

PARTS OF A HUMAN EAR

Outer Ear

The part of the ear you can see on the outside of your head.

Incus

The second tiny bone in the middle ear; also called the anvil.

Malleus

The first of three tiny bones in the middle ear; also called the hammer.

Pinna

The visible, curved part of the outer ear that collects sound and funnels it inward.

Cartilage

The firm, flexible tissue that gives the outer ear its shape.

Earlobe

The soft, fleshy bottom part of the outer ear, with no cartilage inside.

Ear Canal

The tube that leads from the outer ear to the eardrum.

Eardrum

A thin piece of skin inside your ear that vibrates when sound hits it.

Middle Ear

The small, air-filled space behind the eardrum that holds three tiny bones and connects to the throat to help balance air pressure.

Inner Ear

The deepest part of the ear, where hearing and balance signals are made.

Semicircular Canals

Three curved tubes in the inner ear that help you keep your balance.

Vestibular Nerve

The nerve that carries balance signals from the inner ear to the brain.

Auditory Nerve

The nerve that carries sound signals from the cochlea to the brain.

Cochlea

A tiny, spiral-shaped, fluid-filled structure that turns vibrations into nerve signals.

Stapes

The smallest bone in the body, the third middle ear bone; also called the stirrup.

Eustachian Tube

A narrow tube that connects the middle ear to the back of the throat and equalizes pressure.

