

Yes. The most vocal aspect of the majority is grunts, sounds reinforcing some signs, or other forms. This does not mean that they are not intelligent. They have the capacity to communicate, just not the way hearing people do. Some deaf people talk fluently as they sign – often they find themselves trapped between two languages – a majority find that ASL is their primary language. It depends on what influence deaf people get in their childhood by family or academic endeavors (speech class for one). Again, yes – deaf people can talk. They are not mute by nature.

Lipreading (or speechreading) is another aspect – a number of deaf people are average lipreaders, causing others to think that they are faking their deafness. That can be a problem, even if they informed the person they are talking with, that they are deaf. It is a proficiency developed by communication and training; especially since approximately 90% of the deaf peoples' family members are hearing. 30% of the spoken words are read clearly on the lips. Try it in front of the mirror without using your voice – Blue, blew or map, bap, lap or any other rhyming words with similar homonyms.