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## **Level 1** – 20th February 2025

### **Noise-cancelling headphones may cause hearing problems**

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-1.html>

More and more young people are wearing headphones or earbuds. However, a report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could cause hearing problems. The BBC interviewed doctors at five UK hospitals. The doctors said many young people are having problems processing sounds. They can hear sounds, but they're not sure where they are coming from. Noise-cancelling earphones could be the reason why.

Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist, said many young people are complaining about poor hearing. She said we need to hear many kinds of sounds, so we can focus on and decide which sounds are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing and listening," and that "listening skills are suffering". Another audiologist said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping and spoken words.

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgkjvr7x5x6o>  
<https://nypost.com/2025/02/17/health/doctors-link-noise-canceling-headphones-to-rising-brain-condition/>  
<https://www.ndtv.com/feature/are-noise-cancelling-headphones-causing-hearing-issues-in-young-people-report-reveals-7736886>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. More and more           | a. doctors           |
| 2. wearing headphones or   | b. young people      |
| 3. a report                | c. coming from       |
| 4. earphones could cause   | d. from the BBC      |
| 5. The BBC interviewed     | e. why               |
| 6. having problems         | f. earbuds           |
| 7. not sure where they are | g. processing sounds |
| 8. the reason              | h. hearing problems  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. many young people are        | a. suffering             |
| 2. we need to hear many kinds   | b. words                 |
| 3. focus on and decide which    | c. and listening         |
| 4. a difference between hearing | d. beeping               |
| 5. listening skills are         | e. complaining           |
| 6. we can forget to             | f. sounds are important  |
| 7. cars                         | g. hear important sounds |
| 8. spoken                       | h. of sounds             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-1.html>

More and (1) \_\_\_\_\_ are wearing headphones or earbuds. However, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones (3) \_\_\_\_\_ problems. The BBC interviewed doctors at five UK hospitals. The doctors said many young people are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ sounds. They can hear sounds, but they're (5) \_\_\_\_\_ they are coming from. Noise-cancelling earphones could be (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ people are complaining (8) \_\_\_\_\_. She said we need to hear many (9) \_\_\_\_\_, so we can focus on and decide which sounds are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is (10) \_\_\_\_\_ hearing and listening," and that "listening (11) \_\_\_\_\_". Another audiologist said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and spoken words.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-1.html>

More and more young people are wearing headphones or earbuds. However, a report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could cause hearing problems. The BBC interviewed doctors at five UK hospitals. The doctors said many young people are having problems processing sounds. They can hear sounds, but they're not sure where they are coming from. Noise-cancelling earphones could be the reason why. Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist, said many young people are complaining about poor hearing. She said we need to hear many kinds of sounds, so we can focus on and decide which sounds are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing and listening, and that listening skills are suffering". Another audiologist said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping and spoken words.

# HEADPHONES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Headphones in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING**

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2502/250220-noise-cancelling-headphones-1.html>

Write about **Headphones** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner’s paper.

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