

## **How Do We Hear and What is Hearing Loss?**

According to Widex's Consumer Guide to Your Best Hearing, if you are experiencing some degree of hearing difficulty – as do 40 million Americans – you likely have many questions about the variety of options and solutions for treatment.

It can be very confusing for someone first addressing signs of hearing loss to know where to start in determining if you need treatment and, if hearing aid technology is recommended, how much to spend.

Some commonly asked questions are:

How can I tell if I truly have a hearing loss?

When is the right time to purchase hearing aid technology?

How much should I spend on hearing aid technology, if recommended?

What is the right type of hearing aid for me?

Before we look at the causes and treatment of hearing loss, it is important to understand the anatomy of the ear and how we hear. There are three parts to the ear: the outer ear, middle ear, and inner ear. Each part has a critical role in capturing and processing sounds.

The outer ear gathers sound and sends it to the ear drum. The ear drum vibrates and sends the sound into the middle ear. In the middle ear, the three smallest bones of the body prepare the sound and present it to the cochlea in the inner ear. The inner ear converts the sound to an impulse that is sent through the cochlea nerve to the brain.

Next month we'll talk about the reasons and symptoms of hearing loss.

For more information, please contact Johnsons Hearing Aid Center at [johnsonshearingaidcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:johnsonshearingaidcenter@yahoo.com), visit our website at [www.cchaid.com](http://www.cchaid.com); or call our Hemet office at 951-925-6639. Helping the hearing impaired since 1986, Julian Abedi and Kevin Mokhtari have over 55 years combined experience in the hearing aid industry.

\*[www.widex.com/Consumer Guide to Your Best Hearing](http://www.widex.com/Consumer Guide to Your Best Hearing)