

Key facts about hearing loss

- A person with mild hearing loss has difficulties understanding 25 – 40% of all acoustic speech signals (see over, figure 1).¹
- By 2015, over 700 million people worldwide will suffer from hearing loss of 25dB HL or greater.²
- 65% of people with hearing loss are younger than 65 years of age.³
- People typically wait 5 – 7 years after first experiencing hearing loss symptoms before seeking help.³
- Hearing loss is twice as common in adults with diabetes as in those without diabetes.⁴
- People with hearing loss experience more bouts of illness than those with good hearing.^{5,6}
- Up to 10% of hearing problems in adults, and even more in children, can be treated with medicine or surgery.⁷
- Hearing loss is associated with a 24% increase in risk of cognitive decline compared to normal hearing.⁸
- Attending a musical concert or using a lawnmower without ear protection for more than 30 minutes can cause permanent hearing loss (see over, figure 2).⁹
- Untreated hearing loss is associated with an average annual income loss of \$30,000 compared to normal hearing. Fitting a hearing aid reduces this deficit by more than 50% (\$16,000).¹⁰
- Hearing instruments can improve communication and quality of life in more than 90% of people with hearing loss. Despite this, 75% of people diagnosed with hearing loss do nothing about it.³
- People with hearing loss are 5 times more likely to seek a hearing solution if they are given a positive recommendation by their physician.³



Figure 1: Frequency and intensity of sounds

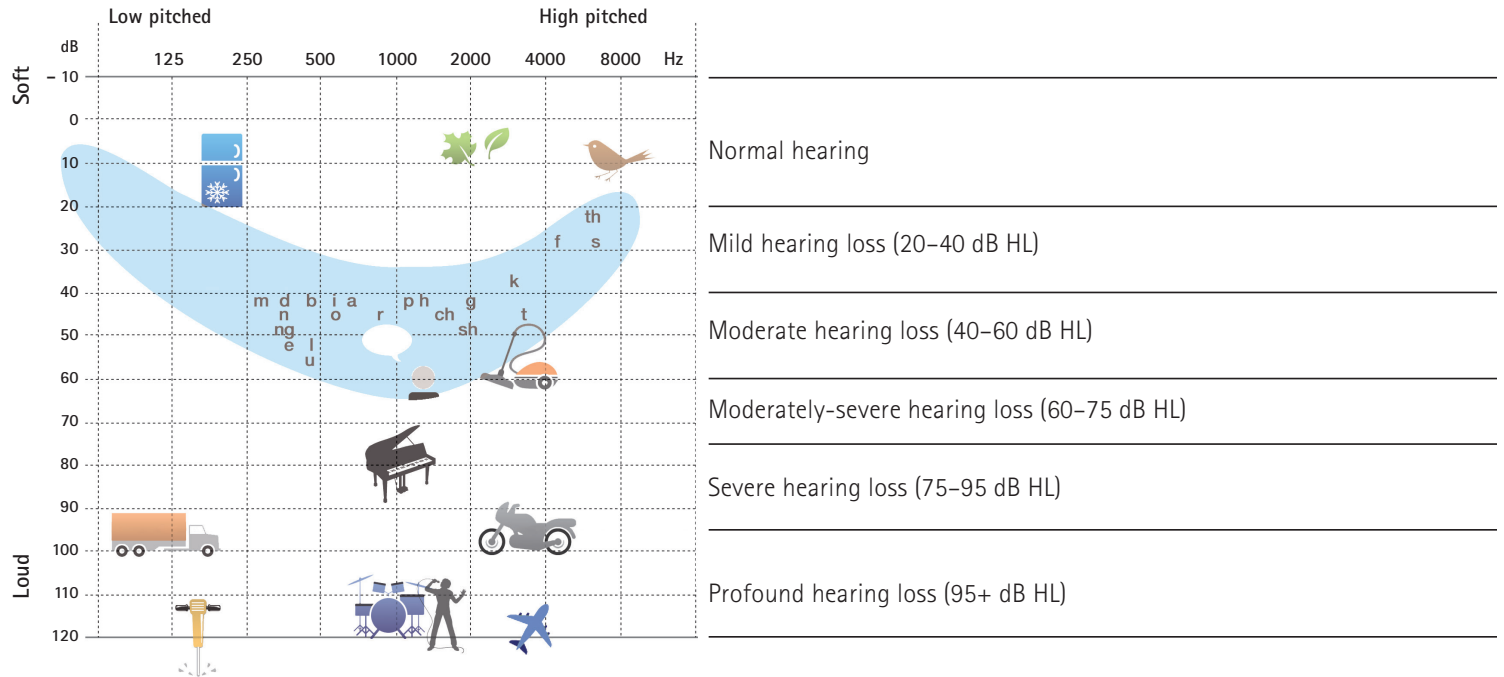
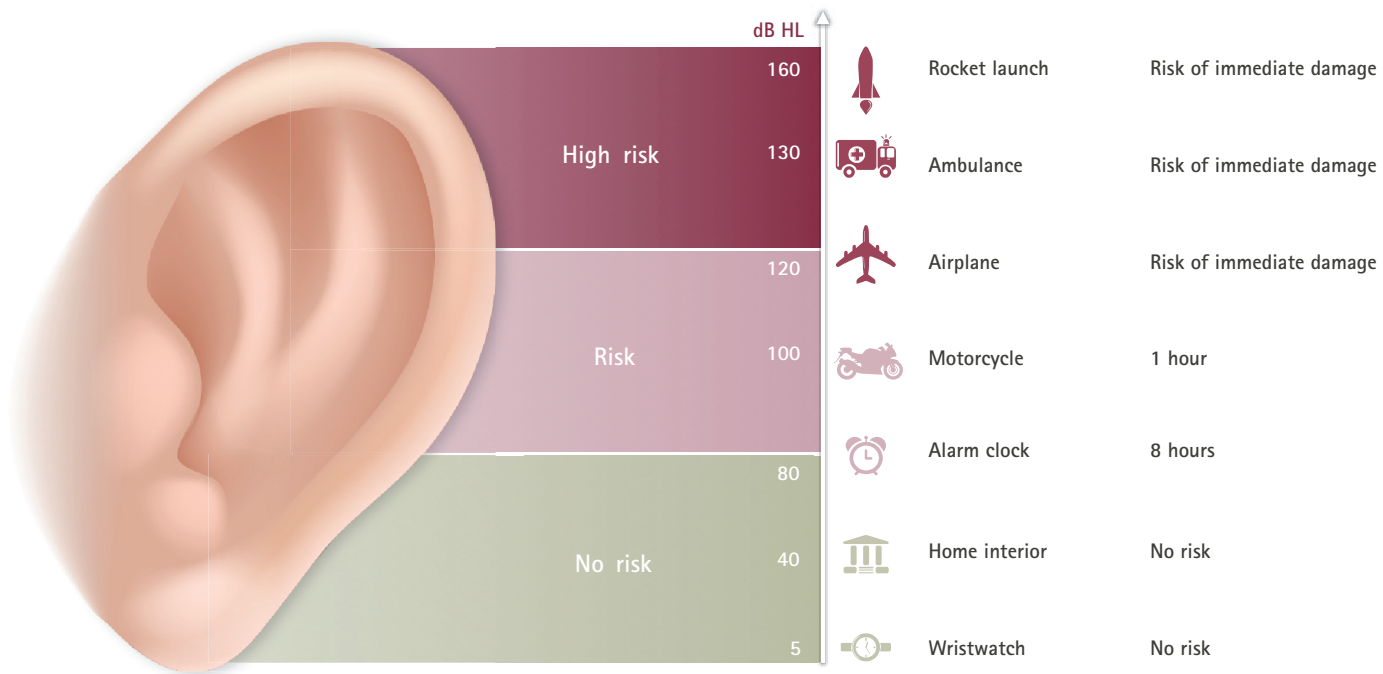


Figure 2: Levels of sound in decibels (dB HL)

How loud is too loud?



References

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