

# Other Access Technologies

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There are many technologies that have been designed specifically to assist deaf and hard of hearing people access communication and interact in their environments. Some sample resources representing phones, captioning services, alerting devices, and communication devices are included here along with links to obtain additional information.

## Phones & Video Phones

### CapTel

If you've ever missed out on what was being said during a telephone call — you no longer need to. Now you can see what they say. Word by word, phrase by phrase, see your telephone conversation on-screen as you talk. It's called captioned telephone or CapTel. Best of all, there is no additional charge to receive telephone captions. The CapTel phone works with a free captioning service to provide captions of everything callers say. A special phone is required.

[www.captionedtelephone.com](http://www.captionedtelephone.com)

**Captioned telephone** services are also now available over the web using your computer – no special phone is required.

[www.hamiltoncaptel.com](http://www.hamiltoncaptel.com)

[www.sprintcaptel.com](http://www.sprintcaptel.com)

### Sorenson Communications

Sorenson Communications ([www.sorenson.com](http://www.sorenson.com)) is a provider of communication offerings including the Sorenson Video Relay Service® (VRS), Sorenson IP Relay™, Sorenson Video Remote Interpreting™ (VRI), and a line of videophones. Sorenson VRS ([www.sorensonvrs.com](http://www.sorensonvrs.com)) enables deaf and hard-of-hearing callers to conduct video relay conversations through a qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter. Sorenson IP Relay ([www.siprelay.com](http://www.siprelay.com)) allows users to place text-based relay calls from either a mobile device or a PC to any telephone user. Sorenson VRI ([www.sorensonvri.com](http://www.sorensonvri.com)) is a convenient interpreting service that permits deaf and hearing individuals who are in the same location to easily converse with each other via a remote video interpreter. The Sorenson videophones feature auto-updating technology, which include the latest video communication features for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

### Sprint Relay

Sprint Relay's complete line of products and services is designed to provide fast, reliable and clear communication. Helping you get in touch and stay in touch—no matter where you are. Learn more about Sprint Relay's solutions for the deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech disabled:

[www.sprintrelay.com](http://www.sprintrelay.com)

### Harris Communication

Harris Communications' complete line of products are specifically designed to address the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals. They provide everything from alerting devices, to cell phone connectivity, and adaptive phones capable of VCO (voice carry over) and TTY

[www.harriscomm.com](http://www.harriscomm.com)

# Captioning

## C-Print

A speech-to-text system developed at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a college of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), as a communication access service option for some deaf and hard-of-hearing students in educational environments. It was developed by researchers to improve the classroom experience for students at both the secondary and college levels.

[www.ntid.rit.edu/cprint/](http://www.ntid.rit.edu/cprint/)

## TypeWell

A system for transcribing speech to text. It is an effective learning tool for deaf and hard of hearing people, as well as those with visual, physical or learning difficulties.

A hearing transcriber is taught to use a laptop computer with the TypeWell abbreviation software to transcribe meaning-for-meaning what is said in lectures and discussions. This meaning-for-meaning transcription is different that verbatim transcripts provided by CART

[www.typewell.com](http://www.typewell.com)

## Communication Access Information Center (CART)

The primary purpose of the Communication Access Information Center is to provide information of use to people employing or in need of Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), also known as real time captioning. Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is the instant translation of the spoken word into English text using a stenotype machine, notebook computer and real time software. The text appears on a computer monitor or other display. This technology is primarily used by people who are late-deafened, oral deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have cochlear implants. Culturally deaf individuals also make use of CART in certain situations. Please keep in mind that CART is also often referred to as real time captioning.

[www.cart-info.org](http://www.cart-info.org)

## Types of captioning

Text transcription for voice, non-speech, and media. Open captioning is hardcoded and visible to all viewers while closed captioning may be turned on or off. Captioning services maybe be on-site or conducted remotely by captioners located across the U.S. Services are generally available on-demand 24 hours/day. Written transcriptions are available for many of the services.

### Described Captioned Media Program (DCMP)

[www.dcmp.org](http://www.dcmp.org)

### Speech-to-Text - Dragon Dictation

[www.nuance.com/dragon/index.htm](http://www.nuance.com/dragon/index.htm)

## Alerting Systems and Other Accessories

### HITEC

Provides assistive listening devices for individuals experiencing hearing loss. The product line includes amplified telephones, emergency contact telephones, portable phone amplifiers, personal listening systems, wireless TV headsets, alarm clocks, and wireless accessories such as neck loops for cell phone users.

[www.hitec.com](http://www.hitec.com)

### Harris Communications

Established as a mail order catalog company in 1982 by Dr. Robert Harris, a member of the deaf community in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Beginning as a local distributor of assistive devices for the deaf, the customer base has expanded to include a variety of products – now numbering over 2,000. All are designed to help individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing in their everyday lives.

[www.harriscomm.com](http://www.harriscomm.com)

### SoundBytes

An online resource for cell phone amplifiers, signaling systems, accessories for hearing aids, TTY devices, ASL products and hundreds of other invaluable products for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

[www.soundbytes.com](http://www.soundbytes.com)

## Other Communication Devices

### iCommunicator

A software based program that uses multi-modes for communicating. It has the ability to convert voice to text via the internet/remote CART, video capability to use an interpreter remotely, and also has audio output for coupling w/a Roger or personal FM system. The link below has good descriptions of educational applications of this software.

[www.icommunicator.com](http://www.icommunicator.com)

## Hearing Aid Insurance

### ESCO

You may not think it will happen to you, yet every year thousands of hearing aid owners accidentally lose or damage their hearing aids. ESCO provides a protection plan that continues even after your manufacturer's warranty expires. ESCO specializes in protection and financing plans for hearing aids.

[www.earserv.com](http://www.earserv.com)