



## Intro

# Hearing Aid Experiences

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hearing aid benefit and satisfaction as reported by its users are generally measured using standardized questionnaires. However, not all the items within these questionnaires are applicable and/or considered important by all hearing aid users. For this reason, using open-ended questions may have some value in gathering deeper insights into real-world and everyday life of hearing aid users. In this study, we aim to examine perspectives of hearing aid users from their own words. We hope that the knowledge generated from this study will help facilitate hearing aid journey as well as in designing the future generation hearing aids.

The study has been approved by the Lamar University's Institutional Review Board (IRB-FY21-248). All the information recorded will be kept confidential and stored in an encrypted manner. Participation in this study is voluntary. Estimated time of survey is 15 minutes. The attached document has some additional information. However, we are happy to answer any questions you may have before the start of this study.

To view additional study information and procedures, please click on the file below.

## [Additional Study Information](#)

By clicking below, I consent electronically to participate in this study.

☐ Yes, I consent

☐ No, I do not consent

**Demographic and hearing aid related information**

How old are you (in years)?

Please indicate your gender:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary (or gender neutral)

Do you have any difficulty with your hearing (without hearing aids)?

- ☐ No, I always hear everything
- ☐ Yes, sometimes I do not hear what is being said
- ☐ Yes, I regularly do not hear what is being said
- ☐ Yes, I almost never hear what is being said

How long have you had hearing loss? Provide your answer in years.

Do you own a hearing aid for your:

- ☐ Right ear
- ☐ Left ear
- ☐ Both ears

From the time you first learned you had a hearing problem how long did you wait before purchasing your first hearing aids?  
Please provide your answer as a numerical value (e.g., 1, 3, 15).

Year(s)

Month(s)

What type of hearing aid do you use?

- ☐ In-the-ear (ITE) hearing aids (Hearing aid sits completely/entirely in the ear)



- ☐ Behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids (Hearing aid has 2 parts: One part, the mold, sits in the ear and the other part, the hearing aid, sits behind the ear)



Which brand hearing aid do you currently use?

- ☐ Kirkland
- ☐ Oticon
- ☐ Phonak
- ☐ ReSound
- ☐ Signia / Siemens
- ☐ Starkey
- ☐ Unitron
- ☐ Widex
- ☐  Other, please specify

How did you purchase your current hearing aids?

- ☐ From a hearing clinic (private or university)
- ☐ Discount Warehouse (Costco, Sams, etc.)
- ☐ Internet / Online
- ☐ Pharmacy Hearing Center (CVS)

- ☐ A hearing professional came to my residence
- ☐  Other, please specify:

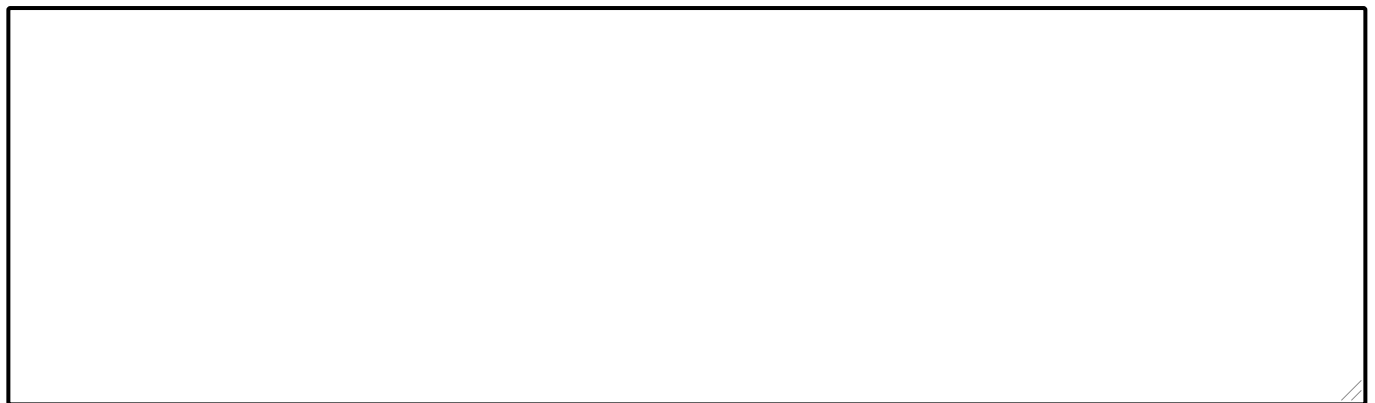
### Open-ended questions

For many people, getting and wearing a hearing aid is a major life decision. They often say that getting a hearing aid is embarrassing and makes them feel or look old. Others worry about the cost or what others will say. How did you deal with these issues when you decided to buy a hearing aid? What motivated you to get hearing aids? Was there a single reason or event that convinced you or were there many reasons? Please provide as much detail as possible about the reason or reasons why you decided to get hearing aids. What would you recommend to others who are starting to have hearing problems?

Have hearing aids changed your life in a meaningful way? Why or why not? We would really like to know your experience with your hearing aids and how you think and feel about your hearing aids.



We are trying to understand when people do and do not wear their hearing aids. Other than when you are alone, when do you avoid wearing hearing aids? Why? Why do you think people often avoid wearing hearing aids in situations that they really should?



We talk to audiologists and hearing aid companies. Tell us how you would like hearing aids to change to be more useful for you and the people around you. Please be honest. We really would like your thoughts and feelings about this. Your comments will help us when we talk to people in the industry.



## Hearing aid benefit/satisfaction

Think about how much you used your present hearing aid(s) over the past two weeks. On an average day, how many hours did you use the hearing aid(s)?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Less than 1 hour a day
- ☐ 1 to 4 hours a day
- ☐ 4 to 8 hours a day
- ☐ More than 8 hours a day

Think about the situation where you most wanted to hear better, before you got your present hearing aid(s). Over the past two weeks, how much has the hearing aid helped in that situation?

- ☐ Helped not at all
- ☐ Helped slightly
- ☐ Helped moderately
- ☐ Helped quite a lot
- ☐ Helped very much

Think again about the situation where you most wanted to hear better. When you use your present hearing aid(s), how much difficulty do you STILL have in that situation?

- ☐ Very much difficulty
- ☐ Quite a lot of difficulty
- ☐ Moderate difficulty
- ☐ Slight difficulty

☐ No difficulty

Considering everything, do you think your present hearing aid(s) is worth the trouble?

- ☐ Not at all worth it
- ☐ Slightly worth it
- ☐ Moderately worth it
- ☐ Quite a lot worth it
- ☐ Very much worth it

Over the past two weeks, with your present hearing aid(s), how much have your hearing difficulties affected the things you can do?

- ☐ Affected very much
- ☐ Affected quite a lot
- ☐ Affected moderately
- ☐ Affected slightly
- ☐ Affected not at all

Over the past two weeks, with your present hearing aid(s), how much do you think other people were bothered by your hearing difficulties?

- ☐ Bothered very much
- ☐ Bothered quite a lot
- ☐ Bothered moderately
- ☐ Bothered slightly



☐ Bothered not at all

Considering everything, how much has your present hearing aid(s) changed your enjoyment of life?

- ☐ Worse
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Slightly better
- ☐ Quite a lot better
- ☐ Very much better

**General health and well-being & social network**

In general, would you say your health is:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

In general, would you say your mental health is:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

How would you rate your quality of life?

- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Neither poor nor good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Very good

In a typical week, how much time do you spend in total on moderate and vigorous physical activities where your heartbeat increases and you breathe faster (e.g., brisk walking, cycling, heavy gardening, running, recreational sport):

- ☐ Less than ½ an hour (30 minutes)
- ☐ ½ an hour to 1½ hour (30-90 minutes)
- ☐ 1½ - 2½ hours (90-150 minutes)
- ☐ 2½ - 5 hours (150-300 minutes)
- ☐ More than 5 hours (more than 300 minutes)

**For the following questions (questions 5 to 10), please provide your answer as a numerical value (e.g., 1, 3, 15).**

How many people live in your household?

How many children do you have?

How many grandchildren do you have?

How many people do you know that you would call a close friend?

How many people do you know that have hearing loss but who do not have hearing aids?

How many people do you know that have hearing loss and have/wear hearing aids?

#### **Additional demographic information**

Which of the following options best describe your work situation?

- ☐ Employed or homemaker
- ☐ Out of work or looking for work
- ☐ Student

- ☐ Unable to work
- ☐ Retired

What is the highest level of schooling (education) you have completed?

- ☐ Less than high school
- ☐ High school
- ☐ Some college but not degree
- ☐ A university degree

Please select one of the following options that describes your living arrangement/ situation:

- ☐ I live with my family
- ☐ I live with my spouse/partner
- ☐ I live with a friend
- ☐ I live on my own

What is your ethnicity?

- ☐ Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Non-Hispanic or Latino

What is your race?

- ☐ American Indian

- ☐ Alaska Native, Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ More than One Race

What is your pretax household income, approximately?

- ☐ Under \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,000
- ☐ \$150,000 or more

#### Block 5

We are inviting a few people who completed the questionnaire to participate in a virtual interview (Zoom). Are you interested in participating in this interview study?

- ☐ Yes. If yes, please share your email address.

- ☐ No