

# Effects of acquired hearing loss

This questionnaire will focus on **acquired hearing loss and its effects**. In order to gain substantial data **you MUST have experienced at least 5 years of profound or total hearing loss**.

First of all, thank you for considering to help me. With my research I do not want to draw conclusions or make judgements but find out if there is a purely objective 'bigger picture' of effects which we experience with acquired hearing loss by finding out directly from the affected in Germany, England and USA. Since some questions are quite personal ones, this questionnaire will be totally anonymous and your replies absolutely confidential and will be deleted at the end of analysing.

Suggested Guidance (please read before you fill out):

- The questionnaire could take long, so feel free to take your time. Should you wish to fill it out in two or more goes, you can save it and/or even print it out. Please consider these options rather than finishing it quickly.
- What I suggest is you read all questions first before you fill them out and not just jump from question to question.
- For each question keep the area in mind so your answer is in context to the background field (each area highlighted in bold)
- In multiple choice questions I have made some suggestions which you can tick if you sympathise. If you choose to, please still also make frequent use of the "other" option to share your views.
- Should spaces be too small you can use the space at the end for further explanations.
- If you are not sure of a question, please ask me or just explain why. You can reach me by e-mail: fred1706@gmail.com, [facebook](#) or skype: kiredorf1986

## Collection of essential data:

Your e-mail address: (Only to be used as a means of contact should further questions arise or if you are willing to have a further interview with me. If you do not want to give this out, leave the field blank. Also fill this field in if you would like a copy of the finished report (probably autumn/fall 2013))

Are you..?

male          female

What's your age now?

How old were you when you went deaf?

In which country do you live currently and what is your first language?

Do you wear ...?

a hearing aid

a CI

an ABI

nothing

Other

If you can hear a bit still, are you able to understand speech without looking at the lips?

Yes

No

N/A

Other

If you are able to then that's great, but I'm afraid this means you are ineligible for the questionnaire and may stop here. Sorry and thanks anyway!

### **Area 1: Your Attitudes and those of others**

1. Do you feel more comfortable with your hearing loss now compared to when it started, has this changed, if so how do you explain this?

2. Do you think due to the hearing loss you had to alter or give up your dreams and aspirations?

If yes, explain:

3. In terms of your self-perspective, do you think your *personality* has changed? If, so in which way? Make a list of which personality changes have you or close ones observed (feel free to ask them)

4. When you went deaf, how did core family cope?

	All	Most	A few	None
stood by me				
turned away				
learned strategies for communication				

Other reactions:

4.1 Why do you think they did?

5. How did relatives and friends cope?

	All	Most	A few	None
stood by me				
turned away				
learned strategies for communication				

Other reactions:

5.1 Why do you think they did?

6. How are you treated by strangers/the general public? People...

...don't know how to communicate

...are struck with helplessness

...don't bother to make effort

...underestimate the impact of hearing loss

Other reactions:

7. How does this make you feel, what's your most common reaction? I feel...

isolated

frustrated

angry

not inclined to make any effort

too tired to tell them over and over again what I need

like a burden

Other feelings:

**Area 2: language, communication and linguistic environment**

8. Which strategies do you use for communication?

I learned sign language

I learned fingerspelling

I learned lip-reading

I let people write down

I tell people to speak slowly

I tell people to speak clearly

None of the above

Other strategies:

9. How important do you think it is to learn ... when you are deafened?

	Unimportant	Low Importance	Neutral	Important	Very Important
lip reading					
Sign Language					
fingerspelling					

10. Did you learn sign language?

yes

only the basics

no

10.1 Why did you choose to do so?

11. How important do you think it is for family and friends to learn....

	Unimportant	Low Importance	Neutral	Important	Very Important
fingerspelling					
Sign Language					
speak slowly and clearly					

Other communicative strategies important for them to learn:

12. In which means of communication do you feel most comfortable? (only one number per answer possible)

	1 (most comfortable)	2	3	4
lip reading				
sign language				
fingerspelling				
text, e-mail, chat				

12.1 How do you explain your chosen order?

13. In terms of *communication*, what would be the perfect environment for you? I need people who...

### Area 3: Social Environment

14. How, if it has, has your social environment changed since you lost your hearing?

15. Do you have Deaf (Deaf= those who went deaf before speech development) friends?

Yes

No

15.1 Can you explain why you do/don't?

16. Which would be the perfect social environment for you? Being around..

people who know fingerspelling

Deaf people who use Sign Language only

hearing people who I can lip-read

Other deafened people like me

a mixture of these

Other environment:

16.1 Where and how often do you encounter this ideal environment and how does it make you feel?

17. Do you make much effort getting to know people, e.g. strangers who don't know of your communicative needs?

	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Frequently	Always

17.1 Why do you decide to do so?

17.2 How does this motivation change if they fulfill them? Why?

**Area 4: The deafened community**

18. Are you in contact with other deafened people?

If no, skip to next area

- Yes
- No

19. Thinking back, how long did it take you before you made contact and which was the final trigger?

20. Was there hesistation?

yes

no

not sure

20.1 If so, why do you think there was?

20.2 If you waited, do you regret now that you did?

yes

no

n/a

Other

21. Has it changed something in you knowing others in the same situation?

yes

no

not sure

22.1 If so, can you please describe how it made you feel?

23. Have you made friends from there?

yes

no

not sure

24. Do you behave differently among deafened people than among Hearing/Deaf people?  
If so, why?

25. How do the deafened community treat you?

26. How important would you say is the deafened community to you?

	Unimportant	Low Importance	Neutral	Important	Very Important

**Area 5: Identity and psychological effects**

27. I feel I am part of....

the hearing world

the Deaf (=those born Deaf/Deaf culture) world

neither

both

Other

27.1 Can you try to explain your decision?

28. In terms of identity, how did you feel when you deafened? Has it changed, if so, how?

29. Thinking back, after going deaf can you observe some kind of psychological processes? Tick any suggestions you sympathise with and add your own:

panicking

ignoring

retreating

accepting

developing strategies

Explain other processes here:

29.1 Can you say more about when these processes happened and why you think they did?

30. Do you feel isolated, if so, why do you think?

31. Have you ever had depressive episodes or depression?

depressive episodes

depression

neither

32. Have you ever chosen to do counselling?

yes

no

Other

32.1 If so, do you think it helped you?

yes

no

not sure

33. After all these years, how do you feel psychologically now?

34. Tick any of the strategies for coping if you can sympathise and add your own recommendations for coping with acquired hearing loss:

Learn sign language

learn lipreading

go online for communication

avoid communicative situations which frustrate you

face every communicative challenge

face a few, but not all

just behave "normally" like the others

explain your needs at length

don't say anything about your needs

touch your needs slightly

get involved in Deaf culture and its community

get in touch with other deafened people

stay focussed on the hearing world

learn about assistive technology available

unfriend "false friends"

don't ignore/wait

see a counsellor

Other recommendations by you (just continue the bullet point list):

35. Bonus question: If you could decide on one aspect/thing which you miss most, what would it be?

Space for additional comments below:

Please don't forget to say which question number it refers to



**Almost done! Please send your filled out form by July 15th to [effects@gofrednet.de](mailto:effects@gofrednet.de)**

**Thank you loads for your help, it means a lot to me!**