Hearing

One of the best hearing aids a man can have is an attentive wife. *(Groucho Marx)*

Tell that corn raiser you can hear bamboo grow, too. *(L. M. Boyd)*

**While clothes with pictures and/or writing on them are not entirely an invention of the modern age, they are an unpleasant indication of the general state of things. I mean, be realistic. If people don't want to listen to you, what makes you think they want to hear from your sweater? *(Fran Lebowitz, in Metropolitan Life)***

**You said farmers can actually hear corn grow. What does it sound like? Crackling. What they hear is fast-growing corn getting dry from lack of water. Electronic devices pick it up easily. And such devices also can be rigged to turn on sprinkler systems. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Haunting Refrains, Not Madness: When a deaf octogenarian began to hear a continuous medley of Irish jigs and Christmas carols, and a septuagenarian who had been deaf for ten years heard hymns he had once sung in a choir, each sought medical help, fearing he had gone crazy. Their anxieties were relieved when specialists in nervous system and ear diseases in Boston’s three medical school – Harvard, Tufts and Boston University – assured them that deaf people sometimes experience auditory hallucinations, that their symptoms were not psychiatric. For lack of a specific explanation, the doctors concluded that a variety of physiological mechanisms, similar to those working in normal sensory processes, and perceptions, almost always reflecting past musical memories, were involved. They reported the cases in the Journal of the American Medical Association to alert more physicians to the little appreciated-phenomenon. Until now, reports of only five similar cases had appeared in English-language medical journals. In the absence of such reports, most American doctors have considered auditory hallucinations in the deaf as symptoms of mental or brain disorders. *(Lawrence K. Altman, in New York Times)***

**We can always hear easiest in the peace of forgiveness. *(Ray Trauffer)***

**Your hearing becomes less sharp after eating too much. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 71)***

**Fishermen, please note. According to one otologist, fish can hear you when you sing but not when you whistle. Their sensing mechanisms pick up low vibes but not high vibes, as it were. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It is not the beautiful words that we say to God that brings results, but what we hear God say to us in the silence of the soul. *(Cornelia Addington)***

**Some folks aren’t hard of hearing; they’re hard of listening. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Nature has given us one tongue, but two ears, that we may hear from others twice as much as we speak. *(Epictetus)***

**Why plants can “hear”: Scientists have long known that some plants react to sound. What they didn’t know is why. But a new study indicates that the phenomenon may be linked to a plant’s ability to fend off predators. According to the report, certain plants respond to the sound of caterpillars eating leaves by emitting caterpillar-repelling chemicals. Researchers from the University of Missouri, Columbia, played recordings of the insects eating to one set of plants and kept another set in silence. Later, when caterpillars began feeding on the leaves, the plants that had been exposed to the eating noises produced more repellent chemicals than the control set. This suggests that the chomping sounds had put the plants on alert for potential danger. The fact that the sound of wind or other insects didn’t elicit the same response implied that the plants could sense the difference between predator sounds and atmospheric noises. The plants were also highly sensitive, responding to sounds that “vibrated the leaf up and down by less than 1/10,000 of an inch,” ecologist Reginald R. Cocroft tells The New York Times. The team now hopes to establish precisely how the plants detect such minute noises. *(The Week magazine, July 10, 2014)***

**The great gray owl hunts by sound alone. Using super-stereo hearing, the owl can detect an unsuspecting lemming and pluck it from beneath the snow with incredible accuracy. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 158)***

**A snake has no eardrums. So it doesn't hear sounds. But it has a little bone in its jaw that picks up vibrations and, therefore, knows if you are stamping around on its turf. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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