

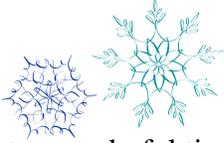


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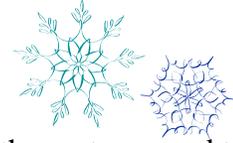
Better hearing. Doesn't that sound good?

HEAR & NOW

Patriot Center for Hearing Loss Newsletter



'Tis The Season



What a wonderful time of year! A time to reflect on the many blessings over the past year and to look forward to a joyous new year. We would like to personally wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas. You have touched our lives and blessed us in ways you may never truly know. Your kindness, friendly conversations and thoughtful prayers are very much appreciated.

Christmas can be fun and exciting but it can also be a time of rushing around and getting caught up in the unavoidable hustle and bustle. Let's remember what the season is really about.



THE FOLLYWOBBLE

The Follywobble was a lazy sort of fellow. "Hello, hello! Sorry, gotta go," he would often bellow. Whenever he feared someone might have a need, he was suddenly very busy with some trifle deed. The Follywobble did not intend to be unkind. He just did not think; he did not use his mind. The least he could do was the best kind of day, taking short-cuts and doing things half-way. The Follywobble thought solely of one thing: how to make his life easy and live like a King! His time was wasted from winter to fall, coming up with ideas of doing nothing at all. The Follywobble squealed with delight one day, for he had an idea, a short-cut, a half-way. Change a word to just one letter, a true time-saver. Why, he was doing the whole world a great favor!

Well, it is plain to see that the idea was very, very bad. And that is why Christmas became very, very sad.

Those six letters the Follywobble shortened to one, boldly cross out the name of our great Father's Son. Merry x-mas indeed! What does it mean? What on Earth? Without even thinking, he denied Christ's birth. I wonder, do you know a Follywobble? I'll bet you do. They greet you with smiles and good wishes too. Saving time and energy and even space, it's true, But they know not what they say, nor what they do. Don't you be a Follywobble, without even a thought; forgetting the price Christ paid and just what He bought. Rejoice in Christ's birth and honor His name. Shout "Happy Birthday, Jesus. I'm glad You came!"





Cell Phones and Hearing Aids: Living Together in Perfect Harmony?



The Hearing Aid Compatibility Act (1988) mandated that landline phones manufactured for sale in the United States be hearing aid compatible. If your hearing aid has a telecoil (t-coil) then you should be able to use it on the phone without any feedback or interference. But what about cell phones? These days, it seems like *everyone* has a cell phone! Unfortunately, many of those who wear hearing instruments experience interference with cell phones. The reason for this is that digital cell phones transmit telephone conversations over a wireless network using radio waves. The radio waves emitted by the cell phone create an electromagnetic field around the phone's antenna, which has a pulsating pattern. This pulsating energy may be picked up by the wiring in the hearing instrument and be perceived by the wearer as a "buzzing" sound. The degree of interference varies between providers, depending on the technology they use to transmit calls. Telecoils in hearing aids, which help users on landline phones, can actually have greater interference.

But there is good news on the horizon! The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in July 2003 has taken

steps to apply the same rule to cell phones that currently apply to landline phones. Cell phone manufacturers and carriers have been given a phase-in period of 2 years (3 years for telecoil coupling) to have commercially available handsets that optimize cell phone and hearing instrument compatibility.

In the meantime, here is some information you should know to help enhance your cell phone experience with hearing aids. First, select a wireless carrier that uses CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) technology, used by Verizon and Sprint, or iDEN (integrated Digital Enhancement Network) technology, used by Nextel, as these seem to work better with hearing instruments than GSM transmission technology used by AT&T Wireless, Cingular Wireless and T-Mobile.

Next, choose a cell phone handset with a flip-up design as this provides some distance between the cell phone's transmission and electronic components reducing the potential for interference. Try to choose a phone with adjustable volume and a good selection of ring tones as well. Also, telecoil users should get a phone that provides the ability to control whether or not the display is illuminated, as the back-lighting

may cause additional interference. The website, www.accesswireless.org/index.htm, provides a listing of wireless phones best suited for hearing instrument wearers. The new rulings are supposed to also allow consumers to test phones in the store before making a purchase and most should have a flexible return policy that will allow real-world testing for 30 days.

Some additional technology that will help with cell phone use for hearing aid wearers who have a telecoil in their aids include using a headset which can be used with either behind-the-ear style hearing aids or custom fit in-the-ear styles and are available for use with home phones, cell phones and business phones. You can find out more information at www.hatis.com. The latest technology available is wireless Bluetooth and works with Bluetooth equipped cell phones. For more information, check out www.elihearing.com.

This ever-changing advanced technology can be confusing for all of us but if you have questions, give us a call and we will do our best to help you sort through it all and come up with the best option for you.



Did you know?

It is impossible to smile and shout at the same time. In fact, if a person must force their voice to be louder, they convey anger. Even if the speaker is not angry, the hearing impaired person will respond to perceived anger with a negative emotion.

Great Christmas
Gift Idea!



The Gift of Communication

The listening needs of a person with hearing impairment can be varied and specific. While hearing aids help in many situations, there are times when they are not enough or times when hearing aids are not practical to use, such as when sleeping. When that is the case, you should consider some outside help, referred to as Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs). If you are hearing impaired, please read on. If you know someone who is hearing impaired, please pass this along to let them know that help is available. There are plenty of options for the listener's specific needs. Here are just a few:



Alarm Clocks

Alarm clocks with a loud buzzer, flashing lamp and strong bed shaker to wake up the deepest of sleepers. Also has volume and tone controls.



Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors have extra loud warning sounds, along with bright, flashing strobe lights or bed shaker.



Amplified Telephones

A wide variety of amplified telephones are available, including cordless and speaker phones. All are hearing aid compatible.

Personal wireless infrared system designed to amplify and clarify television speech frequencies. Works with all TVs and can be used at churches and theaters equipped with compatible transmitters.



TV Ears



Global Door Beacon

A signaling device that alerts you to someone knocking at the door by detecting vibrations and emitting a bright flashing light. Portable and battery operated, making it perfect for use in any room at home or when traveling.



*Give a gift that truly does give back...
give the gift of communication.*

If you want to learn more about these wonderful devices designed to help meet your specific listening needs, please give us a call. We will gladly assist you in deciding which devices are best for you. Average shipping time is less than a week. Next day delivery available on most items. Lay-a-way is also available.

Order yours today! 865-471-0466

We also have some great stocking stuffers for the hearing aid user in your family!





ON THE HOMEFRONT

Patriot Center for Hearing Loss

1004 N. Hwy 92, Suite D
Jefferson City TN 37760

Our Staff:

Dr. Teresa Stepp,
Audiologist

Denise Brooks,
Office Manager

Gerri Moore,
Office Assistant

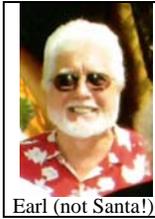
Phone:
(865) 471-0466

Fax:
(865) 471-0468

E-Mail:
hearingloss@bellsouth.net

Website:
www.patriotcenterforhearingloss.com

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO
HAVE YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM OUR
NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST.



Earl (not Santa!)

Some of you were aware that Tony's dad went through heart bypass surgery the first week of November. He is recovering beautifully, praise God! He refers to me as his favorite daughter-in-law, which is kind of a joke because he only has one son, and I always come back at him that he is my favorite father-in-law since I obviously only have the one. But he *really is the best* and we want to send him our love and prayers for continuing strength and recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to my wonderful nephew, Joey. He will be 5 years old on January 11. Joey is Denise's son. He is a lot of fun with a warm personality, vivid imagination and a smile that just won't quit!

Happy Birthday Joey!!



Happy Anniversary to my darling husband, Tony!

Got Recipes? We would like to add a recipe section to our newsletter and feature your favorite recipes. Please send recipes to us at our mailing address,  email or fax number (listed to the left) or you can drop them by our office.

Patriot Center for Hearing Loss

1004 N. Hwy 92, Suite D
P.O. Box 297
Jefferson City, TN 37760



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