

How to Read an Audiogram

An audiogram can be thought of as a picture of your hearing. The audiogram shows the softest levels of sound you can hear at each frequency (pitch) in each ear.

What the numbers mean:

- Across the bottom of the graph there are numbers from 250 to 8000. These numbers (measured in Hz) represent the frequencies (pitches) of the sound presented to you. They can be thought of as keys on a piano ranging from the bass notes (250 Hz) to the treble notes (8000 Hz).
- On the left side of the graph there are numbers from -10 to 120. These numbers (measured in dB) represent the intensity (loudness) of the sound presented.

What the symbols on the graph mean:

The symbols represent the quietest level your child responded to at each frequency (pitch) during the hearing test.

- The Xs & □'s are the responses for the left ear.
- The Os & Δ's are the responses for the right ear.
- If there is NO RESPONSE, the symbol used will include arrows attached to the left or right symbols. The tester may also use "NR" or leave the field blank.
 - In this case, please enter a value of 120 into the field for the appropriate frequency.

Categories of hearing loss by severity:

- Normal hearing: ≤ 25 dB
- Mild hearing loss: 26-40 dB
- Moderate hearing loss: 41-55 dB
- Moderately-Severe hearing loss: 56-69 dB
- Severe hearing loss: 70-89 dB
- Profound hearing loss: 90 or greater

Most people have hearing loss in more than one category. For example, you might have better hearing in the low pitches than the high pitches. If this is the case, hearing loss might be described as falling under more than one category (e.g. a mild to moderately-severe hearing loss).

How to Enter in Your Hearing Loss

In the empty fields, you will notice that there is a number corresponding to each box 250-8000. These numbers represent the frequencies of your hearing test. On your audiogram (hearing test), you should have some X's and O's. These represent the softest levels at which you responded to the tones in the left and right ears, respectively. These points are also known as thresholds.

For each corresponding frequency, a threshold value must be entered. Each threshold consists of a decibel (dB) level at a certain frequency (Hz). The decibel level is the value on the left of the audiogram box that ranges from -10 to 120. The decibel value is what you would need to enter into the corresponding frequency box.

For example, in the graph below, the X represents this person's hearing sensitivity at 250 Hz. Their threshold at 250 Hz is 30 dB.

