

This activity contributes to the following badges:



Beaver  
Disability  
Awareness  
Activity Badge



Cub Disability  
Awareness  
Activity Badge



Community  
Impact Staged  
Activity Badge

Beavers | Cubs

# Try lip-reading

**Deaf Awareness Week, 15-21 May** Invite your young people to step into the shoes of the hearing impaired with this simple activity

**Time** 30 minutes

## Equipment

- lists of questions (two different sets)
- ear plugs and ear defenders – one set of each per pair

## Instructions

**1** You are going to give each member of your section a taste of what it might be like to be hearing impaired in an attempt to spark discussion and encourage understanding. Firstly, divide your section into pairs and give one person in each pair a set of ear plugs and ear defenders. It's important to have both so as to cancel out as much noise as possible.

**2** Ask one person from each pair to wear the earplugs and ear defenders. Give the other team member the first set of questions and ask them to start a conversation with their partner. Allow this to continue for 10 minutes or so before asking the pair to switch. This time, give the speaker a second set of questions so there can be no cheating.

**3** After another 10 minutes has passed, stop the activity and bring everyone back together. What did they learn

from the experience? As the person asking questions, how difficult was it to make themselves understood? What approach did they find worked best and what didn't work at all? And how did it feel being unable to hear? What was it like when people shouted, over-enunciated or gesticulated? Was there anything that helped them to better understand what was being said?

**4** Now explain to them that around 11 million people in the UK are hearing impaired and that hearing loss affects people of all ages and backgrounds. What can be done to make life easier for the hearing impaired and how will your young people

behave next time they encounter someone with hearing loss? You can download or print off the deaf-friendly Scouting resource at [scouts.org.uk/deaffriendliscouting](https://scouts.org.uk/deaffriendliscouting) for guidance.

## Take it further

Does anyone in your section know a deaf person? Could they come along to one of your meetings to meet and talk to your section? Those of you who have chosen disability as your A Million Hands issue can also use this as a supporting activity in the build-up to the A Million Hands Big Moment in March and April.

