

How to buy a hearing aid

As you get older it is inevitable that you experience some hearing loss. So, it is natural to start looking into buying a hearing aid to help replace what was lost but what should you look for? How can you tell which models are better than others or what features sets them apart? The following list should help:

- **Microphone** – In the older models, the only way to increase the sensitivity of the microphone was to turn up the volume but that doesn't help with directionality. Some of the newer ear pieces use adaptive technology that allows it to focus on where the speaker is in relation to the listener. If they are in front then they will direct most of the focus to the front and the same for the side and rear.
- **Feedback** – Feedback can cause discomfort to the wearer and distort the incoming sounds. In severe cases it can be heard as a loud electronic squeal. That was mostly in the older models however. The newer models have feedback managers that reduce feedback while keeping the higher ends of the spectrum clear. That is where most human speech is heard.
- **Noise reduction** – Many older people have trouble picking out speech or other noises from the ambient or background noises. New technology allows that background noise to be muted so the listener can concentrate on a conversation.
- **Channels** – A premium hearing aid will have a minimum of 10 channels. This helps with the higher range of frequencies and cuts down on feedback.
- **Gain** – This is based on the unit's compression threshold. The lower the aids compression threshold the more soft sounds that the listener can differentiate, like a person whispering, for instance

You may need to talk with an expert to explain all of the different features of the top hearing aids. Atlanta Hearing Associates have a trained staff that is fully versed in the newest technology. Contact them today and start hearing everything that you have been missing.