

# Delayed Speech

*Hear yourself talk a fraction of a second after you speak.*

## Try this:

- Sit down, put on the earphones, and speak directly into the microphone. You'll be able to hear yourself speaking, but each word will be delayed by about 1/8 of a second.
- You can change the delay time by turning the knob.

## What's going on?

Did you find it difficult to speak at a normal rate?

When you speak, you continually modify what you say, as you say it. You compare the quality of the sounds you make with those you intend to produce, and adjust your speech accordingly. This feedback process seems to be important in the ability to speak coherently.

You also rely on other kinds of feedback to control how you speak. For instance, you can feel the movements of your lips, tongue, and teeth, and the vibrations of your vocal cords in the bones of your jaw.

Doctors sometimes use a delayed speech device like this one to test claims of deafness. If the patient is able to hear, delayed feedback will make normal conversation difficult.