

**ARE YOU MISSING THE SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS?** Hearing is not all or none. In many cases hearing fades so slowly, its departure goes unnoticed. You may think that people are mumbling more, your spouse needs to speak up, and the telephone is an inferior communication device. As long as some sound still comes in, you may assume your hearing is fine, but you may be missing the common signs of hearing loss. Even a mild hearing loss can adversely affect your communication abilities and at further stages, may affect your environmental awareness and safety.

The table below shows the common signs of hearing loss and levels of hearing loss they may indicate. Contact our Audiologists at **Preferred Audiology Care** at **315-468-2985** if you notice any of the following signs of hearing loss.

		<b>Level of Hearing Loss</b>	<b>SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS</b>
		<b>NORMAL</b>	Can hear and understand speech very clearly in mostly any listening environment
<b>Early Stages</b>	↓	<b>SLIGHT Hearing Loss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Some difficulties understanding people in noisy backgrounds
		<b>MILD Hearing Loss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulties keeping up with conversations, especially in noise <input type="checkbox"/> Mistake words for other words <input type="checkbox"/> Some people may seem like they are mumbling <input type="checkbox"/> Miss beginnings and endings of words spoken <input type="checkbox"/> Missing sounds like "s" and "f"
		<b>MODERATE Hearing Loss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Many people around seem like they are mumbling <input type="checkbox"/> People don't seem to be speaking clearly around you <input type="checkbox"/> Missing words in sentences <input type="checkbox"/> Can't hear in background noise <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulties hearing women and children's voices <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulties following a conversation without the use of hearing aids. <input type="checkbox"/> Can't understand people when their backs are turned <input type="checkbox"/> People frequently seem to be talking too fast. <input type="checkbox"/> Television and radio volume needs to be turned up. <input type="checkbox"/> May answer questions incorrectly because they did not hear all the words <input type="checkbox"/> May have some trouble hearing on the phone
<b>Late Stages</b>	↓	<b>MODERATELY-SEVERE Hearing Loss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> May rely on lip-reading or visual cues to understand what people are saying along with the use of hearing aids. <input type="checkbox"/> May be unaware of people when they are trying to catch your attention. <input type="checkbox"/> Unaware of surrounding sounds in the environment. <input type="checkbox"/> People may start to sound very unclear. <input type="checkbox"/> Significant difficulties hearing over the phone
		<b>SEVERE Hearing Loss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Can hear only loud sounds without the use of hearing aids <input type="checkbox"/> Significant difficulties hearing and understanding others. <input type="checkbox"/> Speech may also sound distorted and significantly unclear.
		<b>PROFOUND Hearing Loss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rely mostly on lip-reading or sign language <input type="checkbox"/> Other people speaking are extremely difficult to understand <input type="checkbox"/> Can be assessed for cochlear implant candidacy

\*\*\* **SUDDEN HEARING LOSS** – It should be noted that there are cases of rapid loss of hearing ability in a matter of an instant, several hours or days. In nine out of 10 cases, sudden hearing loss affects only one ear. In these cases, it is important to talk to your doctor as soon as possible for a medical evaluation.