

Hearing loss



What is hearing loss?

Someone is defined as experiencing hearing loss if they have a loss of 25 decibels on the speech band.

One can obviously not prevent hearing loss caused by illness. However, by always wearing suitable protective gear when operating in a noisy environment, particularly at work, the occurrence of acoustic trauma may be reduced. For example, youth should not listen to their i-Pod for longer than 30 minutes on 50% of the volume (from 85 dBHL upwards are dangerous sound levels).

Causes of hearing loss



- Genetics / hereditary
- Illness / medication
- Trauma

Factors influencing how people experience hearing loss

- Severity of the hearing loss;
- Time of onset of the hearing loss;
- Cause of hearing loss;
- Support and assistance from family and friends;
- General state of health; and
- Socio-economic circumstances.

These factors will impact on –

- The individual's acceptance of- and adjustment to the hearing loss;
- Preferred method of communication;
- Education method best suited to the individual;
- Hearing instruments & assistive devices the individual can benefit from;
- Career the individual is able to pursue; and
- Social integration

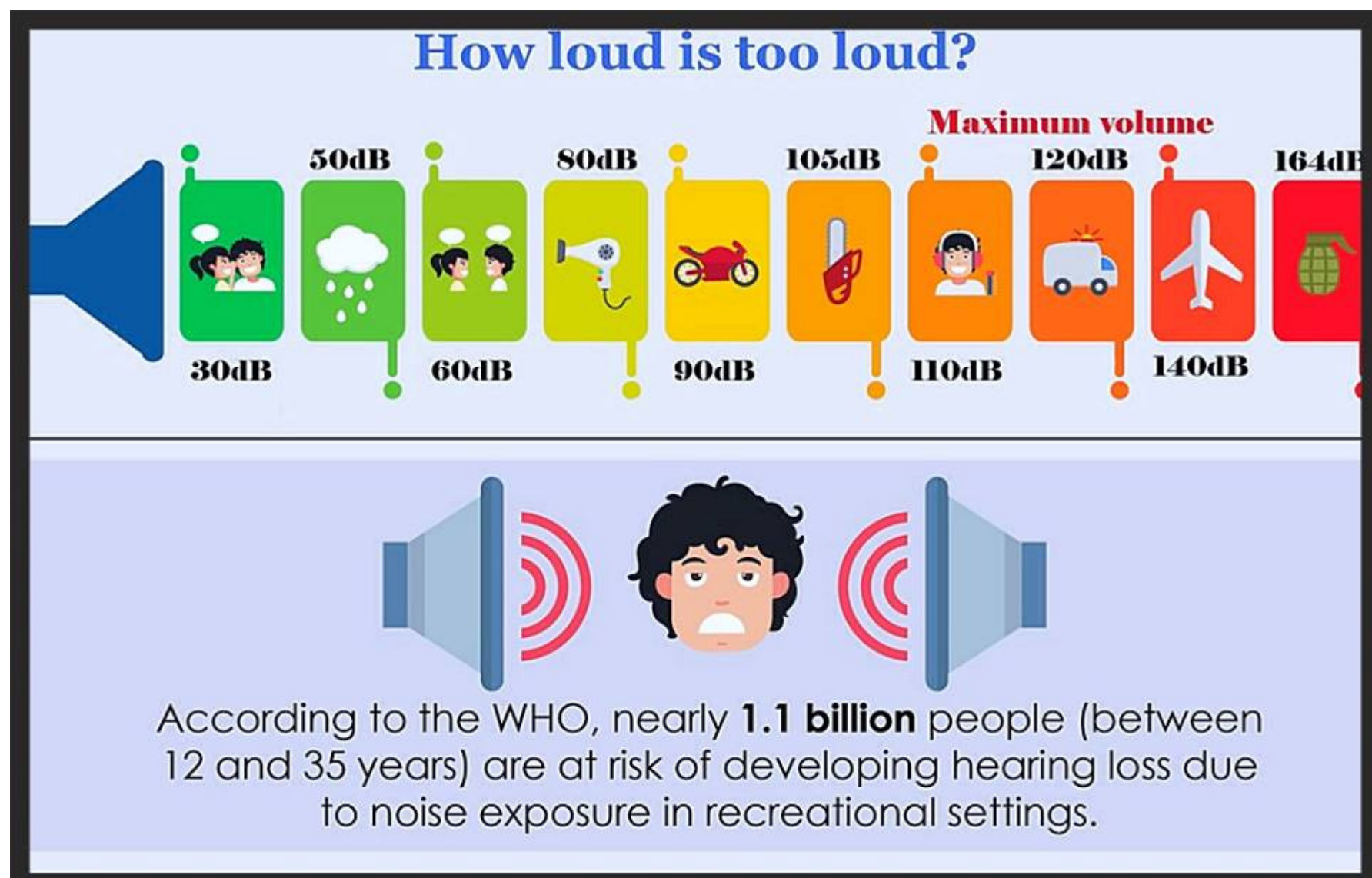
Spoken language
1st language
Communication

Pre-lingual

Before
Sign language
SL interpreter

post-lingual

After
Eng / Afr / Xhosa
Lip speaker



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