Hearing difficulties can significantly impact a person's ability to participate in activities of daily living. For instance, it can make it difficult to communicate with others, hear alarms and notifications, follow conversations in noisy environments, and enjoy entertainment, such as music and movies. Fortunately, there are apps and mobile features that can help people with hearing impairments increase their independence and quality of life.

Petralex is a hearing aid app that can enhance sound clarity and volume for individuals with hearing needs. It allows the user to adjust and optimize sound frequencies based on their personal hearing profile. The app can reduce background noise and adjust sound settings for different environments. This can be helpful for individuals with mild to moderate hearing impairments who need a boost in sound quality to better communicate and participate in daily activities.
Compatibility: iOS, Android
Cost: Price varies

Sorenson BuzzCards is an app designed to help deaf people communicate easily with people who don't know sign language. The app works like a deck of flashcards. You type the message and show it to the person with whom you are communicating. You can write and save cards with the messages you use the most.
Compatibility: iOS, Android
Cost: Free

Live Transcribe is a speech-to-text app that can transcribe spoken language into text in real time. It uses artificial intelligence to recognize and capture speech accurately. This can be helpful for individuals with hearing needs who struggle to understand spoken conversations or who prefer to read instead of listening. The app can also be used for note-taking in meetings or lectures as well as for generating captions for videos.
Compatibility: iOS, Android
Cost: Price varies

OtterAI is a speech-to-text app that transcribes spoken language into text in real time. It uses voice recognition and machine learning technology to accurately capture speech and display it as text on the user's mobile device. This can be helpful for individuals with hearing needs who struggle to understand spoken conversations or who prefer to read instead of listening.
Compatibility: iOS, Android
Cost: Price varies

Web Captioner is a website that provides real-time captioning for online conversations, videos and other multimedia content. This site is helpful for individuals with hearing needs who rely on captions to understand spoken content.
Compatibility: Web App
Cost: Free

Microsoft Translator converts spoken language into text. This can be helpful for individuals with hearing needs as it allows them to understand spoken conversations by displaying text in real time or by translating the speech into a language they understand.
Compatibility: iOS, Android
Cost: Free

Sound Amplifier is an accessibility feature available on Android devices that enhances the clarity and volume of sound. This feature can amplify sounds, filter background noise and adjust the audio settings to suit the user's preferences. Sound Amplifier can be useful for individuals with hearing impairments who need a boost in sound quality to better communicate and participate in daily activities, such as conversations or listening to music.
Compatibility: Android
Cost: Free

Hearing Accommodations is a built-in iOS feature that assists individuals with hearing impairments. This feature includes options to increase volume, adjust frequencies and enhance speech clarity, and it helps individuals with hearing difficulties better communicate and participate in daily activities using their mobile devices.
Compatibility: iOS
Cost: Free

Sound Recognition is a feature available on both iOS and Android devices and allows the device to detect and identify specific sounds such as sirens, alarms or other alerts. This feature can be helpful for individuals with hearing needs who may not be able to hear these sounds on their own. When a sound is recognized, the device can provide a visual or haptic notification to alert the user. This can improve safety and awareness for individuals with hearing needs.
Compatibility: iOS, Android
Cost: Free

Live Captions is a feature available on both iOS and Android devices and provides real-time captions for spoken content, including videos, podcasts and audio messages. This feature can be helpful for individuals with hearing needs who may have difficulty understanding spoken language or who prefer to read captions. The captions are generated automatically by the device and can be customized in terms of font size and style. This can enhance accessibility and improve the overall user experience for individuals with hearing needs.
Compatibility: iOS, Android
Cost: Free