

Scripts for dealing with difficult physical environments



Scene:

You are driving on a road trip with your friend, Ellen. A car is often a difficult physical environment because you can't speechread while driving and the positioning of the seats is not optimal for hearing.

Characters:

Ellen can be portrayed by a narrator, if practicing alone, or a friend/family member.

Script:

Ellen: Wow, did you know that California had so many national parks?

(While speaking, Ellen turns her face toward her passenger window, making it hard to hear her.)

Ellen: Of course. Sorry, I didn't realize that. Can you explain more about how your cochlear implant works? I thought it cured your hearing loss.

Ellen: Thank you! That makes a lot more sense. Let me know if I can do anything else to help you hear me better.

Ellen: Sounds great, thanks!

(Ellen rolls down the window, and then tries to tell you something.)

Ellen: Oh, okay. Thanks for letting me know. How much further do we have?

Ellen: Sure. When do you think we will arrive at the hotel?

You: Ellen, can you face toward my ear when you speak? I can't hear you very well when you turn your face toward your car window.

You: No problem, Ellen. My cochlear implant actually does not cure hearing loss. My cochlear implant bypasses the damaged parts of my ear to create a representation of sound. The representation of sound is much different than what you hear and what I used to hear with my hearing aid.

You: Driving is hard for me, because I can't read your lips. I may not respond right away, because I'm concentrating on driving. I'll let you know if I can't hear you, though. It may also be more helpful for you to rephrase what you say rather than repeat, if I can't hear you.

You: Ellen, can you roll up the window? We can turn the AC on if you're warm. I really struggle hearing you when there is a lot of background noise, like the wind and car horns.

You: Sorry, I didn't catch that. Can you rephrase?

You: Oh! We'll be there in about another hour.