

# Signs of Hearing Loss

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The signs of hearing loss can be subtle and emerge slowly over time.

Hearing loss is often called the "invisible disability". Hearing impaired people live in a world where others, even their families, expect them to hearing normally. They may be ignored or the target of anger from strangers, family, and friends. Stress and frustration mounts as the hearing loss progresses.

There can also be a detrimental psychological impact when hearing loss occurs. Some may even deny the existence of the problem, all the while becoming more overwhelmed by their inability to understand conversation. It can be exhausting trying to guess at mumbled-sounding words and trying to fill in the gaps of conversation all day long.

It is not surprising that some people with hearing loss eventually decide that they can no

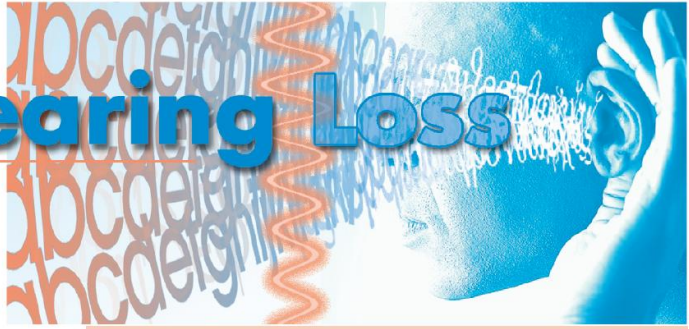
longer participate and enjoy social activities. They may become withdrawn, isolated, or even depressed.

If you or someone you know has a sign of hearing loss, talk to a licensed audiologist.

An audiologist specializes in identifying hearing loss and finding ways to help the hearing impaired person communicate more effectively. The hearing test is simple and painless. The examination is usually performed in a sound treated booth. The audiologist will ask the person to repeat simple words to see how softly they can hear.

Another list of words is presented at a comfortable listening level to determine how clearly the person understands words. The test also includes listening to various pitched tones to see how softly the person can detect them.

Don't lose the valuable gift of hearing. If you or someone you love shows signs of hearing loss, have your hearing tested soon!



## Common signs of hearing loss:

- Difficulty communicating in noisy environments
- Frequently asking for others to repeat what they said
- Straining to hear someone talk or whisper
- Difficulties hearing someone behind you
- Having a restricted social life due to difficulty hearing and communicating
- Difficulties listening in a small group of people
- Trouble communicating on the telephone
- Problems hearing in a large group of people
- Watching a speaker's lips more closely to be able to follow the conversation
- Turning the volume on the TV or radio louder than others like
- Family, colleagues, or friends have noticed that you have difficulties hearing
- Feeling nervous about trying to hear and understand in new situations
- Family history of hearing loss
- Exposure to very loud sounds over a long period of time or a single exposure to explosive noise
- Difficulty understanding children and women