

The last time I was on one of those fancy planes with TVs for the peasants in economy, I tried to find something to watch on my flight. After finding a movie that seemed entertaining and worked, I clicked play and went to turn on captions, only to find out that captions weren't available. When did this happen? Six, seven years ago? April 2025! Naturally, I found it unwatchable and turned the TV off before participating in my favorite activity: overthinking everything I've ever said! God, Katie, that's a stupid joke. As someone who has grown up with family members who had a myriad of disabilities, I am no stranger to seeing how the world treats disabled people, but I have found that people like myself with hearing impairments don't get as much support as others. According to the National Library of Medicine, in a world where we are starting to be more accommodating to those with disabilities, people with hearing loss get the short end of the already short stick. This often leaves people out of conversations meant to be about them. To further explore this, we'll first, turn up our hearing aids as we see how hearing-impaired accommodations came to be. Then, we'll turn the subtitles on as we examine examples of accommodations that should be used more often. After that, we'll finally understand what everyone's saying as we learn how everyone in this room can be more accommodating to those with hearing impairments.