



Audiology & Speech Glossary

by SOULNEST

This glossary was created to take the confusion out of common terms used in hearing, speech, and therapy discussions.

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Audiology Terms



1. BERA (Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry)

- Checks how the brain responds to sound. Mostly used for babies or children who can't respond actively. It's done either while the child is in deep sleep or under mild sedation, depending on the age and setting.

2. OAE (Otoacoustic Emissions)

- Fast and painless test to check if the inner ear (cochlea) is working. Commonly done in newborn screening.

3. PTA (Pure Tone Audiometry)

- Standard hearing test with pure tone beeps. The person signals when they hear a sound – often done for age 5+.

4. Tympanometry (Impedance Test)

- Checks if the middle ear has fluid or pressure. Takes only seconds. No response needed during the test.

5. Play Audiometry

- Hearing test through play (like dropping a toy when sound is heard). Best for toddlers and young children.

6. Cochlear Implant (CI)

- A surgically implanted device for children or adults with severe to profound hearing loss, where hearing aids are not enough. It sends sound directly to the hearing nerve.

7. Mapping (for CI)

- Tuning process for cochlear implants. Adjusts sound clarity to suit the user's comfort and need.

8. Hearing Aid Tuning / Fine-Tuning

- Small adjustments made after hearing aid fitting. Done over multiple sessions to improve sound quality.

9. Binaural Hearing

- Using both ears together for better balance, direction, and clarity – just like wearing both shoes.



Types of Hearing Aids – Short Forms

& Descriptions



Types of Hearing Aids – Short Forms & Descriptions



10. BTE (Behind-The-Ear)

- Most common for children. Sits behind the ear with a tube that connects to a soft ear mold. Durable and safe.

11. RIC (Receiver-In-Canal)

- Smaller and lighter than BTE. Good for older children or teens. Receiver sits inside the ear canal.

12. ITE (In-The-Ear)

- Custom-fitted aid that sits inside the outer ear. Usually used for adults – less common in children.

13. ITC (In-The-Canal)

- Smaller than ITE. Fits partly in the ear canal. Less visible, but may not be suitable for young children.

14. CIC (Completely-In-Canal)

- Tiny aid that fits deep inside the ear canal. Almost invisible, but not ideal for kids or severe loss.

15. BAHA (Bone Anchored Hearing Aid)

- Sends sound through bone rather than ear canal. Used for conditions like microtia, atresia, or single-sided deafness. Can be worn on a soft band or implanted.

