What is Audiology?
Getting the most out of your hearing

Hearing Awareness Week 2013
Hidden Hearing
we listen, you hear
What is Audiology?

‘Audiology’ comes from the Latin auditor ‘to hear’ and from the Greek λογία ‘logia’. It’s a branch of science that studies hearing and related disorders. People who practise audiology can be called Audiologists or Hearing Aid Dispensers, and they use a variety of testing methods to establish the level of somebody’s hearing and to give advice on possible courses of action.

At Hidden Hearing our Hearing Aid Dispensers follow a strict code of conduct when dealing with the public, and you are assured that you are consulting with a suitably qualified professional. In addition, all Hidden Hearing dispensers are members of ISHAA, BSHAA, IHS or HCPC (Health and Care Professionals Council). Their consumer code offers an additional layer of consumer protection over and above Hidden Hearing’s commitment to you.
What exactly is a Hearing Test?

Hearing tests can take many forms and at Hidden Hearing we only advise on the use of hearing aids following a calibrated audiometric test.

Your Hearing Aid Dispenser will explain how the test works then place the headphones on your ears. The Hearing Aid Dispenser will then present a sound of a single frequency to one of your ears. If you can hear it, then press the response button. The Hearing Aid Dispenser will acknowledge and present the sound again at a slightly lower volume. This is repeated until you can no longer hear it and then repeated for different frequencies in both ears.

At the end of the test the Hearing Aid Dispenser will have recorded all the results and arrived at a graph of how well you can hear. This is called an Audiogram.

![Audiogram](image)

The Audiogram will show where there is a hearing loss (if any) and in the example shown here the red line is for the right ear and the blue line for the left. Any score between 0 and 20 we regard as ‘normal hearing’ and anything below that begins to reveal the extent of any hearing impairment.

This person’s Audiogram shows that the hearing in both ears is similar and that their ability to hear low frequency sound is better than that of high frequency sound. This is consistent with someone whose hearing has deteriorated as a result of the ageing process, and they may report that they can no longer hear TV or group conversation clearly any more.

There are other important tests that need to be carried out and in most cases these are to help verify the results found in puretone audiometry. A couple of these will use the audiometer, and a speech test can also be used. This helps us understand how well the spoken word is understood and whether amplification will help.

At the end of the test your Hearing Aid Dispenser will explain the results of your test to you and offer advice on what you may choose to do next. If hearing aids are an option then it may be possible for you to try what that will sound like straight away.

We always advise that someone close to you attends the Hearing Test with you. There are a couple of benefits to this. Importantly, those around you will have a different view of your hearing. Also if a demonstration of hearing aids is available, it is useful to be able to listen to a familiar voice.

If you would like to book a hearing test then give us a call on 1800 370 000 or visit [www.hiddenhearing.ie/free-hearing-test](http://www.hiddenhearing.ie/free-hearing-test) on the Hidden Hearing website.
A day in the life of an Audiologist

Mr. Martyn Mulry, FdSc HAA, BC-HIS, HCPC, MIHS, Senior Hearing Aid Audiologist with Hidden Hearing has been an audiologist for many years and has been highly recognised as a conscientious and caring professional. Martyn has been with Hidden Hearing since 2005 and took control of the Dundalk Branch in 2011. This Branch is now recognized as a Centre of Excellence for Hearing Care in Ireland.

Martyn bases his professionalism on his commitment to helping the hearing-impaired lead a fuller life. By combining integrity and compassion, he naturally demonstrates a unique ability to explain strategies of hearing improvement. Martyn understands the importance of taking the time to really listen to his patients and creates an environment where open and honest communication can take place and his patients can make decisions about their hearing, without feeling rushed.

Martyn gained a Distinction in Hearing Aid Audiology from Anglia Ruskin University (Cambridge) and is a registered member of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), a Board Certified member of the International Hearing Society (BC-HIS) and a member of the Irish Hearing Society (MIHS). Martyn has years of advanced training both locally and nationally. You can depend on him to provide the best hearing solution for you.

His knowledge in communication disorders has helped a wide range of patients, including both adults and children with hearing loss. He provides screenings, hearing tests, aural rehabilitation and has an extensive knowledge of both conventional and digital hearing instruments. Martyn enjoys the variety of work involved on a daily basis.

Every appointment is different

Most days are a mixture of hearing tests, fitting new hearing aids and follow up appointments for clients who recently bought new hearing aids. ‘We like to do hearing test appointments in the mornings as these tend to take a little longer, and today we had three booked in.’ Martyn explains how each appointment was different. The first lady needed to be referred to her G.P. for a chronic medical condition, and the other two were existing patients of the local audiology department who were looking to improve on the hearing aids they had from the hospital.

‘Mr. Jones was looking for a more cosmetically suitable hearing system, so once I’d examined his ears and tested his hearing he was delighted to find out he was suitable for one of the new Invisible in the Canal hearing aids.’ Martyn took impressions of his ears using a special type of silicon and Mr. Jones’ new hearing system will be ready in 10 days. He made an appointment to return and have his new hearing aids fitted.

Next was Mrs. Clark who was happy that her existing hearing aids work for her but wanted...
to find out what could be done to improve her ability to listen and understand in background noise. After the hearing test, Martyn was able to explain about a new wireless hearing system that allows the two hearing aids to communicate with each other and connect to a separate wireless microphone. Mrs. Clark tried the new hearing aid system right there and then and was amazed at how clearly she could hear over a distance. Knowing this would be of great benefit to her at work, Mrs. Clark decided to go ahead and buy the hearing aids. As they were in stock, they could be fitted within a couple of days.

"We always make sure that clients are happy with the insertion and removal of hearing aids and simple things like changing batteries and cleaning."

Everything gets fitted in

‘In the afternoons we like to book the fittings and follow up work with a bit of space for any emergencies!’ Having grabbed a quick sandwich Martyn has two appointments to fit new hearing aid systems for existing clients of Hidden Hearing.

‘Mr. Ferguson had some difficulty using his first hearing aid system and we needed three follow up appointments before he was confident. Now he uses his hearing aids every day. We always make sure that clients are happy with the insertion and removal of hearing aids and simple things like changing batteries and cleaning. Most people take to it really quickly and only a few need more patience.’

Mr. Ferguson left quite delighted with his new hearing aid system and Martyn arranged to have his old ones serviced to become his spare pair. Whilst Mr. Ferguson was in the consultation room, Mrs. Roche rushed in with her mother’s hearing aid. Her mother had put the hearing aid in that morning and it wasn’t working.

Fortunately Martyn was able to fix the hearing aid between appointments. ‘The sound outlet on the hearing aid had become blocked and I was able to clear it. It can happen and it is a service we are happy to provide’, explained Martyn.

The second fitting also went well, and then Martyn had to see Mrs. O’Malley who had been fitted with a new hearing aid system. She’d telephoned and explained that she wasn’t hearing as well as she would like, and now explained to Martyn how the hearing aids didn’t appear as effective as the day she picked them up from the branch. Martyn explained to Mrs. O’Malley that this is normal because we quickly get used to the new sound level, then begin to look for more. A quick adjustment using the computer and Mrs. O’Malley was immediately much happier.

Not forgetting the paperwork

The final appointment of the day was another quick adjustment for someone else who had just popped in to see if Martyn was free, and got lucky. Then on to the least favourite but no less important part of Martyn’s day - the paperwork! ‘I like to get that done at the end of every day so I can walk in tomorrow with a clear desk.’ After all that, Martyn is off home again to look forward to another busy day tomorrow.
At Hidden Hearing we aim to improve the quality of your hearing and most importantly your communication with your family and friends. Your hearing health is vitally important with poor hearing affecting your personal relationships, quality of life, and even your ability to go about a normal day.

With over 27 years of providing hearing health care, our professional team provides a range of hearing services from hearing assessments to hearing aids to help you get your hearing back on track. So you can enjoy the life you want to live!

Don’t delay - make an appointment for your FREE HIDDEN HEARING hearing assessment today.

Call us on:
FREEPHONE 1800 370 000
or visit our website:
www.hearingawareness.ie

“1 in 6 people suffer from some degree of hearing loss.

I recommend that anyone who is concerned about their hearing should not delay in having it checked.”

Dr. Nina Byrnes - MRN19905
Hidden Hearing’s Medical Advisor