

# TELETYPEWRITER (TTY)

## **ASL/Deaf Relevant Essay Assignment**

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**Course:** Intro to American Sign Language1: ASLA 1001H



# What is TTY?



- TTY stands for “Teletypewriter” and was developed by **Robert Weitbrecht**, a deaf scientist, in 1960
- This is an electromechanical typewriter paired with the communication channel that allows those who are deaf to use the Telephone via messages
- It is one of the Augmentative and alternate communication (AAC) devices otherwise known in simple terms as Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD)

# TTY - Assistive Devices

- Assistive Device or Assistive technology can refer to any device that helps a person with hearing loss, voice speech or language delay to communicate
- There are 3 types of Assistive Devices available:
  - **Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)** – they help in amplifying the sounds you want to hear
  - **Augmentative and alternate communication (AAC) devices** – these help people to communicate without using voice
  - **Alerting Devices** – these connect to a doorbell, telephone or alarm and emits a loud sound or blinking light to let someone with a hearing loss get aware that an event is taking place

# Augmentative and alternate communication (AAC) devices

- The simplest AAC Device is like a picture board or touch screen that uses pictures or symbols of basic items and activities that are a part of a person's daily life
- For example, a person can touch a glass to indicate they would like a drink
- One of the most common AAC devices is the TTY or TDD machines, which has been a part of the deaf community for quite a few years now.

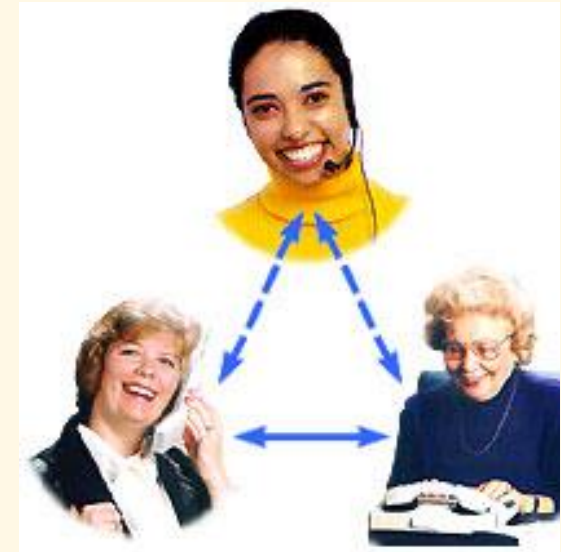
# About TTY Machine



- The TTY Machine consists of a typewriter keyboard that displays typed conversations onto a read out panel on printed on paper
- This keyboard can then be used to type the message in the conversation
- If one of the callers does not have a TTY machine then they can use the national toll-free telecommunications relay service at 711 to communicate.

# Relay Calls and what are they?

- Relay calls allows an individual who is deaf , hard of hearing or has speech delays to place and receive calls with other individuals without a TTY machine.
- The call is placed to the communications assistants (CA's) who help to facilitate these calls.
- IP Relay System is offered to all subscribers of home or mobile phone service in Canada.
- This TRS System, is available in all the 50 states as well as the US territories.



what are other  
words for  
teletypewriter?



teleprinter, telex,  
telex machine, teletype machine,  
teletype, tty,  
Flexowriter typewriter



# Kinds of TTYs

- There are various kinds of TTYs that can be adjusted as per the comfort and need of its users by using pieces of additional equipment that can be coupled to the telephones to improve their utility
- For people with hearing difficulties, the telephone ring and conversation sound level can be amplified, pitch adjusted and also background noise filtered
- There can also be an inductive coupler to interact with the suitable hearing aids
- For hard of hearing people, a light or visual call indicator can be supplemented along with the ring



# TTY today

- The text messaging services on the cellphones today serves a similar purpose as TTY.
- The difference is that during a TTY conversation, the messages appear immediately on the other party's TTY screen without interruption of internet or service
- TTY services can be connected to both landlines and cellphones today.
- Many cellphones have a TTY mode that allows the phone to function as a TTY device.
- Depending on the phone, there is either a built in TTY software or it allows you to connect the phone to an external TTY device

# TTY today: Cellphones

- TTY can be activated for both Android and an iPhone
- Many phones have 3 different TTY modes:
  - TTY Full: This mode allows both the sender and receiver to communicate through TTY messages
  - TTY VCO: This is for the hearing-impaired users who can send messages through voice but receive messages as a text display
  - TTY HCO: This mode is for the users who can receive voice messages but need to send text messages

# How TTY has improved lives?

- The invention of telephone was a miracle for many people except the deaf or hard of hearing community because they could not use this device either at all or for the most part
- The deaf community had to depend on the hearing family member, friends and neighbors for making phone calls for generations
- The invention of TTY finally enabled the deaf to have the same privilege of a telephone as everyone else in the world
- TTY allowed the deaf to finally make their own appointments, order pizza, or make a social conversations call all on their own

# TTY Etiquette

- Since TTY depended on written messages, there was an inability to detect when a person has finished speaking.
- To avoid a scramble of messages from 2 people typing, there were a few etiquette rules developed
- Terminology was developed to make the conversations smooth
- The most basic rule was to not text until the other person has finished. For this the terminology “Go-Ahead” (GA) was developed which is used to denote the end of turn

# TTY Terminology

Abbreviation	Meaning/ Purpose of the abbreviation
BRB	Be right back
CA	Communication Assistant/ Relay Operator
RO	Relay Operator/ Communication Assistant
GA	Go Ahead

# TTY Terminology

Abbreviation	Meaning/ Purpose of the abbreviation
CU	See you
SK	Stop Keying (a substitute of dead-air; to let the other person know that they have nothing left to say)
SKSK	Now hanging up
GA/ SK/ SKGA/ BiBi	Goodbye

# TTY Terminology

Abbreviation	Meaning/ Purpose of the abbreviation
Q/ QQ/ QM	Question Mark
PLS	Please
OIC	Oh, I see
OPR	Operator

# TTY Terminology

Abbreviation	Meaning/ Purpose of the abbreviation
NBR	Number
TMW	Tomorrow
THX	Thanks
WRU	Who are You? / Where are you?
XXXX	Xs are often used to indicate a typing error instead of backspacing



# Resources

1. Wikimedia Foundation. (2022, October 3). *Telecommunications device for the deaf*. Wikipedia. Retrieved October 16, 2022, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications\\_device\\_for\\_the\\_deaf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications_device_for_the_deaf)
2. Power, M. R., Power, D., & Horstmanshof, L. (2006). Deaf people communicating via SMS, TTY, relay service, fax, and computers in Australia. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 12(1), 80–92. <https://doi.org/10.1093/deafed/enl016>
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). *Assistive devices for people with hearing, voice, speech, or language disorders*. National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Retrieved October 16, 2022, from <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/assistive-devices-people-hearing-voice-speech-or-language-disorders>

# Resources

4. Midwest New Media, L. L. C.- <http://www.midwestnewmedia.com>. (n.d.). *Teletypewriter (TTY) & telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD)*. Pacific ADA Center. Retrieved October 16, 2022, from <https://www.adapacific.org/tty>
5. *TTY and TTY Relay Services*. National Association of the Deaf. (n.d.). Retrieved October 16, 2022, from <https://www.nad.org/resources/technology/telephone-and-relay-services/tty-and-tty-relay-services/#:~:text=Robert%20Weitbrecht%2C%20a%20deaf%20scientist,other%20directly%20using%20these%20devices>
6. Milliman, H. (n.d.). *What is TTY mode? how does it work on cell phones?* What Is TTY Mode? How Does It Work on Cell Phones? Retrieved October 16, 2022, from <https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-tty-mode-on-a-cell-phone>

THANK YOU

