

# 6 TIPS

## FOR AN ACCURATE HEARING LOSS TEST

AND HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR HEARING AIDS





## Let's Get Personal

Hearing is a highly personal experience that changes from individual to individual. This is because the sounds around us interact differently with our:

**Ears** which are responsible for **capturing** and **transmitting** auditory information.

**Brains** which are responsible for **processing** incoming signals.

This is why no 2 people hear the same sound in the same way. Our hearing infrastructure and sound-processing centers vary from person to person. So when communication and hearing problems arise, diagnostic testing is required to determine where in the auditory system the problem arises. We will learn why you're having difficulty hearing certain sounds, differentiating words, and other auditory information.

Only then can you determine the most appropriate corrective treatment.

However, if that testing is incomplete or inaccurate, the final results will ultimately disappoint – whether you end up using:

**Hearing aids** or **Auditory training**

In other words, hearing loss treatment is as personal as hearing itself. And for optimal outcomes, you want an evaluation and treatment solution that are uniquely customized for you – the individual.

*But what makes for an accurate hearing loss test?*

This ebook has 6 broad tips to get you started.



Hearing Loss Testing Tip **#1**

# The “Who”





## First Things First

First, you need to determine whether you want to be tested by a certified audiologist or a licensed hearing specialist.

On the surface, this may seem like a **minor** detail. But in actual practice, the distinction is huge.

Hearing specialists are licensed to test hearing only for the purpose of fitting and dispensing of assistive devices like hearing aids. And although there are often state-level exams required for licensing, there are no **official** educational requirements for this field.

By contrast, **audiologists** are certified to run comprehensive, diagnostic tests that evaluate your entire auditory system. And to work professionally in this field, they must have a **doctoral** degree in audiology.

*If the goal is to accurately assess the severity, scope, and root cause of your own hearing loss, an audiologist is best qualified to conduct a diagnostic evaluation.*





Hearing Loss Testing Tip **#2**

# The “Why”



Believe it or not, diagnostic testing isn’t enough on its own. There’s a lot more to the equation.

For starters, it’s important you and your audiologist understand **why** you want your hearing evaluated. This may seem like an obvious question. And the quick answer for most patients is that they want to “hear” the world around them more clearly.

But once you dig a little deeper, you’ll quickly learn that some people only have difficulty hearing in noise, while others struggle to pick up certain pitches or even experience dropped words during conversation.

As such, 2 people can walk into the same audiology clinic with completely different “hearing” goals.

- Some people only have difficulty hearing in noisy environments.
- Others struggle to pick up certain pitches or auditory frequencies.
- Still others complain of “dropped words” during conversations.

In addition, your audiologist will need to know a lot of background details like your:

- Medical history and medications
- Noise exposure, like work environments
- Family history
- Hobbies and lifestyle
- Lifestyle
- What environments and voices are challenging for you

**Crafting this personal profile takes time, which is why you want someone who listens and understands**

Building rapport with your chosen audiologist is important for optimal results.

*Some people only have difficulty hearing in noisy environments while others struggle to pick up certain pitches, auditory frequencies, or even dropped words during conversations.*



Hearing Loss Testing Tip **#3**

# The “Where”





## Location, Location, Location...

The exact location of your diagnostic testing is also important.

Ideally, it should be conducted in a clinic or practice equipped with dedicated hearing booths designed for the sole purpose of audiological testing.

## Why Portable Hearing Test Systems Almost Never Work

Unfortunately, some practitioners use headphones and portable systems that can be set up in any available room within the clinic.

Although this approach is convenient, it almost never yields the best possible outcomes.



# Get Your Hearing Tested in a Booth

Call us at (916) 646-2471  
to schedule your hearing test

[Schedule Now](#)





Hearing Loss Testing Tip **#4**

# The “What”



The purpose of a hearing loss test is diagnostic – complete with  
4 separate evaluations for:

1  
Outer Ear

2  
Middle Ear

3  
Inner Ear

4  
Brain

*This segmentation is critical for  
identifying potential problems within  
your auditory system.*



Some practitioners will simply have you raise your left or right hand every time you hear a "testing tone" in the corresponding ear. And although it's possible to develop a high-level understanding of hearing complications with this approach, segmented tests allow you to pinpoint the exact location and source of the underlying issue.

So, how is it done?

Keep reading...



Hearing Loss Testing Tip **#5**

# The “How”





Assuming your chosen audiologist does do segmented testing, those evaluations should focus on the following areas:

**A complete diagnostic exam of the eardrum's movement.**

**An examination of the ear's auditory reflexes.**

**How well your inner ear's hair cells function (i.e. otoacoustic emissions).**

Note that these tests should take place before you even put on headphones. Once in the sound booth, however, the exam should focus on your ability to distinguish individual beeps – in one ear or the other.

Next, the audiologist will examine the function of the bones of the middle ear. He or she does this by placing a small device behind the ear as you indicate when (and in which ear) you hear a distinct tone.

And the evaluation should conclude with thorough speech testing. This portion of the diagnosis includes having you listen to a list of

spoken words that become fainter and fainter – until you can't distinguish sounds anymore. And then the volume is raised incrementally until reaching a level that you can hear clearly.

The words used during speech testing should come from a recording – and not from the voice of whomever is administering the test. This helps to ensure that the evaluation produces consistent results from day to day.

The next test is a functional hearing test in background noise. This is conducted with words or sentences.





Hearing Loss Testing Tip **#6**

# The “When”







*For most people with hearing loss, trying to communicate in noise is frustrating. Most hearing tests are done in quiet sound booths, but our unique Functional Hearing Test was designed to give you the opportunity to test different hearing aids in noise. We find this to be the key to hearing and living your best in any environment.*

For most people with hearing loss, noisy environments are when they have the greatest difficulties parsing out speech. Even when talking to someone right next to them, they struggle to hear what's being said – especially in crowded restaurants or on busy streets.

As a result, they have to ask their conversation partners to repeat themselves – over and over again. And this inevitably leads to misunderstandings, frustration, and embarrassment.

Unfortunately, many hearing tests are conducted in **quiet** sound booths that don't mimic the real world at all. And not surprisingly, any hearing aid customizations based on these results yield subpar outcomes.





# How to Get Started

**Call us at (916) 646-2471  
to schedule your hearing test**

Or, visit us online at  
[TheHearingSolution.com](https://TheHearingSolution.com)

Each one of the hearing loss tips in this ebook is essential for producing optimal results. And although it may seem like a lot of moving parts, the audiologists at The Hearing Solution are able to complete a thorough evaluation in about one hour.

Based on the results of these hearing loss exams, we're then able to determine the most appropriate treatment solution that delivers you the best possible outcome.

If you'd like to learn more about our unique approach to hearing loss testing, [schedule a consultation](#) with us today or give us a call at **(916) 646-2471**.



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**The Hearing  
Solution**