener know you may need extra time to speak.

Practice using a strategy:
Loud, Slow, Precise

Read your listener's face to check for understanding.

Monitor your speech and adjust as needed.

When you're not understood

Repeat any misunderstood parts while focusing on a strategy: Loud, Slow, Precise.

If repeating your message is unsuccessful, try using a different word or rephrasing.

If you have a communication breakdown, use a notebook or dry erase board to write or draw your message.

Listener Tips

Be patient. Don't interrupt.

Check your own hearing.

Provide cues specific to issue.

- "I can't hear you.
Please talk louder."
- "I didn't understand. Please try again more slowly."
- "I didn't catch that word.
Try to say it more clearly."

When you don't understand

Tell the speaker as soon as you don't understand.

Repeat back the parts you understood so the speaker can focus only on the parts you didn't understand.

If you have a communication breakdown, ask yes/no questions until you arrive at the intended message.

Lip Words

List 1 <i>lip-lip</i>	List 2 <i>lip-teeth</i>	List 3 <i>lip-ridge</i>	List 4 <i>lip-roof</i>	List 5 <i>lip-back</i>
mom	move	meet	much	bag
pop	path	pen	page	make
map	mouth	mad	beach	wing
wow	beef	bed	pour	pug
bum	with	wise	push	bike
wipe	both	paid	more	pick
bib	pave	moon	batch	mug
weep	wife	wait	were	week
pipe	weave	meal	wish	book
meme	bath	bus	match	bang
mope	buff	mine	bear	peck
beam	math	bite	peach	wig
whim	wave	mule	wedge	beak
mime	myth	pet	mash	peg
babe	moth	bone	pitch	poke
mum	whiff	what	wore	wake
beep	booth	pin	pouch	buck

Word Practice

Create your own word lists. Practice using your best speech.

family members

people in your life

Phrases

List 1

soap and water
tooth and nail
arts and crafts
hugs and kisses
table and chairs
odds and ends
spick and span
pins and needles
bed and breakfast
fire and ice
wild and crazy
short and sweet
nickel and dime
black and blue
lost and found
straight and narrow
smoke and mirrors
thunder and lightning

List 2

true or false
right or wrong
hit or miss
boy or girl
all or none
above or below
more or less
hot or cold
near or far
naughty or nice
life or death
truth or dare
for or against
happy or sad
same or different
good or bad
win or lose
heads or tails

Medium Sentences

List 1

1. Miguel lives in the brick house on the corner.
2. Darla left the light on for her little sister.
3. I love the sound of rain on the rooftop.
4. The floor creaked loudly when Tony stepped on it.
5. We watched the young boy drive onto the curb.
6. That bus driver smiles at everyone he meets.
7. How did you know I was going to say that?
8. Ruby made a ham casserole for the luncheon.
9. Sherry dropped her money when she was pumping gas.
10. Tate found the perfect color to paint his room.
11. The warm breeze felt good across my face.
12. Leonard and Mary sat on the old porch swing.
13. Diego laughed at all of the waiter's jokes.
14. The bird gathered grass and twigs for its nest.
15. Selma is taking classes to become a beautician.
16. Roy hired an electrician to wire the basement.
17. Forrest needs to get his driver's license renewed.
18. Audrey always wanted to be a ballet dancer.
19. Chocolate cake goes well with vanilla ice cream.
20. It's been a long time since we've all been together.

Conversation Prompts

Focus on using your best speech.

- ❖ What is one of your hidden talents?
- ❖ Tell me about something you always wanted to do, and you did it.
- ❖ Tell me about something that you'd still like to do.
- ❖ What is a meaningful gift that someone has given you?
- ❖ What is a nice compliment that you have received?
- ❖ Who are people that you admire?
- ❖ What qualities do you like in a friend?
- ❖ What is something in your life that you appreciate?
- ❖ What are things that make you laugh?
- ❖ What cheers you up if you are down?
- ❖ What type of person have you tried to be?
- ❖ What were some of your happiest years?
- ❖ What were some of your toughest years?
- ❖ What are some of the best decisions you ever made?
- ❖ What would you tell your younger self?
- ❖ What would you tell kids growing up these days?
- ❖ What is the best part about getting older?
- ❖ What is a hard part of getting older?
- ❖ Do you have any regrets?
- ❖ What are you proud of?