

Possible Reasons Why Someone Does Not Understand What You Say

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 the person could not hear all the words that you said • You were outside or in a large room (like a classroom) and your 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 interrupted you as you spoke
PERSON LISTENING 	• You were whispering and the person didn't hear what you said • The person was thinking about something else when you started talking • The person was doing something and didn't realize you were talking to them • The person did not understand what you were talking about (words used were unknown)
PERSON (YOU) TALKING 	• You have a quiet voice; some people have a hard time hearing all of what you say • Some of your speech sounds are not clear, making it hard for other people to understand each of the words you are saying • You were too far away when you started talking • You started talking before you got the person's attention • You were talking too fast and the person didn't hear or understand all of what you said • You started talking and then turned your head or walked away from the person