

**Mayo Clinic Minute**

**What is hearing loss?**

<b>Video</b>	<b>Audio</b>
<b>Vivien Williams</b> <b>VO: Person getting hearing test</b>	Hearing loss is very common.
SULL0001 4:01 <b>Matthew Carlson, M.D.</b> <b>Otorhinolaryngology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	“There’s a lot of different types of hearing loss.”
<b>Vivien Williams</b> <b>VO: Dr. Carlson in office to images of ears/people</b>	Dr. Matthew Carlson says temporary hearing loss can happen when your ears are plugged with wax or fluid behind the ear drum, for example. Nerve-related hearing loss is usually permanent.
SULL0001 4:07 <b>Matthew Carlson, M.D.</b>	“We call it sensorineural hearing loss. There are thousands of different causes of sensorineural hearing loss. The most common is probably just being over the age of 50 ...”
<b>Vivien Williams</b> <b>VO: hair cells from animation</b>	... or having a history of loud noise exposure. Dr. Carlson says just about all types of sensorineural hearing loss have to do with the loss of the function of hair cells in your inner ear.
SULL000 4:50 <b>Matthew Carlson, M.D.</b>	“The hair cells, which are the end part of the inner ear that actually take the mechanical sound and turn it to electrical sound ...”
<b>Vivien Williams</b> <b>VO: Hearing aid image to cochlear implant animation</b> <b>To person in hearing test</b>	... become fewer or don’t function well. Hearing aids help to increase volume. For people with profound hearing loss, cochlear implants work by bypassing the hair cells and sending signals directly to the hearing nerve and brain. Once health care professionals figure out your type of hearing loss, they can

	tailor treatment that's best for you.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Vivien Williams.