

Ten Things You Didn't Know About Captioning for People With Hearing Loss

1. One in ten people in this country may have some hearing loss and would benefit from Open and Closed Captioning
2. Captioning is speech-to-text translation. It provides communication access for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. The Captioner, using technology, stenotypes at over 225 words a minute with 97% accuracy or more. Nationally certified Captioners have the initials CBC or CCP after their name. Captioning is part of Universal Design: Everyone benefits by using it
3. Closed Captioning, the scrolling text at the bottom or top of the TV screen, has to be “opened” by a remote control. Open Captioning takes place before a live audience. The Open Captioner is usually onsite, sending captions to an electronic LED screen or a flat screen. Everyone in the room can see it, so it is called Open Captioning. Open and Closed Captioning are English, not American Sign Language
4. Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey was the first theater to use Open Captioning before it debuted on Broadway
5. English is usually the first language of deaf and hard of hearing consumers who use captioning. Categories for people with hearing loss are: oral deaf, late-deafened, congenitally deaf, hard of hearing and “Big D” Deaf. Some oral deaf people receive hearing aids or a cochlear implant, work with audiologists and have years of speech lessons from a speech therapist. Late-deafened adults lose some or all of their hearing over time by listening to loud music, being around loud noise, from a disease called NF2, or aging. People who are deaf, use sign language and not English as their primary mode of communication are sometimes referred to as “Big D” Deaf or Signing Deaf
6. Oral deafness is considered the “invisible” disability. A hearing aid or cochlear implant can be concealed under long hair or a hat or may look like a bluetooth
7. People who are oral deaf or hard of hearing rely first on their residual hearing and hearing aids or cochlear implants; then on speechreading (lipreading); and third on Captioning
8. Thanks to the advocacy efforts of Arlene Romoff (Author of Hear Again: Back to Life with a Cochlear Implant and President of the New Jersey chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America) New Jersey is one of the best states to live in if you are deaf or hard of hearing and want communication access
9. Discounted tickets and upfront seating are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing for captioned/interpreted Broadway performances through TDF/TAP
10. The symbol OC in a box on program guides indicates that Open Captioning is available. CC in a box indicates a TV program is closed-captioned

Resources:

- ✓ League for the Hard of Hearing has many services for people with hearing loss and offers new communication techniques. Free Hearing Screenings.
Tel: 917-305-7700 Website: www.lhh.org
- ✓ The Hearing Group
Tel: 973-243-8860 Website: www.thehearinggroupusa.com
- ✓ Association of Late-Deafened Adults: www.alda.org
- ✓ Northwest Jersey Association of the Deaf: www.nwjad.org
- ✓ National Association of the Deaf: www.nad.org
- ✓ Cultural Access Network: www.culturalaccessnetwork.org
- ✓ To check which movies are captioned: www.movietickets.com

Open captioned theater in New Jersey – Check captioning dates with the theater:

- ✓ Paper Mill Playhouse www.papermill.org
- ✓ Two River Theater Company www.trtc.org
- ✓ George Street Playhouse www.georgestreetplayhouse.org

The following information was provided in NJ Department of Human Services - Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing's newsletter: www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddhh
or Google DDHH

Rear Window Captioning in New Jersey

AMC Movie Theaters www.amctheatres.com (FM devices available - check with theater):
National Amusement www.clearviewcinemas.com

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The following information was provided by the Hearing Loss Association of America's newsletter: www.hlaa.org

Open-captioned Theater in New York City:

Theater Access Project (TAP) Broadway and off-Broadway productions
Tickets are discounted: www.tdf.org/tap

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Open-captioned Movies in New York City:

www.insightcinema.org

www.regalcinemas.com/movies/open_cap.html

Regal Battery Park Stadium 11: 212-945-4370

Regal – UA Sheepshead Bay – Brooklyn: 718-615-1053

Regal – UA Kaufman Studios Cinema 14: 718-786-1722

A final note:

In the workplace: Companies and organizations can include staff and clients with hearing loss by providing communication access at conferences and other events via Open Captioning

At home: If the family member with hearing loss is willing to address it, the strain of communication loss may be relieved

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