



Guide to Lipreading & Lipspeaking

Lipspeaker. A lipspeaker is a professional communicator through which the message is passed in a clearly lip-readable way

What is a Lipspeaker?

A Lipspeaker repeats the spoken message to the lipreader using clear lip patterns. They may also use natural gesture and facial expressions to convey the message. Some Lipspeakers have British Sign Language (BSL) skills and can offer Lipspeaking with additional sign support, if requested by the lipreader. A lipspeaker can speak with or without a voice. Messages that are too fast for lipreading may have to be pared down by the lipspeaker. The lipspeaker will use some fingerspelling, if the lipreader requests this, as well as sign support.

Lipspeakers are used as a communication support for clients within a company, as well as for the employees.

In the UK, it is estimated that:

11 million people have some form of hearing loss

Around 151,000 people use BSL.



The services of a Lipspeaker can be offered remotely or face to face and can provide support for meetings with people wishing to discuss important banking/financial requirements.

For the large number of people who do not use BSL as their first language, and would benefit from the use of a Lip Speaker, ensures that they can clearly lip-read what is being said.

With an aging population, this number is expected to keep growing, especially with people losing their hearing and who do not rely on using BSL.

Why is additional support important?

1. Lipreading may not always be accurate.

Even your best lip readers get max 60% (studies vary) of what is said from lipreading alone. That means elements may be missed in important contacts like in banking & financial matters.

2. Lipreading is exhausting.

It takes a lot of concentration to focus on someone's lip patterns for hours on end. As Rachel Kolb says "lipreading isn't reading, the human face isn't a book"

Face to face appointments may be beneficial to people that are not comfortable using IT or for may benefit by having communication support present at their meetings.

Lipspeakers often support within the following roles that are also found within banking/financial institutions:

Interviews

Appraisals

Training

Conferences

HR meetings (Disciplinary/PIP)

Client Meetings

Performance reviews

Admin - phone calls (Using a headset and relaying the spoken message heard)

AGM's

Lipspeakers are bound by a Code of Conduct within their NRCPD registration ensuring privacy to any information discussed/disclosed. They also have Professional Indemnity Insurance and Public Liability Insurance and hold an Enhanced DBS.

Clients of Banking organisations can benefit by receiving the services of a Lipspeaker - they can have conversations repeated online or face to face, where they are able to view the Lipspeakers face clearly, together with facial expressions, which relays the tone of the conversation. The tone is more difficult to convey with a messaging service.



How to contact Lipspeakers

NRCPD The National Registers of Communication Professionals

working with Deaf and Deafblind People (NRCPD) The NRCPD is the leading voluntary regulator for language service professionals, setting the benchmark for excellence in the UK and British Overseas Territories. They cover a wide range of professionals, including British Sign Language/English Interpreters and Translators, Irish Sign Language Interpreters, Lipspeakers, Notetakers, Speech-to-Text Reporters, and Interpreters for Deafblind People.



[Link to NRCPD](#)

The **Association of Lipspeakers** (ALS) connects d/Deaf and hard of hearing people with qualified lipspeakers—professionals who repeat spoken words clearly for lipreading. ALS provides guidance, training, and a national directory to help you find trusted lipspeakers for events, appointments, or everyday communication.



[Link to ALS](#)

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