

TRUST

Our hearing professionals are qualified to evaluate your hearing and offer advice and solutions that are appropriate for you.

They will take time to get to know you, learn what you are experiencing, and will explore what's important to you.

You may receive information about hearing protection, communication tips, recommendations to visit a medical doctor, or advice about hearing devices.

They will discuss your hearing history to understand what factors have influenced your hearing and assess your personal hearing needs.



BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU

Most people find it helpful to bring someone with them to this visit. You will typically get more out of your visit if someone close to you can share in the experience, particularly, if hearing instruments are recommended.

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER AND BRING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT

- ✓ Do you think that you have hearing loss? Please explain.
- ✓ In which situations have you experienced challenges with your hearing?
- ✓ Has your hearing been frustrating to you?
- ✓ Have your family members mentioned anything about your hearing?
- ✓ If your hearing was improved, how would things be different for you?
- ✓ Please write down any questions you have about your hearing.

It may help to talk these over with your family and friends.

PREPARING FOR YOUR HEARING CONSULTATION



If you have never visited a hearing care professional you probably don't know what to expect. Don't stress! This experience is interesting, informative, and a great start on your path to better hearing. You should feel at ease during this visit because you will have a better understanding of your hearing needs and explore possible solutions.



TYPES OF HEARING LOSS

SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS

This type of hearing loss is the most common type of hearing loss. More than 90 percent of all hearing instrument wearers have sensorineural hearing loss, resulting in problems in the inner ear or the auditory nerve. Inner ear hair cell damage is the most common reason for sensorineural hearing loss. These tiny hair cells, once damaged or destroyed, become unable to convert sound vibrations into the electrical signals needed by the auditory nerve. Sensorineural hearing loss can be attributed to long-term occupational or recreational exposure to loud noise. It also commonly occurs in the later decades of life. People with sensorineural hearing loss typically report they can hear people speak, but have trouble understanding what they're saying. It often seems to them that people are "mumbling". Usually there is not medical way to correct this, but hearing devices can greatly improve the situation.

CONDUCTIVE HEARING LOSS

This type of hearing loss is caused by problems in the ear canal and/or the structures in the middle ear. It occurs when sounds from the outside world cannot be transmitted normally through the ear canal and/or middle ear to the inner ear. The most common causes of conductive hearing loss can be a buildup of wax in the ear canal, a perforated ear drum, fluid in the middle ear (common in children), or damaged or defective ossicles (middle ear bones). A person with conductive hearing loss may notice their ears seem to be full or plugged. Most conductive hearing losses can be medically or surgically treated. If for some reason the hearing loss cannot be corrected, hearing instruments can help greatly.

MIXED HEARING LOSS

This kind of hearing loss is caused by a combination of problems in the middle and the inner ear or the auditory nerve. For example, a person may have a noise-induced hearing loss from noise exposure and a perforation in the eardrum. The combination of sensorineural and conductive hearing loss is therefore, mixed.

YOUR HEARING RESULTS

It is often not possible to determine a cause for hearing loss with high certainty. The most common causes are age related changes and noise related changes.

NEXT STEPS

✓ DEVELOP A PLAN

GO OVER QUESTIONS YOU CAME UP WITH PRIOR TO YOUR EVALUATION

IF HEARING DEVICES ARE RECOMMENDED, FIND WHICH ONES ARE BEST FOR YOU

 **TANNER CLINIC**



PEOPLE WHO USE HEARING DEVICES REPORT AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE AND A NEW DIMENSION IN HEARING AND BELONGING.