

Understanding Hearing Loss

Information to guide educators of
students who are
deaf or hard of hearing

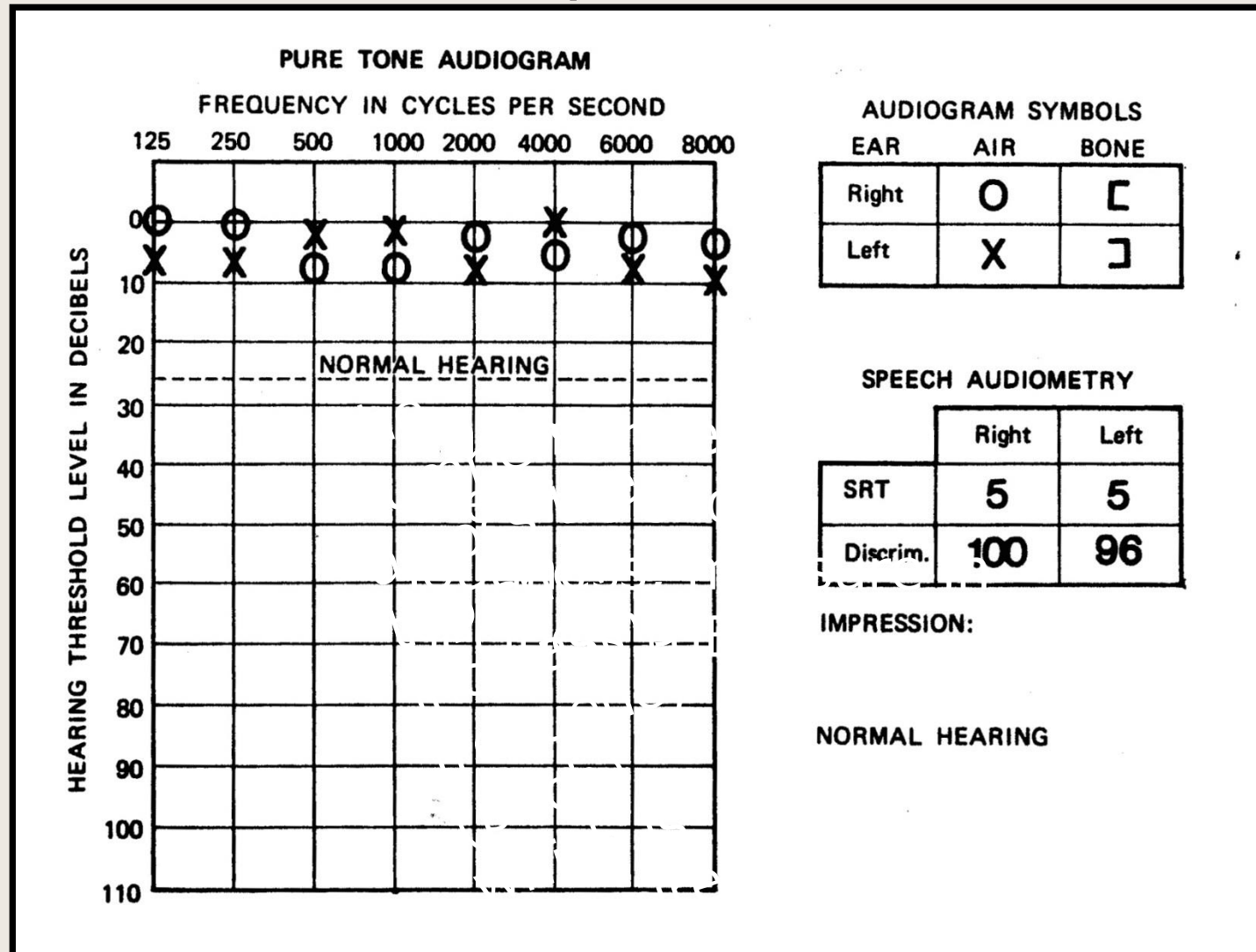


Some basics...

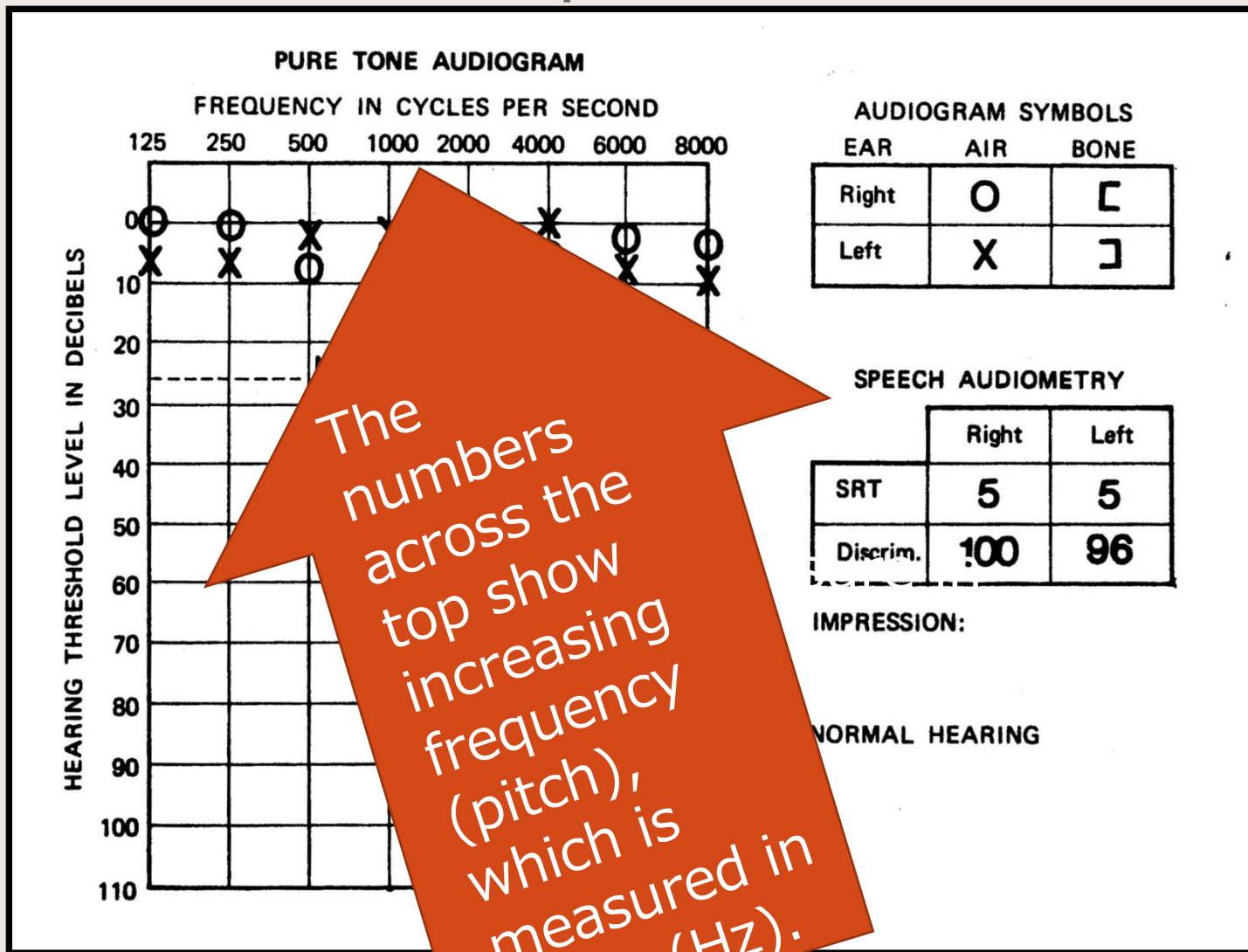
- There are basically four degrees of hearing loss:
 - Mild
 - Moderate
 - Severe
 - Profound
- For a child who is learning language, any degree of hearing loss is significant. A “mild” hearing loss can have much more than a mild effect on language and social development.
- Hearing aids do not “fix” or cure hearing loss in the same way glasses correct a vision loss. A hearing aid only makes sounds louder. Hearing aids **cannot** make sounds clearer.



An Audiogram shows how loud a sound has to be for the person to hear it



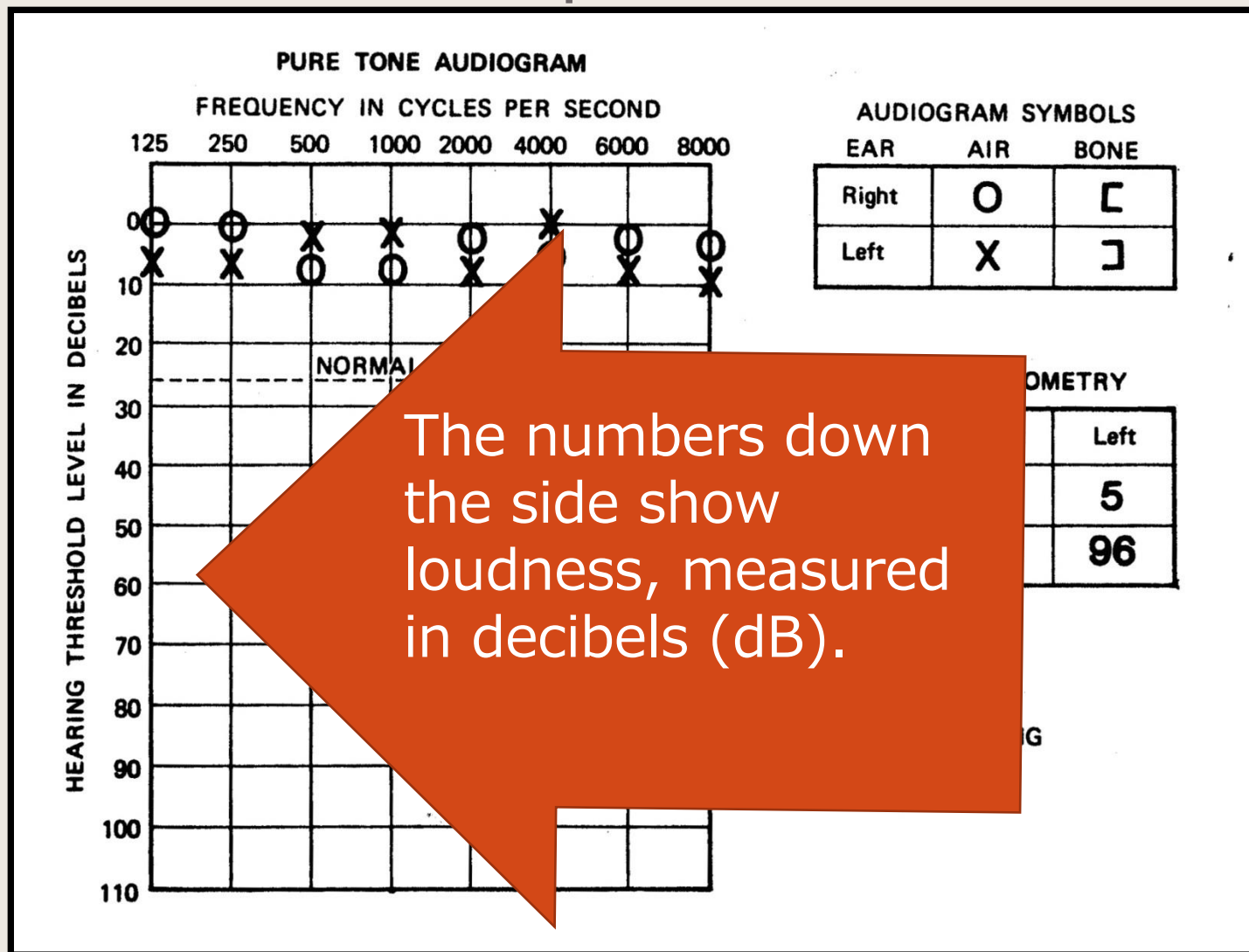
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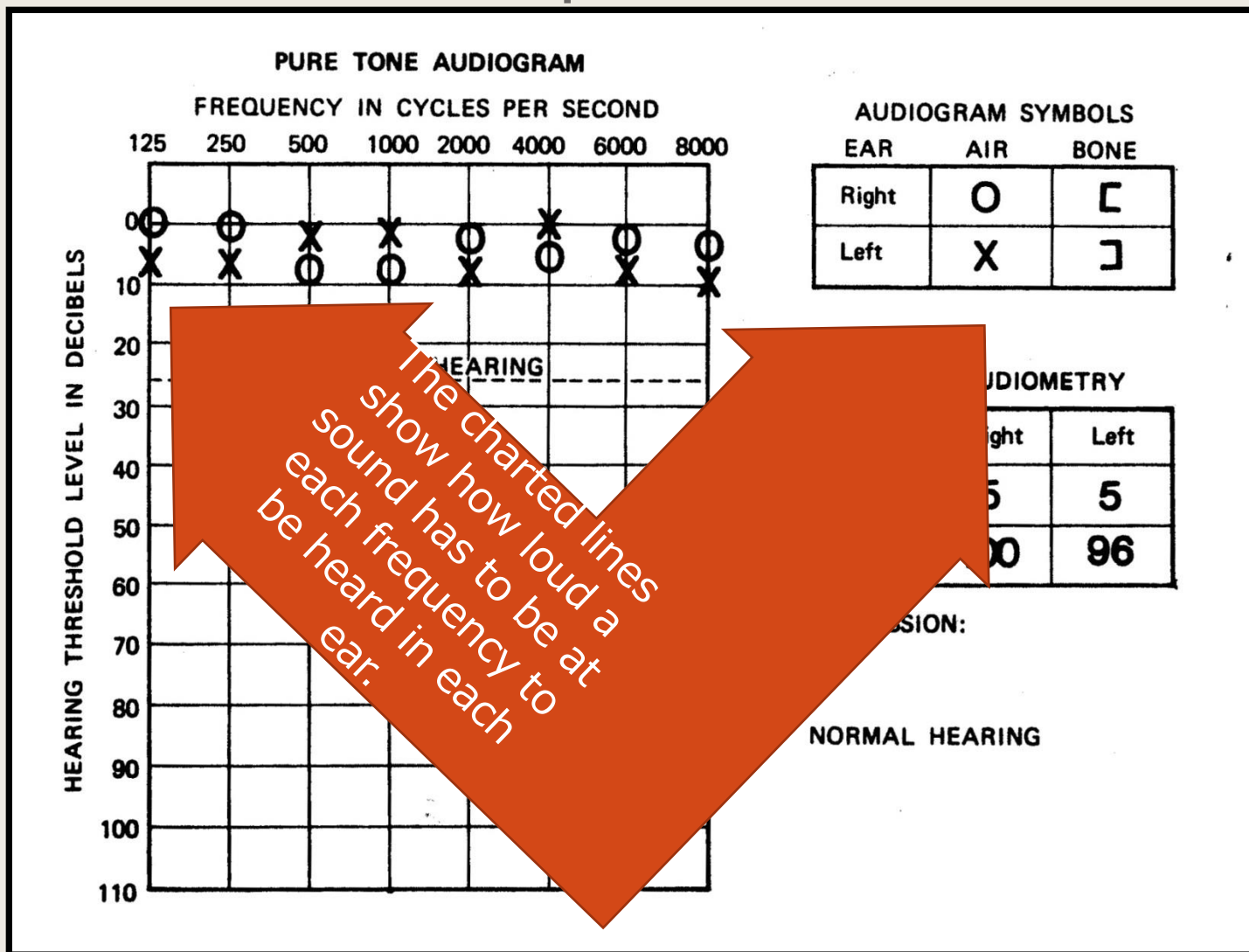
The numbers across the top show increasing frequency (pitch), which is measured in Hertz (Hz).



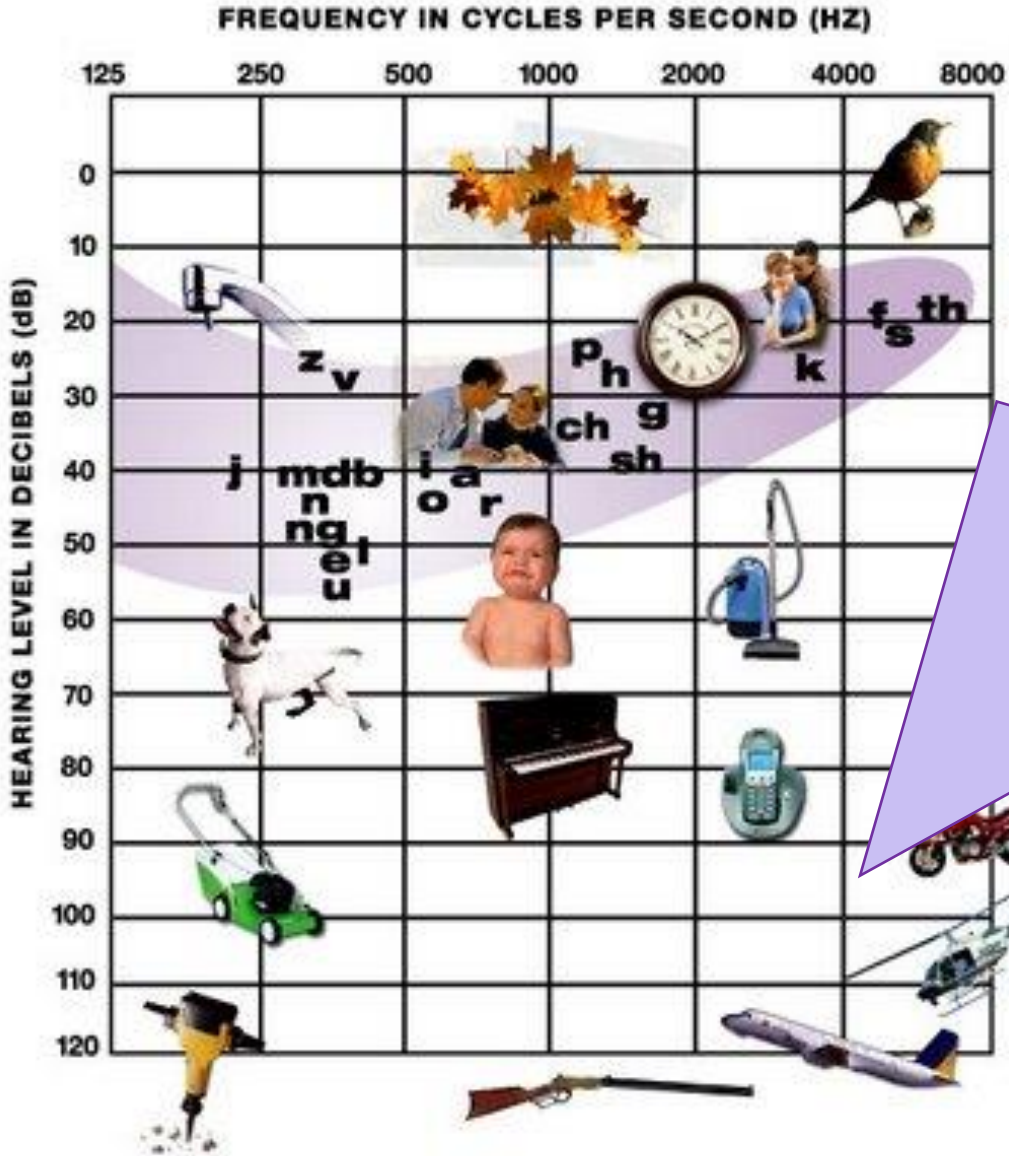
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Pitch (Hz)

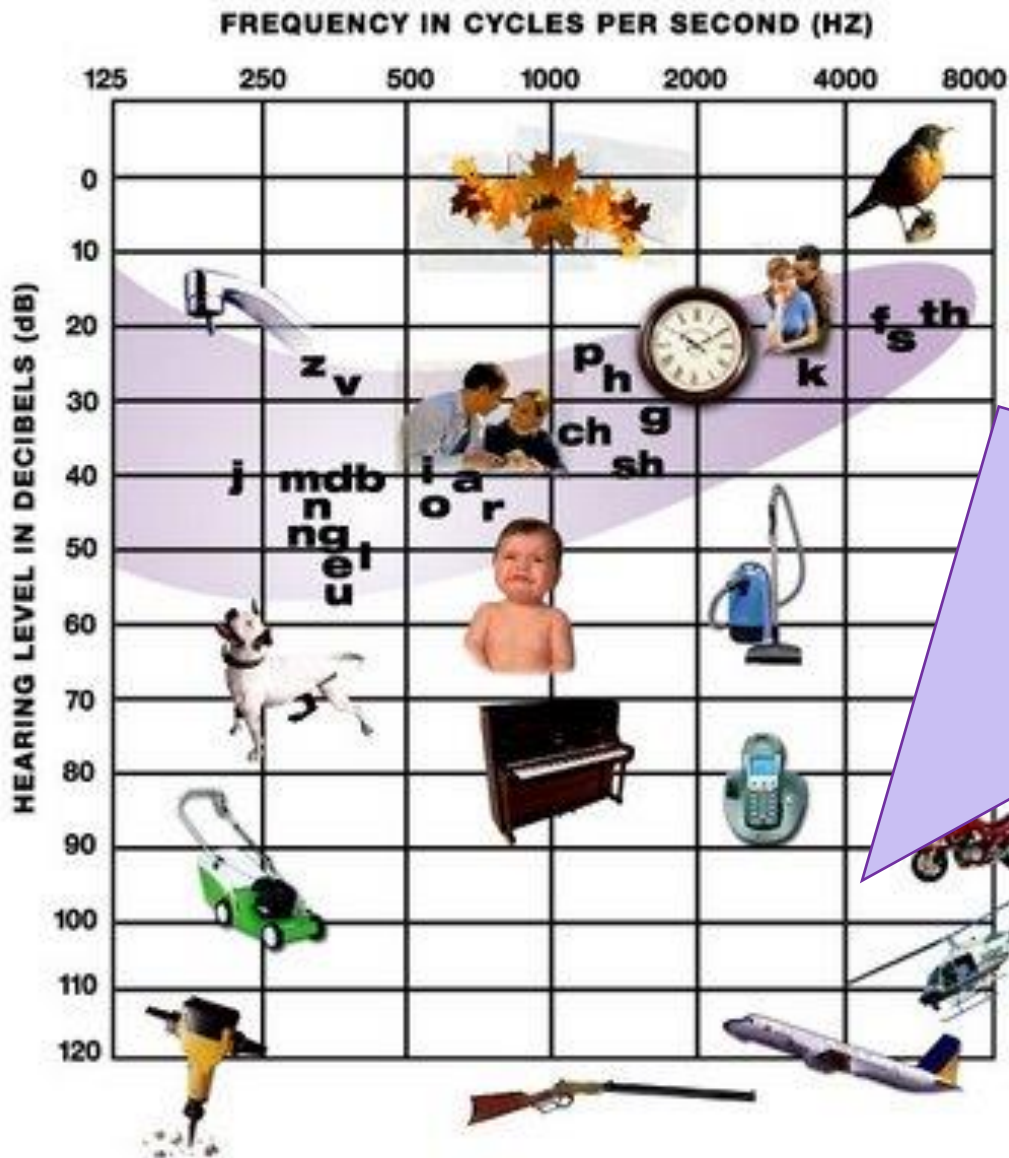


Loudness (dB)

Sounds of speech occur in a specific range of pitch and loudness.



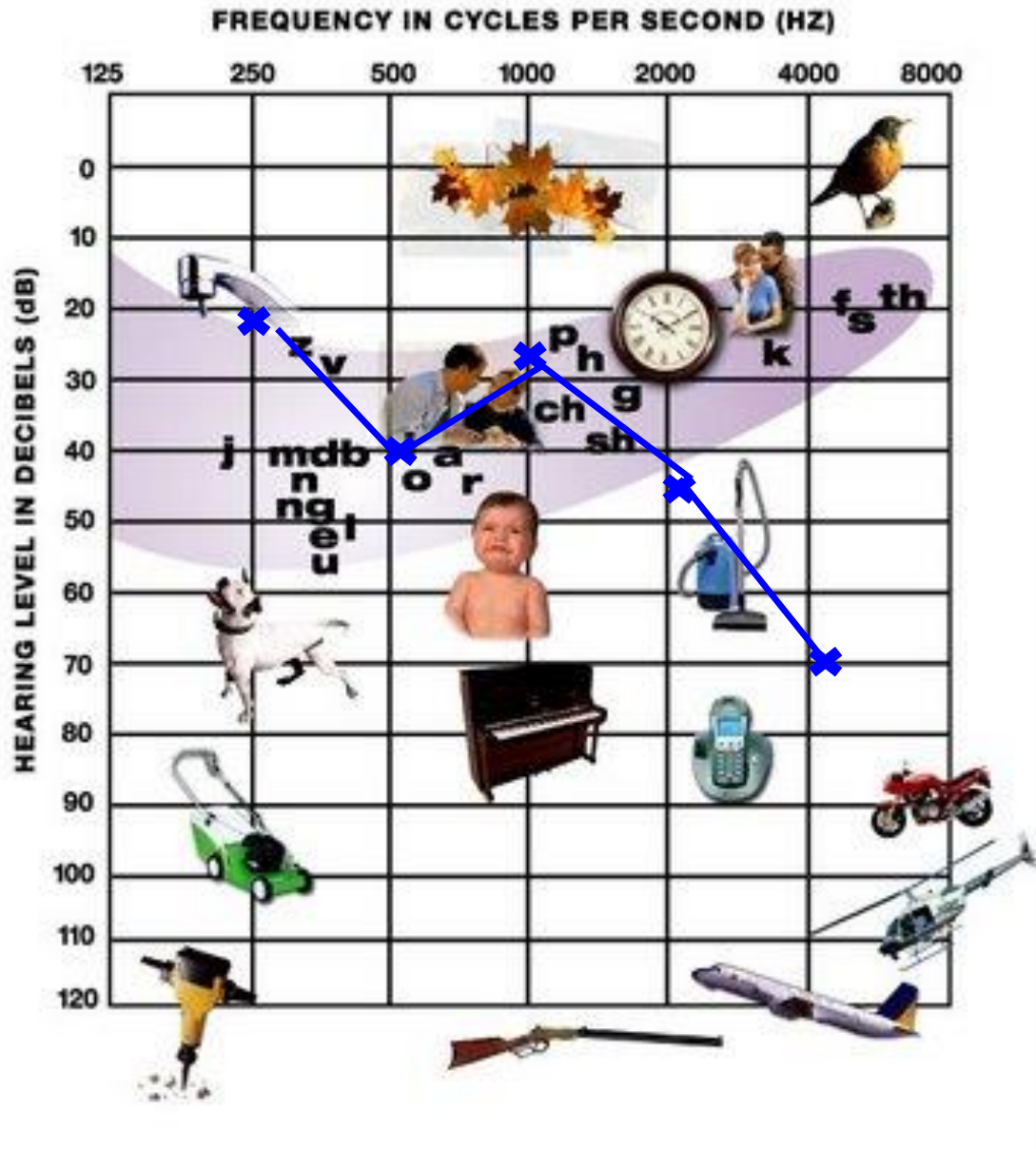
Pitch (Hz)



Loudness (dB)

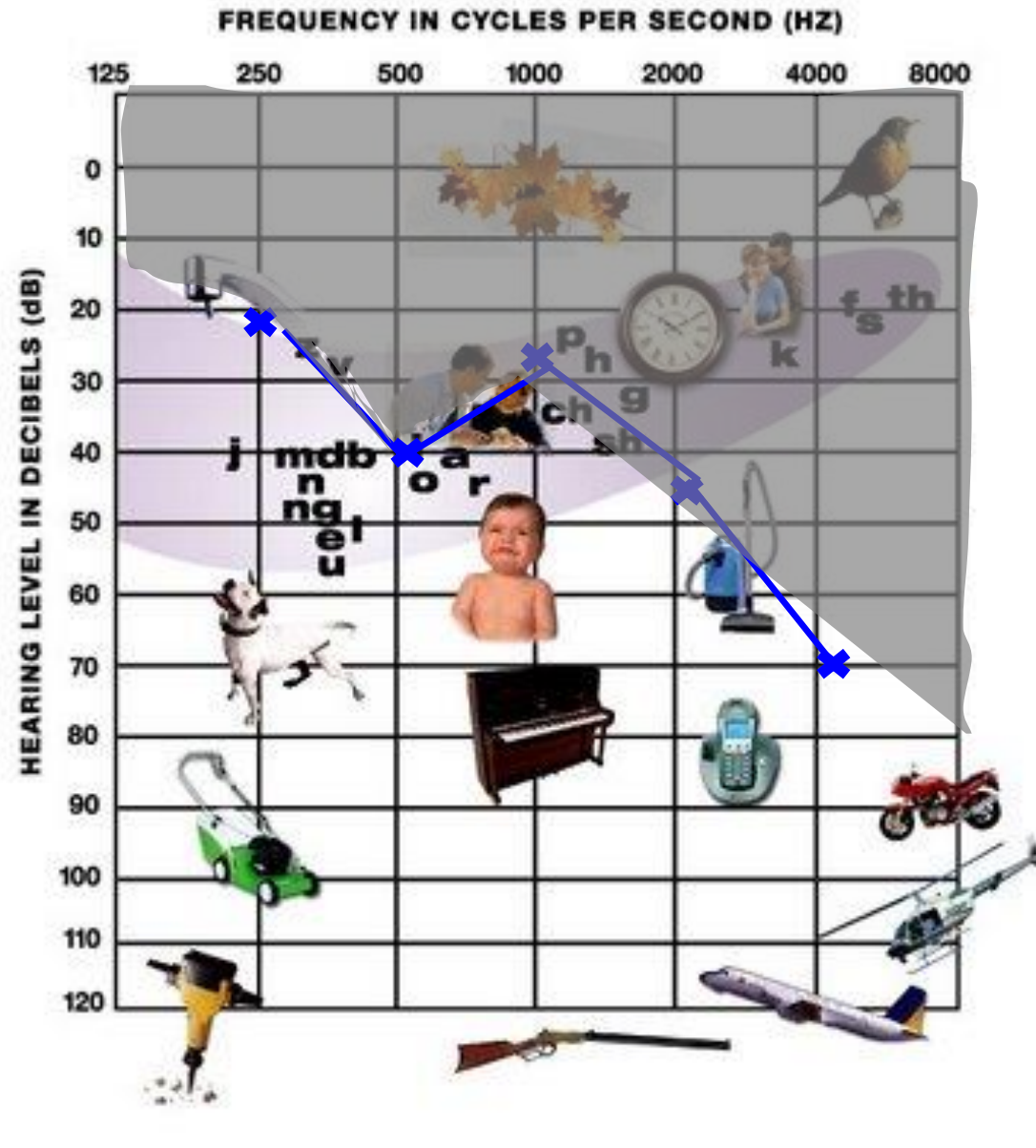
Hearing aids and cochlear implants are programmed to maximize these sounds.





The graphed line represents how loud a sound has to be to be detected. Therefore, sounds above the graphed line probably are not heard.

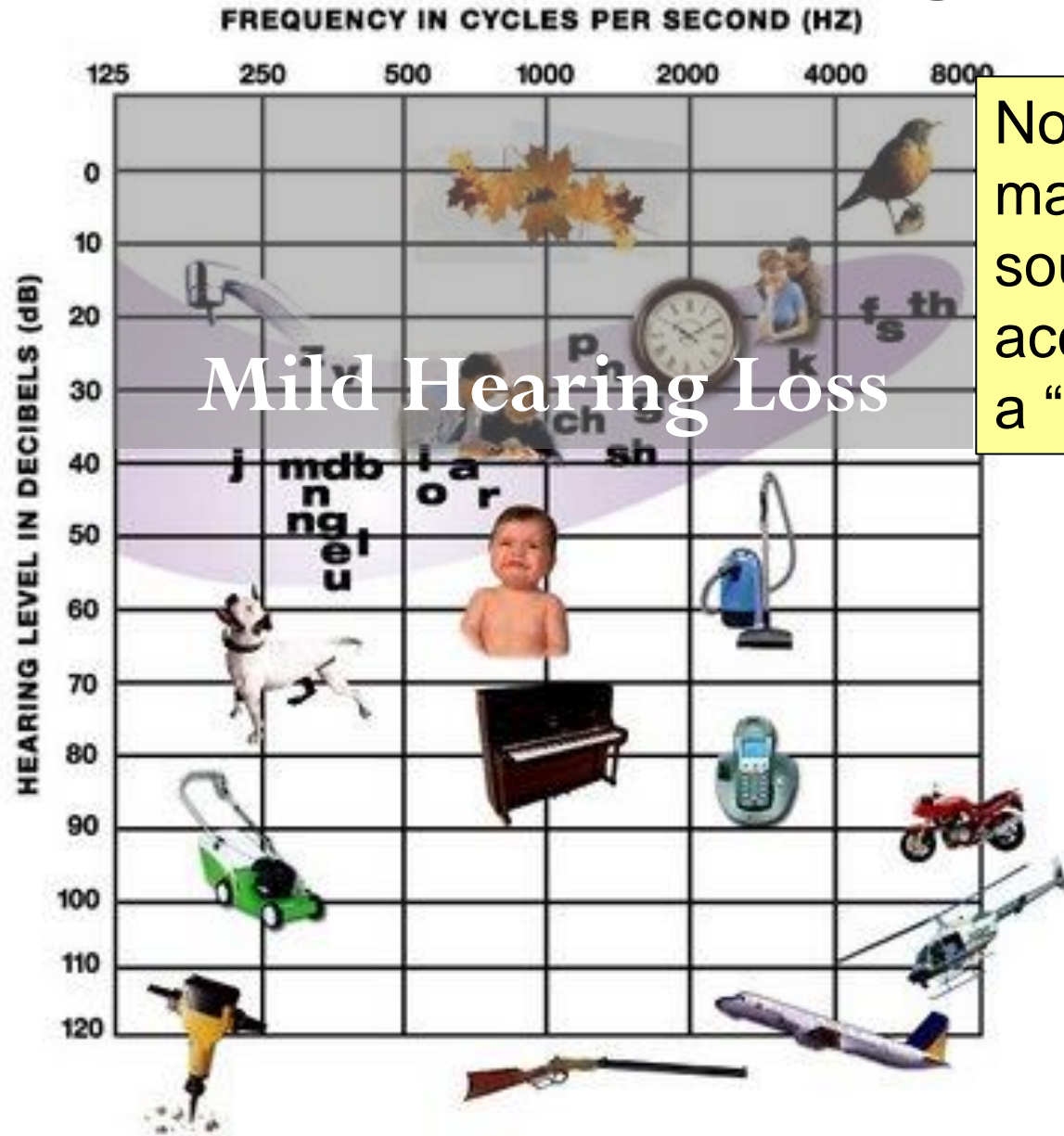




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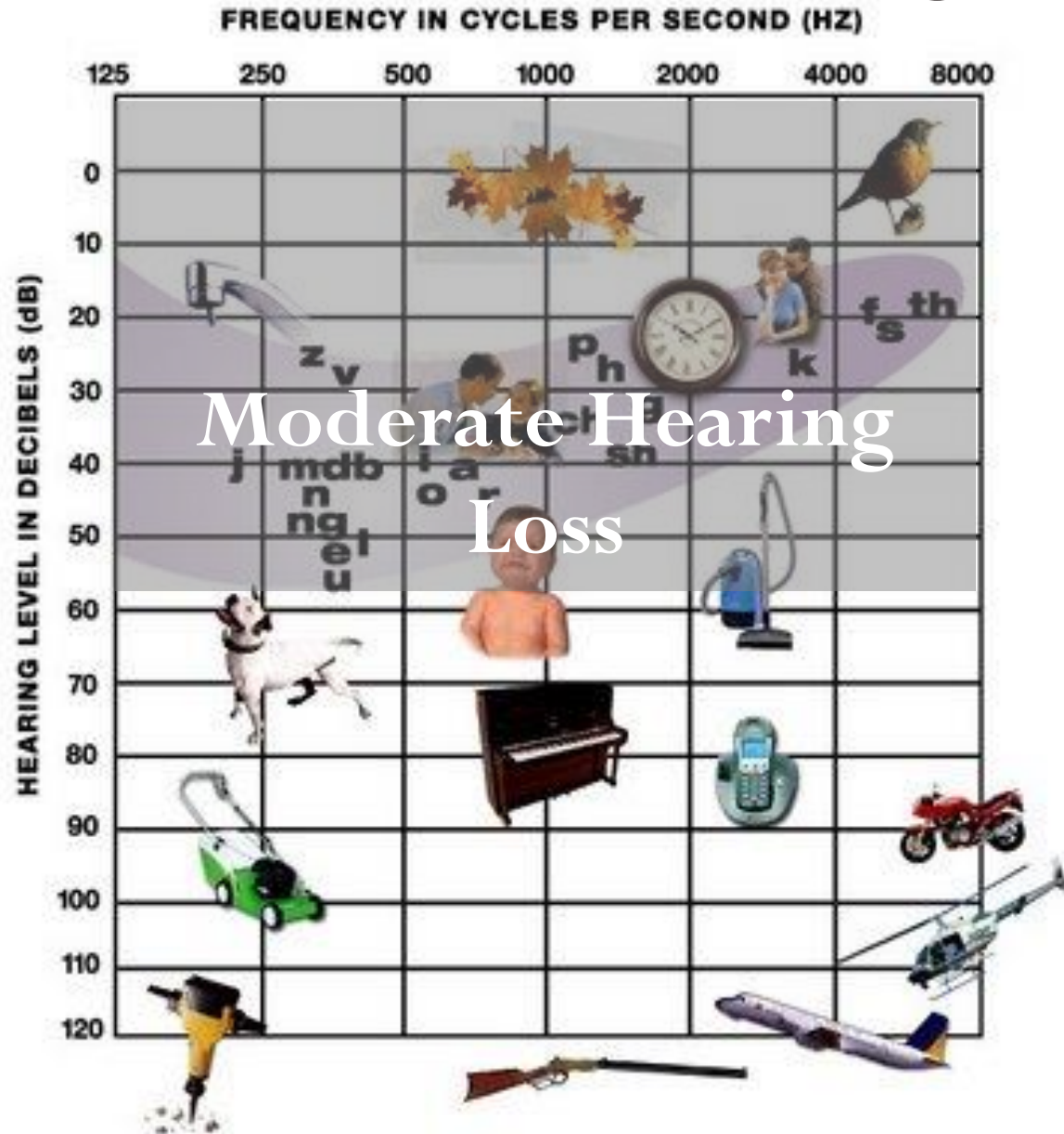
Classifications of Hearing Loss



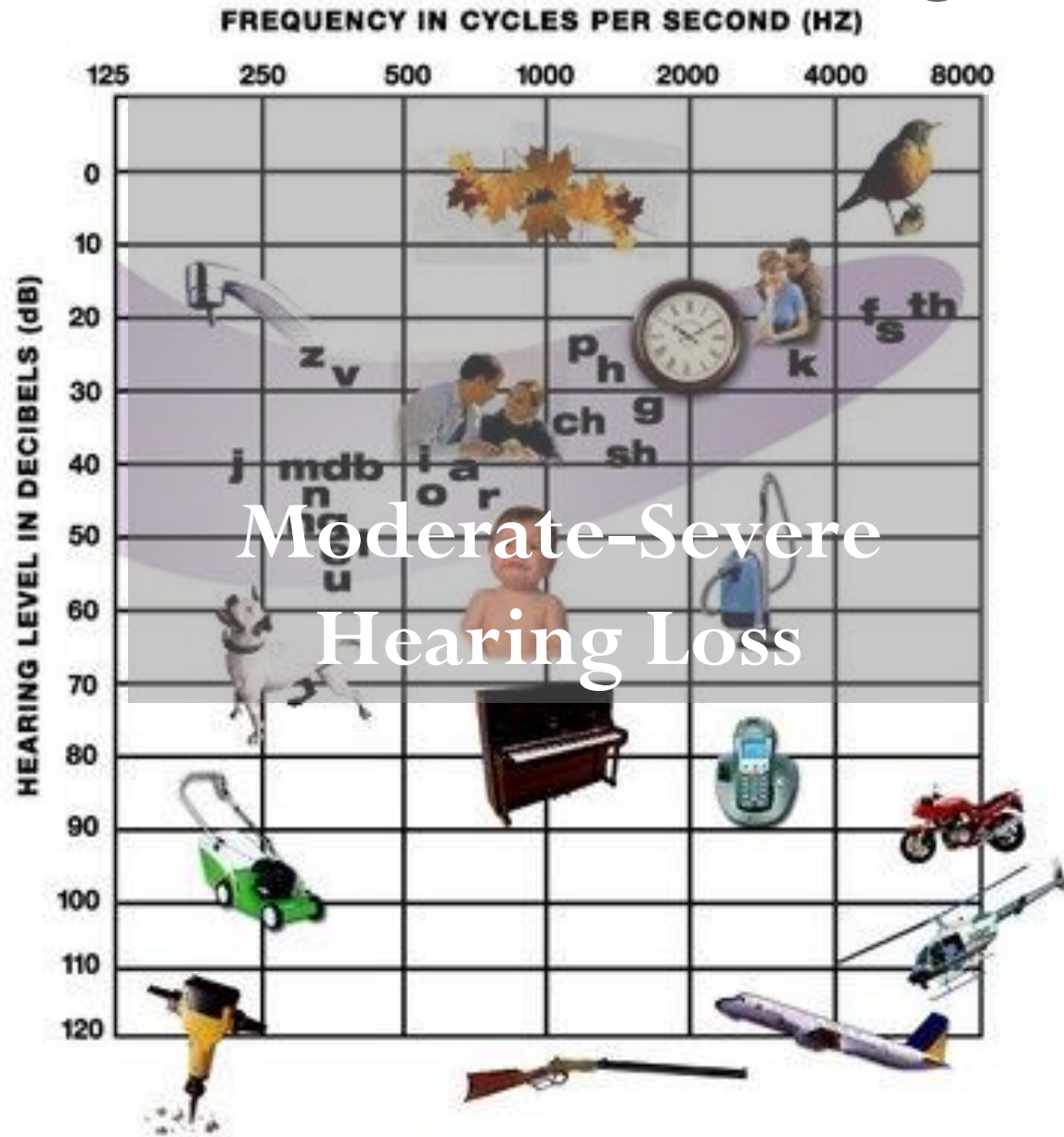
Notice how many speech sounds are not accessible with a "mild" loss



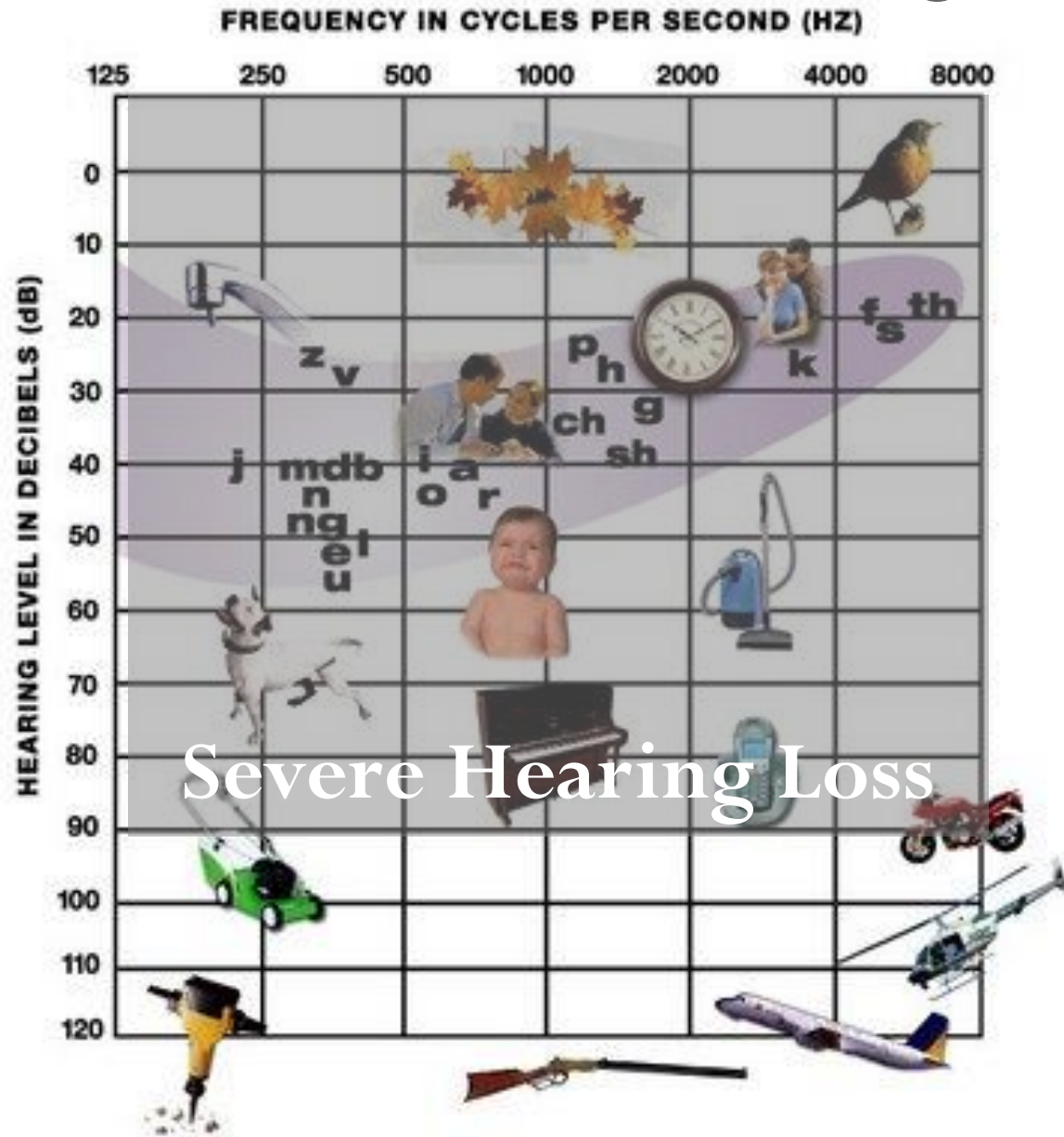
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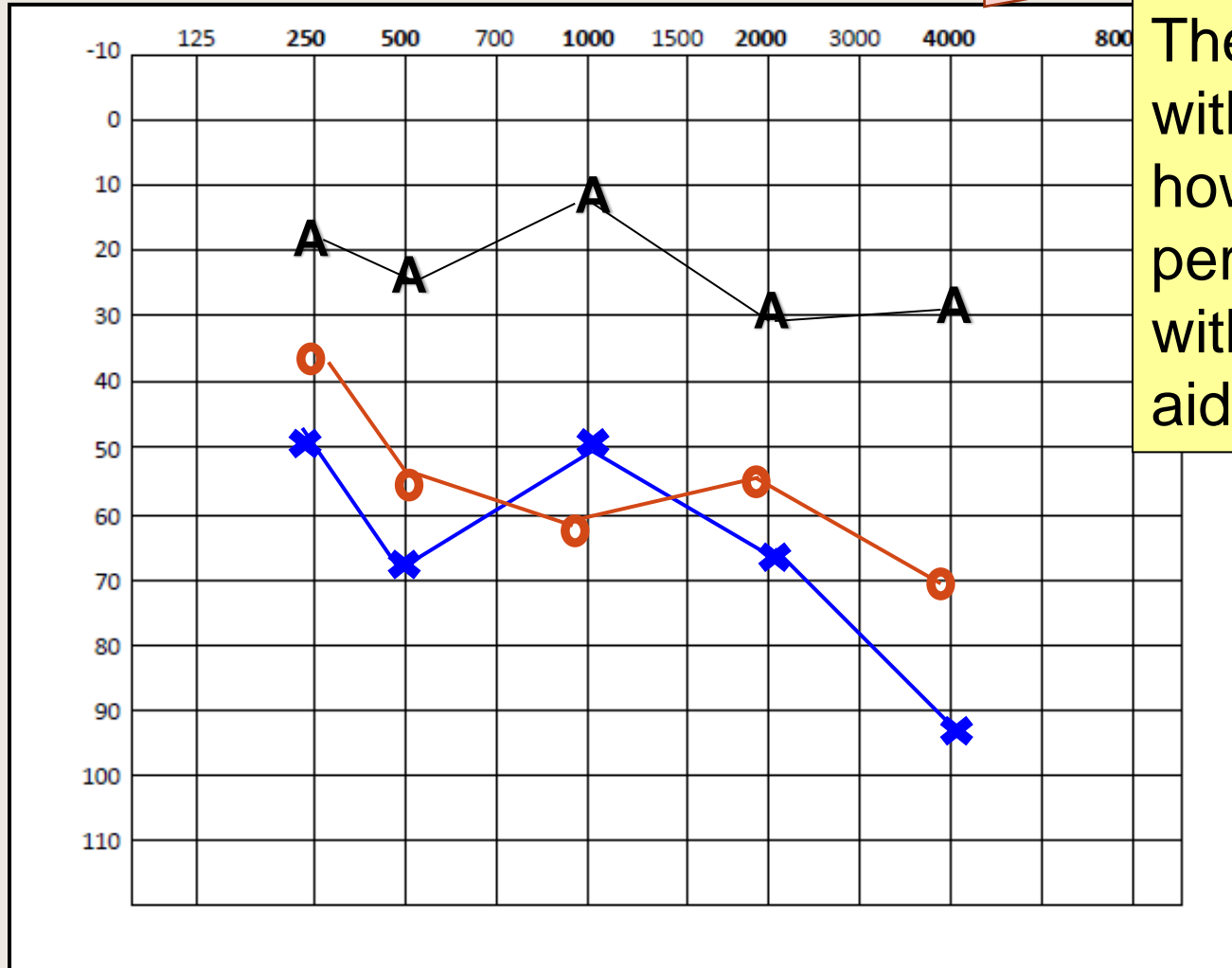
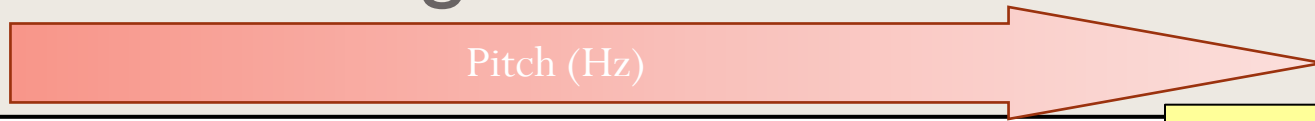
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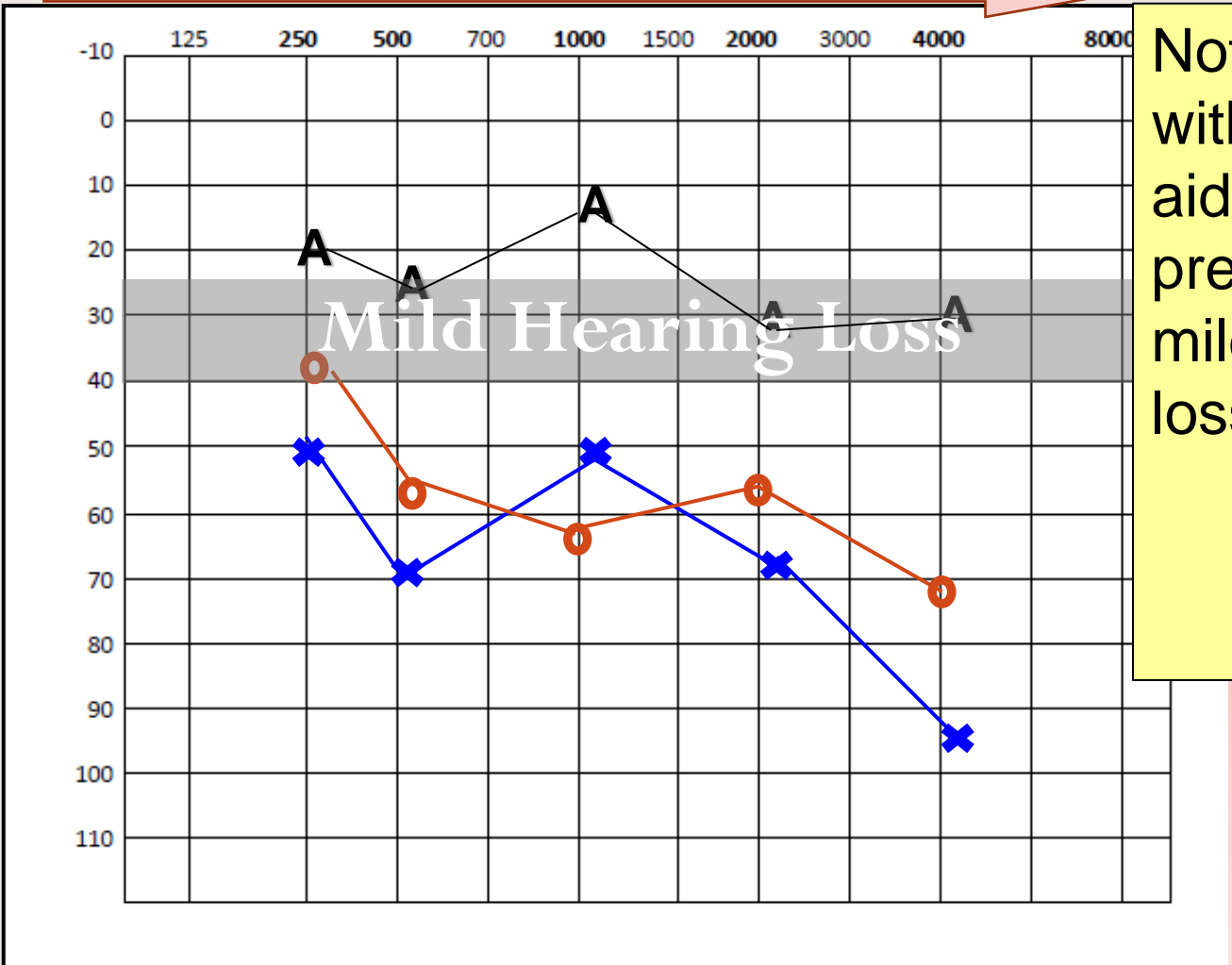
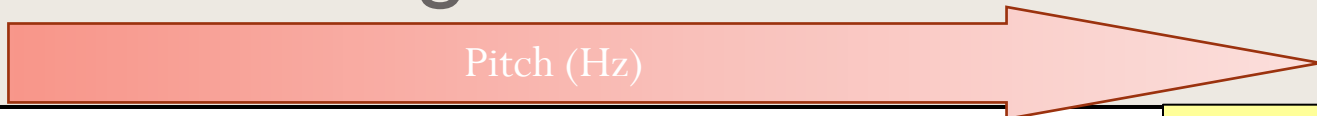
Aided Audiogram



The line marked with As indicate how well this person tested with hearing aids.



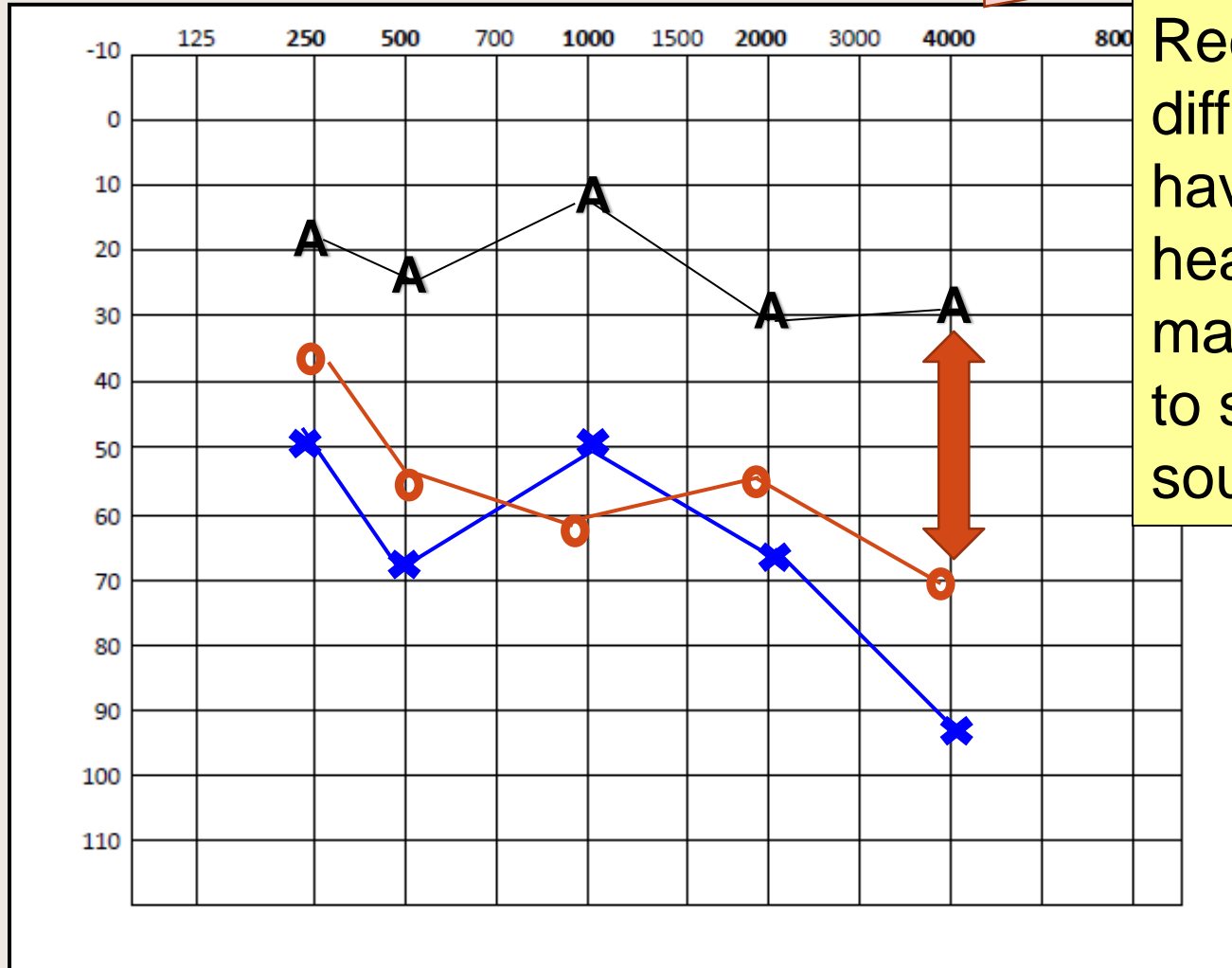
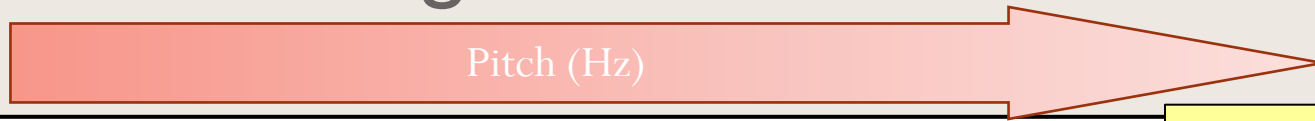
Aided Audiogram



Notice that even with hearing aids, this person presents with a mild hearing loss.



Aided Audiogram



Recognize the difference that having working hearing aids make in access to speech sound.



Items to Consider

- Does the student hear better from one ear than the other?
 - Consider seating changes if necessary
- Does the student benefit from hearing aids?
 - Are they worn consistently?
 - Does having hearing aids change behavior?
 - What can be done to help the student if hearing aids are not working?
 - Are other listening devices necessary in addition to the hearing aids?
- Are audiology reports consistent over time?
- An audiogram is one piece of information about a student, and cannot predict educational outcomes or mode of communication.
- Each individual experiences hearing loss in different ways even if their audiogram looks the same.



NMSD CECT Services



- o Individualized consultation to students and education teams
- o IEP attendance and assistance in developing the Communications Consideration Addendum
- o Classroom observations
- o Student evaluations and career assessments
- o Online lending library - <http://nmsdoutreachlibrary.org/>
- o Statewide & regional trainings
- o Program or student specific workshops
- o AmeriCorps sign language instruction program

Contact Information

Center for Educational Consultation & Training

New Mexico School for the Deaf

1060 Cerrillos Road

Santa Fe, NM 87505

505.476.6400 – phone

505.476.6371 – fax

www.nmsd.k12.nm.us/outreach



Center for Educational
Consultation and Training