

949-484-4310

Stu's News

FUNNY BONE

"A cheerful heart
 is good medicine ..."

A funny thing happened on the way to better hearing...

My patient, Brian, was telling me how much he appreciates his hearing aids after spending a week over the Christmas holidays with his younger, hard-of-hearing, "middle" brother. Buck was visiting from out-of-state. Brian told me, "Now I understand why my family is so relieved that I wear my hearing aids!"

"What happened?" I asked him. Here's one example that Brian gave me:

The first afternoon, Brian told Buck how happy he was that they were actually having time to be together again. Buck, a rather self-contained fellow, said, "It's no big deal, really. We talk on the phone now and then."

Brian responded, "Well it's a big deal to *me*! It's been 63 years since you've been my 'Little Big Bro'."

To which Buck asked, "Is *that* all my visit means to you?"

Brian, confused: "What do you mean?"

Buck: "How do you *think* I'd feel when you tell me, "It's been 63 years since you spent money for the big bro"...?"

Conversations went quickly downhill from there with "conversation fireworks" all week.

Start out the new year out right! End the conversation fireworks of 2018 and start 2019 off with a "positive" bang! Call us today to schedule an appointment.



Hear Clear in the New Year

"How do I know if the hearing aids I'm wearing are the best ones for me?"

This is a common question our patients ask. First, let's face one fact head-on: no matter what hearing system we fit to any patient, it does not restore "normal

hearing". Hearing aids—no matter the brand or quality level—can only enhance what hearing you have left. But rest assured: our team always wants to make sure we are doing everything possible to maximize your remaining

Cont. pg 3

So the Blind May Read...



"If we are not to go on being despised or patronized by condescending sighted people...We must be treated as equals—and communication is the way we can bring this about," said Louis Braille, the developer of the

"Braille" communication system for the blind used around the globe. Every January 4th, the world recognizes "World Braille Day" in honor of Braille who developed his system when just a youth.

Louis Braille was born in the small French town of Coupvray on January 4, 1809 to a village saddler and his wife. By the time Louis was a toddler, he was already "following in his father's foot-

steps", pretending to fix saddles and other equine gear. Three - year - old Louis was pretending to punch holes in a piece of leather at his father's harness workshop when his hand slipped and the awl, a sharply pointed instrument, punctured one eye. Limited knowledge and medicines of the time could not heal the infection that spread to both eyes. By the time Louis was five, he was completely blind.

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So the Blind May Read...

Cont. From pg. 1

Using upholstery studs hammered into wood pieces in the shapes of letters and numbers, young Louis was unsuccessful at his studies. At age ten, he was granted a scholarship to one of the world's first blind schools, the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris. There, children learned to read by crossing twigs into letters of the alphabet.

In 1821, when Louis was twelve years old, Captain Charles Barbier of the French Army hoped to teach soldiers to read battle plans at night using a code system of twelve dots and dashes punched into thick paper. Finding his "night writing" too complicated for the soldiers to follow, Barbier presented it to the Institute, believing it could be a useful tool for the blind.

The Institute assigned young Louis the task of refining Barbier's system. By the time he was just fifteen, Louis had perfected a touch code system of just six dots configured into 63 patterns, defining letters and numbers. He later added math symbols and a "space" symbol—using *no* dots—to his "Braille" system. Having learned to play both the cello and organ at the small institute, Louis included symbols for music notes.

Ironically, the system was not readily received until *after* Braille's death by tuberculosis on January 6, 1852—not even at the same Royal Institute where, as a student, Louis had worked on revising Barbier's system, and had become an instructor after graduation. One might say that the world had



turned a blind eye to Louis Braille's wonderful code that now allows the blind to read.

Buddy's Bio—Buddy, The Cookie Monster!



One tradition our family started years ago during the holidays is a team "cookie bake-off". Members of our immediate and extended family team up together to bake various delicious treats to share with our families and friends.

We all choose different items that we want to bake or

make. In recent years I've teamed up with my youngest daughter—Lauren—and my youngest son, Daniel. It's a huge production! We put brown paper over the entire kitchen floor and tape it down to reduce cleaning afterward. I learned this the hard way, of course.

Last year my wife Mariela bought us a magazine from Betty Crocker: The 100 Best Cookies. We took a few recipes out of there and kept several of our old favorites. A few of the items we enjoy are fudge, sugar cookies, orange

and lemon butter cookies, sandies, white "bark" with cranberries and pistachios, chocolate/peanut butter cups and lemon bars.

Well, we are not the only ones who enjoyed our baking this past holiday season! **Buddy made sure he got a little piece of the action.** Even though we thought we had put all our goodies out of reach,

Buddy still managed to pick off a few of the Sandies and sugar cookies from our cooling table.

If you have that one "special recipe" that you love to make during the holidays, please make a copy and share it with us! We may put it on our list for next year—and let Buddy be the judge!



— LOONEY LAW —

In St. Louis, MO it is illegal for an on-duty firefighter to rescue a woman wearing a nightgown. In order to be rescued, a woman must be fully dressed.

— POTPOURRI —

Did you know that numbers can be written in both “uppercase” and “lowercase”, the same as letters?

“Standard” numerals are printed the same size as capital, or uppercase, letters. These are most often used as stand-alone numbers for things such as a house number or on vehicle license plates. These are also called “lining numerals” because they line up neatly in columns.

Standard numerals are available in almost every typeface (also called “font”) and are the most commonly used numerals in typeset columned materials such as magazines and newspapers.

Numerals known as “old-style” or “expert” numerals correspond to lowercase letters.

They’re preferred for use in a body of text — for dates, times, addresses, phone numbers, etc. An example is “The new retail outlet will open on July 10th at 32095 Vista Center Dr.”

Not all typesets offer “expert” numerals. Because of its option of “expert” numerals, the most favored and widely-used font is Georgia, as you are reading now.

— FUN FACTS —

On average, January is the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is a summer month the equivalent of July.

hearing in order to provide you with the very best speech clarity that’s available with hearing aids.

Patients often tell us, “I know that people are speaking to me; I just don’t CLEARLY understand all of what they’re saying!” We understand this creates an unbelievably frustrating situation for you. With hearing loss, you find that you’re constantly trying to attain something mentally that’s just beyond your audible reach. You believe it’s there, but you can’t get to it.

This situation raises many questions, such as:

- Why do I hear most of the joke but miss the punch line?
- Why can I hear everyone but my wife?
- Why can’t I understand on the telephone or messages left on the answering machine?
- Why do I hear some words but not the others?

As hearing care providers, we can’t get a dollar out of 99 cents. But we want to make sure that we are giving you the full 99 cents you have coming to you! What I’m saying is, we know we are not giving—and cannot give—our patients “perfect hearing”, like most had as a child. But we also know that today’s hearing systems are reaching much further into the auditory spectrums of sound and providing better speech clarity for our patients than ever before.



Here is how we can ensure that the hearing system you are wearing is the best one for you: **Make an appointment with us for a “clarity assessment” to evaluate hearing accuracy.** Bring along someone whose voice you struggle to hear, a care giver or family member.

- Your companion will read a list of words that you repeat *without* wearing your hearing aids.
- They will then read a list of words for you to repeat *while* wearing your hearing aids.
- Finally, they will read a list of words with your hearing aid volume set at your present MCL (Most Comfortable Listening Level).

We can then determine the range of improvement between how well you understood with your hearing aids at the beginning of the appointment and at the adjusted MCL.

This New Year is full of waiting wonders. Don’t miss them! Call us today **for a “clarity assessment”** to be sure you’re hearing the best you can!

Answers to “Spoonerisms”

From pg. 4

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. lighting a fire | 5. a crushing blow | 9. you’ve wasted two terms |
| 2. you missed my history lecture | 6. sons of toil | 10. our loving Shepherd |
| 3. battleships and cruisers | 7. our dear old queen | |
| 4. cozy little nook | 8. we’ll have the flags hung out | |

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Now 'Ear This from the Expert

AI—THE FUTURE IS HEAR, AND NOW!

The mother of all technology breakthroughs—Artificial Intelligence (AI)—has recently been incorporated into a hearing system! This *is* exciting news!

The Smart “Hearable” is more than a hearing aid. It’s the first hearing device to track *physical activity and cognitive health—and* it’s taking the lead in maximizing speech clarity!

Designed as multi-functional instruments, both Starkey’s amazing *Livio™* and Audibel’s remarkable *Via®* (Powered by Starkey Technology) hearing aids *can also enhance your overall brain and body health* for optimum wellness and lifestyle.

Artificial Intelligence Hearables are designed to help patients engage more fully in today’s fast-paced lifestyle. Hearables can:

- ...translate conversations in 23 different languages.
- ...stream music and phone calls directly into an AI device via Bluetooth technology.
- ...track personal fitness by measuring actual step count every day.
- ...measure one’s “social stimulation index” daily (keeping the

brain healthy with the wonderful natural sounds of everyday living).

- ...allow minor adjustments to be received remotely without visiting our office.
- ...help telephone conversations and answering machine messages sound clearer.

And *much* more! We can’t hold back on announcing this revolutionary AI hearing technology that has *so much* potential! This is just a quick overview of these premium AI products, developed to help patients hear and understand conversations they’ve been yearning to hear for years.

Unfortunately, this technology is not for everyone. There is much more information you will want and need to have before deciding if this Artificial Intelligence “Hearable” can take *your* hearing where you’ve always wanted it to be. It will take us just 20–30 minutes to take physical and acoustical measurements to determine if you’re a candidate.

Call us today to schedule *your* personalized measurement assessment—just in time to start your New Year out on top!

SOONER SPIN A SPOONER

Answers on pg. 3

The word “spoonerism” was coined in reference to Reverend William Archibald Spooner who was known for switching the beginning consonants of words to create amusing verbal somersaults and linguistic flip-flops that often accompanied his conversations and sermons. See if you can untwist the word contortions below and unwind his verbal gymnastics to reveal their correct and intended phrases. Answers can be found inside on page 3.

1. fighting a liar _____
2. you hissed my mystery lecture _____
3. cattle ships and bruisers _____
4. nosey little crook _____
5. a blushing crow _____
6. tons of soil _____
7. our queer old dean _____
8. we’ll have the hags flung out _____
9. you’ve tasted two worms _____
10. our shoving leopard _____