

Facts about Ears

1. 37% of children with a mild hearing loss will fail one grade.
2. The ear's malleus, incus and stapes (otherwise known as the hammer, anvil and stirrup) are the smallest bones in the human body. All three together could fit together on your thumbnail
3. The middle ear is no bigger than a Smartie and the inner ear is no bigger than an eraser on a pencil.
4. Crickets have their hearing organs situated in their knees
5. Your inner ear consists of the cochlea and it looks like a snail's shell!
6. The organs of balance are also situated in the ear, and therefore it is possible that a balance disorder can co-occur with a hearing loss
7. Thirty-seven percent of children with only minimal hearing loss fail at least one grade
8. Male mosquitoes hear with thousands of tiny hairs growing on their antennae
9. At 115dB, a baby's cry can sound louder than a car's hooter!
10. Sound can travel at the speed of 770 miles an hour!
11. Sitting in front of speakers at a rock concert can expose you to 120 decibels, which will begin to damage hearing in only 7½ minutes
12. Most perforations (holes) in the eardrum will heal spontaneously. If it doesn't, it can nearly always be repaired with surgery. The procedure is relatively fast, and is generally performed under local anaesthesia
13. It is not a good idea to remove wax with cotton-tipped swabs / earbuds. The ear has a natural self-cleaning mechanism, and wax gradually sheds from the inside out. The ear canal is also generally in the shape of a funnel, with the narrow end near the eardrum.

Cotton swabs usually push wax even deeper into the ear, and it packs it into a mass. If there is even a pinhole opening in the packed wax, hearing is still good, but when the canal is completely blocked with wax, substantial hearing loss develops. It is best to simply clean your ears of the wax that has migrated to the exterior by using a wet cloth.

14. One out of 4 employees exposed to very loud noise will have a hearing loss.
15. Fish do not have any ears but they can sense the changes in pressure along the ridges on their bodies.