

Hearing Assistive Technology (AT) – the What, When, Who, and Why

What is Hearing Assistive Technology?

Many devices have been designed and developed for people with hearing loss. Such technology enhances sound or substitutes sound with visual or tactile signals. Hearing AT can be helpful anywhere effective communication is needed (e.g., at home, in schools, movies, theater, the workplace, hospitals, and on the telephone).

When do I need to use them?

Listening needs vary with the situation and the level of hearing loss. Some challenging environments include restaurants, meetings, classes, houses of worship, social gatherings, public presentations, lectures, theaters, and home environments – TV, telephone, doorbell, smoke alarm, etc.



Who needs Hearing AT?

Anyone who needs help with face-to-face communication, enjoyment of electronic media (e.g., radio, stereo, television, movies), telephone, and awareness of environmental sounds or similar situations.

Why aren't hearing aids/cochlear implants enough?

Environmental factors can further compromise hearing: distance from the speaker, background noise, size, and acoustics of the room.

Technology has many advantages, but careful consideration is needed to meet an individual's unmet needs in the community, educational, and employment settings. To learn more about navigating the world of Hearing AT, visit [Hearing – Explore AT from AT3 Center](#). The assistive technology solutions provided on this site are intended as examples to give an idea of the types of Hearing AT currently available in today's market. Also, remember to [contact your AT Act Program](#) to learn more and explore services available to help make an informed purchasing decision and obtain the AT needed.

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