

May 2007

WHY CAN'T I UNDERSTAND SPEECH?



Hearing loss can, of course, affect our ability to hear some or all of the speech sounds (consonants and vowels), but some speech sounds are affected differently than others. This is because there are usually different degrees of hearing loss in different frequency (pitch) regions. That is, hearing loss that occurs in the high frequencies affects the ability to hear consonants because consonants tend to consist of high-frequency sounds, whereas vowel sounds tend to have a lower frequency. High-frequency consonant sounds are not as loud as vowels either. This type of hearing loss is typically associated with aging. Persons with high-frequency hearing loss may mistake the sentence "What kind is it?" for "What time is it?" or vice versa because the consonants "t" and "k" aren't heard correctly. This phenomenon

accounts for the complaints of some older listeners that people "mumble." When noise is present, these weaker, high-frequency consonants are even more difficult to hear because they are the sounds that are most easily obscured by the noise.

If you or someone you know experiences problems hearing speech clearly, contact one of our offices for a free consultation.

Call (903) 737-8800 or (903) 438-1600 today!

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DID YOU KNOW?

May is nationally recognized as Better Hearing and Speech month and we celebrated the month by educating our patients about the newest hearing technology available. But just because May is almost over, it doesn't mean that we are going to stop! Visit our offices today for demonstrations of the latest products and special offers including a free set of TV Ears with your purchase of a new digital hearing system.

(See coupon on back for more details.)

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