



**Do you have difficulty hearing in certain situations?**

**Would you like help with communicating at home and at work?**

**Do you suffer from tinnitus (noises in your head or ears)?**

**Do you have problems hearing the television, telephone or doorbell?**

Hearing Therapists work with people who either suddenly become deafened or whose hearing deteriorates gradually.

The principal role of the Hearing Therapist is to make the most of a person's ability to use the hearing that they do have and to teach them to compensate for any hearing loss by using other skills. They are based in hospitals, though not every hospital will have one. Their role varies from area to area and all therapists work differently. Most have their own area of interest. Hearing Therapists design individual programmes which might include any of the following:

- Lip reading tuition on an individual or group basis.
- Counselling and advice on managing tinnitus.
- Advice and provision of environmental equipment e.g. TV aids, alarms.
- Counselling prior to the removal of a vestibular Schwannoma.
- Work with relatives to help them understand the implications of hearing loss and to improve their communication skills.
- Relaxation classes.
- Help for people to adjust to using a hearing aid, ensuring that they obtain maximum benefit. Some carry out a large part of the hearing aid assessment and provide a follow up service after it has been fitted.
- Support with problems (as a result of hearing loss) in the work environment.
- Liaison with other agencies e.g. speech therapy, social services, voluntary organisations.

**They also:**

- Provide talks/education to both hearing impaired people as well as voluntary and statutory organisations.
- Specialise in working with people who have a hearing impairment and other difficulties, such as sight loss or learning difficulties.
- Work as part of a Cochlear Implant Team. There are now a handful of Hearing Therapists who have worked with people following Brain Stem Implant (ABI).
- Work with people who have difficulties with their balance.

Hearing Therapists often approach rehabilitation in different ways and it might be that some centres do not offer the full range of services outlined above. Please contact your local therapist to see how they can help.

**How to find your nearest Hearing Therapist:**

- Ask your ENT Consultant
- Ask the Audiology Department of your local hospital
- A phone call to your local Hearing Therapist will then establish what service is available in your area and how best to achieve a referral.

**Judith Hunt**  
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Produced  
with financial  
support from



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**Please seek further information from [www.nervetumours.org.uk](http://www.nervetumours.org.uk), or contact our helpline on the details above.**

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