

Audiogram

How is hearing measured?

Results of a hearing test are plotted on a chart called an **Audiogram**. The audiogram works like a graph to show the different levels (loudness) of hearing for different pitches (frequencies) of sound.

Loudness, or volume is plotted on the graph from top to bottom. The closer to the top of the graph, the softer the sound. The closer to the bottom of the graph, the louder the sound. Hearing level is measured in units called decibels (dB).

Any hearing level from 0 to 15 decibels is considered within the “normal” hearing range. Any hearing level greater than 20 decibels is considered within the “hearing loss” range. Hearing loss is described in categories or “degrees” which are summarized below. Hearing loss is not measured in percentages.

Frequency, or pitch is plotted on the graph from left to right. Lower pitches are closer to the left side of the graph. These sounds are similar to a truck engine, vacuum cleaner, or a man’s voice. Higher pitches are closer to the right side of the graph. These sounds are similar to a pager beeping, crickets, or a woman’s voice. Frequency is measured in units called hertz (Hz).

Pure Tone Audiogram

