



What is Deaf Awareness Week?

Deaf Awareness Week takes place from **6 to 12 May** in 2025 and serves as a national initiative to raise awareness of the challenges faced by deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the UK. It's an opportunity to promote better communication, inclusion, and access for the 12 million people in the UK affected by hearing loss.

Led by organisations like the **UK Council on Deafness**, this week brings together charities, support groups, businesses, and individuals to break down barriers and champion inclusivity.

Why Deaf Awareness Week Matters

Deafness is often an invisible disability. Many people are unaware of how to communicate effectively with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, which can lead to feelings of exclusion or frustration. This campaign encourages everyone to learn, adapt, and advocate for more inclusive environments.

The History of Deaf Awareness Week

Originally started as a collaboration between multiple deaf and hearing loss charities, Deaf Awareness Week has grown into a wide-reaching campaign. Each year has a different theme to reflect current issues or opportunities for greater inclusion. The 2025 theme will continue to promote equal access to communication and raise the profile of deaf communities across the UK.

Ways to Get Involved in 2025

1. Learn Basic Sign Language

Try learning a few signs from British Sign Language (BSL). Free resources and short online tutorials are available from organisations like Signature and BSL Online.

2. Practice Deaf Awareness at Work or School

Use clear communication strategies such as facing the person when speaking, using subtitles in videos, and reducing background noise during conversations.

3. Share Personal Stories

If you or someone you know is deaf or hard of hearing, share your experiences to raise awareness. Use the hashtag **#DeafAwarenessWeek** to join the national conversation.

4. Support Inclusive Services

Encourage local services to provide BSL interpretation, install hearing loops, or offer training in deaf awareness. Change often starts with community pressure.

Inclusion begins with awareness

Deaf Awareness Week reminds us that communication is more than just words — it's about empathy, patience, and effort. By taking small steps to become more deaf-aware, we open doors to better relationships, workplaces, and communities for everyone.

Related Links

- [K Council on Deafness – National coordinator of the campaign](#)
- [RNID – Action on Hearing Loss – Charity supporting people with hearing loss and tinnitus.](#)
- [NHS: Hearing Loss – Information and health advice on managing hearing conditions.](#)

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