**TERMINOLOGY—Terms you’ve heard often but may not understand.**

**App.** The word “app” is an abbreviation for application. An app, which is a piece of software that enables a computer to perform useful tasks, can run on the internet, a personal computer, a cell phone, or another electronic device

**Bluetooth**. A wireless communication standard. Primarily designed for reliance on short-range radio wave transmissions with low power consumption, it is often used for peripheral devices like wireless keyboards, mice, and headsets. A Bluetooth keyboard, aside from connecting to a computer without a wire, is like any other keyboard. It has the same keys and it types in the same way.

**Wi-Fi.** A set of standards for computers to network with each other locally via radio waves, like Bluetooth, but typically at somewhat greater range. Wi-Fi is often used in place of ethernet cables to connect computers to *access points* and *routers*, which in turn provide a connection to an internet service provider’s modem and from there onto the internet.

**iPHONE AP**PS

[**Dragon Dictation**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dragon-dictation/id341446764?mt=8)**.** A voice-recognition application — powered by Dragon® NaturallySpeaking — that allows you to speak and instantly see your text or email messages.

[**EarMachine**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/earmachine/id732177210?mt=8)**.** An app for hearing loss. Sounds can be picked up by the mic on your earbuds or the microphone in your phone. EarMachine, which requires iOS 6 or later, may be helpful in situations ranging from talking in noisy restaurants to watching television.

[**Enhanced Ears**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/enhanced-ears-hearing-aid/id950449570?mt=8)**.** An iPhone app that can be used as a low-cost alternative to hearing aids for those with mild to moderate hearing loss. More than just an amplification device, Enhanced Ears determines which frequencies you struggle to hear and calibrates itself to modify the amplified sound based on those frequencies.

[**Petralex/Hear It Clear**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/petralex-hearing-aid/id816133779?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4;%20http://petralex.pro)**.** Use your smartphone with a headset and the Petralex app instead of regular hearing aids. Petralex will be tuned for your hearing within three minutes.

**SoundAmpR.** Although discontinued now, it's a good hearing amplification app if you have an older iPhone.

[**uSound**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/usound-hearing-assistant/id977658598?mt=8) enhances the way you hear, allowing you to connect with other people, engage in classes at school, listen to your favorite music and TV shows, or simply chat and joke with friends.

**MICROPHONES**

[**Shure MV 88**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/shureplus-motiv/id938264337?mt=8)**.** A professional mic that clips into the power port of an iPhone 5, 6, or 6s. Take your hearing aids out and use it with headphones. The mic works with the Shure Plus Motiv app, which is available for iOS and works with iPhone 5, 6, and 6s. Because there is no audio jack, the MV 88 will not work with iPhone 7s.

[**B & H Photo Video**](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/browse/Professional-Audio/ci/12154/N/4294550705)**.** The speakers recommended this Manhattan-based electronics store, located at 420 Ninth Avenue, as a good source for microphones and headphones.

**TYPING TO COMMUNICATE**

Use an iPad paired with a wireless Bluetooth keyboard. Jay uses the Apple Bluetooth Keyboard paired with his iPad, and then hands it over to friends so they can type to him. Google “Bluetooth keyboard” and you will see hundreds of options.

**DICTATION APPS — most need Wi-Fi/3G or 4G to work.**

**Siri** is available on most iPhones but requires an internet connection to function. The iPhone 6s has Siri built-in so it works even in airplane mode.

**GoogleTalk** has been replaced by [**Hangouts**](https://hangouts.en.softonic.com).

[**GoogleTranslate**](https://translate.google.com). A free app designed for language translations but also dictates English.

[**AVA**](https://www.ava.me) is still in testing phase (beta), but available in the app store. AVA connects phones so that everyone in a group can use their own phone as a mic, and then see what others are saying — plus the person’s name so they know who is talking — on their phone.

Use [**MakeItBig**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/make-it-big/id479282584?mt=8) and [**Big Words**](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/big-words/id296290510?mt=8) for larger typeface so you can read more easily. MakeItBig also works with Siri if you want to use dictation.

**ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM FOR CLASSROOMS, LECTURES, and other venues.**

[**Jacoti Lola**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5COwner%5CDocuments%5C.%20https%3A%5Citunes.apple.com%5Cus%5Capp%5Cjacoti-lola-classroom-assistive%5Cid845225391%3Fmt%3D8), an assistive listening system designed for classrooms and lectures, works with Wi-Fi. Although this free app requires moderate knowledge of technology to set up, you do not need to be an expert.

**OTHER CURRENT TECHNOLOGY**

**Globetitles** isa theater captioning program that uses your smartphone, tablet, or computer-for caption display. It is web-based, so you can access it anywhere in the room. Globetitles are available for the monthly New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Songbook concerts at Lincoln Center’s Bruno Walter Auditorium, plus other live events on and off Broadway.

[**Subpac**](http://subpac.com), a wearable, tactile audio system*,* lets you feel sound throughout your body.

**FUTURE TECHNOLOGY**

**Hololens** — coming soon from Microsoft. Zachary Zimmerman, who has interned at Microsoft and will start a full-time job there after he graduates from college this spring, described how Hololens might work for someone with hearing loss. The person with hearing loss wears a headset and focuses on a speaker; the Hololens, using speech to text software, puts a speech bubble with captions above the speaker’s head. In the words of Jay Alan Zimmerman, “Matt and I successfully tested Globetitles on the Hololens. I was able to place the Globetitles screen anywhere I wanted within real space and saw all the words while watching Matt sing and dance. The Hololens also has its own Siri-type assistant called ‘Cortana.’ I was able to see words automatically when spoken while looking at the speakers — as if the words came out of their mouths.”

**Dolby AC-4** will enable personalization of audio. You can, for example, boost the sound of an announcer’s voice over the background crowd noise. You will also be able to boost the television and movie dialog, thereby minimizing or even eliminating background sound, sound effects, and music. The Dolby AC 4 will enable anyone, with or without hearing loss, to tailor sound to their liking. It may take four or five years before this is available to consumers.

We encourage you to take the time to familiarize yourselves with this terminology and technology. Although it may seem overwhelming initially, the more you know, the easier it will be to benefit from the equipment and software and make hearing and understanding less stressful. Send comments, questions, or requests for additional details to info@hearinglossnyc.org.