

## WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

United States Government Study  
10 Advantages of Binaural Hearing

1. **SAFETY.** When a person hears with only one ear, he or she has difficulty locating sounds. This can be dangerous, especially in traffic.
2. **IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING.** Binaural hearing helps you sort out and understand individual voices.
3. **WIDER HEARING RANGE.** A voice barely heard at ten feet with one ear can be heard up to forty feet away with two ears.
4. **RESTFUL LISTENING.** Listening with only one ear is physically tiring.
5. **SMOOTHER TONE QUALITY.** Binaural hearing generally requires less volume, giving a natural sound to voices and music.
6. **CUSHIONS LOUD SOUNDS.** Sudden loud noises lose much of their jarring effect when divided between two ears.
7. **BETTER SOUND IDENTIFICATION.** Many noises, which almost sound exactly alike when heard with one ear can be identified easily when heard with two.
8. **BOTH EARS STAY ACTIVE.** When a hard of hearing person wears a hearing aid on only one ear, that ear tends to take over all hearing. The unused ear tends to lose its ability to hear and understand.
9. **BALANCE HEARING.**
10. **TINNITUS RELIEF.**

**CONCLUSION:** A perfectly normal ear is at a disadvantage when used alone. Similarly, a hard of hearing person wearing one excellent, well-fitted hearing aid will still experience hearing difficulties.