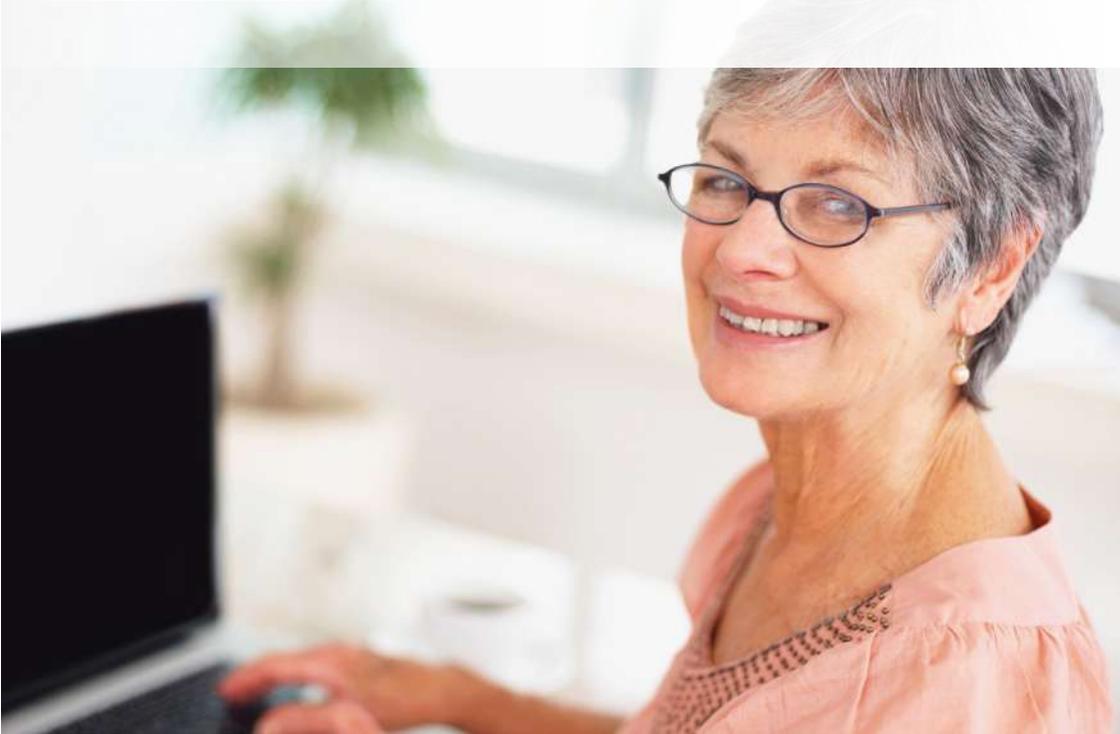


# PREPARING for your visit



Preparing For Your Hearing Consultation

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PEOPLE FIRST





Your hearing ability is as

**UNIQUE** as your fingerprint.

Your sense of hearing is a vital link to your world— a source of pleasure, information and communication. A hearing assessment by a qualified hearing care professional is an important step in learning more

about your hearing capabilities. If you struggle to hear, there is something you can do to take control of the situation. Your hearing should not get in the way of enjoying your life.



**If you have never visited a hearing care professional you probably don't know what to expect. You are in for a pleasant experience that 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 an opportunity to better understand your hearing needs and explore possible solutions.**

**Your Sense of Hearing is Precious.**

Hearing contributes to personal safety, emotional well-being, and independence. Through your hearing you are able to communicate directly with others and experience the sounds in your environment. It's no wonder that hearing loss can be tiring

and a challenge. Studies have linked the effects of untreated hearing loss to many problems including stress, depression, isolation, reduced earning power, and even health issues. But thanks to major strides in the field of hearing care, there are solutions that can improve your life.



## Did you know?

***As you prepare for your appointment, there are a few things you need to know:***

### **1. Two ears matter!**

Your two ears work together to serve many purposes such as keeping you safe, locating where sound is coming from, and helping you follow conversation. Think of your hearing as a system— your two ears and brain. Your ears funnel information into the system and your brain processes the information into sound. The system

(two ears and your brain) constantly takes in a wide variety of cues and automatically, and effortlessly identifies the sounds and locates where they are coming from. Imagine you are about to step into traffic. It is your two ears working together that let you know whether or not it is safe to proceed.

In noisy environments, your two ears work together to improve your speech understanding by providing access to the important details in the sound environment. The more detailed the information your brain receives the easier it is to identify what is being said. Using both ears allows you to focus on the person you want and helps you to disregard some of the background noise.

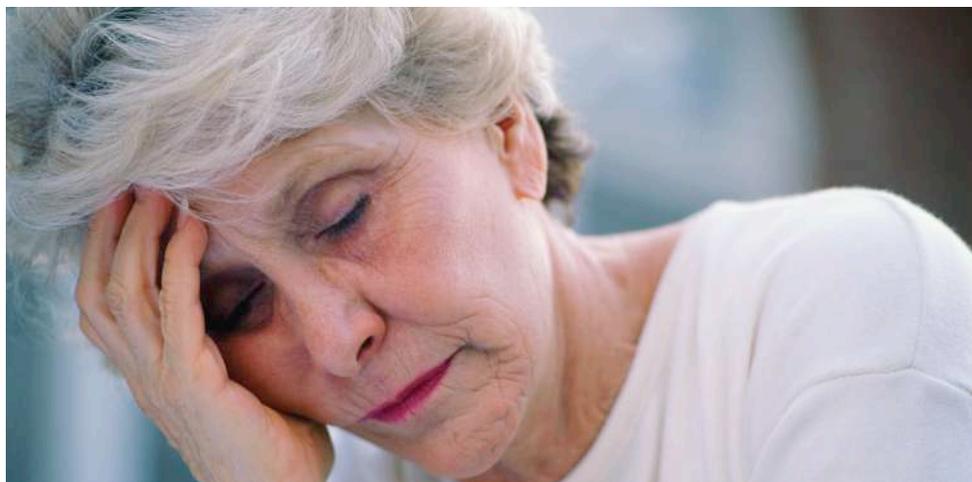
## **2. Sound is an individual experience!**

Many people are surprised to find out that no two people experience sound in exactly the same way. Two people with identical test results may experience the same listening environment very differently. These differences are more than mere preferences. They

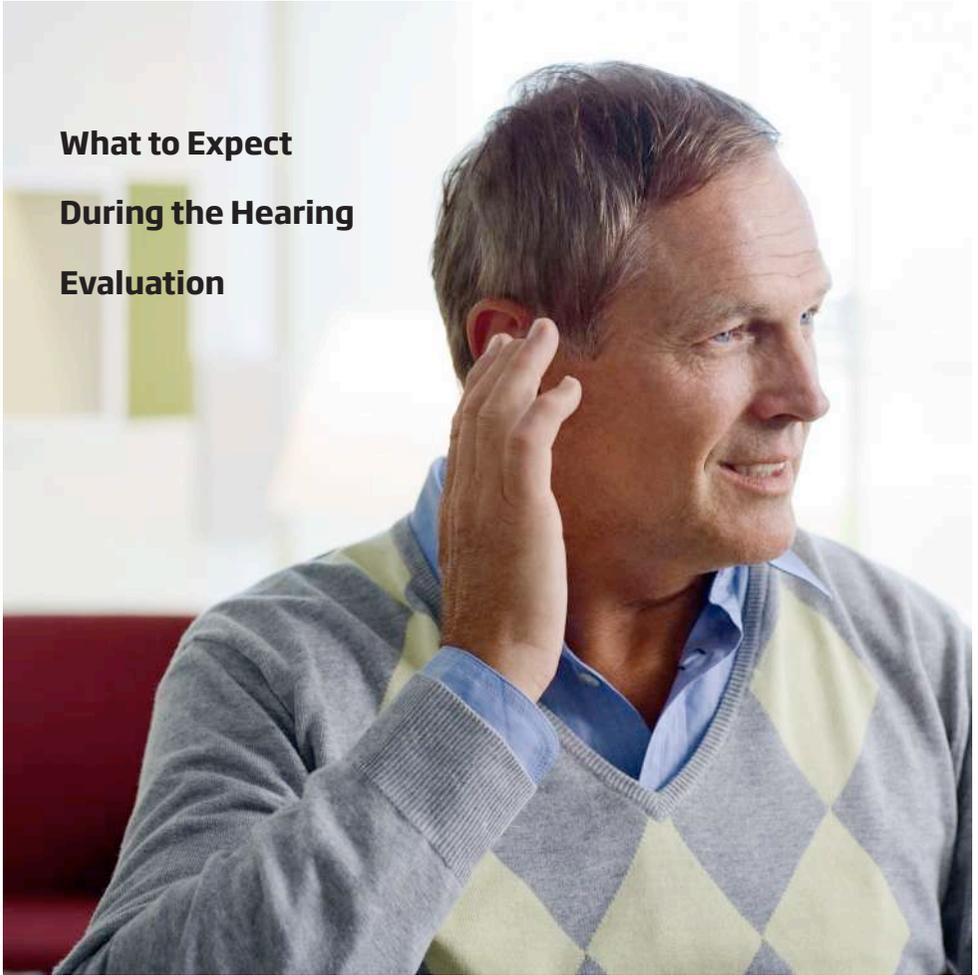
reflect how each individual experiences sound. Therefore, the best listening experiences are those that can be customized to match your listening needs.

## **3. Living with a hearing loss can be tiring.**

Getting through the day with a hearing loss can be hard work. Everyday situations require more effort in order to follow and understand what is being said. Conversations and situations most people normally take for granted are not always easy. All of this additional work adds up and at the end of the day you can feel exhausted. Finding a hearing solution that helps you go through your busy day without as much effort and stress is a key to success.



## **What to Expect During the Hearing Evaluation**



To make the most of the evaluation it's best to come prepared. Before your appointment, spend a few moments thinking about how hearing affects

your life, what challenges you are experiencing, and what would improve if you could overcome these challenges.



**Please answer these questions and bring them with you to your appointment. They will help your hearing care professional better understand your needs. It may also help if you can talk these over with your family and friends.**

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**1.** Do you think that you have a hearing loss? Please explain.

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**2.** In which situations have you experienced challenges with your hearing?

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**3.** Has your hearing been frustrating you?

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**4.** Have your family members or friends mentioned anything about your hearing?

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**5.** If your hearing was improved, how would things be different for you?

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**6.** Please write down any questions you have about your hearing.

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**7.** Would your spouse, family member or friend like to make any comment?

## Bring Someone With You

Most people find it helpful to bring a spouse, family member or friend to this visit. You will typically get more out of

your visit if someone close to you can share in the experience.



## Your Visit

Once you arrive for your visit, your hearing care professional will discuss your hearing history to understand what factors have influenced your hearing and also to get more information on your personal hearing needs. In addition, a hearing examination will be conducted. The visit may also include a listening experience with hearing devices, when appropriate. After your professional has interpreted the results of your hearing evaluation, he/she will explain them to you clearly. It will then be time to develop a plan for the next steps. If you have a hearing loss, hearing devices may be recommended.



**Please contact us if you have any questions before your next appointment. It is important to us that you get the best possible results as you move forward.**

Hearing Care Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_