

Possible Reasons Why YOU May Not Understand What Someone Says

Remember, EVERYONE experiences communication breakdowns sometimes!

- Which of these have happened to you?
- What would prevent people from not understanding you in each of these situations?
What could YOU do to prevent misunderstandings?
- Can you think of any other reasons why someone does not understand you sometimes?

ENVIRONMENT 	• It is noisy and you could not hear all the words that someone said • You were outside or in a large room (like a classroom) and the person's voice was not heard loudly enough over the distance • There was a lot going on, making it hard to pay attention • People in a group were talking at the same time or interrupting each other as they spoke
PERSON LISTENING 	• The person was whispering and you didn't hear what was said • You were thinking about something else when the other person started talking • You were doing something and didn't realize you were talking to them • You did not understand what the person was talking about (words used were unknown)
OTHER PERSON TALKING 	• The person has a quiet voice and you have a hard time hearing all of what they say • Some of the person's speech sounds are not clear, or they talk with an accent, making it hard for you to understand each of the words said • The person was too far away when they started talking • The person started talking before they got your attention • The person was talking too fast and you didn't hear or understand all of what was said • The person started talking and then turned their head or walked away from you