Hearing

Sense of hearing: When an object makes a noise, it sends vibrations (better known as sound waves) speeding through the air. These vibrations are then funnelled into your ear canal by your outer ear. As the vibrations move into your middle ear, they hit your eardrum and cause it to vibrate as well. This sets off a chain reaction of vibrations. Your eardrum, which is smaller and thinner than the nail on your pinky finger, vibrates the three smallest bones in your body: first, the hammer, then the anvil, and finally, the stirrup. The stirrup passes the vibrations into a coiled tube in the inner ear called the cochlea. It’s important to be able to hear so that you can escape danger and hear mating calls. In the human ear the outer ear is used to tunnel sound waves and make them clearer, also to protect the inner ear.

Glossary of terms:

Cochlea: A coiled tube in the inner ear.

Anvil: [middle ear](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/middle+ear), [tympanic cavity](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/tympanic+cavity), [tympanum](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/tympanum) - the main cavity of the ear; between the eardrum and the inner ear

[Auditory Ossicle](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/auditory+ossicle): Ossicles of the middle ear that transmit acoustic vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear.

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