Types of Hearing Loss

Read this page to learn about different kinds of hearing loss.

There are different kinds of hearing loss.

- **Conductive (kun-DUK-tiv) hearing loss** ([link](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/conductive.jsp)) is when sound can't reach your ears.
- **Sensorineural (sen-sor-ee-NEW-ral) hearing loss** ([link](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/sensorineural.jsp)) is when the cochlea or auditory nerve aren't working.
- Mixed hearing loss is when there is both conductive and sensorineural hearing loss.

Another way of talking about different types of hearing loss is by how a person hears.

- **Unilateral hearing loss** ([link](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/unilateral.jsp)) is when it is only in 1 ear.
- **Progressive hearing loss** ([link](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/progressive/)) is when the hearing loss gets worse over time.
- **Fluctuating hearing loss** ([link](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/fluctuating.jsp)) is when the hearing loss changes. It may sometimes be worse and sometimes better.

Some other types of hearing loss don't fit any of these groups.

- **Auditory neuropathy** ([link](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/an/)) is when the cochlea works but there is something wrong with the auditory nerve. The hearing loss can be very confusing.
- **Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD)** ([link](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/special/capd/)) is when there’s something wrong with how your child’s brain interprets the signals it gets from the ear. This can also cause a hearing loss.

*This page was last edited on September 11, 2003.*

You can find this page online at: [http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/hearingloss/types/)