

# Sign Language Interpreters: the importance of “the day before”

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# The Day Before

The day before ...

Euclid



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# The Day Before

The day before ...

Magellan



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# The Day Before

The day before ...

Copernicus



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# The Day Before

The day before ...

first contact



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# The Day Before

The day before ...

shared assumptions  
few comprehension barriers



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# The Day Before

The day after contact...

My first contact



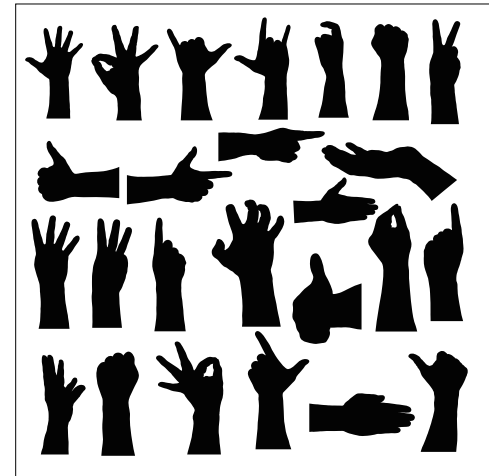
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# The Day Before

The day after contact...

Deaf people have a  
language!



# The Day Before

## The day after contact...

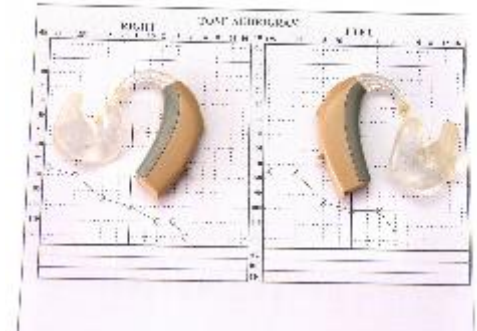
# Deaf people have a culture!



# The Day Before

The day after contact...

being Deaf isn't about loss



# The Day Before

The day after contact...

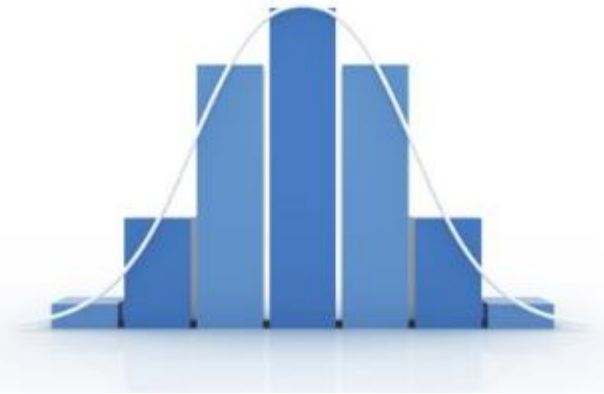
Deaf people aren't  
handicapped



# The Day Before

The day after contact...

Deaf people think they're  
“normal”



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# The Day Before

The day after contact...

Deaf people are oppressed  
linguistically



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# The Day Before

The day after contact...

My assumptions  
changed



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# The Day Before

The day after contact...

I no longer shared  
assumptions with  
“them”

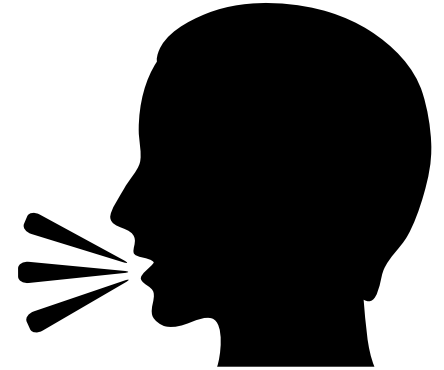


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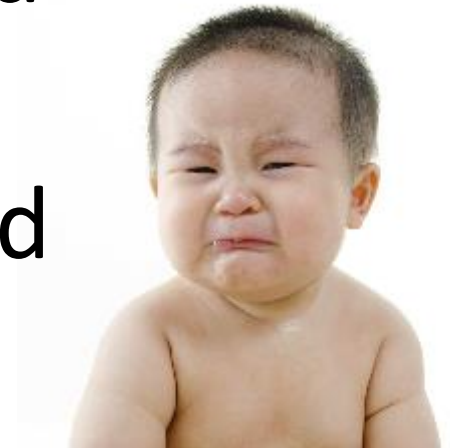
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# The Day Before

The day after contact...



My assumptions changed  
but my words  
remained unchanged



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# The Day Before

With **unchanged** words ...

“they” thought we  
shared assumptions;  
we didn’t



# The Day Before

With **unchanged** words ...

Their assumptions  
went unchanged



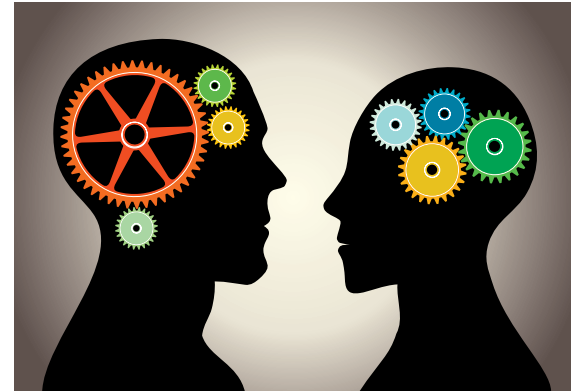
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# The Day Before

With **unchanged** words ...

My interpretations  
were unsuccessful



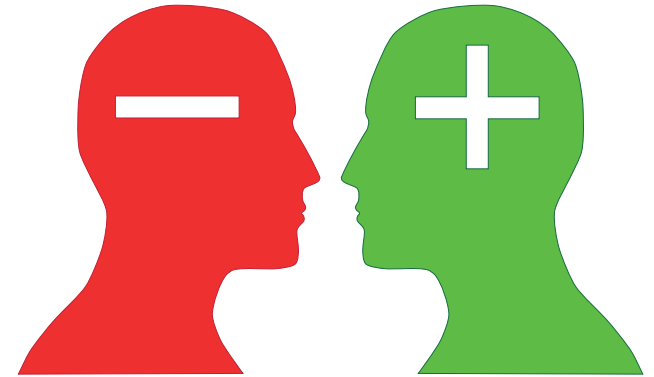
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# The Day Before

With **unchanged** words ...

I could not accurately  
represent what Deaf  
people intended

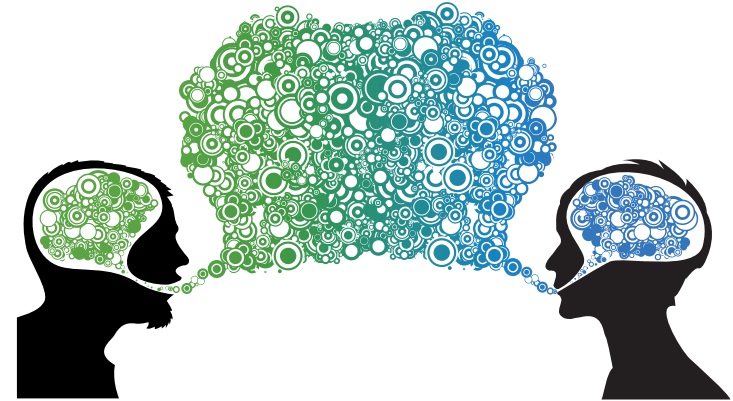


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# The Day Before

With **unchanged** words ...



Accurate communication  
could not happen



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# The Day Before

With **unchanged** words ...

Deaf people were  
being harmed

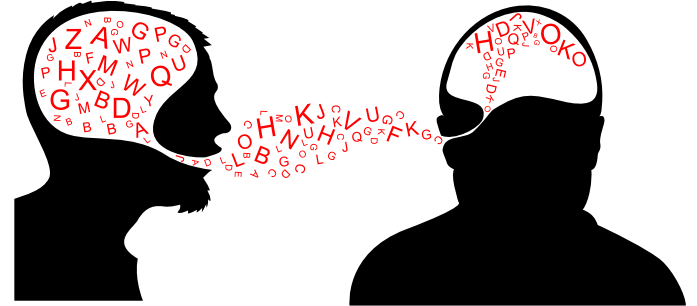


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# The Day Before

With **changed** words ...



Assumptions are  
challenged



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# The Day Before

With **changed** words ...

“they” begin to  
question and  
slowly understand



# The Day Before

With **changed** words ...



Deaf peoples' meanings  
and intentions can be  
conveyed accurately



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# The Day Before

With apologies to Curly & Mitch in *City Slickers*

**Curly:** Do you know what the secret of successful interpretations is?

*Holds up one finger*

**Mitch:** Your finger?

**Curly:** One thing. Just one thing.



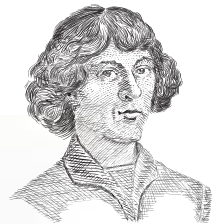
# The Day Before



Successful interpretations depend on



## Remembering “The Day Before”



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**Thanks for your time!!**

