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## Level 3 – 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.html>

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**Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

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

Wherever we look nowadays, we see people wearing headphones or earbuds. They are becoming increasingly popular with the younger generation, for work and for leisure. However, a new report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing loss. The BBC interviewed doctors and audiologists (hearing specialists) at audiology departments in five UK hospitals. The doctors told reporters they are seeing many young people who are finding it more and more difficult to process sounds. The young patients say they can hear sounds, but they're often not sure where the sounds are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could be the problem.

The BBC spoke to Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at London's Imperial College. She said there was an increase in the number of young people complaining about poor hearing. She said people need to hear many kinds of sounds. One important listening skill is to focus on and decide which sounds are helpful. Our ears must filter out sounds we don't think are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering." Another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to bad listening habits. She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping. Headphones may even cause problems in hearing 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>

# WARM-UPS

**1. HEADPHONES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about Headphones. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

nowadays / headphones / popular / generation / hearing / hearing loss / sounds / complaining / poor hearing / skill / listening / bad habits / cars beeping / words

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. VOLUME LIMIT:** Students A **strongly** believe there should be a volume limit on all headphones; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. JOBS:** How useful are noise-cancelling headphones? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Usefulness	Why?
Airline pilots		
Air traffic controller		
Singer		
Artist		
Teacher		
President		

**5. NOWADAYS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "nowadays". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. SOUNDS:** Rank these with your partner. Put the best sounds at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Babies laughing
- The wind
- Classical music
- Alarm clock
- Birds chirping
- Computer starting
- Rain falling
- Popcorn popping

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. nowadays       | a. When you do not have to work; free time.                    |
| 2. popular        | b. A person who is sick and getting help from a doctor.        |
| 3. generation     | c. At the present time; today.                                 |
| 4. leisure        | d. To understand and use information.                          |
| 5. patient (noun) | e. Liked by many people.                                       |
| 6. specialist     | f. A (large) group of people born around the same time / year. |
| 7. process (verb) | g. A person who knows a lot about one subject.                 |

## Paragraph 2

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 8. complaining   | h. Make or something happen.                                     |
| 9. poor          | i. Saying that something is not good or that you do not like it. |
| 10. filter out   | j. Not good.   |
| 11. suffering    | k. Things you do often, usually without thinking.                |
| 12. habits       | l. Becoming worse in quality.                                    |
| 13. beeping      | m. Remove something that is not needed.                          |
| 14. cause (verb) | n. A short, high sound like from a car or an alarm.              |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says everyone wears headphones and earbuds. **T / F**
2. Headphones are becoming more popular with older people. **T / F**
3. The BBC interviewed doctors who were experts in hearing. **T / F**
4. Some young people don't know where the sounds they hear come from. **T / F**
5. More and more older people are complaining about hearing problems. **T / F**
6. A doctor said people need to hear different kinds of sounds. **T / F**
7. The doctor said hearing and listening are the same. **T / F**
8. The doctor said headphone use could make people forget some sounds. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>nowadays</b>    | a. being damaged |
| 2. <b>generation</b>  | b. experts       |
| 3. <b>interviewed</b> | c. age group     |
| 4. <b>specialists</b> | d. useful        |
| 5. <b>sure</b>        | e. result in     |
| 6. <b>increase</b>    | f. certain       |
| 7. <b>helpful</b>     | g. at the moment |
| 8. <b>suffering</b>   | h. difficulties  |
| 9. <b>lead to</b>     | i. questioned    |
| 10. <b>problems</b>   | j. rise          |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Wherever we look                        | a. loss               |
| 2. popular with the younger                | b. are coming from    |
| 3. earphones could lead to hearing         | c. beeping            |
| 4. more and more difficult                 | d. generation         |
| 5. they're often not sure where the sounds | e. sounds are helpful |
| 6. the number of young people complaining  | f. skill              |
| 7. One important listening                 | g. to process sounds  |
| 8. focus on and decide which               | h. habits             |
| 9. lead to bad listening                   | i. nowadays           |
| 10. hear important sounds, like cars       | j. about poor hearing |

# GAP FILL

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

Wherever we look (1) \_\_\_\_\_, we see people wearing headphones or earbuds. They are becoming increasingly (2) \_\_\_\_\_ with the younger generation, for work and for (3) \_\_\_\_\_. However, a new report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The BBC interviewed doctors and audiologists (hearing specialists) at audiology (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in five UK hospitals. The doctors told reporters they are seeing many young people who are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ it more and more difficult to process sounds. The young patients say they can hear sounds, but they're often not (7) \_\_\_\_\_ where the sounds are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could be the (8) \_\_\_\_\_.

The BBC spoke to Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at London's Imperial College. She said there was an (9) \_\_\_\_\_ in the number of young people complaining about (10) \_\_\_\_\_ hearing. She said people need to hear many (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of sounds. One important listening skill is to focus on and decide which sounds are helpful. Our ears must (12) \_\_\_\_\_ out sounds we don't think are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a (13) \_\_\_\_\_ between hearing and listening. We can see that listening (14) \_\_\_\_\_ are suffering." Another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to (15) \_\_\_\_\_ listening habits. She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping. Headphones may even (16) \_\_\_\_\_ problems in hearing spoken words.

*departments*

*nowadays*

*sure*

*leisure*

*problem*

*finding*

*loss*

*popular*

*kinds*

*increase*

*difference*

*filter*

*poor*

*bad*

*cause*

*skills*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) Wherever we look nowadays, we see people wearing \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. headphones or earbuds
  - b. headphones or iPads
  - c. headphones or earrings
  - d. headphones or ear bids
- 2) the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to hearing lost
  - b. to hearing loss
  - c. to hearing lose
  - d. to hearing floss
- 3) many young people who are finding it more and more difficult \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to process sands
  - b. to process surrounds
  - c. to process astounds
  - d. to process sounds
- 4) patients say they can hear sounds, but they're often not sure where the sounds \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. are going from
  - b. are coming from
  - c. are coming to
  - d. are going form
- 5) The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. been the problem
  - b. being the problem
  - c. be the problem
  - d. beaver problem
- 6) She said there was an increase in the number of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. young people combing
  - b. young people complain in
  - c. young people complaining
  - d. young people combining
- 7) She said people need to hear many \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. kinds of sounds
  - b. kinds off sounds
  - c. kinds oft sounds
  - d. kinds of sound
- 8) We can see that listening \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. skills are suffer ring
  - b. skills are suffer in
  - c. skills are surfing
  - d. skills are suffering
- 9) Another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. bald listening habits
  - b. bed listening habits
  - c. bad listening habits
  - d. bade listening habits
- 10) She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. like cars bee ping
  - b. like cars beeping
  - c. like cars beep ping
  - d. like cars beep in

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

Wherever (1) \_\_\_\_\_, we see people wearing headphones or earbuds. They are becoming increasingly popular with (2) \_\_\_\_\_, for work and for leisure. However, a new report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing loss. The BBC interviewed (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (hearing specialists) at audiology departments in five UK hospitals. The doctors told reporters (4) \_\_\_\_\_ many young people who are finding it more and more difficult to process sounds. The (5) \_\_\_\_\_ they can hear sounds, but they're often not sure where the sounds are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

The BBC spoke to Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at London's Imperial College. She said there was an increase (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of young people complaining about poor hearing. She said people need to hear many (8) \_\_\_\_\_. One important listening skill is to focus on and decide which sounds are helpful. Our ears (9) \_\_\_\_\_ sounds we don't think are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing and listening. We can see that listening (10) \_\_\_\_\_." Another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to (11) \_\_\_\_\_. She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping. Headphones may even cause problems in (12) \_\_\_\_\_.



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What are people wearing besides headphones?
2. Who are headphones becoming more popular with?
3. Who did the BBC talk to?
4. What are young people having more difficulties in processing?
5. What are some young people unsure of?
6. What is the job of Dr Renee Almeida?
7. What did Dr Almeida say we need to hear?
8. What should we do to sounds we don't think are important?
9. What did Dr Almeida say are different?
10. What important sound might people "forget" to hear?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What are people wearing besides headphones?
  - a) perfume
  - b) earbuds
  - c) seatbelts
  - d) contact lenses
- 2) Who are headphones becoming more popular with?
  - a) office workers
  - b) the elderly
  - c) children
  - d) the younger generation
- 3) Who did the BBC talk to?
  - a) audiologists
  - b) anthropologists
  - c) archaeologists
  - d) apologists
- 4) What are young people having more difficulties in processing?
  - a) computer code
  - b) life
  - c) sounds
  - d) food
- 5) What are some young people unsure of?
  - a) which headphones to buy
  - b) where sounds are coming from
  - c) whether to buy headphones or earbuds
  - d) which volume level to choose
- 6) What is the job of Dr Renee Almeida?
  - a) She's an audiologist.
  - b) She's a journalist.
  - c) She's a surgeon.
  - d) She's an artist.
- 7) What did Dr Almeida say we need to hear?
  - a) good music
  - b) the spoken word
  - c) many kinds of sounds
  - d) good news
- 8) What should we do to sounds we don't think are important?
  - a) filter them out
  - b) listen harder
  - c) ignore them
  - d) record them
- 9) What did Dr Almeida say are different?
  - a) hearing and listening
  - b) accents
  - c) the pitch of sounds
  - d) the tempo of speech
- 10) What important sound might people "forget" to hear?
  - a) C# major
  - b) the alarm clock
  - c) the door bell
  - d) cars beeping

# ROLE PLAY

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

## **Role A – Babies Laughing**

You think babies laughing is the best sound. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sounds. Also, tell the others which is the least likeable of these (and why): the wind, birds chirping or popcorn popping.

## **Role B – The Wind**

You think the wind is the best sound. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sounds. Also, tell the others which is the least likeable of these (and why): babies laughing, birds chirping or popcorn popping.

## **Role C – Birds Chirping**

You think birds chirping is the best sound. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sounds. Also, tell the others which is the least likeable of these (and why): the wind, babies laughing or popcorn popping.

## **Role D – Popcorn Popping**

You think popcorn popping is the best sound. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sounds. Also, tell the others which is the least likeable of these (and why): the wind, birds chirping or babies laughing.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'noise' and 'headphones'.

<b>noise</b>	<b>headphones</b>
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• look</li><li>• new</li><li>• five</li><li>• process</li><li>• sure</li><li>• problem</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• number</li><li>• kinds</li><li>• focus</li><li>• filter</li><li>• bad</li><li>• spoken</li></ul>
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# HEADPHONES SURVEY

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

# HEADPHONES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'noise'?
3. What do you think of headphones?
4. Which are better – headphones or earbuds?
5. Why are headphones more popular with the younger generation?
6. What kinds of headphones do you like?
7. Do you worry about hearing loss because of headphones?
8. What are the good and bad things about headphones?
9. How often do you use headphones?
10. What is your hearing like?

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# HEADPHONES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'headphones'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What can people do if they have poor hearing?
15. What are your favourite sounds?
16. What are your least-liked sounds?
17. What's the difference between hearing and listening?
18. What sound is it really important to hear?
19. What will headphones be like in the future?
20. What questions would you like to ask the audiologists?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

Wherever we look (1) \_\_\_\_\_, we see people wearing headphones or earbuds. They are becoming increasingly popular with the younger (2) \_\_\_\_\_, for work and for leisure. However, a new report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The BBC interviewed doctors and audiologists (hearing specialists) at audiology departments in five UK hospitals. The doctors told reporters they are (4) \_\_\_\_\_ many young people who are finding it (5) \_\_\_\_\_ and more difficult to process sounds. The young patients say they can hear sounds, but they're often not sure where the sounds are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the problem.

The BBC spoke to Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at London's Imperial College. She said there was an increase (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the number of young people complaining about poor hearing. She said people (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to hear many kinds of sounds. One important listening skill is to focus on and decide which sounds are helpful. Our ears must filter (9) \_\_\_\_\_ sounds we don't think are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ between hearing and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering." Another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ listening habits. She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping. Headphones may even cause problems in hearing (12) \_\_\_\_\_ words.

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |                |               |                |                |
|-----|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) days       | (b) daytime   | (c) nowadays   | (d) daily      |
| 2.  | (a) generation | (b) generate  | (c) gargantuan | (d) genes      |
| 3.  | (a) lost       | (b) loss      | (c) losing     | (d) loser      |
| 4.  | (a) sees       | (b) seen      | (c) seer       | (d) seeing     |
| 5.  | (a) many       | (b) most      | (c) more       | (d) much       |
| 6.  | (a) being      | (b) be        | (c) been       | (d) to be      |
| 7.  | (a) in         | (b) at        | (c) by         | (d) as         |
| 8.  | (a) needy      | (b) necessary | (c) needy      | (d) need       |
| 9.  | (a) in         | (b) of        | (c) out        | (d) up         |
| 10. | (a) differed   | (b) different | (c) differ     | (d) difference |
| 11. | (a) bade       | (b) bad       | (c) bald       | (d) baddie     |
| 12. | (a) spoken     | (b) speech    | (c) speaking   | (d) spoke      |



# SPELLING

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

## Paragraph 1

1. Wherever we look dawsonya
2. people wearing headphones or budersa
3. They are becoming increasingly plarpuo
4. hearing psciatsilse
5. more difficult to sespcor sounds
6. young atstinpe say they can

## Paragraph 2

7. people namciigponl about poor hearing
8. Our ears must eliftr out sounds
9. listening skills are sngiefufr
10. bad listening tbshia
11. cars bipneeg
12. problems in hearing opesnk words

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could be the problem.
- ( ) The BBC spoke to Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at London's Imperial College. She said there was an
- ( **1** ) Wherever we look nowadays, we see people wearing headphones or earbuds. They are becoming increasingly popular
- ( ) from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing loss. The BBC interviewed doctors
- ( ) lead to bad listening habits. She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars
- ( ) increase in the number of young people complaining about poor hearing. She said people need to hear many kinds
- ( ) and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering." Another audiologist suggested that headphones can
- ( ) sounds. The young patients say they can hear sounds, but they're often not sure where the sounds are
- ( ) with the younger generation, for work and for leisure. However, a new report
- ( ) of sounds. One important listening skill is to focus on and decide which sounds are helpful. Our ears must filter
- ( ) beeping. Headphones may even cause problems in hearing spoken words.
- ( ) seeing many young people who are finding it more and more difficult to process
- ( ) and audiologists (hearing specialists) at audiology departments in five UK hospitals. The doctors told reporters they are
- ( ) out sounds we don't think are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. nowadays, people we look Wherever wearing are headphones .
2. generation . younger increasingly They're popular the with becoming
3. earphones Noise-cancelling lead to hearing loss . could
4. who difficult . Young people more are it finding
5. The they patients can say young hear sounds .
6. An people . in the of increase young number
7. People kinds of to need sounds . hear many
8. to can lead Headphones listening bad habits .
9. cars hear to sounds, Forget like important beeping .
10. cause spoken words . hearing even problems Headphones in

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

Wherever we look *daily / nowadays*, we see people wearing headphones or earbuds. They are becoming *increasingly / increased* popular with the younger generation, for work and *for / of* leisure. However, a new report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could *steel / lead* to hearing loss. The BBC interviewed doctors and audiologists (hearing specialists) *as / at* audiology departments in five UK hospitals. The doctors told reporters they are *seen / seeing* many young people who are *funding / finding* it more and more difficult to *process / proceed* sounds. The young patients say they can hear sounds, but they're often not *surely / sure* where the sounds are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could *be / is* the problem.

The BBC spoke to Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at London's Imperial College. She said there was an *increase / decrease* in the number of *young / youngster* people complaining about poor hearing. She said people *necessary / need* to hear many *kinds / kind* of sounds. One important listening skill is to focus *in / on* and decide which sounds are helpful. Our ears must filter *out / up* sounds we don't think are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a *difference / different* between hearing and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering." Another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to *bald / bad* listening habits. She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, *liked / like* cars beeping. Headphones may even cause problems in hearing *spoken / speaking* words.

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Wh\_r\_v\_r w\_ l\_\_k n\_w\_d\_ys, w\_ s\_\_ p\_\_pl\_ w\_\_r\_ng  
h\_\_dph\_n\_s \_r \_\_rb\_ds. Th\_y \_r\_ b\_c\_m\_ng  
\_ncr\_\_s\_ngly p\_p\_l\_r w\_th th\_ y\_\_ng\_r g\_n\_r\_t\_n, f\_r  
w\_rk \_nd f\_r l\_\_s\_r\_. H\_w\_v\_r, \_ n\_w r\_p\_rt fr\_m th\_  
BBC s\_gg\_sts n\_\_s\_-c\_nc\_ll\_ng \_\_rph\_n\_s c\_\_ld l\_\_d t\_  
h\_\_r\_ng l\_ss. Th\_ BBC \_nt\_rv\_\_w\_d d\_ct\_rs \_nd  
\_\_d\_\_l\_g\_sts (h\_\_r\_ng sp\_c\_\_l\_sts) \_t \_\_d\_\_l\_gy  
d\_p\_rtm\_nts \_n f\_v\_ \_K h\_sp\_t\_ls. Th\_ d\_ct\_rs t\_ld  
r\_p\_rts th\_y \_r\_ s\_\_ng m\_ny y\_\_ng p\_\_pl\_ wh\_ \_r\_  
f\_nd\_ng \_t m\_r\_ \_nd m\_r\_ d\_ff\_c\_lt t\_ pr\_c\_ss s\_\_nds.  
Th\_ y\_\_ng p\_t\_\_nts s\_y th\_y c\_n h\_\_r s\_\_nds, b\_t  
th\_y'r\_ \_ft\_n n\_t s\_r\_ wh\_r\_ th\_ s\_\_nds \_r\_ c\_m\_ng  
fr\_m. Th\_ d\_ct\_rs s\_y n\_\_s\_-c\_nc\_ll\_ng \_\_rph\_n\_s c\_\_ld  
b\_ th\_ pr\_bl\_m.

Th\_ BBC sp\_k\_ t\_ Dr R\_n\_\_ \_lm\_\_d\_, \_n \_\_d\_\_l\_g\_st  
\_t L\_nd\_n's \_mp\_r\_\_l C\_ll\_g\_. Sh\_ s\_\_d th\_r\_ w\_s \_n  
\_ncr\_\_s\_ \_n th\_ n\_mb\_r \_f y\_\_ng p\_\_pl\_ c\_mpl\_\_n\_ng  
\_b\_\_t p\_\_r h\_\_r\_ng. Sh\_ s\_\_d p\_\_pl\_ n\_\_d t\_ h\_\_r  
m\_ny k\_nds \_f s\_\_nds. \_n\_ \_mp\_r\_t\_nt l\_st\_n\_ng sk\_ll  
\_s t\_ f\_c\_s \_n \_nd d\_c\_d\_ wh\_ch s\_\_nds \_r\_ h\_lpf\_l.  
\_\_r \_\_rs m\_st f\_lt\_r \_\_t s\_\_nds w\_ d\_n't th\_nk \_r\_  
\_mp\_r\_t\_nt. Dr \_lm\_\_d\_ s\_\_d: "Th\_r\_ \_s \_ d\_ff\_r\_nc\_  
b\_tw\_\_n h\_\_r\_ng \_nd l\_st\_n\_ng. W\_ c\_n s\_\_ th\_t  
l\_st\_n\_ng sk\_lls \_r\_ s\_ff\_r\_ng." \_n\_th\_r \_\_d\_\_l\_g\_st  
s\_gg\_st\_d th\_t h\_\_dph\_n\_s c\_n l\_\_d t\_ b\_d l\_st\_n\_ng  
h\_b\_ts. Sh\_ s\_\_d w\_ c\_n "f\_rg\_t" t\_ h\_\_r \_mp\_r\_t\_nt  
s\_\_nds, l\_k\_ c\_rs b\_\_p\_ng. H\_\_dph\_n\_s m\_y \_v\_n  
c\_\_s\_ pr\_bl\_ms \_n h\_\_r\_ng sp\_k\_n w\_rds.

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

wherever we look nowadays we see people wearing headphones or earbuds they are becoming increasingly popular with the younger generation for work and for leisure however a new report from the bbc suggests noisecancelling earphones could lead to hearing loss the bbc interviewed doctors and audiologists hearing specialists at audiology departments in five uk hospitals the doctors told reporters they are seeing many young people who are finding it more and more difficult to process sounds the young patients say they can hear sounds but theyre often not sure where the sounds are coming from the doctors say noisecancelling earphones could be the problem

the bbc spoke to dr renee almeida an audiologist at londons imperial college she said there was an increase in the number of young people complaining about poor hearing she said people need to hear many kinds of sounds one important listening skill is to focus on and decide which sounds are helpful our ears must filter out sounds we dont think are important dr almeida said there is a difference between hearing and listening we can see that listening skills are suffering another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to bad listening habits she said we can forget to hear important sounds like cars beeping headphones may even cause problems in hearing spoken words

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

Wherever we look nowadays, we see people wearing headphones or ear buds. They are becoming increasingly popular with the younger generation, for work and for leisure. However, a new report from the BBC suggests noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing loss. The BBC interviewed doctors and audiologists (hearing specialists) at audiology departments in five UK hospitals. The doctors told reporters they are seeing many young people who are finding it more and more difficult to process sounds. The young patients say they can hear sounds, but they're often not sure where the sounds are coming from. The doctors say noise-cancelling earphones could be the problem. The BBC spoke to Dr Renee Almeida, an audiologist at London's Imperial College. She said there was an increase in the number of young people complaining about poor hearing. She said people need to hear many kinds of sounds. One important listening skill is to focus on and decide which sounds are helpful. Our ears must filter out sounds we don't think are important. Dr Almeida said: "There is a difference between hearing and listening. We can see that listening skills are suffering. Another audiologist suggested that headphones can lead to bad listening habits. She said we can "forget" to hear important sounds, like cars beeping. Headphones may even cause problems in hearing spoken words.

# FREE WRITING

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

Write about **headphones** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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# HOMEWORK

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. HEADPHONES:** Make a poster about headphones. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. VOLUME LIMIT:** Write a magazine article about placing a limit on the volume of headphones. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on headphones. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on headphones and earbuds. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c    2. e    3. f    4. a    5. b    6. g    7. d  
8. i    9. j    10. m    11. l    12. k    13. n    14. h

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 T    4 T    5 F    6 T    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. g	2. c	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. j	7. d	8. a	9. e	10. h

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Earbuds
2. The younger generation
3. Audiologists
4. Sounds
5. Where sounds are coming from
6. She's an audiologist.
7. Many kinds of sounds
8. Filter them out
9. Hearing and listening
10. Cars beeping

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. Wherever we look nowadays, people are wearing headphones.
2. They're becoming increasingly popular with the younger generation.
3. Noise-cancelling earphones could lead to hearing loss.
4. Young people who are finding it more difficult.
5. The young patients say they can hear sounds.
6. An increase in the number of young people.
7. People need to hear many kinds of sounds.
8. Headphones can lead to bad listening habits.
9. Forget to hear important sounds, like cars beeping.
10. Headphones even cause problems in hearing spoken words.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b    2. d    3. a    4. c    5. b    6. a    7. c    8. a    9. a    10. d

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)