

The basic principle of both types of people is that they are humans; however, they belong to subcultures (under the human culture). The reason for this is that hearing people are vocal and auditory; they learn their information by ear rather than deaf people, who rely on their vision to learn. Deaf people are vocal (manual) and visual. The learning process is what makes the subcultures different; not only that, it is how each communicate and get attention that are also different – again it is based on the auditory and visual process. Take for example, friends who are hearing would be visually disturbed if someone walks right through; however, it may be unusual with deaf folks – they do not even see them most of the time. In both subcultures – saying “Excuse me” is mandatory, just that if the space does not provide room to go around, deaf people are more comfortable in going between conversationalists than hearing people are.

As with any cultures or subcultures – the majority of the people practice their traditions, mores, and values. Do not expect every person – deaf or hearing to be the same (“stereotyping”). There are plenty of deaf people who do practice some hearing values and some hearing that do practice deaf values. Some even live with both sets of values, mores and traditions.