

The slide features a decorative background on the left side with vertical lines and several overlapping circles in shades of red and pink. The main title is centered in a large, bold, black serif font.

# **LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT...**

**The effect of modern technology on  
communication**

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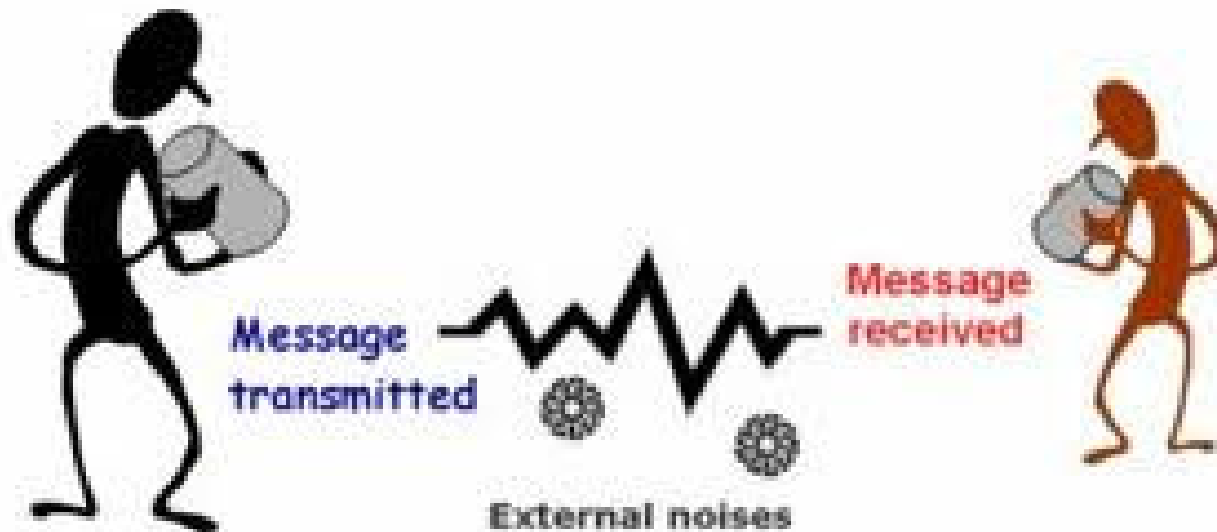
## TODAY'S TALK...

- Effective Communication: What is needed?
- Communication today
- It's how you say it that counts
- It's how you listen that counts

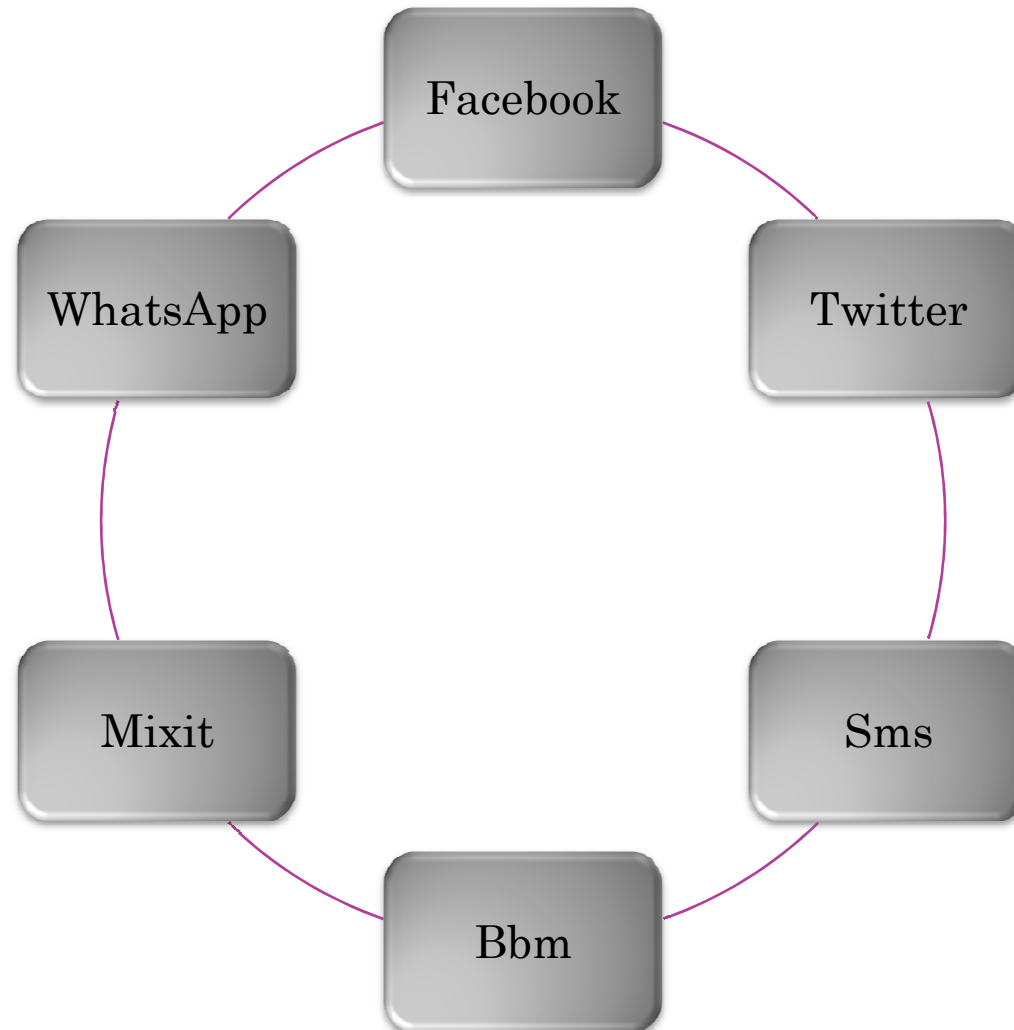


# EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: What is needed?

- Sender / Speaker
- Common language
- Receiver / Listener



# COMMUNICATION TODAY: Do you know what your children are doing?



# IT'S HOW YOU SAY IT THAT COUNTS: INSTANT MESSAGING (IM)

- What is IM?
  - It is a form of computer “chat” that allows one to have a real time, typed “conversation” with one or more persons



# EFFECTS OF IM

- Opinions are mixed concerning the effects of IM
    - May encourage teenagers to read and write more
    - May encourage teenagers to socialise more
- BUT....
- May affect writing skills
  - May affect social skills



## EXERCISE

“Hary wsi tprestrdr isy gr odt hy bai geleer ht.hy honi vn nuwe teg ni,hy wndr hukm alsy klas mats heeld8 op mxit is”

“Harry was die top presteerder in sy graad omdat hy baie geleer het. Hy hou nie van nuwe tegnologie nie. Hy wonder hoekom al sy klasmaats heeldag op mixit is.”

(Weimers, 2008)



# POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF IM

- On writing:
  - Incorrect spelling
  - Inappropriate or absent punctuation and capitalization
  - Poor grammar
  - Improper abbreviations
- On social skills:
  - Little regard for formality (e.g. “yo mr dave”)
  - Disregard for conversation partner (e.g. Texting while speaking to someone)
  - Disregard for social etiquette (e.g. Texting while at the dinner table)





## SOME REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

- ✘ “i am writing a essay on writing i work for this company and my boss want me to help improve workers writing skills can yall help me with some information thank you”
- “i want 2b a counselor because i love 2 work with kids”
- “hI KATHY i am sending u the assignmnet again”



# YO, CAN U PLZ HELP ME WRITE

- Set a good example:
  - Use proper grammar, punctuation and spelling in all online communication with children, even if they don't
  - Occasionally send old fashioned letters to show your children how printed communication should be written
- Review your child's schoolwork to make sure internet lingo is not being used
- Emphasise the concept of audience – children need to learn that who you are writing for affects the way in which one writes
- Ban cell phones during meals
- Have face-to-face (technology free) conversations
- Encourage non-school reading and writing

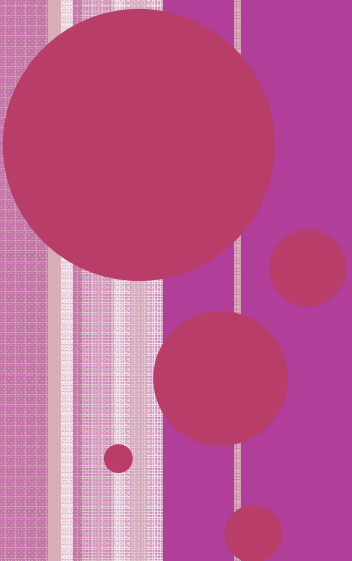


## FINAL THOUGHT ON IM

“Unless society is willing to accept people spelling their names six different ways or using commas, semicolons, and periods according to whim, we owe it to our children and to our students to make certain they understand the difference between creative and normative language use.”  
(Baron, N., 2005)



QUESTIONS?



## REFERENCES

Dillon, S (2004). What Corporate America Cannot Build: A sentence. New York Times. Retrieved 3 August 2012 from <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Friess, S. (2003). 'Yo, can u plz help me write English?' Retrieved 3 August 2012 from <http://www.usatoday.com/>

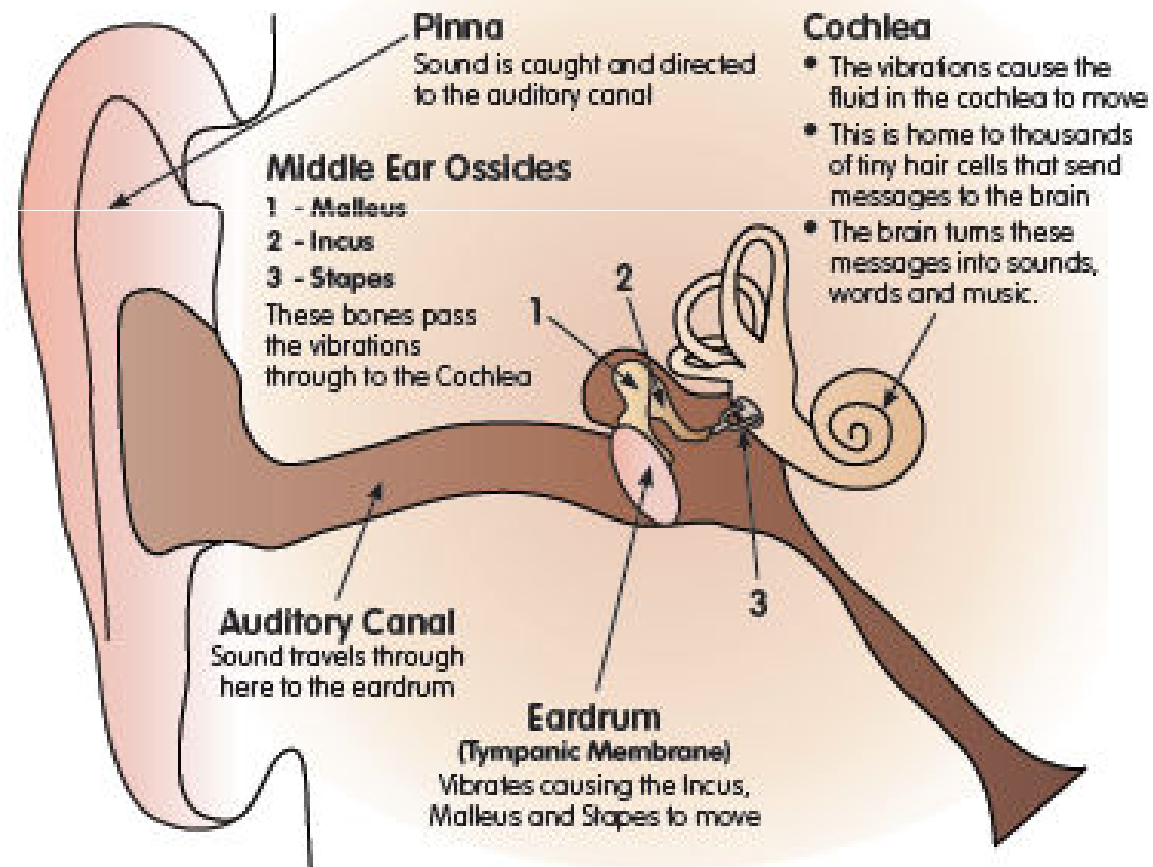
Lenhart, A., Arafeh, S., Smith, A. & Rankin Macgill (2008). Writing, Technology and Teens. Retrieved 30 July 2012 from <http://www.pewinternet.org/>

O' Connor (n.d.). Instant Messaging: Friend or Foe Student Writing? Retrieved 4 August 2012 from <http://www.education.jhu.edu/>



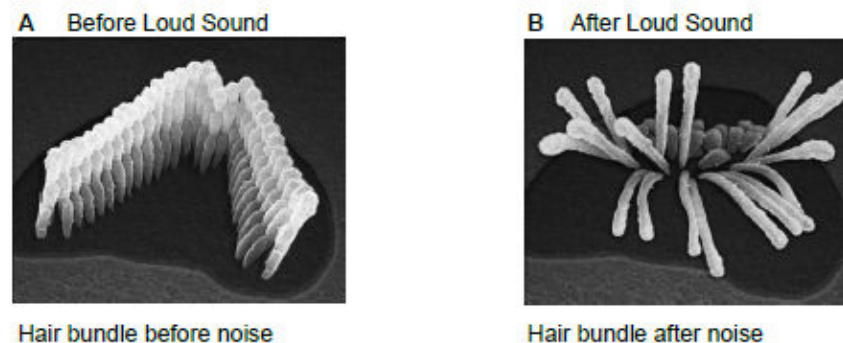
# IT'S HOW YOU LISTEN THAT COUNTS

## HOW DO WE HEAR?



# HOW DO WE LOSE OUR HEARING?

- Hearing is lost when the tiny hair cells in the cochlea is damaged
- One way that this can happen is through noise
  - When we are exposed to a very loud sound, even for a very short period of time, or to a reasonably loud noise over a prolonged period our hearing is affected
  - Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL)
- Once the hair cells are damaged, they cannot be repaired and so the damage is permanent



# WHAT CAUSES NIHL?

	Decibel Level (Unit of sound measurement)	How long can you listen without protection?	Noise Source
<b>DANGER</b>	130	0	Jet take off
	120	0	Music concert
<b>HEARING PROTECTION NEEDED</b>	115	Less than 1 minute	Sports event
	109	Less than 2 minutes	Car horn
	106	3.75 minutes	Personal music player at maximum volume
	103	7.5 minutes	Belt sander
	100	15 minutes	School dance, machinery
	97	30 minutes	Motorcycle
	94	1 hour	Electric drill
	91	2 hours	Shouting, lawn mower
Level at which damage begins			
<b>SAFE</b>	85	8 hours	Vacuum cleaner
	55	Safe	Conversation





# INTERESTING FACTS

**“5.2 million 6-19 year olds have hearing loss directly related to noise exposure”.<sup>1</sup>**

**“...over the last 10 years, the percentage of 2nd graders with hearing loss has increased 2.8 times; hearing loss in 8th graders has increased over 4 times.”<sup>2</sup>**

**“Emphasis should be on improving the appreciation of the value of good hearing.”<sup>3</sup>  
(World Health Organization, 1997)**

<sup>1</sup>3rd National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Niskar, et.al, 2000

<sup>2</sup>Montgomery and Fujukawa, 1992

<sup>3</sup>World Health Organization, from “Strategies for Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Impairment, Part III, Prevention of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss”. Geneva, Oct. 1997.



# OTHER EFFECTS OF NOISE

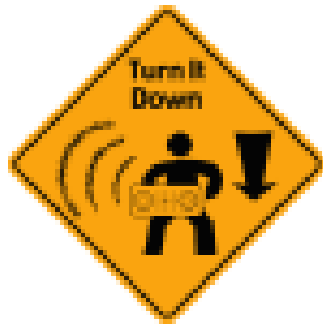
- Increased adrenaline, high blood pressure and faster heart rate
- Overall stress on the body
- Interference with conversation and social interaction
- Diminished work efficiency
- Diminished quantity and quality of sleep
- Increase in antisocial behaviour, extreme emotions and behaviour



# GUIDELINES TO PROTECT HEARING

## HOW CAN NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS BE PREVENTED?

- Turn the volume down
- Move away from loud noises
- Use ear plugs when you are around loud noise
- Use over-ear headphones to listen to your music
- Avoid places that are very loud
- Avoid earphones that reach into your ear



# IT'S HOW YOU LISTEN THAT COUNTS!

## QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOU ARE BEING EXPOSED TO EXCESSIVE SOUND THAT MAY DAMAGE YOUR HEARING:

- Are you often in an environment where the sound is so loud that you have to shout to make yourself understood?
- After exposure to loud sound, have you ever noticed tinnitus (ringing or other noises in your ears or head)?
- Does music sound slightly strange or distorted after you have been listening for a while?
- Do voices sound muffled after you've been around loud music or other loud sounds for an extended time?
- After exposure to loud sound, do your ears sometimes feel "full" or "stopped up"?
- When you are listening to stereo headphones or a personal music player, can a person standing next to you hear it too? (When you are using a personal music player, you should be able to understand a person next to you speaking in a normal tone of voice.)

If you answer YES to any of these questions, you may have been exposed to damaging sound levels.

# SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS: ADULTS

- Do you have a problem hearing over the telephone?
- Do you hear better through one ear than the other when you are on the telephone?
- Do you have trouble following the conversation with two or more people talking at the same time?
- Do people complain that you turn the TV volume up too high?
- Do you have to strain to understand conversation?
- Do you have trouble hearing in a noisy background?
- Do you have trouble hearing in restaurants?
- Do you have dizziness, pain, or ringing in your ears?
- Do you find yourself asking people to repeat themselves?
- Do family members or coworkers remark about your missing what has been said?
- Do many people you talk to seem to mumble (or not speak clearly)?
- Do you misunderstand what others are saying and respond inappropriately?
- Do you have trouble understanding the speech of women and children?
- Do people get annoyed because you misunderstand what they say?



## SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS: CHILDREN

- Your child is inconsistently responding to sound.
- Language and speech development is delayed.
- Speech is unclear.
- Volume is turned up high on electronic equipment (radio, TV, CD player, etc.).
- Your child does not follow directions.
- Your child often says, "Huh?"
- Your child does not respond when called.



# SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS: CHILDREN

## MILD HEARING LOSS

Inappropriate responses

Difficulty following directions

Difficulty sustaining attention during oral presentations

Impulsive

Frequently asks for repetition

Academic failure

Poor self-concept

Doesn't complete assignments

Doesn't seem to listen

## ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

Blurting out answers before questions are completed

Difficulty following through on instructions and organizing tasks

Difficulty in listening to others without being distracted or interrupting

Acts on the spur of the moment

Focuses only with frequent reinforcement or is under very strict control

Multiple problems with schoolwork and social activities

Isolated and low self esteem

Frequently fails to finish schoolwork, or works carelessly

"Can't sit still and listen!"



## REFERENCES – WEBSITE LIST

- <http://www.widexconnect.ca/>
- <http://www.earscience.org.au/>
- <http://www.danderousdecibels.org/>





QUESTIONS?

