

## Everyday Challenges of Hearing Loss

Perspective of a Late Deafened Adult

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*"Blindness separates us from things but deafness separates us from people." (Helen Keller)*

## I stopped cheating in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Barbara J., Age 10

Mr. Cullen's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

Washington Elementary School

Lowell, MA



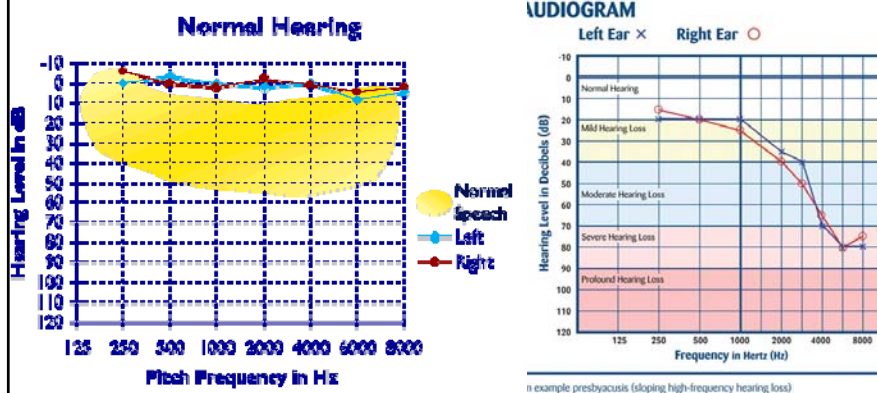
## And What About You?

- ▣ Friends or family with hearing loss?
- ▣ What do you think would be the biggest challenge if you could not hear well?

## Assumptions

- ▣ You're a snob
- ▣ You're spacey, not paying attention, stupid
- ▣ All deaf people know sign language (ASL)
- ▣ Louder is better
- ▣ You have no sense of humor

## Picture Hearing Loss



## Listen to Hearing Loss

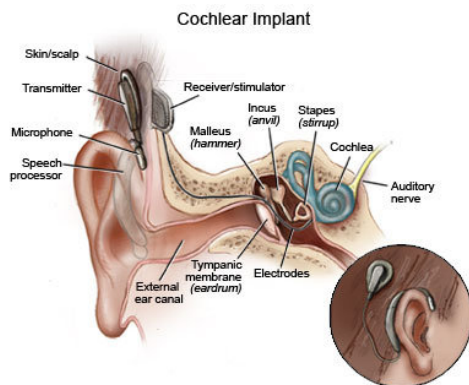
- Normal hearing sound clip  
<http://www.neurophys.wisc.edu/animations/goodtalk.wav>
- Severe hearing loss sound clip  
<http://www.neurophys.wisc.edu/animations/badtalk.wav>

## My Hearing Pictures Before and After



## What's a Cochlear Implant?

- The most successful neural prosthesis ([short video](#))



## Friend and Enemies of Effective Communication

Friends	Enemies
Round tables	Long rectangular tables
Carpets and low ceilings	Rooms with all hard surfaces
Good lighting	Glare behind speakers
Mouths that move, good elocution	Mustaches and beards
Ability to control my space	Background noise, especially conversations

## Barbara's Personal Wish List

- ▣ Pop-up Accousta-Room
- ▣ The Magic Name Tag
- ▣ Backwards Siri - Iris?
- ▣ Captioned video everywhere
- ▣ Live Theater captioning (i-caption, c2). More ubiquitous, more portable
- ▣ Easily configurable workspaces and meeting rooms

## Resources

- Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) <http://www.hearingloss.org/>
- [http://tecear.com/Resources\\_and\\_Links.htm](http://tecear.com/Resources_and_Links.htm)
- "Cochlear Implants: System Design, Integration and Evaluation", NIH Article 2009, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2782849/>
- The Year I Hear. Barbara J.'s blog about her CI journey <http://theyearihear.wordpress.com/>