

Ask yourself!

Do **you** –

- Hear but **not quite understand** what is being said?
- Have problems understanding conversation while riding in a car?
- Have problems understanding when **several people** are having a conversation?
- Have problems understanding **women's or children's** voices?
- Have problems understanding **in meetings**?
- Have problems understanding **on the phone**?
- Tend to **avoid crowds** because it is difficult to understand people then?

Do **others** –

- Tell you that your radio, TV or stereo is **too loud** – and it is the right volume for you?

If you have answered yes to one or more of these questions, you should get a full hearing evaluation.

What Can Hearing Tests Tell You?

A hearing test – which involves a **series of tones** through earphones to **check the volume** at which you can hear them – can tell you if you have a hearing loss or not.

If you do show a hearing loss, an audiologist or other specialist can give you a series of other **painless** tests, which might include –

- A test that **sends sound vibrations** directly to your inner ear to see how your hearing this way compares with your hearing in the first test – this will tell whether your loss **can be treated through medicine or if hearing aids will do the job for you**
- A **‘speech reception threshold’** test to show at what decibel you start to understand speech
- A test to discover how loud a sound is when it is **uncomfortable** for you
- A **‘most comfortable’** test to find the most comfortable volume for you to hear what is being said and the clearest level – this will give an idea of how well you would do with hearing aids.

Other tests can be used if your audiologist or other specialist thinks they might help.