

Why Does Your Voice Change A You Get Older?

VOCABULARY

- ***Castrate** – to remove a man's testicles
- ***Castrati** – (*plural of castrato*) a male singer whose testicles were removed before puberty, allowing the retention of a soprano or alto voice
- ***Voice Box** – another word for the larynx (*the top part of the passage that leads from your throat to your lungs and contains your vocal cords*)
- ***Arytenoid** – of or relating to synapse → (*one of the points in the nervous system at which a signal passes from one nerve cell to another*)
- ***Cortex** – the outer layer of the brain or another organ
- ***Elastin** – a fibrous scleroprotein constituting the major part of elastic tissue, such as the walls of arteries
- ***Presbyphonia** – diagnostic term used to describe voice problems attributed to age-related physiological changes

COMPREHENSION

1. What feature of vocal fold movement determines the pitch of your voice?
2. What is presbyphonia?
3. What physical change most impacts the drop in pitch for males during puberty?
4. What physical change most impacts the drop in pitch in female voices after menopause?
5. What tissue types make up the vocal folds?
6. How does puberty impact the voice?

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LET'S TALK

1. The voice is a complex instrument that can say a lot about you, including your age, perceived gender, health, and lifestyle. What do others hear when they listen to your voice?
2. Presbyphonia is caused by physical changes, but also by behavioral misuse of the voice. What are some ways we can take better care of our voices?