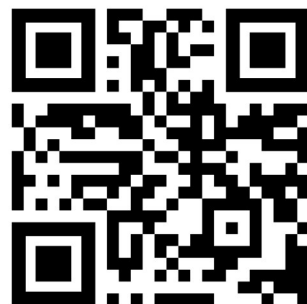




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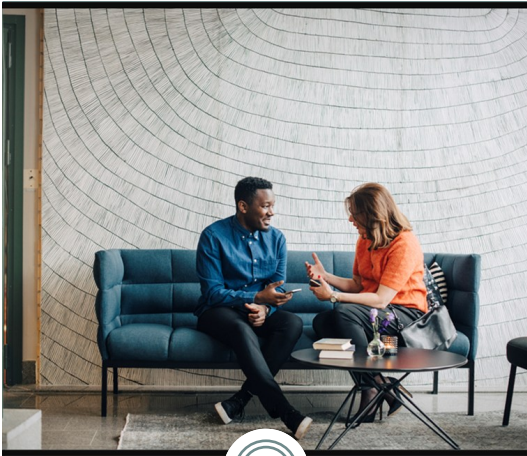
## **Engaging with An Individual Who has Difficulty Speaking**

There are many situations which can make it difficult for an individual to speak clearly.

Regardless of the reason for the speech impairment, it is important to begin with respect for the person with whom you are communicating.

This person has something to say, and it is worth making the effort to understand.

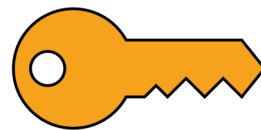




**Here are a few tips to help make this communication process more comfortable and effective.**

- Understand the complexity of speech and how easily it can be affected.
- Give whole, unhurried attention to the person who has difficulty speaking.

- Keep your manner encouraging rather than correcting.
- You should not assume that the person with speech difficulty also has a mental impairment.
- Rather than speak for the person, allow extra time for the conversation and be patient. Do not finish a person's sentence.
- If you have difficulty understanding, don't pretend that you do understand. Repeat as much as you do understand. The person's reaction will guide you and clue you in.
- Use paper and pen as a last resort.



**RESPECT IS THE KEY,  
DO NOT ASSUME**