

Technology Used by the Deaf Community

Communication Devices

- Video Relay Service (VRS) – Allows Deaf individuals to call hearing people via a video interpreter.
- Video Phones / Video Chat Apps – Sorenson, Purple, Convo, ZVRS, FaceTime, Zoom, Glide.
- Text Messaging & Smartphones – Replaced older TTY/TDD systems.
- TTY / TDD (Teletypewriter/Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) – Older technology for typed phone communication.

Alerting & Safety Devices

- Visual Doorbells – Flashing lights or vibration alerts.
- Vibrating Alarm Clocks – Placed under a pillow or mattress.
- Baby Cry Alert Systems – Flashing light or vibration signals.
- Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors – Equipped with strobe lights and/or vibration.

Captioning Technology

- Closed Captioning (TV & Streaming) – Standard feature on most platforms.
- Real-Time Captioning (CART) – Human captioners provide live captions.
- Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) – Captions on Zoom, Google Meet, YouTube, etc.
- Movie Theater Captioning – Devices like CaptiView or Rear Window Captioning.

Assistive Listening Technology

- Hearing Aids – Digital, Bluetooth-connected devices.
- Cochlear Implants – Surgically implanted with external processors.
- FM/DM Systems – Teacher microphone transmitting to student's device.
- Loop Systems (T-coil) – Wireless sound transmission directly to devices.

Educational & Accessibility Tools

- ASL Apps & Online Platforms – ASLdeafined.com, The ASL App, Lingvano, SignSchool.
- Video Dictionaries – Online/app-based ASL vocabulary.
- Speech-to-Text Apps – Ava, Otter.ai, Live Transcribe, Rogervoice.
- Accessible Emergency Alerts – Text-based or visual alert systems.

Social & Everyday Technology

- Social Media Platforms – YouTube, TikTok, Instagram with captions/ASL content.
- Smart Home Devices – Alexa, Google Home with flashing light integration.

- Apple Watch / Smartwatches – Vibration alerts for calls/messages.
- Captioned Telephone Services (CapTel) – Telephone with live captions.

Historic Technology

- Telegraph & Early TTY Machines – Early distance communication tools.
- Pagers (1990s–2000s) – Popular before smartphones, often text-only.
- TTY Relay Operators – Operators typed spoken words for Deaf callers before VRS.