

## Demystifying Hearing Devices

### A Comprehensive Guide to Choosing the Right Device

Hearing loss can significantly impact your quality of life, but with the right hearing device, you can regain your ability to communicate effectively.

Understanding the different types and features of hearing devices is essential for making informed decisions. This comprehensive guide aims to provide valuable information to help you select the right device for your unique needs. By working closely with a professional audiologist or audiometrist and participating in a comprehensive rehabilitation program, you can choose the right device to meet your individual needs.

Hearing devices serve the purpose of enhancing your listening experience if you have a hearing loss. While they cannot fully restore your hearing, they play a vital role in amplifying and filtering sounds to improve your communication and engagement with others.

#### There are several types of hearing devices to consider:

1. **Hearing Aids:** These electronic devices can be worn behind your ear, inside your ear, or in the canal. They consist of microphones, amplifiers, filters, and receivers to modify and transmit sound.
2. **Implantable Devices:** Cochlear implants and bone-anchored hearing systems are surgically implanted devices that bypass damaged parts of your ear to directly stimulate the auditory nerve.
3. **Personal Amplifiers:** Over-the-counter personal amplifiers are portable devices that can amplify sound in specific situations, such as when watching television or participating in small group conversations.
4. **Assistive Listening Devices:** These devices work in conjunction with hearing aids or implants to enhance sound transmission in specific environments. Examples include FM systems, loop systems, and infrared systems.

By familiarising yourself with the different types and features of hearing devices, you can engage in meaningful discussions with audiologists or audiometrists. These professionals play a crucial role in recommending and fitting the most suitable device for you. By participating in a comprehensive rehabilitation program, you can maximise the benefits of your chosen hearing device, leading to improved communication abilities and an enhanced quality of life. Embrace the possibilities that await you on your journey to better hearing.

## NALguide: Hearing Aid Features Explained

This guide has been designed to support people in exploring the hearing aid features that could be used for their listening needs, and discuss them with their family and clinician.

**Download link:** <https://www.nal.gov.au/projects/review-of-established-and-developing-hearing-devices-and-technologies/>

A wide range of hearing aid features has been broken down into six categories based on common listening needs.

1. **Speech Understanding:** features that help you recognise and make sense of what people say, even in background noise or at a distance.
2. **Sound Quality:** features that provide and support hearing at a fundamental level, and increase awareness and access to sound.
3. **Listening Comfort:** Features that make sounds comfortable to listen to in any environment.
4. **Usability:** features that make using devices convenient and simple, including automatic adjustments.
5. **Connectivity:** connect your hearing devices to other technologies and accessories.
6. **Personalisation:** customising your hearing aids to match your listening needs and preferences.

## Hearing Services Program – A guide to understanding hearing aid technology

Hearing devices have specific capabilities and features. Learn about these features and how you can find a device that best meets your needs. Understand common words and phrases manufacturers use for these features.

**Download Link:** <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/hearing-services-program-a-guide-to-understanding-hearing-aid-technology?language=en>

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