

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.

How useful are noise canceling headphones to the following people?

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

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.