

Cued Speech

What is Cued Speech?

Cued Speech (CS) is a tool to make spoken languages visible. It is a phonemically-based system that uses eight handshapes in four locations near the face to supplement the information available on the lips during speech. Cued Speech removes the guesswork from speechreading and makes any spoken language accessible through vision alone. Simple hand cues in conjunction with the natural lip movements of speech make words that look alike on the lips visually distinctive and understandable.

Why was it developed?

Literacy is the original and primary goal of Cued Speech. It was developed to enable hearing parents to communicate with their deaf children in their native spoken language. This visual counterpart to spoken language allows deaf children to have access to the phonological code of language that promotes proficiency in reading. The use of this system allows deaf individuals to “see-hear” the language as it is spoken and allows deaf children to acquire spoken language in a natural and efficient manner.

Who uses Cued Speech?

Families of deaf children have been cueing in the United States and abroad for more than 30 years. Cued Speech has been adapted to more than 50 languages and dialects. CS allows hearing parents to convey their native spoken language with ease.

Cued Speech may also be used in educational settings, either by classroom teachers who cue or by cueing interpreters, called Cued Speech Translitterators, who convey all spoken and other auditory information that occurs in the classroom. Students receive a syllable-by-syllable visual rendering of spoken language only a split-second behind the presentation of the original speaker. So, preschool through postsecondary students throughout the country are able to participate fully in mainstream educational settings with access provided by Cued Speech Translitterators. For teachers, working with translitterators is very much like working with interpreters.

While it was not developed for speech training, speech therapists may use Cued Speech as a tool for work on pronunciation, accent, duration, and rhythm.

Because Cued Speech incorporates multisensory input, its use supports auditory discrimination, speechreading, articulation, and phonics instruction for children and adults with a variety of hearing, speech, and language needs. Its use is compatible with auditory/oral, bilingual, and total communication philosophies.

Results of Cued Speech use

- Language Skills/Literacy*
Receivers of Cued Speech are able to understand spoken language conveyed with cues at extremely high levels of accuracy.¹ Consistent exposure to spoken language through cues results in language skills and literacy levels comparable to those of hearing peers.² Many students who use Cued Speech are enrolled in regular classes, preschool through college.
- Speechreading*
Due to their knowledge of spoken language, individuals who have had consistent exposure to Cued Speech often have excellent speechreading skills and are able to communicate with people who do not cue.
- Audition*
Cued Speech is a tool used to convey the phonological aspects of language. Therefore, it is totally compatible with the use of hearing and can help to develop auditory awareness, discrimination, and comprehension. The foundation provided by cues integrates well with cochlear implant use.
- Foreign Language*
Cued Speech is not only used for English. Deaf students in the U.S. use Cued Speech to learn foreign spoken languages, such as Spanish, French, and Latin.

Some families use Cued Speech as their preferred communication tool. Others use a bilingual approach with their deaf children and use American Sign Language (ASL) at some times and Cued Speech for English at other times.

Because of the relationship of Cued Speech to the phonological basis of spoken language, it can work well with approaches that emphasize auditory information. It may also be understood completely through vision for those individuals who rely on visual input for communication. For children whose first language is ASL, Cued Speech can be used to facilitate the acquisition of English.³

How do deaf individuals who use Cued Speech communicate?

Most use oral communication when interacting with hearing people. Many use sign language when interacting with people who sign.

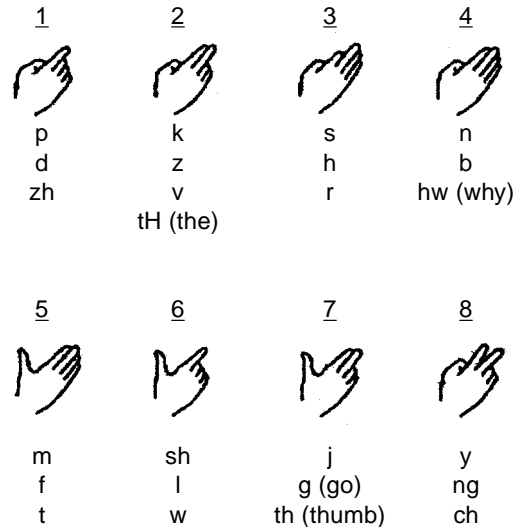
How can I learn to cue?

Cued Speech instruction is available throughout the U.S. from a network of certified instructors. Cue Camps are a popular way for families and professionals to develop their cueing skills. Videotape lessons are available.

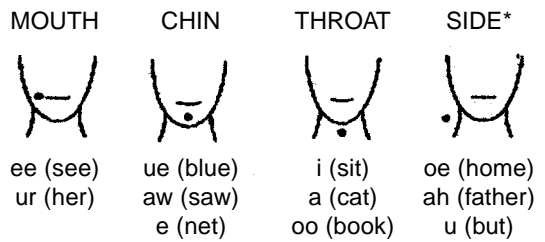
Cued Speech Resources

National Cued Speech Association
 800-459-3529 v/tty
 301-915-8009 v/tty
 info@cuedspeech.org
 5619 McLean Drive
 Bethesda, MD 20814-1021
 http://www.cuedspeech.org

CUED SPEECH CONSONANT HANDSHAPES

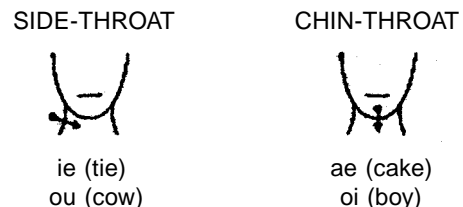


CUED SPEECH VOWEL PLACEMENTS



- /oe/ and /ah/ require slight forward motion; /u/ requires slight downward motion

DIPHTHONGS



¹ Cornett & Daisey, 1992; Quenin, 1992; Nicholls & Ling, 1982.

² Hage, Alegria, & Perier, 1990; Wandel, 1989.

³ LaSasso & Metzger, 1998.

For more information, contact:
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