

# THE 4 SUBTYPES OF AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER (APD)

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There are **4 subtypes of Auditory Processing Disorder**, depending upon where along the way to the brain the “signals” get distorted or lost:

1. **“Tolerance/Fading Memory”** subtype
2. **“Decoding”** subtype
3. **“Integration”** subtypes
4. **“Prosodic”** subtype (often seen with NLD or non-verbal learning disability)

*The following checklist is [courtesy](#) of Judith W. Paton, M.A. Audiologist and Bonnie G. Rattner, Ed. D, Speech/Language Pathologist.*

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## **“Tolerance/Fading Memory” subtype:**

- Often seems to “ignore” people, especially if engrossed.
- Hears less well, or is less attentive / productive, in ordinarily busy surroundings.
- Difficulty following a series of spoken directions.
- Unusually forgetful of information previously memorized (such as multiplication tables, correct spelling), or of household or school routines and responsibilities, despite frequent reminders.

## **“Decoding” subtype:**

- Difficulty with phonics (sounding out words) approach to reading.
- Confuses similar-sounding words; may learn words wrong.
- Poor speller: errors phonetically correct (e.g. “littul” for little), errors seem random (wrong sounds, sounds/syllables missing/added)
- Problems with speech clarity or articulation, or with grammar, now or in the past.

## **“Integration” subtype:**

- Marked difficulty reading or writing efficiently, despite knowledge of phonics.
- Needs to (or should) ask many extra questions to clarify task before starting; “doesn’t get the picture.”
- Interprets words too literally, becoming confused or suffering hurt feelings.
- Poor “communicator” — fails to explain, apologize, negotiate, defend.
- Speaks or writes “telegraphically” — omits facts or switches topic, so that audience cannot follow train of thought.

## **“Prosodic” subtype**

**(often seen with NLD or non-verbal learning disability):**

- Absorbs details and facts, but misses the “big picture” — cannot prioritize or summarize information.
- Insensitive to tone of voice; may misjudge speaker’s mood or be unintentionally tactless.
- Problems with cause-and-effect reasoning; difficulty surmising the unspoken rules of conversation, play, and other situations.

Narrowing Auditory Processing Disorder down into a subtype(s) through audiologic testing will determine the right kind of therapy and help.

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[Click here](#) for more information on  
Auditory Processing Disorder at **iHaveAPD.com**.



**iHaveAPD.com**

*- Jeff Cohen, Founder*