



Hearing Inappropriate Talk

6. As we said, both speaking and hearing *nivul peh* are forbidden. Therefore, if a person hears someone speaking in an inappropriate way and he cannot protest or do anything else to get them to stop talking this way, he must refrain from listening either by sticking his fingers or earphones into his ears, or he can walk away to get out of earshot.

The Gemara (*Kesubos 5a-b*) famously says that Hashem deliberately made a person's fingertips to be exactly the same size as his earholes so that he can stuff up his ears with his fingers to avoid hearing improper things. Furthermore, the earlobe was created to be used to stuff up the ears so that one does not hear anything inappropriate.