

Accessibility Accommodations for People Who Are Deaf: Captioning + Sign Language

from the World Institute on Disability

Captioning

What is captioning?

Captioning is a real-time speech to text service provided by live captioners that listens to speakers & types information into a computer onto a screen. A commonly used captioning service is the Communication Access Real-Time Translation, also known as CART.

Who uses captioning?

- People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- People with Learning/Cognitive disabilities
- People who use English as a second language
- Visual Learners
- Elders/aging population
- And more!



When should you use captioning?

CART services can be provided on-site or remote for plenary sessions, workshops, and more. Any time information is shared out loud as an in-person event, video, or audio, captions should be provided.

Sign Language

What is sign language?

Sign Language is an expressive language that uses gestures with the hands, arms, head, face and body to communicate. American Sign Language (ASL) is the most commonly used sign language in the United States.



What are ASL Interpreters?

A sign language interpreter is a person that translates a language into signs and expressive gestures for a person who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Who uses ASL Interpreters?

People who are Deaf, and sometimes people who are Hard of Hearing

When should you use ASL Interpreters?

ASL interpreters can be used on-site and for remote meetings, conferences, training sessions, special events, one-on-one or group conversations, and more. Any time information is shared verbally, a sign language interpreter should be available.



Wait, do I need both? **Short answer: Yes!**

Sign language is a language of its own with unique syntax, so captioned English may be inaccessible for some deaf people. Provide both to include everyone when at all possible!