

# Things to know before your first appointment...



advantagehearing  
& AUDIOLOGY

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## Why is your hearing important?

Your sense of hearing is a vital link to your world –  
**a source of pleasure,  
information, and communication.**

Hearing contributes to personal safety, emotional well-being, and independence.

Studies have linked the effects of untreated hearing loss to many problems, including **stress, depression, isolation, reduced earning power, and even health issues.**

### *You are not alone –*

Although hearing loss is common in older adults, affecting approximately 29% of people over age 65, hearing loss can occur in one's 30s and 40s.

*In fact, 65% of individuals with hearing loss are below retirement age.*

*If you have a hearing loss you can take control of the situation.*

**Don't let your hearing loss shut you out from FAMILY, FRIENDS and LIFE.**



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## What Causes Hearing Loss?

Our ears are very delicate instruments, and our ability to hear can diminish for a number of reasons.

The majority of people develop a hearing loss as they get older. Over time, part of the ear's delicate mechanism may break down or simply wear out.

Excessive sound exposure is the number one reason for hearing loss. Many work settings and recreational activities are quite noisy and can damage your inner ear.

***No matter the cause, the real problem is often not the hearing loss itself, but that most people don't know that they can do something about it.***

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Kernersville | 851 Old Winston Road Suite 108 | Kernersville, NC 27284 | (336) 497-5436  
Hearing Loop Systems | www.HearingLoopUSA.com



SOUNDS GOOD.



## Could You Benefit from a Visit to AHA?

If you answer "Yes" to one or more of the questions on this short quiz, you or a loved one would benefit from a hearing consultation.

## What If I Think I Have a Hearing Loss?

If you think that you may have a hearing loss, your first step is to visit us for a hearing evaluation. Only a qualified hearing care professional can tell you whether there is a hearing loss and recommend the best course of action.

During the visit, you will have an opportunity to discuss your personal hearing needs with your hearing care professional, ask and answer questions, and receive a hearing evaluation.

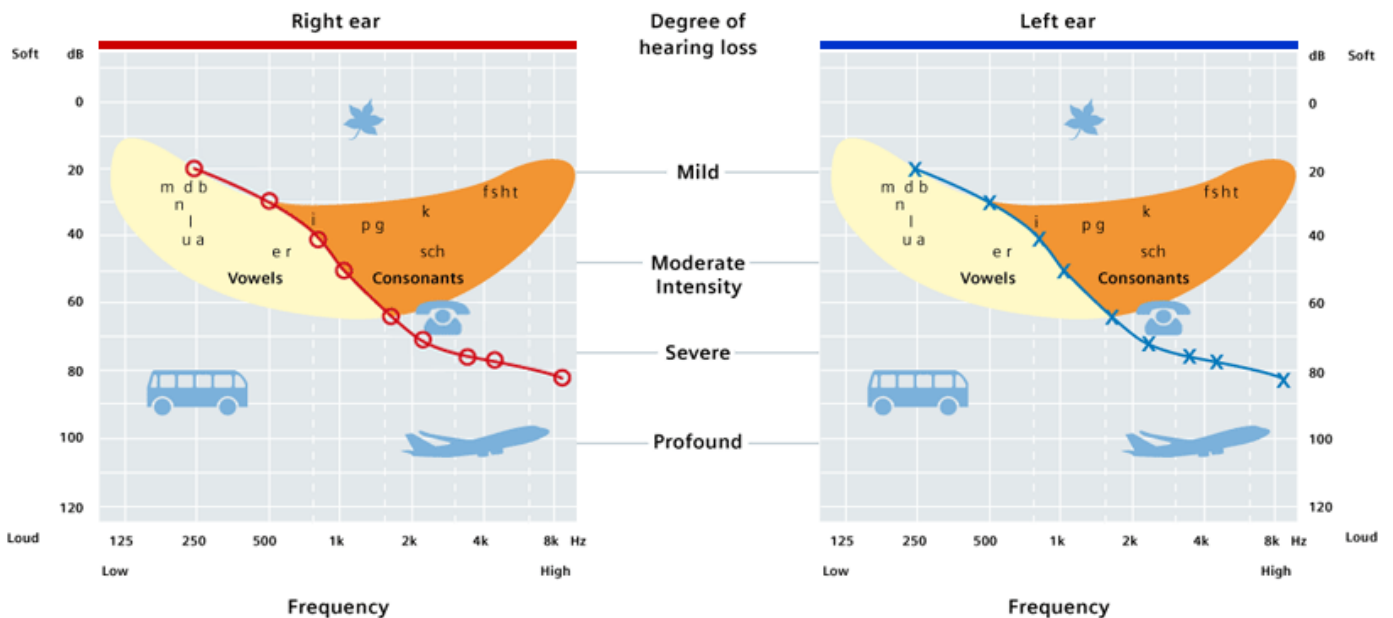
### The Hearing Assessment

**DURING YOUR VISIT, WE WILL DISCUSS YOUR HEARING HISTORY, PERFORM A VISUAL EXAM OF THE OUTER EAR WITH A VIDEO OTOSCOPE, AND CONDUCT AN AUDIOMETRIC EVALUATION.**

Your hearing care professional will conduct a thorough assessment of your hearing in a sound controlled setting. While wearing an earphone on each ear, you will listen to quiet sounds and indicate when you hear each sound by pressing a button. You may also be asked to repeat words.

**The sounds you will hear will vary in pitch, measured on a frequency scale from 250 to 8000Hz. The volume of each sound is adjusted until the softest level for each sound is detected. This is called your threshold.**

Below is a sample representation of these thresholds. The blue "X" represents the left ear, while the red "O" represents the right ear threshold at each frequency.



The pictures on the graph are the approximate location of several common sounds. Sounds above the line are not audible. Sounds below the line are audible.

	Yes!	No!
1. Do people tell you the volume on your TV is too loud?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you often have difficulty hearing the telephone or doorbell ring?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is it difficult to carry on a telephone conversation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do people seem to mumble or speak in a soft voice?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you frequently ask people to repeat themselves or feel that you are missing parts of a conversation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you have difficulty hearing in a restaurant or crowded environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Has a family member or close friend mentioned that you might have a problem with your hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Have you limited or modified your social activities because of frustration with your hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ***What Happens If I Do Have a Hearing Loss?***

If you have a hearing loss, you will receive follow-up recommendations about actions you can take.

*For example, you may receive information about hearing instruments, hearing protection, or communication tips.*

Hearing losses are very individual and fortunately most can be helped with today's hearing instruments. State-of-the-art digital micro-chip technology and sophisticated design allow hearing instruments to work better than ever – and help you DO more.

***Your ideal situation will address our unique hearing needs as well as your personal preferences.***

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## ***Styles of Hearing Devices***

*Should your loss be treatable with hearing devices, you would choose from several styles of instruments.*

### **BEHIND THE EAR (BTE):**

There are two types of BTEs: Open Fit and Receiver in the Canal. The main difference is the location of the receiver (speaker). While the look is similar, each has different benefits.



#### **Open Fit**

In the Open Fit, the receiver is inside the main unit, with an open, or hollow, tube putting sound into the ear. These products are great for people who are often exposed to moisture.

#### **Receiver in the Canal (RIC/CRT/RITE)**

On the RIC, the receiver is inside the ear canal and is connected to the main unit by a small wire. RICs are especially good for people who desire the best speech clarity possible.



### **CUSTOM:**

Custom fit devices range in size from the smallest CIC (completely in the canal) to the slightly larger ITC (in the canal) to the HS/ITE (Half-shell or fully in the ear). The technology in the device is the same as in the BTEs, but is contained in a single unit which is custom molded to the ear.



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## ***FINAL CONSIDERATIONS...***

### **BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU.**

**BECAUSE THE SENSE OF HEARING IS OF SUCH GREAT SOCIAL IMPORTANCE, THE DECISION TO SEEK HELP IS OFTEN A FAMILY EVENT. IF HEARING INSTRUMENTS ARE RECOMMENDED, IT IS HELPFUL TO HAVE SOMEONE PRESENT WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISION PROCESS, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATION.**

Should hearing devices be an appropriate solution for your hearing loss, you will be able to choose from three levels of technology. The best technology level is the one that fits your personal lifestyle.

***It is often helpful to think about your social activities before you come for an evaluation. With your answers, your hearing care professional can help you choose the best device to fit your needs.***

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## ***READY TO COME VISIT US?***

Give us a call Toll-Free at 1-800-617-HEAR (4327). You can then return to our website and download our patient intake form. Filling it out at home will cut down on your wait time once you arrive!