

How to Talk to People with Hearing Loss

People who have trouble hearing might struggle to tell apart words that sound alike. Hearing aids are meant to make sounds louder, not to restore someone's normal hearing. The worse the hearing loss, the harder it is to understand speech, so it takes more time to process and make sense of sounds. When talking to someone with hearing loss, it is best to do so in a quiet place, and to speak clearly and slowly without yelling.

Degree of Hearing Loss

Average Threshold (decibels)	Degree	Amplification Needs
-10 to 25	Normal	
26 to 40	Mild	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Struggling to hear when someone talks softly or from far away, having the need to sit closer to the speaker• Using hearing aids is helpful
41 to 55	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being able to hear with focus any conversation within 3 to 5 feet• Using hearing aids is required
56 to 70	Moderate Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being able to hear only when others raise voice; having difficulties in hearing others in group conversation• Using hearing aids is required
71 to 90	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being able to hear only when others speak loudly to the ear• Struggling to tell apart the environmental sounds• Being able to hear vowels but not consonants• Using hearing aids is required
>91	Profound	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being able to hear only very loud sounds• In severe need of hearing aids to amplify sounds in daily conversation

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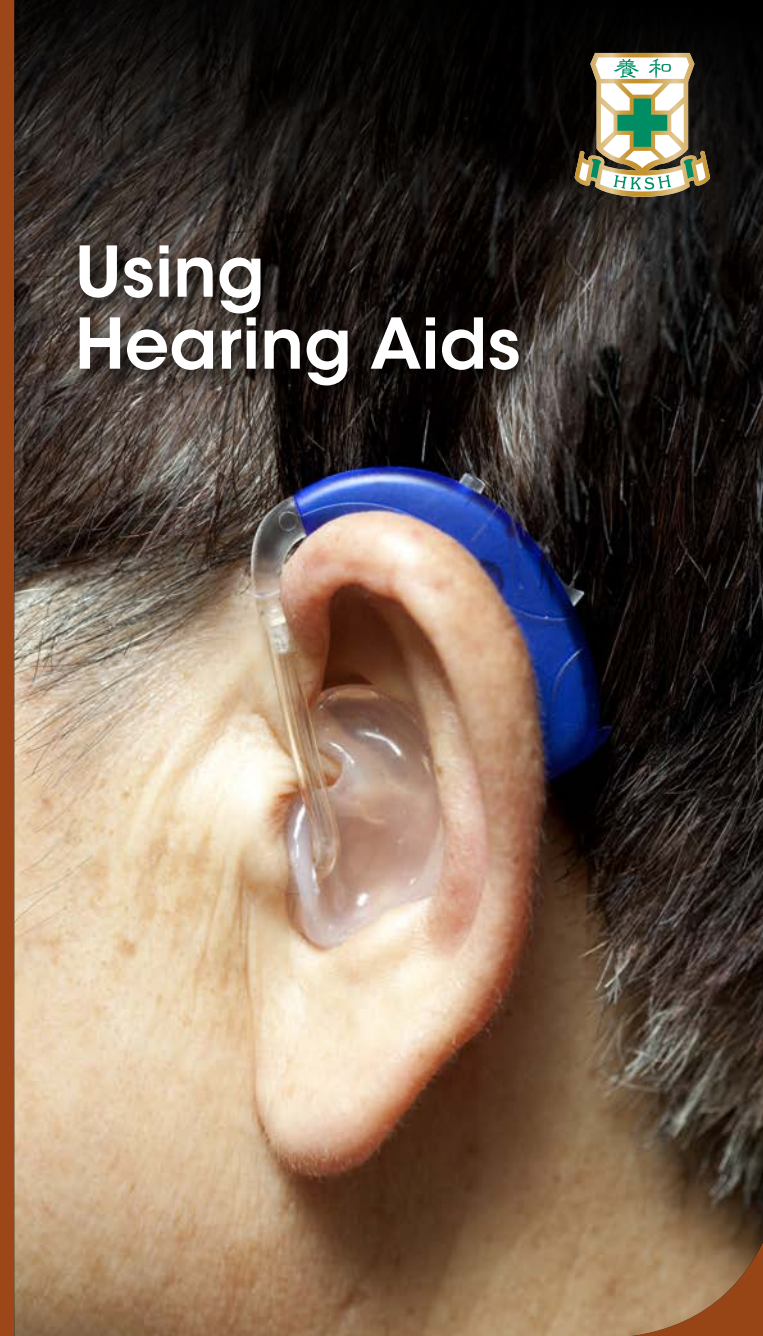
Service Hours

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

For enquiries and appointments,
please contact us



Using Hearing Aids



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Using Hearing Aids

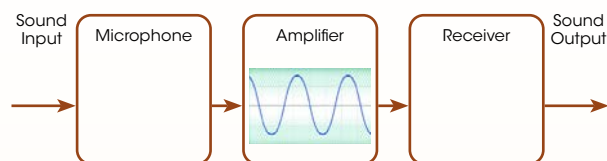
About Hearing Aids

A hearing aid is basically a sound-amplifying device. It transmits amplified sounds via the ear canal to the middle and inner ear, from where the hair cells send signals to the central nervous system.

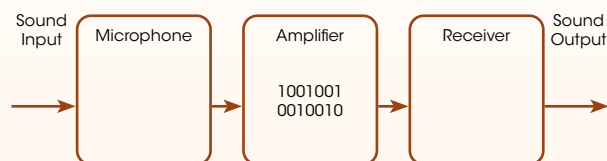
Mechanism

A hearing aid is made up of three main parts: a microphone, an amplifier, and a receiver. First, the microphone picks up sounds and turns them into electrical signals. Then, the amplifier makes the electrical signals stronger and sends them to the receiver. Finally, the receiver changes the electrical signals back into sounds and sends them to your ears.

The conventional analog hearing aids convert sounds into electrical signals. The signals are then amplified and converted back into acoustic sounds.



A digital hearing aid converts sounds into digital signals. The signals are then processed by a computer microchip which increases the gain, reduces background noises, zooms to the sound source, etc.



Supported by computer software, current digital hearing aids have a wide range of automatic functions such as automatic feedback cancellation, digital signal processing, automatic gain control, signals automatic multichannel processing, etc.

Other Components

- On/Off switch
- Volume control knob
- T-switch for use of phones with telecoil
- Program switch to cater for different environments
- Ear hook attached to ear mould
- Batteries

Selection of Hearing Aids

You are advised to consult your doctor to check for any medical condition leading to hearing loss. If the hearing loss is irreversible, hearing aids may offer some benefits. An audiologist will provide professional advice and assistance in the selection of hearing aids. The audiologist will work out the most suitable hearing aids with you with reference to factors such as age, social needs, unilateral/bilateral hearing loss, etc. The hearing aid will be optimally adjusted according to the type and degree of hearing loss for individual channel gain, output loudness, feedback cancellation, among other factors, in order to maximise the benefits of using a hearing aid.



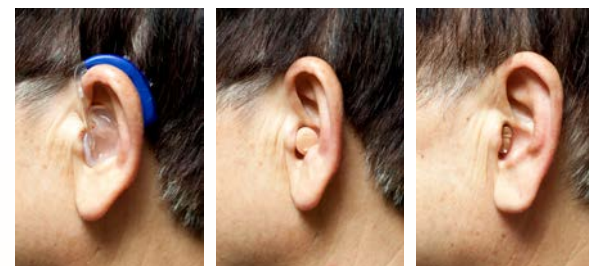
Type of Hearing Aids

In-the-canal (ITC) and in-the-ear (ITE) hearing aids are fitted in the ear canal. Small in size, the ITC and ITE hearing aids are not suitable for those who have poor finger or hand dexterity. As a child grows with age, the ear canal will also grow bigger and thus the ITC or ITE hearing aids will fall off easily. ITC and ITE hearing aids are suitable for those with mild or moderate hearing loss.

Behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids are larger in size and are suitable for those with mild to profound hearing loss, as well as for those with hand dexterity problems. An earmould is required.

Body-worn (BW) hearing aids are suitable for those with mild to profound hearing loss. BW hearing aids have bigger control knobs and are suitable for those who have finger or hand dexterity problems, yet are also not cosmetically appealing.

Spectacle hearing aids have all the electronic components fitted inside the arms of the glasses. They are suitable for those who need to wear glasses and hearing aids at the same time.



Behind-the-ear (BTE)

In-the-canal (ITC)

In-the-ear (ITE)

Unilateral vs. Bilateral Hearing Aids

Advantages of wearing bilateral hearing aids:

- Sounds will become louder by 3 to 5 dB with bilateral rather than unilateral hearing aids
- It makes you hear better in noisy places
- It helps you better localise where sounds are coming from
- Sounds will become clearer, more multi-dimensional, and more natural

Unless there are medical or audiological reasons not to, it is best to wear bilateral hearing aids.

Getting Used to Wearing Hearing Aids

An audiologist will guide you on wearing and adjusting the hearing aids. When you first wear the hearing aids, you may hear some background noise. This is normal. A lower volume output is advised until you have adapted to the amplified sounds, at which time the hearing aids may need another readjustment.