

# Introduction to Hearing Voices

WORKSHEETS



**These worksheets work best after you've watched  
the 'Introduction to Hearing Voices' video**



**Voice Hearing: The Statistics**

**The Voices Hall of Fame**

**Debunking the Myths**

**Exploring the Meaningful  
Aspects of Voice Hearing**

**Working with Voices**

**If this is your first time exploring your voices, it may be helpful to work through these worksheets with someone you trust to keep you feeling safe and supported. This could be your:**



**Family**



**Friends**



**Clinicians and  
support workers**



# Voice Hearing: The Statistics

Do you hear voices when there is no-one around? You are not alone! Around 5-15% of people will hear voices at some point in their lives.



**15 out of 100 people  
hear voices**



**Around 3.7 million people in  
Australia hear voices**



**Approximately 1.1 billion  
people world wide have had  
a voice hearing experience**

For some people the voices they hear can be frightening and distressing. For others, voices can be encouraging or even comforting and they don't get in the way of them living a meaningful and enjoyable life. Some people hear one voice, others hear many. Everyone's experience is different!

**I hear two voices – one positive  
that gives me compliments and  
keeps me company, and one  
negative that says frightening  
things.**



**I hear negative and critical voices  
who tell me to do things I don't  
want to do.**



**I hear caring and protective  
voices, as well as mean and nasty  
voices. I also see visions and  
sometimes hear music too.**



## Reflections

Take a moment to think about the following questions:

**Can you relate to any of the character's voice hearing experiences?**

**How does it feel to know that there are other people who hear voices?**

# Voices Hall of Fame

Did you know that throughout history, many historical figures have described hearing voices. In today's society many famous people have also talked about their voice hearing experiences!

Take a look at some of the most well known voice hearers in our Voices Hall of Fame!

**BRIAN WILSON**

Musician who was a member of The Beach Boys

**LADY GAGA**

Musician and actress known for 'A Star is Born'

**ANTHONY HOPKINS**

Actor known for 'The Silence of the Lambs'

**CHARLES DICKENS**

Author known for 'A Christmas Carol'

**JOHN FRUSCIANTE**

Musician who was a member of the Red Hot Chili Peppers

**JOAN OF ARC**

Heroine and Catholic saint

**GANDHI**

Social activist, lawyer and politician

**OSHER GÜNSBERG**

Australian television host

**JENNIFER HUDSON**

Singer and actress known for 'Dreamgirls'

**SIGMUND FREUD**

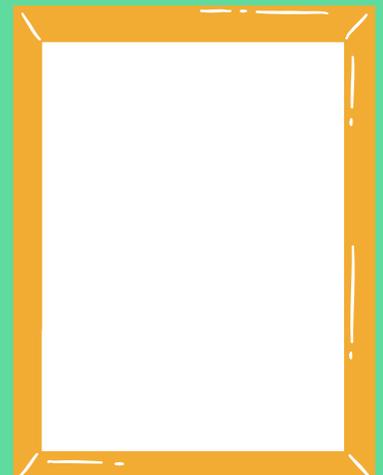
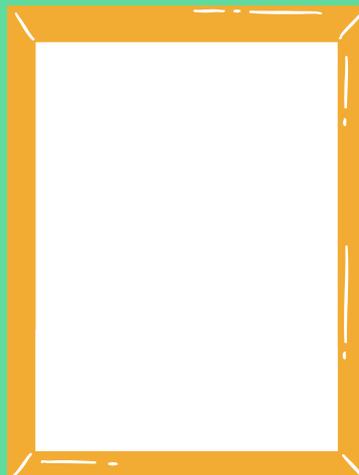
Founder of psychoanalysis

**All of these people have different voice hearing experiences and ways of coping. They also all have their own strengths, interests and abilities! Hearing voices doesn't stop you from doing amazing things!**



## Activity

Have you heard of any celebrities or historical figures who hear voices? Add them to our Voices Hall of Fame below.



# Debunking the Myths



## Activity

There are many myths and conceptions about hearing voices. Let's debunk a few of them! In the boxes below, write some myths you've heard about voice hearing. Now, think about how you have proven these myths wrong through your own experiences, knowledge or research. A few of the boxes have been filled in with examples to get you started.

### Myth:

Hearing voices is a rare experience.

### Fact:

Up to 15% of people have had a voice hearing experience. Take a look at the statistics on page 2 to remember just how common voice hearing can be!

### Myth:

### Fact:

### Myth:

People who hear voices will never recover.

### Fact:

Voice hearer Eleanor Longden says "Recovery is not only possible but inevitable." Take a look at her recovery story and the stories of others in the 'Exploring Recovery' worksheets.

### Myth:

### Fact:

### Myth:

### Fact:

## Debunking Myths

### Myth:

People who hear voices can't work or study.

### Fact:

Many people who hear voices can work or study. Just look at the amazing people from the Voices Hall of Fame on page 3!

### Myth:

### Fact:

### Myth:

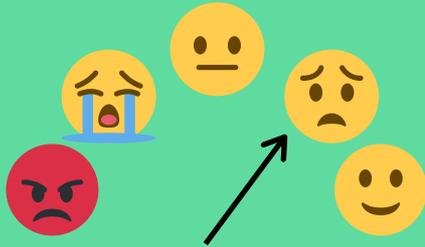
All people who hear voices have schizophrenia.

### Fact:

Voice hearing has been linked to many experiences, events and conditions. Take a look at 'The Big Questions' worksheets to explore this more.

# Exploring the Meaningful Aspects of Voice Hearing

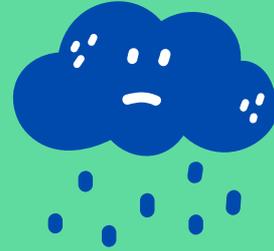
Hearing voices may at times feel like it can be a distressing or negative experience. However some voice hearers have been able to identify meaningful aspects to their experiences. These include:



**Voices can highlight an emotional need**



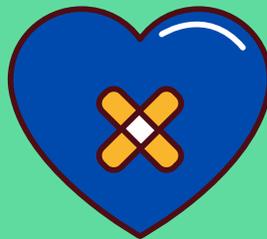
**Voices can provide company and ease loneliness**



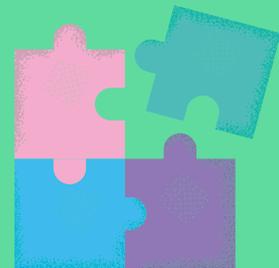
**Voices can help to resolve unprocessed grief**



**Voices can strengthen spiritual connections**



**Voices can help identify and work through past traumas**



**Voices can provide a creative outlet for the mind**

## Reflections

Take a moment to think about the following questions:

**Can you relate to any of the meaningful aspects above?**

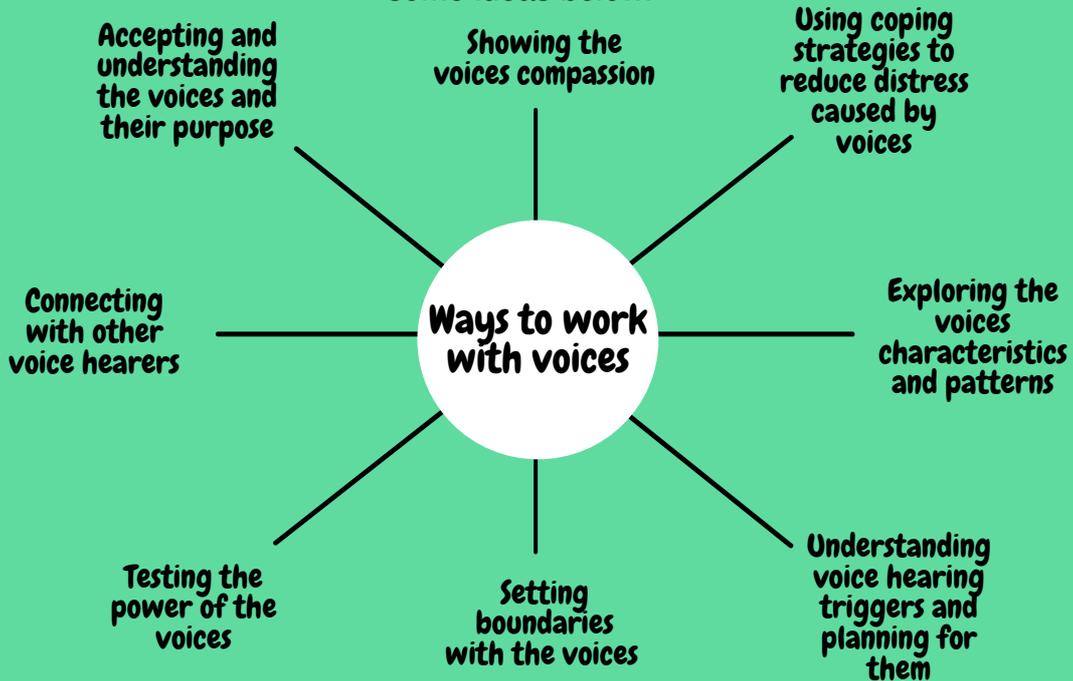
**Can you identify any other meaningful aspects of your voices?**

**Everyone's voice hearing experience is unique. It's OK if you haven't thought about the meaningful aspects of your voices. This can take some time!**



# Working with Voices

There are many different ways that people learn to engage and work with their voices. Take a look at some ideas below.



## Activity

How do you engage or interact with your voices? Do you talk to them? Do you avoid them? Think about how you might like to engage with them differently. Would you like to show them compassion? Or maybe set some boundaries with them? Write down your thoughts in the boxes below.

There are lots of different ways to work with voices. We will be exploring these ideas further in some of our other worksheets!



How I currently relate to and interact with my voices

What I would like to change about the interactions I have with my voices?



## Congratulations!

You have completed all the worksheets for 'Hearing Voices: the introduction'! Great job!

Want to keep exploring and working with your voices?

Take a look at these videos and worksheets:



**The Big Questions**



**Exploring Recovery**



**Navigating the Tough Times**



**Practical Coping Strategies**



**The Compassionate Approach**



**Exploring and Explaining Voices**

### Reference List

National Hearing Voices Network (2022). Hearing Voices Network.  
<https://www.hearing-voices.org>

These worksheets have been developed by the MHDA Specialist Rehabilitation Service.