Hearing Loss & Assistive Technology
What are the options?

By Luke Nadin
WHO AM I AND WHAT IS MY ROLE?

• My name is Luke Nadin.
• I work for Microlink.
• My role with Microlink was apprentice technical support.
• I did research in the field of assistive technology, in the home, higher education and other settings to find out how Microlink can help people with several different disabilities.
THINGS THAT I WILL BE COVERING

• What is hearing loss and the definition

• Barriers within the workplace and Education

• Hearing options you can change/install on the computer

• Solutions
WHAT IS HEARING LOSS?

• There are three types of hearing loss.
• These are sensorineural hearing loss, conductive hearing loss and mixed hearing loss.
• 11 million people in the UK who experience hearing loss.
• This can be a barrier for some people when accessing education, employment and everyday life.
• With the right technology many people with hearing loss can still achieve their goals.
Having hearing loss can cause barriers within the workplace and educational environments.

Building relationships and understanding people might be complex and difficult.

Hearing loss may cause some people to feel alone and withdrawn and struggle with their education and employment.

This may cause stress and anxiety in a person.

Managers and educational institutions, not understanding.

Not having the full range of support before they start their education or career.

“Without the support I need, I feel depressed, worried, stressed and struggle to follow criteria to achieve high marks.”

Sophia Watkins, Sheffield Hallam University.
HEARING OPTIONS YOU CAN INSTALL / CHANGE ON YOUR COMPUTER

• There are several different hearing options you can change and install on your computer to help with hearing loss.

• These options can include Mono audio through to flashing screens to alert the user of the notification.

• They remove some of the barriers that may occur when a person with hearing loss uses a computer.

• It’s easy to set up.

• These options are accessed through the ease of access menu on a Windows 10 computer.
CAPTIONING AND TRANSLATION

- Interact streamer is a captioning and translation service.
- It’s a web-based application and can capture meetings and lectures.
- Interactive streamer can be translated into multiple languages.
- With interact stream the captioning is real time and fast.
- Works with all different platforms, including zoom Google and Facebook.
- Really inclusive and breaks down barriers.
- YouTube and zoom also have a captioning service that works.
SIGNGLASS TECHNOLOGY

• The image of the interpreter is in the glasses.
• You can focus on what’s being said in lectures/work.
• Record and bookmark lectures.
• Searchable notes.
• You can review lectures/meetings afterwards.
• This can help with productivity.
• Removes stress barrier.
• Learning/working at their own pace.
PHONAK PRODUCTS

- Phonak has a range of products to ensure that a person with hearing loss can be independent.

- The partner Mic is a lapel mic that can be worn by the person who can hear and their voice is streamed via Bluetooth connection to the person with hearing loss.

- The Phonak, Roger select allows for the person who with hearing loss to have group conversations. This technology would be ideal for group situations.

- The Roger select means that they can listen and talk to everyone, if this is overwhelming. They can press to only hear certain members of the group or a certain person. Ideal for group situations, meetings, and seminars.

- The Roger pen can act as a microphone, it can be hung around someone’s neck and the audio will be streamed to the person’s hearing aid. It can also act as a Bluetooth device so it can connect to an iPad, a smart TV, and audio can be streamed directly into the person’s hearing aids at a level that best suits them.
SPEAK SEE MICROPHONES

- Ideal for group meetings, and seminars
- Each person microphone lights up a different colour when speaking
- Live captures what is being said so helps people with hearing loss with a visual representation.
- It can transcribe up to 9 people in one meeting at a time.
- The person with hearing loss can easily see who said what, by the corresponding colour.
- Background noise isn’t affected and has high accuracy.

• (may currently not be available for shipping)
UbiDuo3

• UbiDuo3 is transforming how people with hearing loss and hearing are interacting with each other.

• It is lightweight and allows for face-to-face communication between people with hearing loss and hearing. For example, a doctors appointment using this technology breaks down the barrier.

• Runs of low-frequency radio waves doesn’t require Wi-Fi or any internet connection for it to run.

• It gives the user is a real-time response, meaning that when a person types, the person with hearing loss can see the response straightaway and have a real time conversation.

• UbiDuo3 eliminates communication barriers.

• Really good for mental well-being and removing the barrier of isolation.
Relay UK

- Relay UK is a new app for people with hearing loss
- Enables them to make calls and have conversations.
- Breaks down barriers within work and socially.
- Text user interface
- App is free to download from Google play and App Store
- A person can still use a text phone if they want to, as well as the app.
- Instant communication.
- Breaking down barriers.
BeHear AMPLIFIERS

• BeHear amplifiers allow people with hearing loss to hear conversations and music
• Earphones for people with hearing loss
• Works with hearing loops as well.
• Larger buttons for ease of use
• Looks like a typical Bluetooth headset
• Charging is easy
• Better quality-of-life
What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job with training for those over the age of 16. They are available for a wide range of job roles across many different industries. Almost any type of apprenticeship can be made accessible and support is available while you learn and work.

As an apprentice you will:
- Work alongside experienced staff
- Gain the skills necessary for work
- Study for a particular qualification
- Earn a wage
- Be on a career path

Usually apprenticeships involve working four days a week and spending one day a week studying. Apprenticeships can also be done part-time. Apprenticeships can last for between one and six years depending on which apprenticeship you choose, the level and your previous experience in that job area.

What levels apprenticeships are there?
- Intermediate level: Level 2, equivalent to five GCSE passes
- Advanced level: Level 3, equivalent to two A-levels
- Higher level: Level 4 and 5, equivalent to a foundation degree and above
- Degree apprenticeships: Levels 6 and 7, equivalent to a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree

https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/get-ahead
Thanks for your attention

Any questions?

https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/

https://www.microlinkpc.com