Key Terms

**Congenitally Deaf:**
Those who are born deaf

**Adventitiously Deaf:**
Those who acquire deafness anytime after birth

**Prelingual Deafness:**
Deafness that occurs before speech/language develops

**Postlingual Deafness:**
Deafness after speech/language development

**Attitudinal Deafness:**
Whether a person thinks of himself as deaf

**Outer Ear:**
Basically the visible portion of the ear

**Middle Ear**
Eardrum – vibrates and produces sound waves
Three tiny bones (ossicles) which send vibrations to inner ear

**Inner Ear**
Has thousands of moving parts, often called a labyrinth
Contains the vestibular mechanism and the cochlea.

**Cochlea:**
Organ of the inner ear with parts that convert the vibrations from the middle ear into an electrical signal that is transmitted to the brain

**Audiologist:**
Person trained in the science dealing with hearing impairments, their detection, and remediation

**Speech Audiometry:**
Used to tests a person’s detection and understanding of speech

**Speech-Reception Threshold:**
Decibel level at which one can understand speech

**Conductive Hearing Impairment:**
Impairment of the middle or outer ear

**Sensorineural Hearing Impairment:**
Impairment of the inner ear

**Mixed Hearing Impairment:**
Combination of the two above
ASL: 
   American sign language 
   Is a true language, with a grammatical structure
Transliteration: 
   A signing system that maintains same word order as spoken English 
   Often used by interpreters
Fingerspelling: 
   Representation of letters in the English alphabet by finger positions
Speechreading: 
   Using visual cues from many sources to understand the speech of others. Contextual stimuli, facial expressions, and reading speech sounds by watching how the tongue and jaw move 
   Good speechreaders are rare, because of this method’s difficulty