

## **What are the reasons for and symptoms of hearing loss? What types of hearing loss are there?**

There are many different reasons for hearing difficulties. The causes can go beyond aging and excessive noise to include birth defects, hereditary factors, injuries to the ear or head, infections, and ototoxic reactions to medicines or treatments. With so many different causes, it is no surprise that millions of Americans suffer from some degree of hearing loss due to one or several factors.

While hearing loss is known as the “invisible impairment,” there are many noticeable symptoms that warrant attention from a Hearing Healthcare Professional. These symptoms are most commonly:

- Complaints of muffled hearing

- Reduced ability to distinguish certain words in speech, i.e., “sat,” “fat,” and “hat”

- Need for greater volume when listening to the radio or tv

- Social withdrawal as a result of frustration with hearing in noisier, social settings

It is important to realize that once you can recognize the symptoms of hearing loss, it is time to seek help.

There are three basic types of hearing loss: conductive, sensorineural, and mixed hearing loss. The first type, conductive loss, is caused by blockage in the outer or middle ear. This blockage usually results in sounds being softer and can often be treated medically.

The most common type of hearing loss is sensorineural loss. This type of hearing loss is a result of damage to the inner ear. The damage to the inner ear reduces the amount of sound that is received and sent to the brain.

The last type of hearing loss is mixed hearing loss, which, as the name describes, is a combination of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss.\*

Julian Abedi, Kevin Mokhtari, Sonny Ghassemi, Frank Parvin, and Justin Bakhtiari have over 80 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)