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FREQUENCY SHIFTING

High-frequency hearing loss makes it difficult to perceive many of the high-frequency voiceless consonants such as the “t,” “k,” “f,” “th,” “sh,” and “s” sounds. As a result, those suffering from high-frequency loss find it difficult to understand conversation. Hearing instrument manufacturers understand that this problem cannot be fully overcome simply by amplifying the higher frequencies, particularly for those with severe to profound high-frequency hearing loss. This understanding has led to the development of a “frequency shifting” feature found in many instruments, which shifts high-pitch sounds to lower frequencies where hearing is typically better. While this feature may require a period of adjustment, it enables those with significant high-frequency hearing loss to better respond to speech and environmental sounds.

TIP OF THE WEEK

If you experience a significant high frequency hearing loss, and high frequency emphasis does not meet your communication needs, ask your audiologist about whether your hearing devices have the capability of frequency shifting. Most hearing instrument manufacturers have this feature available.

P.S. High-frequency hearing loss is the most common type of hearing impairment.

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