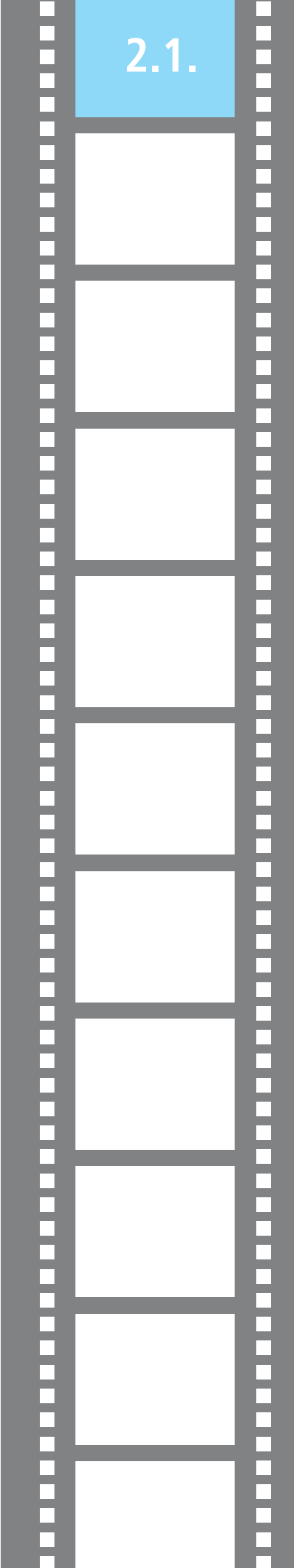


**Deafness**  
2.1.3. Hearing aids




2.1.



## Hearing Aid Types<sup>1</sup>

Analog	Converts sound into electronic signals; special options available; reliable; may amplify all sounds; least expensive.
Digital	Converts electronic signals into numerically coded signals, like those used in computer microchips; more special options available; reduces background noise; better volume control; larger; more expensive.
Hybrid	Combines analog and digital technology – digital computer chips control the operation of analog components; reliable; adaptable; must be sent to factory for adjustment.
Digitally programmable	Uses digital technology and computer microchips to tailor the device to its user; can be custom-programmed; can be adjusted for different environments; may rely on remote control; most expensive.




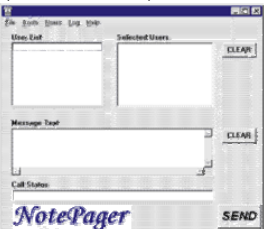
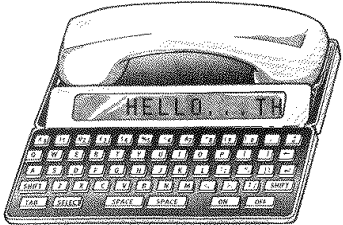

## Hearing Aid Styles<sup>2</sup>

<p>Behind-the-ear</p> 	Arc-shaped device that fits behind the ear and connects to an earmold in the ear; appropriate for all degrees of hearing loss; room for many special feature options; durable; largest; least expensive.
<p>In-the-ear</p> 	Round device, enclosed in custom-fitted case that fits in the opening of the ear outside the canal; appropriate for mild, moderate and moderate-to-severe hearing loss; limited amplification power; less space for special-features; small controls; may produce acoustic feedback; small; mid-priced.
<p>In-the-canal</p> 	Small round device, enclosed in case custom-fitted for the ear-canal opening; appropriate for mild to moderate hearing loss; limited amplification power; little space for special-feature options; small controls; may produce acoustic feedback; smallest; most expensive.





<sup>1</sup> Based on Hays, 1994: 86.

<sup>2</sup> Based on Hays, 1994: 92.

## Communication Technology<sup>3</sup>

<p>Pager</p> 	<p>Only allows incoming messages. Some models only receive numerical messages, but more recent models allow for written text. They are small and have many hours autonomy. Some models vibrate with incoming messages.</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b> Can be used anywhere, even where there are no phone connections. May receive regular messages on the news, weather, traffic,....</p> <p><b>Disadvantages:</b> Can only receive messages.</p>
<p>SMS (cellular phone messages)</p> 	<p>Allows you to send messages containing up to 160 characters to other cellular phones. Messages may be sent free of charge via internet. Cell phones with vibration are preferable.</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b> Inexpensive. Fast transmission. Normalization allows for compatibility with various operators.</p> <p><b>Disadvantages:</b> Slow process because messages are written on the phone's multifunctional keyboard.</p>
<p>FAX or Telefax</p> 	<p>Allows you to send typed or handwritten messages, pictures or documents.</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b> Covered by phone lines. Can also be used as a photocopying machine. Reasonably priced.</p> <p><b>Disadvantage:</b> Needs fixed phone connection to exchange messages.</p>
<p>Notepager (PC software)</p> 	<p>Allows you to use any PC as a text telephone (TTY).</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b> Can be connected via radio if adapted to an emitter/receptor.</p> <p><b>Disadvantages:</b> Has been overridden by "chat" and other more recent facilities.</p>
<p>Text Telephone</p> 	<p>Allows communication between two people who have a telephone. It does not have a physical connection to the phone. Connects acoustically to the earpiece of a normal telephone. Some models are connected to the phone line directly and are, therefore, more reliable.</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b> Some models are portable; costs are reduced to the price of normal phone calls.</p> <p><b>Disadvantages:</b> Expensive devices. Not universally compatible. Not many deaf people can afford them.</p>
<p>Cellular Text phones</p> 	<p>Text phone with integrated cell phone. Has a 45-minute autonomy of continual use of the text phone.</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b> unknown.</p> <p><b>Disadvantages:</b> obsolete</p>
<p>Phone Strobe</p>	<p>Flashes when the phone rings.</p> <p><b>Advantages:</b> Highly visible, even in daylight.</p> <p><b>Disadvantages:</b> Unknown.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Based on information in [www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Union/6558/comunica.html](http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Union/6558/comunica.html)

	
<p>Luminous doorbell</p> 	<p>Produces red light.  <b>Advantages:</b> Cheap  <b>Disadvantages:</b> Less efficient than phone strobe.</p>
<p>Paragon Text Phone</p> 	<p>Text telephone. Connects directly to the telephone line.  <b>Advantages:</b> Comfortable keyboard.  <b>Disadvantages:</b> Incompatible with other systems.</p>
<p>Teletext (television)</p> 	<p>Pages with information of various kinds: news, weather, leisure, ...  <b>Advantages:</b> Accessible. Costless.  <b>Disadvantages:</b> Can only view what has been offered by the television service.</p>