



Dear Editor:

The article "Plenty of Options" by Barbara Jenkins, Au.D., about the many changes in and selections of hearing aids was outstanding. It was so helpful to newcomers trying to decide on a hearing aid and to regular wearers deciding on an upgrade. Congratulations on this and the rest of the Summer 2012 issue.

Harriett Porch
Laguna Hills, Calif.

Dear Editor:

I enjoy your magazine, but I was disappointed by the Spring 2012 article "12 Apps to Help You Hear Better." Most smartphones do not use Apple's proprietary operating system; like mine, they use Android. To focus on Apple seemed unnecessarily limited, and I hope you will give us more of this type of info, but start with Android apps.

Also, the same issue's Hearing Aids 101 column, "Here's How You Can Hear Better in Noise," mentioned that there are apps to help folks train their brain to understand audio better, and again only Apple was mentioned.

It may be that these types of programs are only available on Apple. The reader can't tell. We only know that your magazine seems Apple-oriented, which is not the leader in smartphone operating systems. Let's at least discuss, and have your writers

discuss, other options. Or if they don't exist, tell us, so we don't waste time doing research.

Marvin Clegg
via email

From the Editor:

The primary reason for our focus on Apple apps is because there were far more quality choices among Apple apps versus those from Android, which at the time had at most three hearing-enhancement apps. The piece should have stated why Android was excluded. Please stay tuned, as it's possible we will take another look at all types of hearing apps in the future, as the choices are ever-changing and growing.

Dear Editor:

"The Medium Is the Message" (Spring 2012) was a really well-written, clever article. I loved the story of the Mbendjele people, and how important their sense of hearing is for survival in the equatorial rainforest, where vision is only useful up close.

Are people today really reluctant to admit they have a hearing loss because historically this may have indicated impairment in their social bonding and survival skills? The idea is an interesting one.

The writer, Kathi Mestayer, also emphasized the shift from what has been a predominantly oral/aural society to written/visual modes of communication: Internet-based social networking through texting, blogging, and I would add the video phone for signing. The article really brought this idea home.

Deborah L. Pfeiffer, Ed.D.
Specialist, Virginia Department of
Education
Richmond, Va.

Dear Editor:

I subscribe to and enjoy reading your publication. I am a senior with my own hearing issues. My pet peeve is that in the stories and the ads for hearing aids, I have yet to see a person who is also wearing eyeglasses.

I live in a warm climate and am constantly changing to wearing sunglasses outdoors or taking them off indoors. Many photos feature seniors but never with eyeglasses (which in my view is an impediment to wearing a hearing aid).

Harvey Krauthamer
via email

From the Editor:

Thank you for pointing this out. While we do not have editorial control over the photos and copy that appear in advertisements that we accept in the magazine, we will keep your suggestion in mind when selecting images to appear in our articles.

It seems that most people are able to wear glasses and behind-the-ear hearing aids at the same time by placing the frame of the glasses closest to the head and the hearing aid on the outside. Selecting glasses with a thinner wire frame can help with fit.

When removing the glasses, try squeezing the arm closer to your head and lift the arm straight up. A protective sheath worn over the hearing aid will also help prevent the hearing aid from bumping into the glasses frame. 📞

To view the articles mentioned in these letters, please see our digital archive at www.hearinghealthmag.com.

We welcome comments sent to editor@hearinghealthmag.com. Published letters may be edited for length and clarity.