



ANVIL - a bone which transfers energy from the hammer to the stirrup

AUDITORY CANAL - tube like passage way that connects outer ear to middle ear; sound waves get compressed and amplified in this area; passage way that funnels sound waves to ear drum; do not stick objects in this passage way; pushes wax further into your ear & you can damage your ear drum.

AUDITORY NERVE - takes the electrical impulse from the hair cells in cochlea to the brain so the sound can be interpreted

COCHLEA - Special organ filled with fluid and cilia (hair-like structures); converts longitudinal waves into electrical impulses to be sent to the brain. Hair cells in this organ can be damaged and die as you age which causes hearing loss; hair cells get damaged as well if you listen to loud music; some people who are born without hearing opt to have a cochlear implant so they can hear some sound. This part of the ear is considered the “true organ of hearing”.

EAR DRUM (TYMPANIC MEMBRANE) - a thin layer of skin at the end of the auditory canal that vibrates like a drum head when sound waves reach it; passes vibrations to the hammer

EUSTACHIAN TUBE - passageway connecting middle ear to throat; this tube helps to equalize pressure on both sides of ear drum; this tube drains mucus from middle ear; you can feel the pressure changes in this part of your ear when you change altitudes (you need to equalize the pressure when you increase in altitude such as flying in a plane and when you decrease in altitude such as diving deep in a swimming pool or scuba diving)

HAMMER - a bone which transfers energy from ear drum to anvil

PINNA (OUTER EAR) - shaped like a radar dish to “collect” and funnel the sound waves into the auditory canal to the ear drum. Cats can direct their outer ears in the direction of the sound (we can’t; we have to turn our entire head in the direction of the sound)

SEMI-CIRCULAR CANALS - filled with fluid; help maintain balance and equilibrium; vertigo, dizziness and motion sickness are related to this specific part of the inner ear; this part of the ear does not help you hear.

STIRRUP - a bone which transfers energy from the anvil to the cochlea

