

Huh? Teens, Tweens Suffer Hearing Loss

By Myra Jefferies from *Science* magazine

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

<p>A stunning one in five teens has lost a little bit of hearing, and the problem has increased substantially in recent years, a new national study has found. Some experts are urging teenagers to turn down the volume on their digital music players, suggesting loud music through earbuds may be to blame — although hard evidence is lacking. Young people need to be more aware of how listening to loud, prolonged music can damage their hearing.</p>	<p>1. What is the topic of this article?</p> <p>2. What type evidence is being used in the beginning of the article?</p> <p>3. What is one possible cause given for hearing loss?</p>
<p>Researchers warn that even a small amount of hearing loss can cause problems in school and set the stage for hearing aids in later life. They analyzed data on 12- to 19-year-olds from a nationwide health survey. Based on the survey, about 6.5 million with at least slight hearing loss (Jefferies 6).</p>	<p>4. What type of evidence is being used in this paragraph?</p>
<p>Most of the hearing loss was "slight," defined as inability to hear at 16 to 24 decibels — or sounds such as a whisper or rustling leaves. A teenager with slight hearing loss might not be able to hear water dripping or his mother whispering "good night." Those with slight hearing loss "will hear all the vowel sounds clearly; however, they might miss some of the consonant sounds" such as <i>t</i>, <i>k</i> and <i>s</i>.</p>	<p>5. Which of the sentences below best expresses a detail?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> A teenager with slight hearing loss may not be able to hear some things.<input type="checkbox"/> Those with slight hearing loss might miss some of the consonant sounds such as <i>t</i>, <i>k</i> and <i>s</i>.
<p>While the researchers didn't single out iPods or any other device for blame, they found a significant increase in high-frequency hearing loss, which they said may indicate that noise caused the problems. Dr. Thompson, an Australian researcher studying the issue, said, "We found that the use of personal listening devices accounted for a 70 percent increased risk of hearing loss in children" (Mendez 4). This further illustrates the risk young people take when listening to loud music.</p>	<p>6. What are two types of evidence being used in this paragraph?</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>

Some people may argue that playing loud music isn't exactly a new concept. Each generation of teenagers has found a different technology from which to blast music — from the bulky headphones of the 1960s to the handheld Sony Walkmans of the 1980s. However, today's young people are listening more than twice as long as previous generations, said Brian Fligor, an audiologist at Children's Hospital Boston. "The older technologies had limited battery life and limited music storage" (Fligor 13). This demonstrates that the more recent technology, such as music streaming and ear buds may cause increased harm to a young person's ears.

- 7. What argument technique is being used in this paragraph?
- 8. What type of evidence is being used in the second sentence of this paragraph?
- 9. Circle the transitional word that indicates a contrasting idea in this paragraph.
- 10. What other type of evidence is used in this paragraph?

One of Fligor's patients, 17-year-old Matthew Brady of Foxborough, Mass., recently was diagnosed with mild hearing loss. He has trouble hearing his friends in the school cafeteria; in fact, he often ends up faking comprehension. "I laugh when they laugh," he said. Fligor believes Brady's muffled hearing was caused by listening to an iPod turned up too loud and for too long. While exercising on his treadmill, Brady would crank up the volume on his favorites — John Mellencamp, Daughtry, Bon Jovi and U2 — at least four days a week for 30-minute stretches. One day last summer, he got off the treadmill and found he couldn't hear anything with his left ear. His hearing gradually returned, but it was never the same.

- 11. What types of evidence are being used in this part of the article?
 - a)
 - b)
- 12. If I say that all teenagers like to listen to music that's too loud, that would be an example of—
 - bias.
 - a stereotype.
- 13. The purpose of this article is mostly to—
 - persuade.
 - inform.
 - entertain.
- 14. The statement "The headphones of the 1960's were ugly and bulky" is a/an—
 - fact.
 - opinion.

15. Write a topic sentence for a summary of this article. Use the ATAAC format. Review the hand-out in your English Folder to help you.
