

# Deaf life in the past and present



## Conversation cards

These cards are designed to highlight changes that have altered life for deaf people. Each card has a picture, a little bit of history, and some prompts to get you started signing or talking about what deaf life is like now, and what it would have been like in the past.

These could be used with a whole class, or as a pair or small group activity. You might find that there are lots of answers for how each one is useful.

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council  
(grant no. AH/W003651/1)

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**Subtitles** have been used in British TV programmes since 1975.

**Subtitles** are useful because...

Before **subtitles** it would have been harder to...



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**Radio aids** pick up a speaker's voice and transmit it to receivers on hearing aids and cochlear implants.

**Radio aids** are useful because...

Before **radio aids** it would have been harder to...



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**BSL** is **British Sign Language**. Languages develop over time. People signed with each other in the 1660s, but these weren't sign languages that lots of people knew. From the 1760s, children in deaf schools started signing together to develop what became **BSL**.

My favourite **BSL** sign is...

Before **BSL** it would have been harder to...

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Today there are lots of types of electric **hearing aids** and **implants**. The first electric **hearing aid** was invented in 1898. The first **implant** was invented in 1957.

**Hearing aids** and **implants** are useful because...

Before **hearing aids** and **implants** it would have been harder to...



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In the 1890s, Deaf inventor William Shaw invented an **alarm clock** that shook your pillow to wake you up. It could also be used as a fire alarm. The pictures show modern **vibrating alarm clocks**.

**Alarm clocks** like these are useful because...

Before these kinds of **alarm clocks** it would have been harder to...