

The Human Ear

The outer part of the human ear helps to channel sound waves into the ear. The vibrations meet a thin, tightly stretched, skin called the ear drum. The ear drum then vibrates and the vibrations are amplified by the three tiny bones the anvil, the hammer and the stirrup. The vibrations then reach the inner ear which has a long tube with fluid in, called the cochlea. Inside the cochlea there are tiny nerves which send the messages about the vibrations to the brain.

Having two ears helps us to locate the direction of sound more clearly as sounds are heard more loudly in one ear or the other ear, depending on where the sound is. When a sound is directly in front of you or behind you the sound reaches both ears at the same time and it is difficult to tell where it is coming from.

1. What does the outer ear do?
2. What is the tightly stretched skin called?
3. What is the name of the 3 tiny bones in your ear?
4. What two things does the cochlea have inside it?
5. Why is it useful to have two ears?
6. What things have eyes and ears got in common?

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brain sound ear drum bones hammer long skin