

Phonak Resource

Intro to hearing loss

2019 - This resource was created by the first Phonak Teen Advisory Board.

Hearing loss comes in many different forms, and no one's loss is the same. Typical hearing loss can be described in many levels, mild hearing loss, moderate hearing loss, moderately severe hearing loss, severe hearing loss and profound hearing loss. There are also different types of hearing loss, which are conductive loss, which means poor sound transmission, sensorineural loss, which is typically nerve damage or cochlear function damage, and mixed loss, which has different aspects of the other two. Hearing loss can be caused from a large variety of things, from genetics, to sickness, freak accidents, or just being born that way with nerve damage.

To compensate for hearing loss there are lots of solutions, the most popular being hearing aids or cochlear implants. However, unlike glasses where they may be a perfect fix, hearing aids and/or cochlear implants do not magically restore hearing. Hearing aids work by using microphones to pick up sound around the user, and amplify it to the necessary volume. However, hearing technology won't work for everyone, in the end it's up to the user to decide. Along with hearing aids, hearing assistance devices are also available to work together with hearing technology. Using things like the Roger Select™, or Roger Pen™, a hard of hearing individual can get the most out of their technology.

The "speech banana" is often used to demonstrate different levels of hearing loss, for example, a moderate loss, would have a hard time hearing a baby crying or some of the sounds in the speech banana. The blue "banana" is used to represent where the majority of speech sounds are at, and how different losses can't hear that.

