8.8: VIII Glossary

**Acute otitis media:** The medical diagnosis for a middle ear infection.

**Auricle:** The large, fleshy structure of the ear on the lateral aspect of the head.

**Cerumen impaction:** A buildup of earwax causing occlusion of the ear canal.

**Conductive hearing loss:** Hearing loss that occurs when something in the external or middle ear is obstructing the transmission of sound.

**Conjunctiva:** Inner surface of the eyelid.

**Conjunctivitis:** A viral or bacterial infection in the eye causing swelling and redness in the conjunctiva and sclera.

**Cornea:** The transparent front part of the eye that covers the iris, pupil, and anterior chamber.

**Eustachian tube:** The tube connecting the middle ear to the pharynx that helps equilibrate air pressure across the tympanic membrane.

**Extraocular muscles:** Six muscles that control the movement of the eye within the orbit. Extraocular muscles are innervated by three cranial nerves, the abducens nerve, the trochlear nerve, and the oculomotor nerve.

**Iris:** Colored part of the eye.

**Lacrimal duct:** Tears produced by the lacrimal gland flow through this duct to the medial corner of the eye.

**Lens:** An inner part of the eye that helps the eye focus.
Myopia: Impaired vision, also known as nearsightedness, that makes far-away objects look blurry.

Optic nerve: Cranial nerve II that conducts visual information from the retina to the brain.

Otitis externa: The medical diagnosis for external ear inflammation and/or infection.

Ototoxic medications: Medications that cause the adverse effect of sensorineural hearing loss by affecting the hair cells in the cochlea.

Presbycusis: Sensorineural hearing loss that occurs with aging due to gradual nerve degeneration.

Presbyopia: Impaired near vision that commonly occurs in middle-aged and older adults.

Pupil: The hole at the center of the eye that allows light to enter.

Retina: The nervous tissue and photoreceptors in the eye that initially process visual stimuli.

Sclera: White area of the eye.

Sensorineural hearing loss: Hearing loss caused by pathology of the inner ear, cranial nerve VIII, or auditory areas of the cerebral cortex.

Snellen chart: A chart used to test far vision.

Tinnitus: Ringing, buzzing, roaring, hissing, or whistling sound in the ears.

Tympanic membrane: The membrane at the end of the external ear canal, commonly called the eardrum, that vibrates after it is struck by sound waves.

Vertigo: A type of dizziness often described by patients as “the room feels as if it is spinning.”

Vestibulocochlear nerve: Cranial nerve VIII that transports neural signals from the cochlea and the vestibule to the brain stem regarding hearing and balance.